

**2009 Country Program Interim Evaluation
(CPiE) of EU Pre-accession Assistance to
Croatia**

**JMC and IPA TAIB SMC Meeting
Zagreb, 15 December 2009**

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OBJECTIVE AND NATURE

- ➔ Focus at the **program level** (instead of sector level as done in past Interim Evaluations)
- ➔ Emphasis on **operational aspects**, to identify practical recommendations
- ➔ **Coverage**: initially focus on PHARE 05 & 06 and IPA 07, but IPA 08 & 09 also taken into account to the extent feasible
- ➔ Combination of desk work and field work (over **40 interviews**)
- ➔ Also **capacity building** activities (January 2010)

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KEY FINDINGS

- ➔ List of project proposals still **too long** and the logic for prioritization remains unclear
- ➔ Improvement in the **quality of Project Fiches**, especially for IPA 08
- ➔ Signs of improvement in **procurement** (duration of tendering procedures)
- ➔ Progress in **monitoring reports**, but room for improvement
- ➔ Project objectives generally **well aligned with priorities** but difficult to measure performance due to **poor indicators**
- ➔ Prospects for impact and sustainability seriously affected by **problems with personnel, namely staff retention**

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AN EXAMPLE: USE OF INDICATORS IN PROJECT FICHES

- ➔ There are still problems in the selection of indicators (about 1/3 are ‘misplaced’)
- ➔ But the overall quality is clearly improving, with **higher degree of SMARTness**

	Specific	Measurable	Available	Relevant	Time-bound
PHARE 2005 - 2006	51%	54%	65%	81%	10%
IPA 2007 - 2008	57%	66%	68%	82%	22%
<i>Of which:</i>					
IPA 2007	51%	57%	65%	81%	11%
IPA 2008	62%	71%	71%	83%	35%

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KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- ➔ Strengthen the **screening of project proposals**
- ➔ Ensure continued cooperation between CODEF and CFCA to **enhance ‘implementability’**
- ➔ Rebalance the **areas of responsibility of SMSC**, to enhance alignment with IPA priorities and better apportion the workload
- ➔ Improve the **structure of monitoring reports**, to make them more informative
and most importantly
- ➔ **Address the issue of personnel**, the single most important factor impacting on the quality of assistance, and potentially with far reaching consequences (e.g. access to structural funds)

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THANK YOU

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