

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CROATIA - TURKEY</b> <b>Preparation Screening Bi-lateral meetings</b> <b>List of questions related to key acquis requirements</b></p>
---

Please describe the provisions in place, and envisaged.  
Please underline any problem or difficulty expected.

## **1. Legal framework**

---

### **1.1. Budget planning and implementation mechanisms at national, regional and local level**

- What is needed to your legislative framework to allow for multi-annual budget programming with a view to provide national co-financing for the regional policy funds assistance?
- Which implementation mechanisms exist or are planned at national, regional and local level to ensure the proper functioning of the budgetary system?

### **1.2. Co-financing mechanisms at national, regional and local level**

- How will national co-financing (at central, regional or local level) in the framework of EU assistance be secured?
- How are the regional and local authorities financed? Do they have some autonomy for borrowing funds? What share of their budget comes from own fiscal resources / transfers from State budgets?
- Which mechanisms are foreseen to take account and attract private co-financing? Is there a legal framework for PPP or concessions ?
- What provisions are foreseen in the national budget which allow to transfer budgets of national co-financing between programs, funds and years?

### **1.3. Specific financial control legal provisions**

- What is the legal framework related to financial control and audit ? Are all public bodies, at national or local level, required to set up financial control and independent internal audit structures ?
- Are there legal requirement with regard to segregation of duties, in particular between payment and authorizing functions ?

### **1.4. Compliance with Community policies**

- What adoptions are necessary to your legislative framework to ensure compatibility of future operations to be financed by the Structural and Cohesion Funds with the EU rules on competition (state aids), public procurement, environment (in particular environmental impact assessment, application of the polluter pays principle and definition of the NATURA 2000 areas) and equality of opportunities between men and women?

### **1.5. Territorial organisation**

- Please explain briefly the relevant territorial organisation of your country. Are there ministerial / inter ministerial deconcentrated structures ?
- Are there any entities for regional development at regional level (in particular at NUTS II level)? What competences and role?
- Do regional and local governments have a role in the development of regional strategies and projects?
- Is a process of decentralisation or de-concentration of the administrative and political structures in force or expected ?
- What are the competences dedicated to regional / local authorities? (transport, environment, professional training, economic development) ?
- Is there a legal framework allowing local authorities to set up inter municipal structures for general or specific issues (water sector for example) ?

## **2. Institutional framework**

---

### **2.1. Designation of bodies/authorities responsible for the preparation and implementation of Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund**

- Have the main expected implementing structures being identified (managing authorities, certifying and audit authorities), in compliance with requirements of the general regulation on structural funds ?
- Have the relevant operating structures being appointed for the management of the IPA ? State of play of the related accreditation process ?

### **2.2. Setting up of the implementation system, definition of tasks and responsibilities of the bodies or authorities involved in the preparation and implementation of Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund**

- What is the allocation of responsibilities and division of tasks between Ministries and what co-ordination procedures are in place or envisaged?
- Do the different line ministries benefit from sufficient autonomy for designing their investment strategies and related planning documents ?

- What entity ensures the role of co-ordinator and arbitrage? (resources, political support)
- How coordination is organised between the central, regional and local levels?
- In addition to the central level, is it intended to establish managing authorities at the NUTS II level?

### **2.3. Inter-ministerial co-ordination**

- What inter-ministerial co-ordination structures? At national level ? at regional level ?
- What is the role of the Ministry of Finance with regard to the coordination of other ministries ?

### **2.4. Partnership**

- How partnership is organised in the preparation, financing, monitoring and evaluation of assistance?
- What partnership structures : coherent, independent and representative network of civil society representatives, socio economic partners ?

## **3. Administrative capacity**

---

### **3.1. Establishing and implementing organisational development strategies, recruitment and training plans**

- What organisational development strategies are envisaged?
- What training plans for developing management capacity, project management, public procurement, evaluation capacity and financial management and control are envisaged?
- Are there institutes entitled with the formation and on going training of officials ? at national level ? regional and local level ?

### **3.2. Recruiting and retaining high quality staff**

- Recruitment : what are the recruitment procedures (efficiency, transparency) ? Does the administration face difficulties in recruiting officials ? Are there substantial differences related to working conditions between ministries hampering mobility ?
- Remuneration : is the level of remuneration competitive with the private sector in order to be able to recruit skilled and stable staff ? Are there extra wages remunerations ? (bonuses)

## **4. Programming**

---

### **4.1. Preparation of programming documents: NSRF, Operational Programmes**

- Is there a timetable for preparing future programming documents? (actors involved, procedures, co-ordination, consultation, etc.)
- What linkage with the process of national investment and budget planning? Are there some strategic planning documents in place, horizontal (national development plans) or sectoral ?
- How Community Strategic Guidelines will be taken into consideration?
- Independent ex ante evaluation : mechanisms foreseen for ensuring ex ante evaluation (in house or outsourcing) ?

### **4.2. Effective partnership**

- How partnership is intended to be organised in the preparation of the programming documents?
- What role foreseen for regional/local authorities, socio-economic and other partners?

### **4.3. Project pipeline**

- What plans to develop, in parallel to the programming process, a pipeline of projects ready to be financed under EU assistance? (eligibility of expenditure, feasibility studies, calls for tenders, environmental impact assessments and other preparatory work, and organising the necessary national -public or private- co-financing) ?
- What are the project management capacities at national level (implementing agencies properly staffed, expertise within operational ministries) ? at regional and local level ?
- Is there an efficient banking sector at regional / local level with developed lending mechanisms to local authorities ?

## **5. Monitoring and evaluation**

---

### **5.1. Establishing evaluation capacity and process**

- What national systems and mechanisms to ensure the monitoring and evaluation of the quality and impact of development programmes?
- A standardised methodology and common cross-sectoral procedures exist or are envisaged?

- All involved bodies have agreed on a common set of key indicators/data and a common approach?

## **5.2. Set up and implementation of a Management Information System (MIS)**

- What collection and transfer of data mechanisms?
- Does it exist comprehensive electronic system for monitoring public national and regional / local expenditures?

## **6. Financial management and control**

---

### **6.1. Designation of the bodies or authorities responsible for the implementation of the specific financial management, control and audit provisions**

- Which are the bodies expected to be appointed as audit and certifying authorities ? What are their current responsibilities, experience and expertise ?

### **6.2. Setting up of the implementation system, definition of tasks and responsibilities**

- Which provisions are in place or envisaged concerning the mobilisation and circulation of financial flows in the framework of EU assistance?
- How the system will detect irregularities and problems?
- Which are the mechanisms place to guarantee the reliability of the public procurement system?