

Summary ex ante evaluation of Regional Operational Programme for Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship 2014-2020

The draft Regional Operational Programme for Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship 2014-2020 was subject to ex ante evaluation pursuant to the Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006.

The evaluation commissioned by the Office of the Marshal of Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship was carried out by the consortium of Agrotec Polska sp. z o.o. and Ecorys Polska sp. z o.o. The evaluation was concluded with a final report¹ approved in December 2013.

Ex ante evaluation covered the draft Regional Operational Programme for Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship 2014-2020 adopted by the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship Board on 30 October 2013 (Resolution No 43/1600/13). The evaluation took into account the results of "Environmental report on the draft Regional Operational Programme for Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship 2014-2020" (the environmental impact assessment was performed between September 2013 and January 2014).

The ex ante evaluation of the draft programme took place parallel to its drawing up, during the establishment of the EU and national legal grounds for operational programming and formulation of final versions of main strategic documents. Those circumstances had a major and unavoidable impact on the work of both the team drafting the programme and the team evaluating the programme. This resulted in specific consequences for the scope of ex ante evaluation presented in the report. The full version of ex ante evaluation of the ROP may be found at www.mojregion.eu.

According to the assumed concept, the evaluation covered six main thematic areas. Each part includes results of evaluation, assessment, as well as conclusions and recommendations.

1. Assessment of adequacy of draft ROP K-PV 2014-2020 to socio-economic challenges and needs

The diagnosis performed for the purposes of ROP K-PV 2014-2020 was assessed as accurate and reliable, based on credible sources and appropriately selected data. It includes the key information for the given subject, focusing on areas at which public intervention proposed under the programme is targeted. The ex ante evaluation has not found any cases where intervention in individual investment priorities included in the draft ROP K-PV 2014-2020 would be unjustified. Measures proposed under priority axes are adequate and in the majority respond to diagnosed problems and socio-economic challenges of the region. As a result of work on subsequent versions of the Programme, as well as recommendations formulated during the ex ante evaluation, the diagnosis was organised by thematic objectives, its extent was reduced by eliminating extensive factual fragments and leaving only the data significant for identification of needs and challenges. The description of each area was concluded with a summary presenting challenges and needs of the region resulting from the diagnosis.

2. Intervention logic assessment

¹ Ex ante evaluation of Regional Operational Programme for Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship 2014-2020; final report; Agrotec Polska sp. z o.o. oraz Ecorys Polska sp z o.o.; Warsaw 2013 along with updates introduced in the first quarter of 2014.

In line with the recommendation of evaluators, but also as a result of ongoing work on the draft and its consultation, the number of priority axes was reduced by including the implementation mechanism of the Programme consisting in an integrated approach to territorial development into other axes. The comments on intervention logic in the area of demarcation of individual investment priorities and more precise description and assignment of individual types of operations to specific objectives were taken into account. A sequence was used allowing to present causal relationships between individual types of operations and accomplished objectives. Specific objectives and the overall objective of the Programme were reformulated to present the expected change vector in the region due to intervention.

3. Operational Programme's consistency with external documents

The consistency of the Programme with the EU, national and regional documents has been confirmed. Programme objectives are complementary with the assumptions and guidelines prepared at the EU and national level.

4. Assessment of inclusion of horizontal policy objectives in operational programme

The draft ROP K-PV 2014-2020 features a chapter devoted to including horizontal rules in the Programme. The application of these rules (sustainable development, equal opportunities) at different stages of ROP K-PV 2014-2020 implementation, i.e. in planned measures, in the process of Programme preparation, at the stage of implementation, including project evaluation and in the framework of promotion and information activities, was defined correctly. In line with the recommendation of evaluators, the types of operations which will implement the objectives of individual horizontal rules were presented. Target groups were also defined.

5. Assessment of the implementation system and administrative capacity

The implementation system and the analysis of measures reducing administrative burden on beneficiaries were appropriately described in ROP K-PV 2014-2020. Due to the planned changes to the implementation structure of the new Programme (accumulation of tasks at the Office of the Marshal of Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship without the participation of implementing authorities), the report on ex ante evaluation presents strengths and weaknesses of the new system and the related opportunities and threats. The key is to optimize employment in the Managing Authority and adjust the organisational structure to the new situation. In the context of the new perspective this is particularly justified due to the fact that the process of closing the 2007-2013 perspective will be carried out in parallel to the process of implementing ROP K-PV 2014-2020.

6. Evaluation of the assumptions of monitoring and evaluation processes

The ex ante evaluation has shown that the assumptions of the operational programme enable efficient and effective monitoring and evaluation. The evaluators prepared a preliminary concept of the operational programme evaluation which will be used by the Managing Authority to draft the Evaluation Plan for ROP K-PV 2014-2020. The implementation indicators proposed under the programme were assessed in terms of their adequacy and accessibility of data. The evaluators pointed out that this element of the Programme requires further work so that the group of indicators monitoring the implementation of specific objectives and priority axes constituted a coherent and complementary basis for the future monitoring and evaluation system for the operational programme.