

9th
Evaluation
Conference
in Prague

Cohesion Policy:

Common Path to Results and Impacts

Evaluation of the Romania Partnership Agreement 2014-2020

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8 November 2023, Prague



Co-funded by
the European Union



MINISTRY
OF REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT CZ



EVALUATION
UNIT NCA



The evaluation themes

Evaluation of the Romania Partnership Agreement 2014-2020

- Evaluation of the contribution to economic, social and territorial cohesion - Theme A
 - » 2 evaluation reports (2022 and 2023)
 - » 1 ad-hoc evaluation report (2023) - Identification of trends / priorities for the post 2027 Cohesion Policy orientation relevant for Romania



Evaluation of the Romania Partnership Agreement 2014-2020

- Evaluation of the relevance of the development needs and of the contribution to achieving the thematic objectives and the country-specific recommendations – Theme B
 - » 2 evaluation reports (2022 and 2023)
 - » 1 ad-hoc evaluation report (2023) - Synthesis of counterfactual evaluations in Romania for the period 2014-2020



Evaluation of the Romania Partnership Agreement 2014-2020

- Evaluation of the horizontal principles – Theme C
 - » 1 evaluation report (2022)
 - » 1 ad-hoc evaluation report (2023) - Evaluating the preparation for the application of horizontal principles in the period 2021-2027



Evaluation of the Romania Partnership Agreement 2014-2020

- Evaluation of the mechanisms and capacity to implement the European Structural and Investment Funds – Theme D
 - » 2 evaluation reports (2020 and 2022)
- Evaluation of the progress in achieving the performance indicators – Theme E
 - » 5 annual evaluation reports



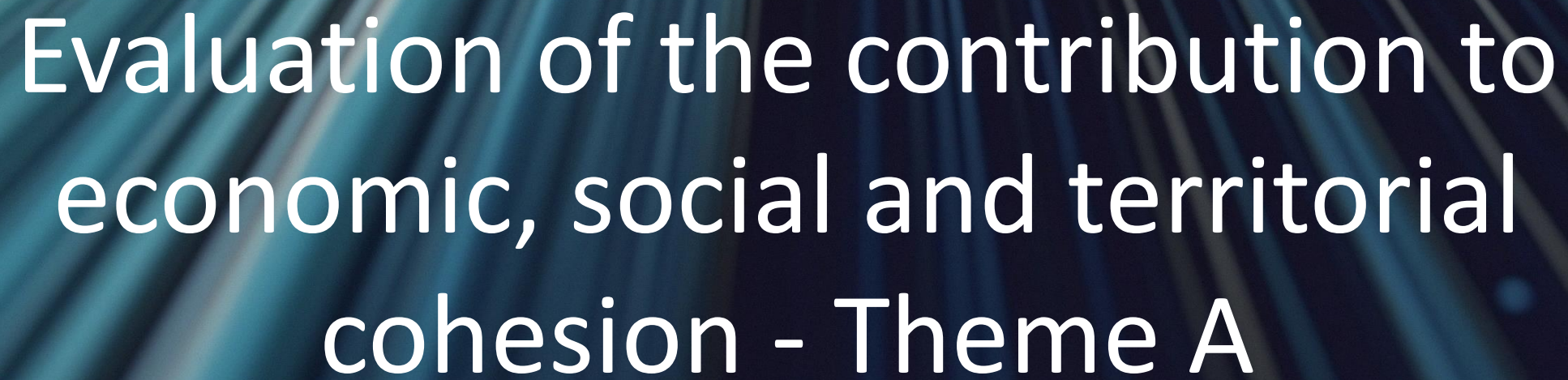
Evaluation of the Romania Partnership Agreement 2014-2020

- Evaluation REACT EU
 - » 1 evaluation report - expected to be completed in November 2023



