

Process and Result Evaluation - Call for Proposals No. 2 of OPTA

Executive Summary

Version 1.0

24th June 2015

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document presents an executive summary of the **Process and Result Evaluation of Call for Proposals No. 2 of OPTA** which was realized between August 2014 and June 2015 for the Ministry of Regional Development of the Czech Republic by evaluation team of **HaskoningDHV Czech Republic**.

This evaluation was focused on two evaluation tasks. Task A was focused on **evaluation of participative process of preparation of Call for Proposals No. 2 of OPTA and evaluation of effects of two supportive projects realized within this Call for Proposals**. Task B was focused on **evaluation of results of this Call of Proposals**.

Among main evaluation methods applied were included **desk research, questionnaire surveys** among beneficiaries of this Call for Proposals, **semi-structured interviews** with the representatives of MA, IB, Association of Towns and Municipalities of the Czech Republic, National Network for LAGs and several Beneficiaries, **case studies** prepared for 6 LAGs and **synthesis**. Additionally, an **evaluation of quality of 50 SCLLD** was ensured based on the methodology created in close co-operation of evaluation team and representatives of the Department for Regional Policy of the Ministry for Regional Development of the Czech Republic.

1.1 *Evaluation of participatory process of preparation of Call for Proposals No. 2 of OPTA and process of preparation of SCLLDs*

Both the preparation of Call for Proposals No. 2 of OPTA and preparation of individual SCLLDs can be evaluated as very participative. All the involved stakeholders were well informed about the objective of the consultation process and the received feedback regarding their comments and inputs to the elaborated document on a regular basis. As for the timing of the consultation processes, it can be also assessed as sufficient.

1.2 *Evaluation of effects of supportive projects of Association of Towns and Municipalities of the Czech Republic and National Network of LAGs*

Regarding the existence of these two supportive projects, the effects of each of them differ as a consequence of the facts that the objectives of these projects differ and the internal processes of their beneficiaries differ as well.

In case of National Network of LAGs, the main benefit of its project can be seen in a very quick, operational and active technical-administrative support provided to individual beneficiaries, especially during the preparation of their project proposals. A certain role has been ensured by this organization also during the preparation of the methodological environment for SCLLD preparation, although the beneficiary was not

able to fully ensure that the prepared SCLLDs are always of a good quality. According to the declaration of the representatives of the National Network of LAGs, this organization was also not able to reply methodological questions raised by external consultants preparing the SCLLDs for individual LAGs.

In case of Association of Towns and Municipalities of the Czech Republic, the main benefits of their project can be seen in acceleration of processes related to the preparation of methodological environment and legislative challenges existing in the area of preparations and realizations of Integrated Territorial Investments and Integrated Plans for Territory Development. With regards to the nature of the members of this Association, the support in the area of technical-administrative issues was much less intensive, and therefore in case of ITIs and IPTDs was ensured mainly by the implementation structure of OPTA.

1.3 Evaluation of quality of 50 SCLLDs

Regarding the quality of the prepared SCLLDs, all the main conclusions are presented in the following table.

Table No. 1: Evaluation of quality of SLLDs

Overall assessment	Explanation of the assessment	Number of SLLDs
EXCELLENT	SCLLD where is no doubt about appropriateness of its preparation and with very high internal coherence	3:
VERY GOOD	SCLLD which is well prepared and which contains only minimum number of measures with insufficient justification and high numerical assessment	17
GOOD	SCLLD has an acceptable quality and average numerical assessment with several measures with insufficient justification. For each of these SCLLDs were provided detailed recommendations for improvement.	7
AVERAGE	SCLLD with lower level of internal coherence and lower numeric assessment which includes many measures without sufficient justification or which misses some key parts of the SCLLD. For all these SCLLDs were provided detailed recommendations for improvement.	15
WEAK	SCLLDs with very low internal coherence, containing very often outdated analytical data and many measures without sufficient justification.	7

Note: The table does not include one SCLLD, whose different conception does not allow the evaluator to express SCLLD's evaluation on the overall assessment scale. More details are stated at the Detailed Evaluation Report (in Czech). Relevant recommendations are stated in the SCLLD's evaluation form.

1.4 *Recommendations*

- All the calls for proposals for ESIF programmes should be prepared in a participative way as such an approach proved its value in case of OPTA.
- As for the potential future support of the horizontal projects, it would be suitable to consider also the qualitative assessment of the project proposals as assessment of the acceptability criteria in case of similar Calls for Proposals does not seem sufficient for the guarantee of the future high quality of the ensured project activities.
- For future possible support of horizontal projects it would be advisable to consider also alternative ways of their implementation, e. g. to ensure the horizontal support from the relevant department of the Ministry for Regional Development or to ensure them by a qualified and experienced provider of consultancy services selected based on public procurement rules.
- As for the general recommendations related to the further elaboration of the evaluated SCLLDs, we propose the following:
 - Simplification of the relevant Methodological Guideline, including clear indication which parts are mandatory and which present only a recommendations.
 - Ensuring easily available methodological support for the preparation of the last parts of SCLLD – especially for the implementation part of the document.
 - Ensuring availability of methodological support for preparation of monitoring indicators of SCLLDs.
 - Preparation of detailed approaches for elaboration of specific parts of ht SCLLDs, including examples of information which should be included in each chapter of the strategy.
 - With regards to the expected deadline for the finalization of the SCLLDs (2017), it would be advisable to declare a time period to which the data used in the SCLLDs should be up to date, as well as the list of suitable data sources. Strategies should be updated and must contain and reflect up to date data and information related to the activities in the respective territory.
- For the LAGs which prepared the 50 evaluated SCLLDs there were also provided detailed recommendations for their SCLLDs. These recommendations were given to them by the representatives of the department of the regional policy of the Ministry for Regional Development of the Czech Republic and are presented also in the Technical Annex of the main Evaluation Report.