

In partnership with Elisabeth Schroedter MEP, Member of the Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance

Making the EU budget work for people and planet - citizens' project awards

Date 19 February 2013

Time 9:00 – 13:00

Place Marivaux Hotel Congress & Seminar Centre, Auditorium Federico Fellini / Boulevard Adolphe Max 98, Brussels

Spending plans are currently being drafted to allocate the next round of Cohesion Policy funds for the period between 2014-2020. To coincide with this process, Bankwatch and Friends of the Earth Europe are bringing together the participants from a series of contests held in Bulgaria, Latvia, Macedonia, the Czech Republic, Croatia, Slovakia, Hungary and Poland, where participants were asked to propose sustainable EU funds investment opportunities to benefit their countries and citizens.

The contest criteria specified that project ideas should have the potential to contribute to sustainable regional development by addressing areas like energy, transport, consumption, waste management or urban development.

The Brussels event creates a forum for contest winner to present their ideas to European institutions, national representations responsible for the EU funds and to the broader public via European media outlets.

During the event we will present the best projects and the expert recommendations from project evaluators in order to begin a discussion with decision-makers about how to translate these grassroots initiatives for better-spent EU funds from ideas into action.

AGENDA

- 8:30 – 9:00 Registration
- 9:00 – 9:20 Welcome and introduction
Elisabeth Schroedter, Member of the Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance, the European Parliament
Andreas Von Busch, Deputy Head of Unit of the Competence Centre Operational Efficiency, DG Regional Policy, European Commission
Anelia Stefanova, Campaigns Director, CEE Bankwatch Network
- 9:20 – 10:45 Outline and objectives of the “Better ideas for EU funds” contest
Presentation of winning project proposals from each country
Alda Ozola, CEE Bankwatch Network
Winners of national contests

- 10:45 – 11:15 Breakfast
- 11:15 – 11:45 Expert analyses and recommendations to the “Better ideas for EU funds” proposals
Ondrej Pasek, CEE Bankwatch Network
- 11:45 - 12:45 Panel discussion “Creating a space for meaningful and efficient planning and implementation of the project initiatives”
Facilitation: Anelia Stefanova, Campaigns Director, CEE Bankwatch Network
- *Andreas Von Busch, Deputy Head of Unit of the Competence Centre Operational Efficiency, DG Regional Policy, European Commission*
 - *Eniko Csoma, Head of Environmental Development Department, Ministry of Rural Development, Hungary*
 - *Kristina Dely, Head of European Affairs, Energy Cities*
 - *Ludo Holsbeek, Flemish Government – Department of Environment, Nature and Energy, Belgium*
 - *Markus Trilling, EU Funds Campaign Coordinator, CEE Bankwatch Network/Friends of the Earth Europe*
- 12:45 – 13:00 Conclusions
Anelia Stefanova, Campaigns Director, CEE Bankwatch Network

For more information, visit

<http://bankwatch.org/events/ideas-action-peoples-proposals-better-spent-eu-funds>

or contact

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The event will be carried out with the financial assistance of the European Union and the European Climate Foundation. The topics of these events are the sole responsibility of the CEE Bankwatch Network, Friends of the Earth Europe and SF Team and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the funders.