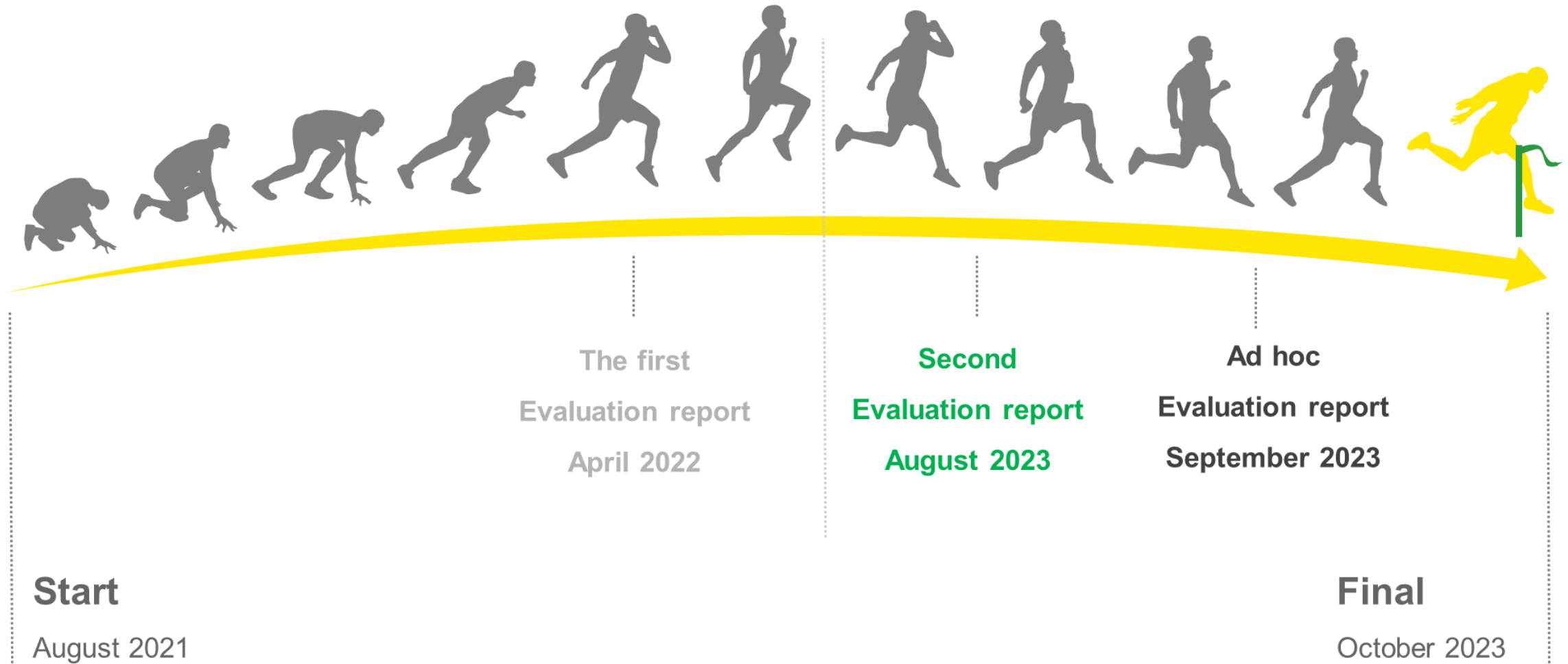
Evaluation of the Romania Partnership Agreement 2014-2020

2014-2020	evaluation report	ad-hoc evaluation report	Total
Theme A	2	1	3
Theme B	2	1	3
Theme C	1	1	2
Theme D	2		2
Theme E	5		5
REACT EU	1		1
Total	13	3	16



Evaluation of the contribution to economic, social and territorial cohesion - Theme A

Evaluation of the contribution to economic, social and territorial cohesion - Theme A



Evaluation of the contribution to economic, social and territorial cohesion - Theme A

- The objective of the evaluation is to analyze the relevance, effectiveness and impact of the use of the financial resources allocated by the Partnership Agreement from the perspective of economic, social and territorial cohesion.



Evaluation of the contribution to economic, social and territorial cohesion - Theme A

- Coverage of the report: the five areas of the Europe 2020 Strategy – Employment, Research, development and innovation, Combating poverty, Vocational Education and Training, Climate change, environment and energy, plus the area Competitiveness.



Evaluation of the contribution to economic, social and territorial cohesion - Theme A

- Evaluated period: 2014-2023
- cut-off dates: 31 March 2023 – implementation.



Evaluation of the contribution to economic, social and territorial cohesion - Theme A

Assessment questions:

1. What is the progress of economic growth and the achievement of the national targets related to the Europe 2020 Strategy?
2. What is the ESI Funds contribution to this progress (based on completed projects)?



Evaluation of the contribution to economic, social and territorial cohesion - Theme A

Assessment questions:

3. What is the expected future contribution (based on contracted projects and overall allocations, including post 2020)?
4. To what extent and in what way could the ESI Funds programming and implementation have been done better?



