**Project Summary**

**Project Background**
Project and programme evaluations have been indispensable elements of project cycle management in EC external assistance. Evaluations were conducted at “macro level” (major programmes, broad themes/sectors, country strategies) and on the level of the individual geographic Directorates and devolved Delegations (specific sectors/themes or individual projects on country and cross-country level). The latter part of the evaluation scheme was the domain of this Framework Contract Lot 4.

**Project Objectives**
The overall objective of the activities under this Framework Contract was to improve the design and the impact of European Commission managed external assistance by strengthening the Commission's ability to draw on lessons learnt of past and ongoing interventions. This was achieved by providing timely and high-quality evaluation reports to feed into the planning, programming and project identification work of the responsible services.

**Project Activities**
The Framework Contract comprised sector, thematic or project evaluations, at country as well as at cross-country level. It contained final and ex-post as well as mid-term and ex-ante evaluations.

Activities included:
- The communication of the individual evaluation requests and ToR to the members of the consortium
- Selection of the team best suited for the task and offer to EC services
- After acceptance: Fielding of the evaluation team and monitoring of progress
- Backstopping and quality control
- Submission of the evaluation report to the Commission Services, clarifications, response to queries.

**Implementation Features**
The exact evaluation methodology was defined at the level of the individual assignments.
Typically it consisted of:
- an inception phase for the review of documents and development of appropriate methodological tools
- a field phase to collect relevant data and
- a final phase for processing the data and writing the final report

Evaluation assignments at project level required 4 – 12 weeks while (sub-)sector/thematic evaluations take 3 – 8 months to complete.

**Services Provided**
- 18 missions were organised in 2004 and 2005 comprising a total of 110 PM for 57 STE
- Management of the recruitment process within the consortium
- Backstopping and quality assurance
- Advice regarding evaluation methodology and reporting
- Coordination with commission services, response to queries, upgrading of reports as required