ABSORPTION OF THE STRUCTURAL FUNDS - A CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE FOR ROMANIA

PhD assist prof. Laura GIURCA VASILESCU, PhD prof. POPA ANA

University of Craiova, Faculty of Economy and Business Administration
13, A.I. Cuza, 200585, Craiova, Romania, laurra2004@yahoo.com

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SUMMARY

The absorption of the structural funds is an objective of the post-accession strategy for Romania, taking into consideration the important contribution of those funds in covering the gaps to the others member states of the European Union. The accessing of these financial resources through the European cohesion policy represents one of the main economic benefits of integration process.

The next principles should be taken into consideration in accession of the structural funds:
- efficiency - the use of the structural funds in function of the strategical directions of development established by the Romanian government for the period 2007-2013;
- subsidiarity – administration of the structural funds at a level close to the local and regional needs in function of the area specific and local priorities. The state should intervene just where the optimal management of the funds overtakes the capacity of the public local administration. Moreover, it is very important to get complementary financial resources through the public-private partnership in the prioritary fields for development;
- partnership – the management and implementation of the structural funds should be achieved through the involvement of all society actors: national, regional and local public authorities, economic and social partners, civil society etc.

In order to become a net beneficiary of the structural funds, Romania has to ensure a high level of absorption for these financing resources. It should be taken into consideration that the funds which Romania gets from the European Union are potential while the contribution to the community budget is real and represents an obligation assumed by every member state.

The premises for optimal using of the structural funds are the following:
- real informing of all categories of potential beneficiaries of the projects financed from the European funds;
- ensuring of the administrative capacity of all institutions involved in using the structural funds, in order to develop a high standard, efficiently and transparent activity;
- supporting the projects’ promotors in order to establish a portfolio of mature projects, which can be financed after the aproval of the operational programs.

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