Evaluation of the contribution to economic, social and territorial cohesion - Theme A

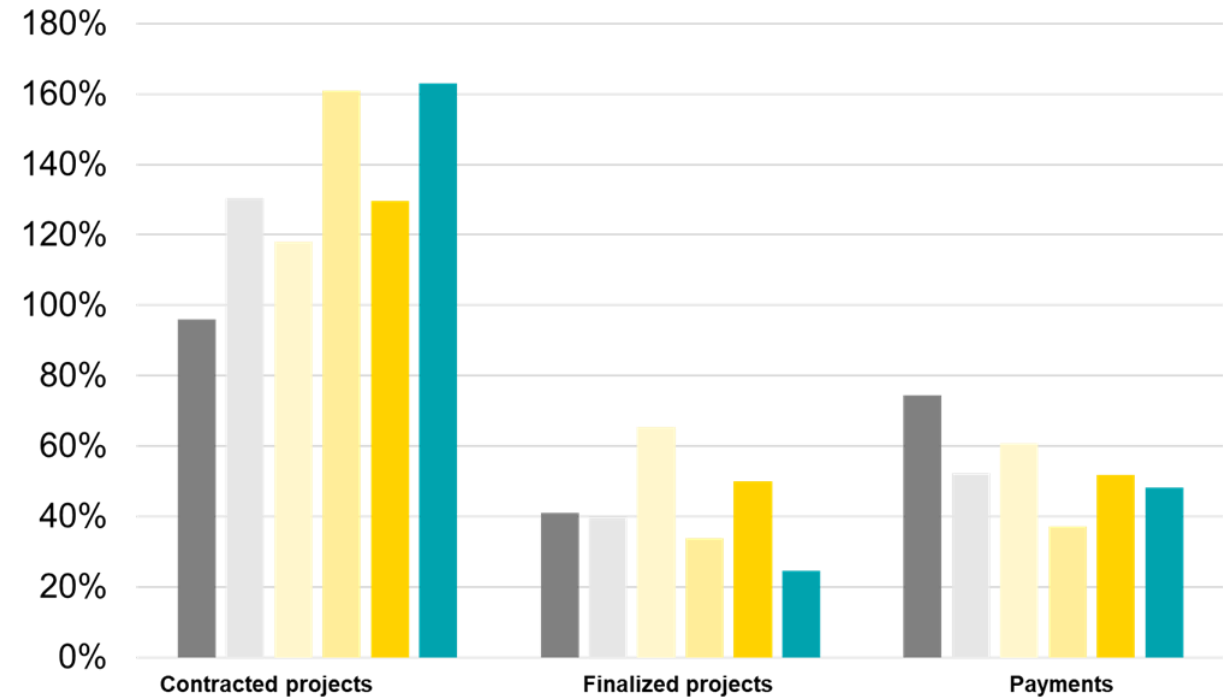
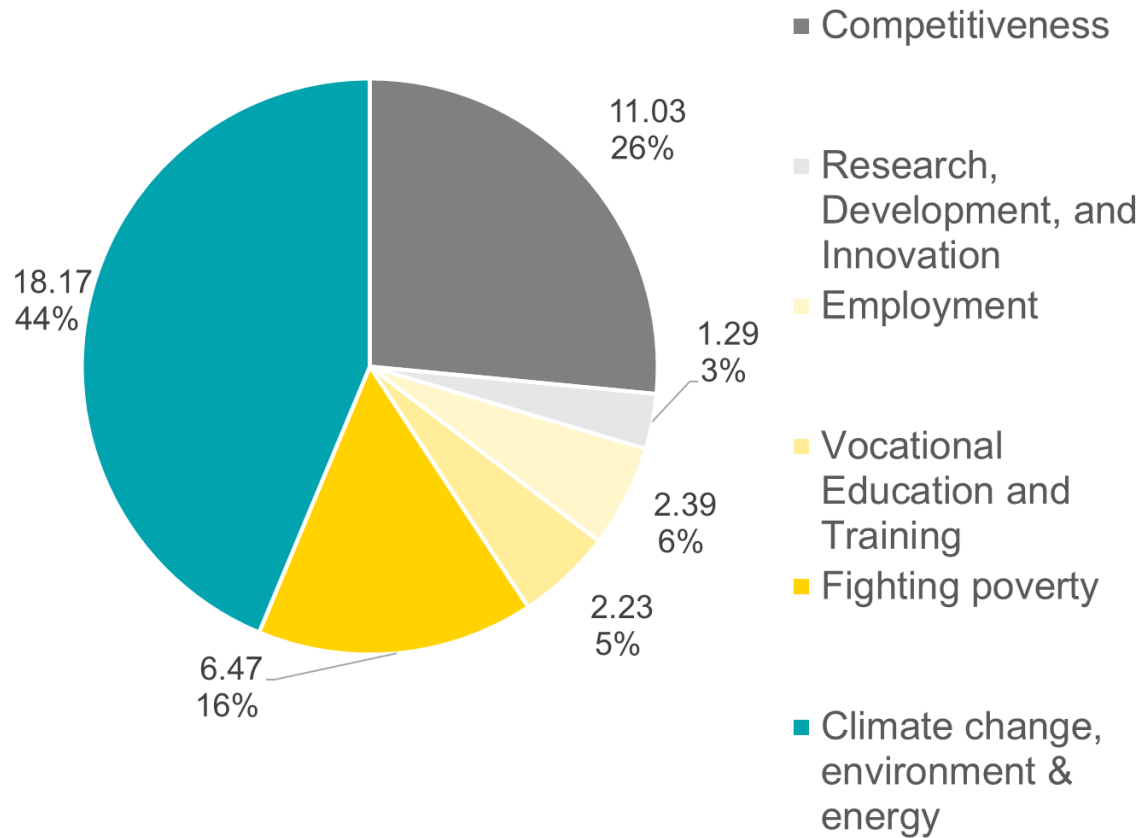
- Theory-based evaluation was the foundation of the methodology and all the analyzes carried out.
- A general equilibrium macroeconomic model for Romania was constructed, which added significant value to the findings and conclusions, representing a first and very important exercise at national level.



