

EVALUATION ROADMAP

Roadmaps aim to inform citizens and stakeholders about the Commission's work to allow them to provide feedback and to participate effectively in future consultation activities. Citizens and stakeholders are in particular invited to provide views on the Commission's understanding of the problem and possible solutions and to share any relevant information that they may have.

TITLE OF THE EVALUATION	Evaluation of EU's cooperation with Tunisia
LEAD DG – RESPONSIBLE UNIT	DG NEAR - UNIT A4
INDICATIVE PLANNING (PLANNED START DATE AND COMPLETION DATE)	Q1 2020 Q1 2021
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	<p>Links:</p> <p>DG NEAR: https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/neighbourhood/countries/tunisia_en</p> <p>EUD Tunisia: https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/tunisia_en</p>

The Roadmap is provided for information purposes only. It does not prejudge the final decision of the Commission on whether this initiative will be pursued or on its final content. All elements of the initiative described by the document, including its timing, are subject to change.

A. Context, purpose and scope of the evaluation

Context

The [EU Better Regulation guidelines](#) emphasise the need of systemic and timely evaluation of the EU's activities, instruments, programmes and policies. The external and strategic country evaluations contribute to strengthening the EU's accountability and provide a valuable opportunity for lesson learning and improving future planning and programming cycles. The external strategic country evaluation of the EU's cooperation with Tunisia is included in the multiannual evaluation plan of DG NEAR for the period 2019-23. The last [strategic evaluation of the EU's cooperation with Tunisia covered the period 1995-2008](#).

The current priorities of the EU-Tunisia relation are highlighted in a decision entitled "Strengthening the EU-Tunisia privileged partnership: strategic priorities for the period 2018-2020". The EU supports Tunisia's democratic transition and sustainable socio-economic development, making use of its instruments to bring the country closer to Europe.

EU cooperation with Tunisia takes place in the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) launched in 2003. In 2011, following the 'Arab spring', the ENP was revised to respond to the new context. In 2015, a second revision of the ENP was introduced, targeting the complex political, social, and security developments affecting the region. This second revision introduced alongside the concepts of functioning democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law, three other elements: 1. economic development for stabilisation, 2. security, 3. migration and mobility.

The European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) is the EU's main financial instrument to support Tunisia in implementing economic, political, and social reforms. Financial and technical cooperation is guided by the Single Support Framework 2017-2020. The majority of the financial assistance is allocated through bilateral cooperation and aims to respond to the specific needs of the country.

The 2016 Joint Communication "Strengthening EU support to Tunisia" (JOIN(2016) 47, dated 29/09/2016) foresaw an increase of the annual financial assistance in the form of grants to up to € 300 million in 2017 – and the EU's commitment to maintain a sustained level of funding for the period until 2020. This is subject to Tunisia continuing its democratic transition including progress in consolidating the rule of law and ensuring respect for fundamental rights and carrying out the reforms as outlined in the five-year national development plan.

Tunisia benefits also from other instruments: European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP), EU Emergency Trust Fund for stability addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa, thematic programmes of the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) such as Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities in development, regional and cross-border programmes etc. Tunisia participates in a number of EU programmes such as Erasmus+, Horizon 2020 and Creative Europe. Finally, the EU supports Tunisia also through macro-financial assistance.

A major focus of cooperation is trade. Trade relations have been developing since 1998 and the entry into force of the Association Agreement, which created a Free Trade Area (FTA) between the EU and Tunisia in industrial goods. In 2015, negotiations started on a Deep and Comprehensive FTA. To date, four negotiations rounds took place – no new rounds are expected to take place prior to the Tunisian elections end of 2019.

Purpose and scope

This evaluation is a strategic country level evaluation of the EU's cooperation with Tunisia. Its goal is to determine the extent to which the financial assistance and policy dialogue have contributed to Tunisia's reform efforts and the progress towards a democratic, more prosperous and secure country.

In accordance with the EU Better Regulation guidelines, the evaluation criteria for the assessment are: relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact, coherence and EU-added value. If relevant, sustainability, coordination and complementarity will also be considered.

The evaluation will cover the period 2011-2018.

The geographic scope of the evaluation is the territory of Tunisia.

The evaluation shall lead to:

1. A set of conclusions based on objective, credible, reliable, and valid findings;
2. The identification of lessons learnt;
3. A number of strategic, operational, targeted, and useful forward-looking recommendations for the Commission and the Member States.

B. Better regulation

Consultation of citizens and stakeholders

This evaluation will not require the launching of an online open public consultation. Indeed, this evaluation falls outside the definition of evaluations presented in the Better Regulation guidelines, as it does not refer to a major initiative. Only the evaluation roadmap will be the subject of stakeholders' consultations, and will require their comments and feedback.

The stakeholders of the evaluation are:

- The European Commission: DG NEAR, DG TRADE, DG ECFIN, SG, FPI;
- The European External Action Service and the EU Delegation to Tunisia;
- National and local authorities in Tunisia;
- Civil society organisations, media and other such bodies as appropriate;
- Implementing partners of EU cooperation;
- Relevant donors, including EU Member States and their cooperation agencies, international and regional organisations (African Development Bank, EBRD, EIB, World Bank, etc.);
- Other actors identified by the evaluation team.

The above-mentioned stakeholders shall be included in the evaluation. They shall be consulted via phone or face-to-face interviews, focus groups, and questionnaires.

Data collection and methodology

The evaluation process includes four phases: Inception Phase, Desk Phase, Field Phase, and Synthesis Phase. In terms of methodology, the following key elements can be pinpointed:

1. A draft set of evaluation questions (EQ) will be presented in the Terms of Reference. The evaluation team, in consultation with the Inter service Steering Group (ISG), will finalise and complete it during the inception phase. The Intervention Logic of the EU assistance to Tunisia will be reconstructed.
2. The indicators will need to allow crosschecking, triangulation and strengthening the evidence base on which the evaluation questions are answered. The information gathered for each indicator will be presented as an Annex at the desk phase and in the final reports.
3. Several tools will be used to collect, structure, process and analyse data throughout the evaluation process: inventory of interventions, literature review, interviews, case studies, focus groups, questionnaires and surveys, quantitative and qualitative analysis.

Data collection will take place in the Inception, Desk and Field phases of the evaluation. The choice of consultation activities (e.g. face-to-face interviews, focus groups, survey) should allow for the collection of detailed data from a broad sample of stakeholders and for triangulation.

The evaluation team should submit deliverables in the form of reports and/or slide presentations at the end of the corresponding phases.

A non-exhaustive list of data sources includes:

1. EU policy, strategy, and operational documents for Tunisia (e.g. Association Agreement, 2016 Joint Communication “Strengthening EU support for Tunisia”, Strategic Priorities, Single Support Frameworks, Annual Action Programmes, Special Measures, Reports on EU-Tunisia relations, Commission Decisions and Financing Agreements);
2. Reporting documents, e.g. annual reports, European Court of Auditors reports, Results Oriented Monitoring reports, evaluation reports (e.g. evaluation of macro-financial assistance or evaluation of general budget support operations);
3. National and international strategies and statistics;
4. Evaluations, studies and reports from EU Members States and international organisations;
5. Studies conducted in the framework of regional cooperation in the Neighbourhood region;
6. Other reliable and well-documented sources.