



Ongoing evaluation of implementation of the Operational Programme Research, Development and Education

Ministry of Education, Youth and
Sports

**Evaluation Report of relevance and
effectiveness of OP RDE multi
funding and support of regional
categories (more developed regions,
less developed regions) with the
multi funding OP RDE**

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Final version – Executive Summary



EUROPEAN UNION
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Executive Summary



Support of multiple regional categories and multi funding is still relevant and needed.

Relevance of multi funding has been confirmed, based on the analysis of the popularity of multi funding and reaching absorbance capacity as well as on the questionnaire survey, focus groups and case studies. Popularity of calls funded from individual funds has been assessed and it is clear that calls funded from ERDF are preferred.

In OP RDE, there is the multi funded PA2 which is funded from both ESF and ERDF. In PA2 the number of applications in individual funds (ERDF) differs significantly from their share in the allocation of this PA. This difference is less significant than the differences among filed applications in individual funds for all PA. The main reason for this is the structure of funding in OP RDE Programme Document, where more money from ERDF is allocated in PA1 than in PA2. Other reasons are:

- Funding structure of the issued calls - significantly more money is allocated from ERDF.
- The lower average value of minimal and maximal costs of projects in investment projects funded from ERDF.
- The nature of the specific projects and their financial requirements that is significantly higher in the case of investment projects funded from ERDF.
- The highest rate of money required to allocation of the call is in the following two calls funded from ERDF (02_16_019 – Excellent Research; 02_15_003 – Support of Excellent Research Teams).
- The higher amount of money required than amount of money allocated in individual calls in the quadruplecall¹ for universities.

It is possible to identify some disadvantages of multi funding as well:

- It is not possible to apply for projects funded by ERDF and ESF, these projects must be applied for and realized individually.
- Difficult and time consuming process of applying, evaluation and subsequent administration of interconnected projects funded by several funds.

Relevance of support in several regional categories has been confirmed by analysis of the application structure in MDR and LDR and by analysis of context indicators. When we look at the number of applications filed in OP RDE, the share of both regional categories is 2.6 % MDR and 33,6 % LDR in PA1. The share of both regional categories in the number of applications filed is considerably greater (58.9 % for LDR and 10.8 % for MDR). The main reason for this is the higher number of calls in PA1. Another

¹ A combination of these calls: 02_16_015, 02_16_016, 02_16_017, 02_16_018.



reason is greater amount of money required compared to funds that are allocated in PA1 calls. However, in PA3, the share of LDR is less significant than its share in allocation of OP RDE.

In PA2 and PA3, the share of individual regional categories in allocation of PA and the number of applications with reported effect in individual regional categories is equal. In the case of PA1, the share of money accounted by pro rata from MDR is twice as large in comparison to the share of MDR in allocation of PA1. This proves the popularity of the declared effect of the project in MDR in PA1.



Effectiveness of internal complementarities is, in relation to multi funding and support of multiple regional categories, very high.

Based on analysis of internal complementarities, we may list the following conclusions concerning the design of internal complementarities and their great effectiveness:

- In OP RDE, there is 20 complementarities between specific objectives, with one multiplied complementarity.
- Within the defined complementarities there is the total of 15 SO of the 18 SO defined in the OP RDE programme document representing 83.3%.
- The highest number of complementarities – 5 – can be found in 3 SO.
- Most of complementarities exist between specific objectives of the same fund, only in the case of “Research and development” and in part of links within “Support of universities”, there are links between SO funded from various source.
- All complementarities have the target area of the CR, both MDR and LDR.
- The highest intensity of internal complementarities was in the quadruple call also thanks to the possibility of adding several ERDF projects to one ESF project.

Effectiveness of complementarities, especially in relation to multi funding, is weakened by the fact, that in OP RDE as a multi funded programme it is necessary to file individual applications in SO supported by ESF and ERDF. As a result, the administrative process of evaluation and selection of projects as well as their subsequent administration is more difficult.



Interventions for ensuring coordination of complementarities in OP RDE are ensured with great effectiveness.

This mechanism and its individual processes and sub-processes are in coordination with the design of the Unified Methodological Environment and it is designed in a proper way. Its purpose is to prevent future duplicity both in the case of complementarities including specific objectives funded by the same fund and in multi funded complementarities.

At the level of individual interventions for ensuring the coordination mechanism of individual internal complementarities at the OP RDE level, the following interventions are most significant:

- Targeting individual complementary calls to prevent duplicity (content coordination).
- Adjusting schedule of complementary calls (coordination of schedule).
- Group meetings of coordinators for individual PA in case of complementarities in multiple PA.
- Possibility of including prospect recipients in future call preparation.



The most effective intervention is the use of compulsory design of complementarity when filing applications in the form of interconnectedness of activities funded by ESF and ERDF, which was used in the quadruple call. This creates difficulties in the administrative process of evaluation and choice of projects and their subsequent administration of supported projects.



Support of multi funded OP RDE and support of multiple regional categories carries advantages and weaknesses.

Advantages of multi funding and support of more developed and less developed regions are as follows:

- Continuity in operational programmes from the previous programme period within one multi funded OP.
- Equal possibilities of funding in R&D and education in CR, with disposal of disparities concerning underfunding of R&D in Prague.
- The possibility of support and realization of projects in MDR with effect on MDR, and projects in MDR with effect on both MDR and LDR.
- The possibility of more effective coordination of complementarities within one multi funded OP rather than two separate programmes.
- More effective preparation and subsequent realization of projects with effect on both regional categories.
- The potential for implementation of complex complementary calls applying strict rules for the interconnectedness of projects including a guarantee of joint evaluation.
- Multi funding allows combining funding non-investment activities (e.g. creating new study programmes or modernization of old ones) with investment activities (building infrastructure for education and research purposes).

It is also possible to identify some weaknesses:

- Reporting the effects by the region LDR, MDR (pro rata), which puts emphasis on accuracy, worsening the administrative strain on MA.
- The disadvantage of greater administrative strain on MA in interconnected projects which creates difficulties in the administrative process of evaluation and choice of projects and their subsequent administration.
- The focus of OP RDE is too broad from the point of view of supported activities as well as of applicants.

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