



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL  
REGIONAL POLICY

## **Evaluation of EIB role in the JASPERS Initiative**

### **Comments by DG Regional Policy**

JASPERS is a major initiative of the European Commission within cohesion policy, developed in association with EIB and other partners in response to an evident need in the Member States which joined the EU in 2004 and 2007 for specialist assistance with the preparation of major projects.

Its implementation by means of a joint instrument was a significant new development in terms of cooperation between DG Regional Policy and the EIB. It has grown to become the largest of the joint initiatives undertaken between the DG REGIO and a number of partner institutions, of which EIB is the most important, and now plays an important role in the delivery of cohesion policy.

JASPERS objectives were clear from its inception, were discussed and agreed with EIB and were set out in the Memorandum of Understanding which established the initiative, and in other key policy documents. DG Regional Policy, as the largest provider of resources for JASPERS, has always had a close interest in delivery of those objectives and appreciates the importance of an evaluation of the objectives, structure and operation of JASPERS. For this reason, the current evaluation report is welcomed. In particular, the conclusion that *"What is clear from the evidence gathered is that the initiative is fully justified and potentially still has much to do"* is noted.

DG Regional Policy notes also that the report is described as an 'interim' report which is 'on-going'. The report draws its conclusions from a relatively small sample of assignments carried out by JASPERS in its early years of operation from a limited number of the Member States concerned. It should therefore be taken into account in reading the report that this sample does not fully reflect current JASPERS priorities and procedures.

DG Regional Policy notes also that the report bases its evaluation on a sample of assignments carried out by JASPERS but does not continue the analysis into the remainder of the project cycle. The expert reports for the twelve beneficiary Member States are an important input to the preparation of major projects but the impact of JASPERS on the timing and quality of investments can only be fully understood in the context of an examination of the full project cycle and it is suggested that this wider analysis would be a fruitful area for examination in later evaluation work.

DG Regional Policy had intended from the early stage of operation of JASPERS to carry out a comprehensive evaluation at a time when the implementation of the initiative was at a more advanced stage and when there was a sufficient number of assignments which had completed the full project cycle to form a basis for robust conclusions about the performance of the initiative. We will initiate this study in the near future and we will keep our partners in JASPERS informed of developments.