

ROAD MAP FOR TO THE PREPARATION OF THE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT AND OPERATIONAL PROGRAMMES 2014-2020

The main actions	Deadline
First meeting of the informal dialogue with the Commission - <i>Draft Negotiation Box and Road Map</i>	31 January 2013
Approving the action plans for the ex-ante conditionalities and setting up the monitoring system	February 2013
Second meeting of the informal dialogue with the Commission - <i>Detailed discussion on the 5 Financing Priorities</i>	End February 2013
Finalising the socio-economic analyses	15 March 2013
<i>Finalising the analyses of disparities, development needs, and growth potentials at the level of the Partnership Agreement (PA)</i>	<i>15 March 2013</i>
<p>The main findings of sectorial analyses in terms of disparities, development needs and growth potentials are to be reflected in the Draft Partnership Agreement. To this end, bilateral working meetings are foreseen between the representatives of the Consultative Committees or working groups and the Partnership Agreement drafting team within the Ministry of European Funds in order to ensure the appropriate consolidation of the analysis and a coherent approach.</p> <p>Five thematic focus groups are to be organised in order to underpin the analyses.</p>	
<i>Validation of the sectorial socio-economic analysis and PA development needs at the level of the Inter-institutional Committee for Partnership Agreement (CIAP)</i>	<i>22 March 2013</i>
<i>Drafting the detailed sectorial socio-economic analyses</i>	On going
<p>The process of drafting the sectorial socio-economic analyses was completed at the level of some of the line ministries, while for the other are under development (being part of some of TA projects). The process is due to the sustained work within the Consultative Committees and working groups created for drafting the programming documents 2014-2020. As these structures have been set up under the framework of partnership principle, the main stakeholders have been constantly consulted during the process. The results of the analyses carried out at regional level for underpinning the Regional Development Plans and discusses have also been taken into account.</p> <p>The analyses are based on data series of 5 years (or even 7 years), reflecting the main evolution or gaps at sectorial and regional level. A qualitative analysis of the legislative and other external factors will underpin the conclusions of the analyses. The analyses will be sustained by a financial estimation of development needs which will represent the starting point for the future financial allocation at the level of priorities.</p> <p>A SWOT analysis has also carried out for each sector, in order to provide a realistic diagnosis of the situation in the field.</p> <p>A wide number of relevant partners have provided information within the drafting process, so that the resulted sectorial analyses were very detailed and comprehensive. In order to respond better to the requirements of the programming process for structural funds, the socio-economic analyses have been re-organised based on the Thematic Objectives for ESI Funds.</p>	
<i>Definition of the development priorities at sectorial level</i>	April–March 2013
<p>An extensive work is carried on at the level of the public policy directorates in charge with the drafting of sectorial strategies, which ensures support to the whole programming process, in order to respond to the conditionalities and to establish sustainable investments priorities.</p> <p>The main policy strategic priorities are known at the level of each line ministries and the corresponding strategic documents are to be elaborated or revised in order to respond also to the financing needs from ESI funds. Several sectors are currently well aware of their priorities and they will be used for first internal draft of PA (see below).</p> <p>Based on the sectorial analyses, at the level of each sector the main development priorities and expected results to be achieved under those priorities are also to be established.</p> <p>For each development priority the corresponding strategy for achieving the results are to be defined (future Priority Axis/intervention area), starting from the thematic objectives and the proposed investment priorities and established through draft regulations.</p> <p>For each development priority, an indicative financial estimation will be associated based on the estimation provided at the level of need analyses process.</p>	

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A short guidance will be drafted for the preparation of the performance framework or any existing framework establishing rules and principles on setting of milestones and targets fulfilling this function also for the ESI Funds (15 March)	
Establishing the OPs architecture and the future MAs and IBs through Government memorandum in order to include them in the draft PA	31 March 2013
Once the OPs are established, the process of developing of the first drafts will start in April 2013. Based on the EC Template for OPs, Ministry of European Funds will elaborate a methodology for drafting the operational programmes, including guidance regarding the performance mechanism and principles on setting of milestones and targets fulfilling this function also for the ESI Funds. This methodology will include also an indicative mechanism for financial allocations (which is to be developed based on the initial guidelines for the PA). Guidance will be provided also in terms of reduction of the administrative burden for beneficiaries, taking into account the main elements provided at PA level. The ex-ante evaluator at OP level will be selected in a month after OPs designation (30 April 2013).	
Third meeting of the informal dialogue with the Commission - <i>The discussions will be focused on the preparation of the first draft PA and on the content of the strategy for those 5 Funding Priorities, based on the development needs analyses</i>	End March 2013
Finalising the strategy formulation for the Partnership Agreement	15 April 2013
<i>Definition of the Strategy at the level of PA</i> The strategic vision at the level of the PA will comprise the funding priorities defined based on the need development analysis and sectorial priorities and taking into account the specific institutional context of the Member State and the territorial challenges faced. Justifications for each selected thematic objectives are to be presented, the contribution of the funding priorities/areas of intervention to the objectives of Europe 2020 Strategy and the targets established through the National Reform Programme. The indicative funding priorities and areas of interventions will be discussed with the main partners and relevant stakeholders at the level of some informing and debating events which will be organised at national and regional level under the MFE coordination.	
Fourth meeting of the informal dialogue with the Commission - <i>The discussions will be focused on the Strategy proposal and the proposed architecture and further development of the management and control systems, in order to finalise the first draft of the PA</i>	End April 2013
<i>Validation of the first draft PA at the level of the Inter-institutional Committee for Partnership Agreement (CIAP)</i>	26 April 2013
Ex-ante evaluation first interim report at the level of Partnership Agreement ¹	30 April 2013
Finalising the first draft of the Partnership Agreement Debates at the level of the working groups and Consultative Committees on internal draft will be carried out in February – April 2013 in order to ensure the appropriate balance between the development priorities and sectorial needs. The first round of the Regional focus groups will be also organized in order promote further the partnership principle. The regional focus groups will be organized in April 2013 in order to promote and ensure that the first draft of the strategy appropriately reflects the regional disparities and needs analyses at sectorial level.	30 April 2013
The informal submission of the first draft of PA to the Commission ²	3 May 2013
<i>Availability of the first draft of the Strategies of the OPs (indicative timetable)</i> This draft will include the description of the priority axes, will be available for discussion between the line ministries and MFE. Intermediary discussion will be held in order to ensure the correlation with the draft of PA and OPs. For some of the OPs the Strategy will be available later on, as it depends on the results of TA projects aimed to draft sectorial strategies. A separate time table is to be established for each OP.	31 May 2013

