

Matra Training for European Cooperation

(MTEC)

Structural Funds in Romania

March 3rd – 5th, 2008



ECORYS Nederland BV

Key Information

- Objective: Training Romanian participants in the implementation and management of EU Structural Funds
- Period: March 3rd - 5th, 2008
- Location: Sinaia, Romania
- Accommodation: Hotel New Montana, Sinaia
- Target group: officials from local and regional level working on SF in Romania
- Participants: 50 in total, divided in two groups. Each group will be trained for three days in parallel sessions
- Information: atze.verkennis@ecorys.com

Introduction

Romania has joined the European Union on the 1st of January 2007. For many decades the European Union has been supporting lagging regions with funds to improve economic and social conditions in these regions. To harvest the benefits from future assistance provided by the Structural Funds, the New Member States will have to continue their efforts to create an effectively functioning institutional and legislative system as well as sufficient administrative capacity to manage the funds.

Government officials, especially from the New Member States such as Romania, are thus faced with the tremendous challenge of dealing with the new developments in the EU as well as simultaneously dealing with domestically related affairs they are faced with in their daily work. In these circumstances it is very difficult for officials, specially on the local and regional level, to obtain all necessary knowledge concerning the European policies as well as the required skills enabling them to contribute to the social dialogue both on the national and EU level. This MTEC course on Structural Funds is designed to help officials from Romania to make the best use of EU Structural Funds.

Objectives of the course

The main objective of the course is to train *the participants in the management of EU Structural Fund mechanisms and to develop skills and attitudes necessary to play an active role in the development and implementation of national and European regional policies.*

The programme takes the participants through all stages of the policy life cycle, from programme management, programming, implementation to monitoring and evaluation and financial management and control, and will result in a robust group of well-trained executives in Romania. The focus will be as much as possible on the implementation of the Structural Funds.

After the training, the participants will:

- Know about different actors and institutions in the decision making and legislative procedures in the EU, especially in the field of regional policy;
- Be able to apply planning and programming techniques in the context of National Development Plan, National Strategic Reference Framework, Single Programme Document, Programme Complement, Sectoral Operational Programme and Regional Operational Programme process;

- Have fundamental skills, for programme implementation such as project development, project appraisal, project selection, risk analysis and cost and benefit analysis;
- Have fundamental skills and knowledge on financial management and control;
- Know about the monitoring and evaluation in a EU Structural funds context;
- Be able to and feel confident to play a role in the management of the Structural Fund policy life cycle.

Approach of the course

ECORYS uses an interactive approach as much as possible. Basic texts will be provided to be studied by the participants. The training modules contain a mix of teaching and interactive working.

Structure and contents of the course programme

A distinctive feature of the programme is the policy life cycle. The policy life cycle is a commonly accepted systematic approach to programming, programme and project elaboration, project implementation, evaluation, and corrective action.

The programme of the course includes different modules. They are part of a coherent framework (policy life cycle) and based on the same principles (eg. logical framework). The accent in the programme will be on implementation and management skills. An active approach from the participants is expected, as assignments are part of this training.

The modules include:

- *EU-structures and models for organising and managing the Structural Funds*
- *Project generation, TA and communication*
- *Project development and design*
- *Project selection, including risk analysis and cost-benefit analysis*
- *Financial management and control*
- *Monitoring and Evaluation*

Organisation

ECORYS Nederland BV

ECORYS Nederland BV is a fully independent applied economic research and advisory institute currently involved in many projects in various disciplines all over the world. ECORYS Nederland BV is specialised in economic strategy development, Structural Fund interventions, economic impact assessment, programming and training.

ECORYS Nederland BV has large-scale practical experience in the EU Structural Funds in Western Europe. As a result it is aware of the major problems and potentials that arise during the implementation of Structural Funds. It is involved in numerous projects in Central and Eastern Europe for their pre-accession strategy, which includes the preparation for EU Structural Funds and the establishment of an institutional framework.

Dates

The course will be held at Hotel New Montana, Sinaia from the 3rd - 5th of March 2008.

Fees/Accommodation

The Netherlands Government will provide fellowships including costs such as travel, board and lodging, tuition fees and lecture materials insofar as included in the programme.

Teaching Staff

The teaching staff will consist of:

- Staff Members from ECORYS Nederland BV;
- Staff Member from province of Flevoland (Dutch Objective 1 region).

Admission Requirements

The course is designed for government officials from local and regional bodies in Romania. The officials will be nominated by the Romanian Ministry of Finance. ECORYS will be responsible for the final selection of the candidates.

As the training will be interactive and delivered in English language without translation, a strong knowledge of written and spoken English is a condition for admission to the course.

The maximum number of participants is 50, to be divided in two groups.

Applications

The candidates for this course will be nominated by the Romanian Ministry of Finance. After the nominated candidates have shown their interest to participate, they will receive more information about the application procedure.

Applicants who have been accepted for the course are expected to attend. In case of no-shows or cancellations within a week before the start of the course, the organisers reserve the right to claim any costs incurred from the applicant's employer.

Information and course organisation

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Contact person: Mr. Atze Verkennis

More information on the courses developed under the MTEC programme

- The Royal Netherlands Embassy in your country can provide more information about the other courses.
- For further information, you can contact either the Royal Netherlands Embassy or EVD/CROSS:

EVD/CROSS

P.O. Box 20105

2500 EC The Hague

The Netherlands

Telephone: +31 70 778 81 39

Website: www.cross-agency.nl

E-mail: crossonline@info.evd.nl

Contact person: Mr. Diederik ter Haar