

***Executive Summary***

***Evaluation of the ESF Operational  
Programme 2014-2020 of Murcia Region***



## • EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The results evaluation of the ESF Operational Programme 2014-2020 of Murcia Region in 2019 has been carried out in accordance with Articles 50, 56 and 111 of (EU) Regulation No. 1303/2013. This is the second mid-term evaluation after the first performed in 2017. The evaluation timeframe encompasses all operations developed within the OP since its approval by the EC until the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2018.

The evaluation work has been developed in close cooperation with the Intermediate Body and the managing bodies of the co-financed operations that have been interviewed either in person or *on line*.

As a general conclusion of the evaluation it can be affirmed that, in the middle of its execution period, the ESF OP of Murcia Region has reached a cruising speed in terms of its execution. It complies with the Performance Framework in all OP Axes and, as far as the progresses towards the achievement of the expected results and advances towards the goals established for the Results Indicators in 2023, the OP presents a very favourable situation in all of its Specific Objectives with respect to the fulfilment of the established target.

The most relevant conclusions and recommendations of the Operational Program evaluation grouped by scope of evaluation analysis are summarized below.

### OP strategy and intervention logic

- There is both external and internal consistency in the OP, since, although progress has been made in certain areas, the regional needs and challenges remain in force, so it is not necessary to modify the logical tree defined in the programming phase.
- There is an alignment and coherence in the entire logic of intervention that is drawn from the regional challenges / needs identified in the initial diagnosis, the selected Thematic Objectives / intervention axes, the selected Investment Priorities and the Specific Objectives to be attained in order to achieve the expected change that will make it possible to address this regional challenge / need.

### Product effectiveness analysis (Productivity Indicators)

- **Axis 1 (Thematic Objective 8):**
  - The degree of alignment of the execution results of Investment Priority 8.1 until December 31, 2018 with respect to the forecasts made in the OP until the end of the programming period, is very high. These results are mainly based on the performance of the **SEF (Service of Employment and Training)** on personalized insertion itineraries, which has experienced an excellent level of execution. The rest of the actions carried out by this managing body in the framework of Investment Priorities 8.3, 8.4 and 8.5 also present high or medium efficiency values.

- With regard to IP 8.3, aid for the promotion of employment and self-employment, including social economy enterprises, implemented by the **Directorate General of Labour Relations and the Social Economy**, there has been a 100% execution of the funds. These are multiannual operations in all cases with a duration of three years, so no participation data are available for those operations starting in 2016 yet. Therefore, measuring the degree of effectiveness of this priority is not representative at this point, since missing information is still to be added to the Productivity Indicator value.
- In IP 8.4 there are actions designed to support employment and the reconciliation of personal, family and work life, developed by the **Directorate General for Women and Equal Opportunities**. The degree of effectiveness of this IP is, at this moment, low, which will vary as soon as the participants of this operation, that ended in January 2019, are incorporated.
- **Axis 2 (Thematic Objective 9):**
  - With respect to the actions carried out by the **SEF** in IP 9.1 (employment with support and Cabinets of Orientation and Labour Insertion for PCD and other people with difficulty), it should be noted that the degree of effectiveness of the Productivity Indicator EO01. Participants in situation or risk of social exclusion is very high.
  - Within this same IP 9.1 the **IMAS (Murcian Institute of Social Affairs)** performs itineraries of socio-labour insertion for people at risk or situation of poverty and / or social exclusion developed by NGOs and managed by the IMAS and its degree of effectiveness is high.
  - The **Directorate General for Family and Social Policies** within the framework of IP 9.2 (SO 9.2.1) carries out a program of accompaniment to the relocation of people living in slums and substandard housing, which has not yet ended. Therefore, the degree of alignment executed / planned is still 35.36% (low) with respect to the programming period considered as a whole. In the framework of IP 9.4, this same managing entity performs protocols for participatory local development that is multiannual, so no indicators have been reported for the purposes of this results evaluation.
- **Axis 3 (Thematic Objective 10):**
  - **Directorate General of Vocational Training and Teachings of Special Regime:** in IP 10.3 (priority reinforced in the last reprogramming) the degree of effectiveness of actions developed by this managing entity is high or very high in all cases, except in the case of Productivity Indicator CO01.Unemployed, including those of long duration and Specific Productivity Indicator E014 Evaluated Persons in which, in any case, it is medium. Investment Priority 10.4 also has a very high degree of effectiveness that is directly related to the advanced level of execution of actions to reinforce Vocational Training (Supply of Training Cycles taught in Dual Vocational Training).

- **Directorate General of Attention to Diversity and Educational Quality:** the degree of effectiveness of its actions is very variable. Thus, in IP 10.1, the degree of effectiveness of the associated Productivity Indicator CO09. People with primary education (ISCED 1) or secondary education (ISCED 2) is low, unlike Productivity Indicator EO13. Number of projects carried out in schools aimed at improving educational results, where is high. These values are in total correlation with the degree of execution of the actions that this managing body has developed in the framework of this Investment Priority.
- In Investment Priority 10.4, it is low, although with differences. Thus, the indicator CO05. People with employment, including self-employed workers, presents a relationship between what has been achieved and what was foreseen of 42.89% compared to indicator CO03. Inactive people, whose degree of effectiveness is low, 4.80%. However, in the next academic year 2019-2020 an action included in the OP after the reprogramming of December 2018 will be implemented in the framework of this IP (hiring conversation assistants), which will cause a very significant increase of the value of this Productivity Indicator. As a result, it is expected that the degree of effectiveness of the indicator increases significantly.
- **Directorate General of Commerce, Consumption and Administrative Simplification:** the performance of internship contracts, included in IP 10.4, presents a low level of efficiency.
- **Axis 6 Social Innovation (Thematic Objective 9):**
  - In the case of IP 9.1, to which Productivity Indicator EO01 refers. "Participants in situation or risk of social exclusion" regarding the performance of the **Murcian Health Service (SMS)** Euroempleo program, its level of effectiveness is very high and in line with the high level of execution of this action.
  - In the case of IP 9.2, analysis of effectiveness is not applicable because the action that feeds the Productivity Indicator and that is carried out by the **Directorate General for Family and Social Policies** has not yet been implemented, since its call has just been published in May 2019. The operation deals with the development of integral projects based on networking with the involvement of all relevant actors in the territory.