1 Followed by interim reports each 3 months

2 The draft will not contain the financial tables (only partially), the verification of additionality, the performance framework (as it depends on the performance framework at OP level) and the coordination mechanism at territorial level. However, it will be accompanied by the ex-ante evaluation first interim report elaborated by Ecorys that has been selected as independent evaluator in December 2012.

The main actions	Deadline
Until the managing authorities are to be officially designated, the OPs will be drafted at the level of the programming structure existing at the level of the current MAs/OPs.	
Fifth meeting of the informal dialogue with the Commission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Discussions on the first draft of the PA and on the strategy proposal for the OPs</i> - <i>Development of the management and control systems and the proposed institutional architecture</i> 	End May 2013
<i>Financial allocations at the level of the OPs/thematic objectives will be established based on the initial estimation of financial needs and taking into account the ring-fencing derived from the thematic concentration including the references to the categories of regions. A short guideline will be provided in this respect.</i>	31 May 2013
A revised draft of the PA will be developed, based on the development at OP level.	30 June 2013
Sixth meeting of the informal dialogue with the Commission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Continue the consultation on the draft strategies of the OPs and on the management and control system</i> - <i>Further discussions related to the revision of the PA, including performance framework and territorial arrangements</i> 	End June 2013
<i>Validation of the first draft OPs and of the revised PA at the level of the Consultative Committees and Inter-institutional Committee for Partnership Agreement (CIAP)</i>	1-15 July 2013
Extensive debates at the level of the Consultative Committees on the proposed draft strategies of the OPs	June-July 2013
Official designation of the MAs and OPs through Government Decision³	July 2013
The informal submission of the second draft of the PA⁴ to the Commission	End July 2013
The informal submission of the first draft of OPs (including NRDP and FOP) Ex-ante first interim evaluation report at OP level, including SEA ⁵ , will be available when the draft OPs will be submitted informally.	July-Sept. 2013
Seventh meeting of the informal dialogue with the Commission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Continue the consultation on the draft strategies of the OPs and on the management and control system</i> - <i>Further discussions related to the revision of the PA, including performance framework and territorial arrangements</i> 	Begin of September 2013
The informal submission of the third draft of the PA to the Commission⁶	End September 2013
Eight meeting of the informal dialogue with the Commission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Continue the consultation on the draft strategies of the OPs and on the management and control system</i> - <i>Further discussions related to the development of the official version of the PA</i> 	October 2013
Submission to the EC the first official version of the Partnership Agreement	Beginning of November 2013
Official dialogue with the Commission on draft PA and preparing the official draft of the	December

³ The official designation is to be established after the approval of the cohesion legislative package.

⁴ The second draft of the PA will include further elements on the territorial approach and coordination of different financial instruments.

⁵ Followed by interim reports each three months.

⁶ The third draft is to be presented in a complete manner, including verification of additionality principle, the performance framework (and the aggregated milestones), the detailed financial tables and the partially results of the ex-ante evaluations.

The main actions	Deadline
OPs	2013 – September 2014
<p>Finalising the indicative selection of major projects</p> <p>First draft of list of major projects to be defined at the level of Romanian authorities (focusing on the fields that are to continue the investments started under the current programming period)</p> <p>Extended consultation with the Commission on the indicative list of proposed major projects</p> <p>Identifying major projects that are not to be finalized under the current programming period</p> <p>Concluding the list of major projects that is to be annexed to the OPs</p>	<p>January 2014</p> <p>March 2013</p> <p>March-May 2013</p> <p>September 2013</p> <p>December 2013</p>
Receiving the first official comments on the draft PA	January 2014
Submission of the second official version of the Partnership Agreement	March 2014
Approval by the Commission of the Partnership Agreement	May 2014
Submission to the EC the first official draft of the OPs	First half of January 2014
Receiving the first official comments on the draft OPs	April 2014
Submission of the second official version of the OPs	June 2014
Approval by the Commission of the OPs	September 2014