

Evaluation of the compliance of horizontal priorities

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SUMMARY

The thematic evaluation of SPD implementation system efficiency was focused on the evaluation of the of the implementation efficiency of horizontal priorities in order to improve the operations within the current and the next programming periods.

During evaluation process we reviewed an extensive set of information on the policies defined in the horizontal priority areas and EU Structural Funds implementation system from various sources and interacted with different responsible institutions and project applicants.

The scope of this final report and our conclusions and recommendations for further system improvements thereof are the following:

- Availability of the needed information and data for evaluating efficiency of the horizontal priorities' implementation system:
 - Availability of the policy, methodology and guiding documents issued by EU institutions were made available only by few institutions involved in management of EU Structural Funds;
 - Access to the project applications is limited due to the requirements of the Law on Management of EU Structural Funds to obtain prior approval of project applicant that takes longer time for evaluators than planned before;
- Scope and reliability of reports produced by the intermediate bodies and paying authority:
 - Data scope in the quarterly reports prepared by the 2nd level intermediate bodies and grant aid managers do not entirely outline the monitoring indicators as defined in the SPD and Programme Complement, i.e. the data distribution by age, sex and education level is not included;
 - Format for reporting results of horizontal priority implementation does not provide sufficient information due to lack of horizontal aims and monitoring indicators to review the progress.
- Efficiency of co-operation with the involved institutions during this evaluation:
 - Delays in receiving access to project applications has delayed data analysis phase and shortened the time for drafting conclusions and recommendations;
 - The responsiveness and competence of the interviewed representatives of intermediate bodies and grant aid managers and representatives of the Contracting Entity has been as expected, which has positively contributed to the success of this evaluation project.