



# ROMANIA'S NATIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAME 2014-2020

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The expected EAFRD contributions to the EU 2020 Strategy  
The ex ante perspective and planned steps in Romania



## Ex ante evaluation for NRDP 2014-2020



- The Evaluation Team is an international consortium of 3 consultancy companies: **SC ACZ Consulting SRL (Romanian), IRIS SRL and t33 SRL (Italian)**
- The ex-ante evaluation started operationally in January 2014 and accompanied the process of NRDP 2014-2020 elaboration for the following months. The ex-ante evaluation supported the policy of the Programme and involved a wide range of stakeholders



## The ex ante assessment of the contribution to the Europe 2020 Strategy



- **Methodology - The analysis of the contribution of the strategy to the achievement of the EU 2020 headline targets is based on a score (from 0 to 2) established on the following criteria:**
  - The programme directly refers to a EU 2020 target in the strategy (at measure or sub-measure level) *and* has a specific target indicator related to it (score = 2)
  - The programme directly refers to a EU 2020 target in the strategy (at measure or sub-measure level) *or* has a specific target indicator related to it (score = 1)
  - The programme does *not* directly refer to a EU 2020 target in the strategy *either* has a specific target indicator related to it (score = 0)

**Through this scale, it is possible to illustrate a matrix in which each focus area (displayed on rows) is matched with the EU 2020 targets (displayed on columns)**



|                    |  | EU 2020 Headline Targets |                   |                          |              |                             |
|--------------------|--|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
|                    |  | 1. Employment            | 2. R&D/Innovation | 3. Climate change/Energy | 4. Education | 5. Poverty/Social exclusion |
| Focus Areas        | (1A) Fostering innovation, cooperation, and the development of the knowledge base in rural areas   | 0                        | 2                 | 0                        | 1            | 0                           |
|                    | (1B) Strengthening the links between agriculture, food production and forestry and research and innovation, including for the purpose of improved environmental management and performance   | 0                        | 2                 | 0                        | 1            | 0                           |
|                    | (1C) Fostering lifelong learning and vocational training in the agricultural and forestry sectors  | 0                        | 0                 | 0                        | 2            | 0                           |
|                    | (2A) Improving the economic performance of all farms and facilitating farm restructuring and modernization, notably with a view to increase market participation and orientation as well as agricultural diversification   | 0                        | 2                 | 0                        | 1            | 0                           |
|                    | (2B) Facilitating the entry of adequately skilled farmers into the agricultural sector and in particular the generational renewal  | 2                        | 0                 | 0                        | 1            | 0                           |
|                    | (2C) Improving the economic performance of forests   | 0                        | 1                 | 1                        | 0            | 0                           |
|                    | (3A) Improving competitiveness of primary producers by better integrating them into the agri-food chain through quality schemes, adding value to agricultural products, promotion in local markets and short supply circuits, producer groups and organisations and inter-branch organisations | 0                        | 1                 | 0                        | 1            | 0                           |
|                    | (3B) Supporting farm risk prevention and management  | 0                        | 0                 | 0                        | 1            | 0                           |
|                    | (4A) Restoring, preserving and enhancing biodiversity, including in Natura 2000 areas, in areas facing natural or other specific constraints and high nature value farming, and state of European landscape  | 0                        | 0                 | 2                        | 1            | 0                           |
|                    | (4B) Improving water management, including fertiliser and pesticide management   | 0                        | 0                 | 2                        | 1            | 0                           |
|                    | (4C) Preventing soil erosion and improving soil management   | 0                        | 0                 | 2                        | 1            | 0                           |
|                    | (5A) Increasing efficiency in water use by agriculture   | 0                        | 1                 | 2                        | 0            | 0                           |
|                    | (5C) Facilitating the supply and use of renewable sources of energy, of byproducts, wastes, residues product and of other non food raw material for the purposes of the bio-economy  | 0                        | 0                 | 2                        | 0            | 0                           |
|                    | (5D) Reducing greenhouse gas and ammonia emissions from agriculture  | 0                        | 1                 | 2                        | 0            | 0                           |
|                    | (5E) Fostering carbon conservation and sequestration in agriculture and forestry   | 0                        | 0                 | 2                        | 0            | 0                           |
|                    | (6A) Facilitating diversification, creation and development of small enterprises as well as job creation   | 2                        | 0                 | 0                        | 1            | 1                           |
|                    | (6B) Fostering local development in rural areas  | 1                        | 0                 | 0                        | 0            | 2                           |
| <b>TOTAL SCORE</b> |  | <b>5</b>                 | <b>10</b>         | <b>17</b>                | <b>12</b>    | <b>3</b>                    |