#### Effectiveness in the Results (IR) - Increase in the achievement of the results of the OP

- **AXIS 1:** Orbits around the performance of the Reinforcement of Guidance and Intermediation Services operation managed by the SEF, which has had very satisfactory results in terms of execution, translated into a high efficiency or degree of progress towards the achievement of the 2023 target of the Immediate Results Indicator, in this case CR04. Participants who obtain self-employment after their participation, reaching a high degree of effectiveness.

- **AXIS 2:** Very high efficiency rating of Results Indicator ER01. Participants in situation or risk of social exclusion who are looking for work, are integrated into the education or training systems, obtain a qualification or obtain a job included on their own account, after their participation.
- **AXIS 3:** There is a great disparity in the degree of progress of the Result Indicators towards the target established for them in 2023 (effectiveness), even within the same Specific Objective depending on the Result Indicator in question. It can be observed that the highest degree of progress of the results towards the goal is given in the Indicators related to obtaining qualifications and not so much with obtaining a job, since these results may be more visible in the long term.
- **AXIS 6:** The degree of progress towards the 2023 goal of the Result Indicator established is very high in IO 9.1, relative to the Euroempleo Program, in coherence with its high degree of execution.

#### OP CONTRIBUTION TO THE EU 2020 STRATEGY

- **Employment:** fairly stable evolution in general terms, although still far from reaching the goal set in the Europe 2020 Strategy. There is a gender gap in favour of men whose activity rate is very close to the targets set for 2020 in the case of Spain. The contribution of the ESF OP to this area is direct, through Priority Axes 1 and 6.
- **R&D&I expenditure on GDP:** the rate has followed a positive upward trend since 2008, but it is still far from reaching the target set at both the national and European levels. The contribution of the ESF OP to this objective is limited.
- **Education:** the net enrolment rate at 16 years old in Murcia is close to 90%, (target established by the OP for 2023). The rate of early school leaving, although in positive evolution increasing exponentially since 2008, is still quite far from meeting the objective set in Strategy 2020 (the situation of the female population is more positive, close to reaching the goal set at national level by 2020). With regard to the population with tertiary education, there is a growing trend to meet the milestone established which, in the case of women, has already been reached and exceeded at European level and is very close to reaching the milestone established at national level. There is a direct contribution from Priority Axis 3 to the improvement of these indicators.
- **Combating poverty and social exclusion:** the number of people in this situation is in a growing trend since 2008. Contribution to this objective by the OP is direct, especially through the Axis 2, integrated by the Thematic Objective 9 (Fight against poverty and all forms of discrimination). There is contribution to the improvement of this objective of actions programmed in Axis 3.

### **Compliance with the Performance Framework**

The ESF OP of Murcia 2014-2020 meets the Performance Framework in each and every one of its Axes, reaching very high-performance values and even exceeding 100% of the Milestone foreseen for 2018 in the case of all Productivity Indicators and in all Financial Indicators, except for one in which it exceeds 96% of the value of said Milestone.

### **Horizontal Principles**

The OP integrates all horizontal principles transversally, the principle of equality between women and men standing out among the rest with specific actions oriented to its accomplishment being developed as the ESF OP of Murcia Region is especially committed with this principle. Regarding the integration of sustainable development principle, there is still room for improvement.

### **Efficiency**

- When the unit cost method is used, it is not done in order to establish which actions are more efficient or profitable than others, that is, it is not applied with an efficiency criterion.
- There are limitations to the scope of the use of the unit cost method for the determination of efficiency in ESF: at the end of the programming period there will be exact data on the cost of the actions and therefore it will be possible calculated accurately.

### **Recommendations**

- Concentrate resources in those actions with the most satisfactory results measured in terms of the effectiveness of the Productivity Indicators and Results Indicators.
- Finalize the process of updating and putting into operation all the integration functionalities programmed for the computer system, which would greatly facilitate the administrative management, as well as integrated knowledge and the necessary report of the indicators.
- Enhance the coordination between the different managing bodies in some formal coordination structure, which up to now takes place in the framework of informal meetings in *ad hoc* fora (such as, for example, the field work carried out in the framework of this evaluation when conducting interviews at the headquarters of the Intermediate Body).
- Strengthen the role of the Women's Institute of the Region of Murcia, as a partner of the OP, not only in the awareness of the different managing entities, which are already highly aware of the principle of equality between women and men, but in the practical advice for the implementation of this principle in the management and operation of the actions.
- Extend to the rest of the OP's actions, as far as possible, the evaluation criteria based on accreditation in accordance with international standards for quality certification in the field of environment (UNE. EN. ISO series 14,000), as it is currently applied in the selection of operations within the framework of social economy operations.