Evaluation of the contribution to economic, social and territorial cohesion - Theme A

	Competitiveness	Research, Development, and Innovation	Employment	Fighting poverty	Vocational Education and Training	Climate change, environment & energy
Theory Based Evaluation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Document/strategy analysis	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Analysis of data and information	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Interviews and surveys in an academic environment	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Interviews with representatives of the Ministries, INS, MA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Economic-mathematical modelling	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Numerical Simulations	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Options analysis	✓	✓				
Focus Group	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Size of funds allocated in projects, in the areas of the Europe 2020 Strategy, million Euros - cut off date March 31, 2023





Competitiveness

Competitiveness - Effects estimated on the basis of the general equilibrium model

Indicator	Completed projects	Contracted projects (not completed)	The actual recorded variation of the indicator in the period 2014-2021/2022
Nominal GDP	+8,7%	+34,4%	+122,4%
real GDP growth	+1,0%	+3,7%	+40,6%
Imports	+0,1%	+0,9%	+30,1%
Exports	+0,2%	+1,2%	+59,8%
Labor productivity (nominal per person employed)	+0,9%	+24,7%	+90,2%

Competitiveness - Contribution highlighted from theory-based evaluation

- Important contribution to improving the competitiveness of SMEs, the quality of local tourism resources
- Key role in increasing productivity and added value in agriculture, forestry and food industry
- Important contribution to improving ICT access, use and quality





Research, Development, and Innovation

Research, Development, and Innovation - Effects estimated on the basis of the general equilibrium model

Indicator	Benchmark (2013)	Target (2020)	Recorded value
R&D expenses,% of GDP	0,38%	2%	0,47% (2020, 2021)

Indicator	Completed projects	Contracted projects (not completed)	The actual recorded variation of the indicator in the period 2014-2021/2022
R&D expenditure, % of GDP (relative to GDP 2013)	+0,06pp	+0,20pp	+0,09pp

Research, Development, and Innovation - Contribution highlighted from theory-based evaluation

- Important contribution to the observed results regarding the level of RDI investments and a better distribution of RDI activities in all regions
- Although ESI Funds made a necessary contribution to the observed RDI results, they were not sufficient for progress towards the assumed target for RDI expenditure





Employment

Employment - Effects estimated on the basis of the general equilibrium model

Indicator	Benchmark (2013)	Target (2020)	Recorded value (2020/2021/2022)
Employment rate of the population aged 20-64, %	64,7%	70%	70,8% (2020) 67,1%(2021)

Indicator	Completed projects	Contracted projects (not completed)	The actual recorded variation of the indicator in the period 2014-2020/2021
Occupied population	+7,7%	+6,2%	-8,6%

Employment - Contribution highlighted from theory-based evaluation

- Key role in improving employment opportunities by supporting entrepreneurship
- Important contribution to improving the labor market participation of NEETs, unemployed and inactive people, non-agricultural employment opportunities, an increased capacity of the Public Employment Service and businesses to formulate and implement human resources policies

Vocational Education and Training

Vocational Education and Training - Effects estimated on the basis of the general equilibrium model

Indicator	Benchmark (2013)	Target (2020)	Recorded value (2020/2021/2022)
Population with tertiary education in the 30-34 age group	22,9%	26,7%	26,4%(2020) 24,8%(2021)
Early school leaving rate, %	17,3%	11,3%	15,6% (2020) 15,3% (2021)

Vocational Education and Training - Contribution highlighted from theory-based evaluation

