

Business Development, Innovation and SMEs

Evaluation criteria



Relevance

Assesses the extent to which the programme's objectives and design responded to the needs of the target groups.



Coherence

Assesses the degree of compatibility of the programme's support with other interventions in sector and institution.

Conclusions

- The programme design was not optimal. Although the programme chose appropriate thematic areas, combining the business and education sectors in a single programme was too ambitious.
- At the project level, the programme appropriately addressed the needs of specific target groups, including seniors, people with disabilities, and disadvantaged students.
- Bilateral cooperation was a highly relevant and successful dimension of the programme. Many high-quality partnerships with promising sustainability were established within the projects.
 - The key added value of the programme lies in the combination of quantifiable economic benefits, transfer of know-how, strengthening of the Slovak innovation ecosystem, and the creation of long-term institutional links with the Donor States.

Recommendations

Enable more flexible use of two financial mechanisms within a single call.

Reduce the administrative burden of programme implementation.

Separate support for the business sector from the education sector.

Maintain the focus on the needs of specific disadvantaged groups. Ensure timely launch of programme implementation.

Increase the level of involvement of partners from Donor States in the business sector.

Eliminate duplication with EU-funded operational programmes.

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