

**EX POST EVALUATION OF COHESION POLICY PROGRAMMES  
2007-2013 CO-FINANCED BY THE ERDF / CF**

**WORK PACKAGE 2 – SUPPORT TO SMES  
CCIN° 2014.CE.16.B.AT.002**

**Seminar on emerging results - Brussels 29<sup>th</sup> April 2015**

**Avenue de Beaulieu, 1, 1160 Brussels (VIP room, BU-1, 00/046)**

As part of a broader evaluation of the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund for the period 2007-13, CSIL, along with CSES, ZEW<sup>1</sup> and other partners are conducting an evaluation of the support provided to SMEs, that aims to increase Research and Innovation in SMEs and promote SME development.

Initially the study examined a sample of 50 Operational Programmes (OPs), selected by the European Commission mainly because of their significant attention to SMEs. Together, these 50 OPs represent 62% of the total amount of all OPs in the categories of expenditure relating to support for SMEs.

More recently, the work has focused on 8 specific OPs, which represent different aspects of ERDF work in this area. The OPs in question are:

1. Italy – Apulia (2007IT161PO010), pilot case study
2. France – Ile de France (2007FR162PO012)
3. Germany - Saxony (2007DE161PO004)
4. Denmark - Innovation and Knowledge (2007DK162PO001)
5. Spain - Castilla y León (2007ES162PO009)
6. Czech Republic - Business and Innovation (2007CZ161PO004)
7. Poland - Innovative Economy (2007PL161PO001)
8. Lithuania - Economic Growth (2007LT161PO002).

**On 29<sup>th</sup> April 2015, a day-long seminar will be held in Brussels to consider the main findings from the detailed case studies.**

During the course of the day, drawing on the detailed examination of each of the 8 OPs, the seminar will explore issues, such as:

- the thinking that determined the Intervention Logic of Programmes supporting SMEs and innovation;
- how effective these instruments have proved to be and how to measure this effectiveness;
- the nature of the SMEs targeted by the various instruments and the rationale for such targeting;
- how enterprises responded to the support they were given;
- changing patterns of support;
- the extent of the evidence on the performance of the OP and the various policy instruments
- success factors and weaknesses in the detailed design and packaging of the support provided;

The aim is to achieve a good understanding of the dynamics and achievements of ERDF support for SMES & Innovation.

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<sup>1</sup> CSIL – Centre for Industrial Studies (lead partner, Italy), CSES – Centre for Strategy & Evaluation Services (UK) and ZEW – Centre for European Economic Research (Germany).

## **Draft agenda**

**09.00 – 17.30**

### **10.00 – 10.30 Welcome & the Key Themes of the Evaluation**

Welcome to participants by Veronica Gaffey , Head of Unit DG REGIO B2. Explanation of the objectives and orientation of the evaluation and the main issues to be addressed during the course of the day, by Massimo Florio, Director of the CSIL Evaluation Team.

### **10.30 – 11.30 Instruments Supporting SMEs & Promoting Growth**

The evidence on the design and implementation of a series of instruments that aim to support SMEs, how successful they are and how this success is measured. Presentation of the results of two/three case studies, followed by an open discussion of the issues raised

### **11.30 – 12.30 Instruments Promoting Innovation**

The evidence on the design and implementation of a series of instruments specifically intended to promote innovation, how successful they are and how this success is measured. Presentation of the results of two/three case studies, followed by an open discussion of the issues raised

### **12.30 – 13.30 Lunch**

### **13.30 – 14.30 The Economic and Policy Context of OP Planning and Delivery**

The evidence on how the developing economic and policy context affected the planning and delivery of OPs and the nature of the instruments deployed. Presentation of examples from a third set of case studies, followed by an open discussion.

### **14.30 – 14.45 Coffee break**

### **14.45 – 16.00 Round Table Discussion**

Panel consisting of :

Harvey Armstrong, University of Sheffield

Robert Picciotto, Kings College, London

Mark Sanders, Utrecht University School of Economics

Jiri Blazek, Charles University, Prague

Analysis of the main findings of earlier presentations. Discussion moderated by Massimo Florio.

### **16.00 – 16.30 Conclusions - Massimo Florio, Director of the Evaluation team**