- Key role in increasing the capacity of VET institutions and increasing participation in tertiary, vocational and lifelong learning
- Important contribution to observed improvements in access to and participation in pre-primary, primary, secondary education, reducing school non-enrolment and reducing the risk of digital exclusion





Combating poverty

Combating poverty - Effects estimated on the basis of the general equilibrium model

Indicator	Benchmark (2013)	Target (2020)	Recorded value (2020/2021/2022)
Reducing the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion	8,6 million people	8 million people (-580 mii persoane)	-2,8 million people (2020)


Indicator	Completed projects	Contracted projects (not completed)	The actual recorded variation of the indicator in the period 2014-2020/2021
Relative poverty rate%, with constant threshold - year 2013	-2,4pp	-5,9pp	-0,5pp



Combating poverty - Contribution highlighted from theory-based evaluation

- Key role in developing social economy structures and reducing the risk of poverty and social exclusion in marginalized urban communities
- Contribution to reducing the risk of poverty in rural areas and to the efficiency and effectiveness of the health and social assistance system





Climate change, environment & energy

Climate change, environment & energy - Effects estimated on the basis of the general equilibrium model

Emisiile GES	Completed projects	Contracted projects (not completed)	The actual recorded variation of the indicator in the period 2014-2020
GHG emissions (thousands of tons)	- 386 thousands of tons	- 1.098 thousands of tons	- 6.781 thousands of tons
GHG emissions (%)	- 0,38%	- 1,1%	- 6,6%

Climate change, environment & energy - Contribution highlighted from theory-based evaluation

- Key role for energy efficiency improvements in buildings, public domain and industry
- Important contribution to increasing access to smart grid services, increasing the capacity of electricity and gas networks, reducing GHG emissions, respectively to the increased use of urban public transport



Climate change, environment & energy - Contribution highlighted from theory-based evaluation

- Important contribution to expanding areas for agricultural practices adapted to climate change and increasing the share of efficient irrigation systems
- Essential role for increasing the share of the population connected to the public drinking water supply network



Climate change, environment & energy - Contribution highlighted from theory-based evaluation

- Important contribution to the reduction of biodegradable waste and the rehabilitation of non-compliant landfills, the increase in the share of energy from renewable sources, the protection and restoration of biodiversity
- Important contribution to increasing traffic safety and accessibility, respectively ensuring fast and sustainable transport.



Conclusions and recommendations

Conclusions and recommendations

- The targets assumed by the Europe 2020 Strategy were, in general, achieved, with the notable exceptions of two of them: the target set for the field of research-development-innovation (in which case the investment of GDP in RDI was 0.4-0.5 % compared to the proposed 2%) and that regarding the reduction of early school leaving (15.6% recorded compared to the assumed 11.3%).

Conclusions and recommendations

- The contributions of the projects, completed and under implementation, to the achievement of the target indicators of the Europe 2020 Strategy were important and significant for all areas, but especially for competitiveness, employment and the fight against poverty.



Conclusions and recommendations

- **The estimated cumulative** (observed - based on completed projects and potential - based on contracted and not yet completed projects at the time of the evaluation) **effects** of all contracted funds on economic growth amount to around **43.1% nominal GDP and 4.7% real growth for the period 2014-2023.**



Conclusions and recommendations

- The ESI Funds will also contribute to future **labour productivity growth of around 24.7%**, on the back of rising output, but offset to some extent by an **expected increase in the employed population of around 6.2%**.



Conclusions and recommendations

- The ESI Funds is a probable cause that has contributed in a necessary way to the progress of the Europe 2020 Strategy indicators.
- **ESI Funds support contributed alongside other national/European programs and measures to produce the observed improvements, and in the absence of the PA 2014-2020 progress would have been lower.**





Alternative options for sectoral and regional allocation of the ESI Funds

Alternative options for sectoral and regional allocation of the ESI Funds

- An increase in the volume of investments allocated to the field of RDI can contribute to improving the level of public expenditure as a percentage of GDP and to the progress of economic growth by increasing the number of innovative enterprises, the creation of products, technologies, innovative methods and their transfer to the economy.



Alternative options for sectoral and regional allocation of the ESI Funds

- The simultaneous increase in allocations for RDI and manufacturing produces a synergy in the sense of more significant growth of GDP and labor productivity, together with the increase in demand for skilled and highly skilled labor.



Alternative options for sectoral and regional allocation of the ESI Funds

- The response of the regions to the change in the structure of the allocated ESI Funds investments is not a uniform one, the specificity of each region, given the socio-economic structure, largely dictates the nature of the impact on the real GDP per capita. Regions with a low level of development are those for which ESI Funds are less effective.



Thank you!

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