## The ex ante assessment of the contribution to the Europe 2020 Strategy



- The total score represents concise information regarding which is the largest contribution of the strategy to the EU 2020 targets
- **The first evidence is that all the EU 2020 headline targets are matched by the focus areas**
- Target 3 Climate change/Energy is the target most matched by the focus areas; specifically FAs from 4A to 5E contribute with a score of 2 to the climate change target
- Three out of these areas (4A to 4C) are also accompanied by measures for improving knowledge (Target 4 Education) in order to achieve extensive agricultural practices to allow farmers to benefit from information and to raise awareness through knowledge transfer and actions for the dissemination of information
- Target 4 represents also the second most matched goal by the strategy; most of the FAs, in fact, are accompanied by actions to facilitate knowledge transfer and to improve farmers' skills



## The ex ante assessment of the contribution to the Europe 2020 Strategy



- The target related to R&D and innovation (number 2) is also adequately matched by the strategy and it is transversely linked to different FAs
- The target of innovation is in fact also matched by FAs specifically dedicated to the protection of the environment and actions in favour of innovation are also associated with interventions for education
- The two targets less represented in the programme are employment (1) and social exclusion (5) which have two specific FAs (6A and 6B) and are not matched by other areas
- The first target (employment), however, is also directly matched by area 2B which supports the training of a new generation of farmers through investments and actions to modernize farms and creates synergies between the renewal of generations and the use of knowledge and skills of young farmers in order to increase competitiveness and FA 6A which supports diversification, creation and development of small enterprises as well as job creation



## PLANNED STEPS - Evaluation Plan for NRDP



REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013 foresees that *the annual implementation report to be submitted in 2019 includes information on, and assess progress towards, achieving the objectives of the programme and its contribution to achieving the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth*

- ✓ An evaluation department has been set up within MA in order to improve the evaluation capacity
- ✓ MA intends to select an ongoing evaluator in order to avoid the difficulties from 2007-2013 period
- ✓ MA has initiated the necessary activities for developing an Annual Evaluation Plan and for detailing the evaluation themes based on chapter 9 Evaluation Plan from NRDP
- ✓ The Evaluation will highlight the degree of contribution of the NRDP to the EU 2020 Strategy, as foreseen by the ex ante assessment



## Implementing Evaluation Plan



The most important issues in implementing Evaluation Plan

**Data** – lack of data

**Stakeholders** – many stakeholders involved in implementing Evaluation Plan

**Expertise** – lack of expertise at public administration level

**Evaluators** – the development process of evaluation society in Romanian is in progress

**Interest** – the importance of evaluation is not always adequately addressed

**Awareness** - lack of awareness on the importance of evaluation





## PLANNED STEPS

# Evaluation Plan for Partnership Agreement



REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013 foresees that *the progress report shall set out information on and assess the progress made towards achievement of the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth (...), through the contribution of the ESI Funds to the thematic objectives selected*

- ✓ Ministry of European Funds, as a national coordinator of the OP's evaluation, intends to develop a multiannual contract for 2016-2023 for each theme included in PA evaluation plan, where the evaluator will collect and process data since the beginning of the implementation period and will provide evaluation reports at specific times
- ✓ EP for PA includes an *Evaluation of the contribution to economic growth and Europe 2020* in 2019 (mid-term) and 2023 (final). The evaluation methodology will use modeling techniques (e.g. general spatial equilibrium model) to assess the contribution of ESI funds to GDP and EU 2020 Strategy targets
- ✓ An *Evaluation of the contribution to the Thematic objectives* in 2019 and 2023 is also included in PA evaluation plan. The evaluation methodology is mainly based on the synthesis of OP level evaluations and analysis of aggregated data