



Mid-Term Evaluation of the Operational Program Lisbon 2020 Summary

The main objective of the Mid-Term Evaluation of the OP Lisbon was to “identify and explain the contribution of the OP to the expected results in the Specific Objectives of each Investment Priority (IP) mobilized in each of its Priority Axes”.

This evaluation assumed as methodological framework the Theory-Based Evaluation (TBA) and entailed the structuring of the logical framework of the OP Lisbon intervention and its respective Theory of Change (ToC). The evaluation process involved a wide range of methods and techniques for information collection and analysis, including document and statistical collection, 10 interviews, 5 focus group and 3 case studies, as well as 2 surveys (one to business promoters and another to non-business entities).

In global terms, the evaluation revealed a global adequacy of the instruments and kinds of support mobilized by the Program to the needs of the target groups and the region, and a globally positive performance in meeting the completion and output targets, albeit in a scenario of substantial downward reprogramming of some targets and of funds reallocation. The effect of the pandemic, magnified by the war in Ukraine, contributed to slow the pace and capacity of the OP completion, also constrained by additional factors such as the average period for analyzing the applications and the payment requests, the public procurement procedures, the difficulty in mobilizing the self-financing component and the difficulty in hiring human resources, leading to a level of completed operations that provides a still inconclusive picture of the PO's ability to deliver the expected results.

The effectiveness analysis at the level of the program's strategic intervention vectors reveals that:

- in the domain of lifelong training and hiring support, most of the instruments proved to be adequate and capable of attracting qualified demand (with the exception of professional training in a business context). The difficulty of mobilization stems largely from the companies' lack of knowledge and low appreciation of the offer and from the administrative burden associated;
- within the scope of activities that promote research, technological development and innovation, most of the targets are in good conditions to be met, with the main constraints referring to the low rate of community co-funding and to the low adherence in projects of cooperation and of knowledge transfer and valorization;
- when promoting the competitiveness of SMEs, a double constraint is faced - the general mobilization of demand and the attraction of qualified demand. The Financial Instruments also had an adherence below than what was initially expected, but even so greater than that registered in other regions of the country;
- in the promotion of energy transition in companies, in public infrastructure and in homes, there is a low level of adherence in the support to energy transition in companies, and a high incidence of terminations/cancellations in the support to energy efficiency in housing, closely associated with the complexity, length and nature of the support inherent in the instruments;
- in the improvement of access to and supply of social amenities, the notices proved to be capable of attracting qualified demand which, combined with the fact that these are the areas with the greatest allocation, means that a large part of the Program's objectives are achieved.

There is a high level of coherence between OP Lisbon 2020 and the policy mix associated with its main intervention pillars and with the territorial and sectoral context existing to date.

The resources mobilized and the results generated by the OP prove to be adequate, although the volume of community support falls short of what is needed to produce visible and impactful effects in reducing regional asymmetries, to respond adequately to the needs of the Lisbon Region and to promote in Lisbon a greater drag capacity of the other regions.

The ESIF enabled a substantial part of the completed investment and the achieved results by the supported projects. This additionality effect of the OP was very relevant for non-business promoters, but it also gained increased importance for business promoters in the pandemic context.

