



Lead company



Draft Evaluation of the European Neighbourhood Instrument

Technical Workshop on the External Financing Instruments

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Main findings

EQ1

- ❑ The ENI **enabling Regulation** ensures/allows the responsiveness of the Instrument to the challenges of the Neighbourhood.
- ❑ Political/policy dialogues ensure **alignment to the reform agenda** of partner governments; needs of population are harder to capture.
- ❑ The complex set of various documents which define the policy framework (ENP), somewhat **hinders the clear visibility and understanding** by partners and EUD staff.
- ❑ **Crisis/conflict sensitivity** analyses are missing

EQ2

- ❑ It is **too early** (MTR) to provide a conclusive assessment of actual results and of the extent to which ENI programmes have contributed to progress.
- ❑ While ENI actions have actually delivered well targeted outputs in the field of **rule of law and governance** ...
- ❑ ... the prospects for **sustainable economic development** are limited and the global prospect with regards to EU fundamental values has been bleak.
- ❑ **Treating root causes** of crises/conflicts and sustainable development is prioritized; **crisis responses** with EUTFs and special measures (Ukraine)

EQ3

□ Efficiency of ENI delivery is positive in terms of ...

- ... **procedures**, even though no new major features have been introduced by the ENI regulation – **special measures** contribute to the timely delivery in response to crises and provided more flexibility; “ranges” contributed to flexibility too.
- ... **processes** – Besides regulatory burden, Centres of Thematic Expertise (CoTE) are contributing to strengthen in-house expertise and quality control and M&E systems are operative and provide required feedback.
- ... **ratio of administrative costs** – ENI is the most cost-efficient among the main instruments (2.0% of 2015 commitments).

EQ4

- ❑ EU added value is positively assessed based on its ...
 - ... ability to gather **massive funding** (mainly through grants, blending)
 - ... capacity to **coordinate with other EFIs** to tackle challenges under different angles and horizons
 - ... capacity to mobilise **European (in-house/outourced) expertise** within a framework consistent to EU and partner countries' mutual interests
 - ... political influence and **policy leverage through dialogue** with governments (budget support) and CSOs

EQ 5 on coherence, consistency, complementarity and synergies

EQ5

- ❑ While **overall coherence** within ENI programmes is good due to compliance with programming instructions and continuous efforts of the different services ...
- ❑ ... it is mainly found in relation to the increasingly **consistent policy framework** of the Regulation (reviewed ENP, Global strategy)
- ❑ **Operational linkages or synergies have remained rather weak** between bilateral/regional/CBC programmes
- ❑ **The coverage of crisis prevention appears insufficient** in the unstable context of the region; whether by ENI alone or even combined with other EFIs (especially IcSP)

EQ6

- ❑ It is **too early** to assess the extent to which ENI improved the leverage on structural reforms
- ❑ The **incentive-based approach** set in the ENI Regulation does not appear to be very effective, due to the limited financial incentive (vs middle-income countries) and minimized “competition” for umbrella programmes
- ❑ In terms of financial leverage, **blending** has demonstrated an effective way to mobilise additional resources (within EU “family” and with IFIs –notably for private sector development)

Conclusions

The ENI Regulation and the management by EEAS and DG NEAR of ENI programming and assistance are

- fit for purpose**
- and successfully use most of the key features offered by the regulatory framework.**

C1

Overall coherence of ENI assistance is good and generally ENI programmes are well aligned to one another as well as to the overarching policy framework.

C2

The focus on differentiation as a key principle of the Instrument is realistic and pragmatic.

C3

Through the use of policy and political dialogue, ENI programmes are reasonably well aligned to country priorities.

C4

The effectiveness of the incentive mechanism aiming at a special relation based on shared values of democracy and human rights is limited.

C5

ENI response capacity has improved in terms of flexibility, but is found not proportionate to the challenges being faced and EU vital interests in the region.

C6

Despite shortcomings with regard to Joint Programming and Division of Labour, coordination with EU MS has improved.

Recommendations

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- ❑ Consider **developing further guidance** on ENI assistance to enhance coherence and promote a more balanced dialogue with partner countries/CSOs.
- ❑ Scale-up the **quest for complementarity** between ENI, relevant thematic EFIs, MFA and ECHO.
- ❑ Continue ENI's **focus on differentiation**, finding more specific approaches to stabilisation and development.
- ❑ **Develop the incentive-based approach** in a way so that it goes further than the umbrella programmes and beyond HRs/RoL.
- ❑ Consider **increasing the allocation of funds** available to prevent and respond to crises.
- ❑ **Device crisis prevention strategies** as a specific dimension of the ENI and further develop existing synergies with IcSP.
- ❑ Continue to **roll out joint assessment and programming** among partner countries.