

## Civil society perspectives regarding European legislation on partnership in Cohesion Policy

Partnership in Cohesion Policy  
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## Comments on the ECCP Fiche No. 1

- 18 January 2013 – Commission Fiche No. 1 on the ECCP
- 5 February 2013 – Structured Dialogue with Civil Society, DG REGIO
- Consultation on the Fiche
- Joint response by:



## The process, the scope

- + Mandate to the Commission for an ECCP as a delegated act
- + Consultation on the Preparatory Fiche No. 1 (and earlier: elements)
  - *Exchange with MSs' experts should be transparent,*
  - *Opportunity for partners to provide feedback*
- Constraints on introducing binding requirements
  - *Recognise that the application of best available practices on partnership guarantees the efficient use of EU funds*
  - *Commission – a guiding role!*
  - *Also: legal tool of enforcement – Aarhus Convention*

## Main principles for the identification of relevant partners

- + Involvement of platforms or umbrella organisations within partnerships
  - *Rely on existing ones, respect their internal rules and delegates;*
  - *Check representativeness*
- + Reference to horizontal principles
  - *Better specification, clear integration of environmental protection*
  - *→ also to be reflected in the involvement of partners*
- **Transparent identification of partners**
  - *Publish rules, procedures, selection criteria*
  - *Publish results of “identification”*

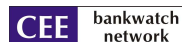
## Main principles for involvement

- + Consult the partners on the process and timetable of the preparation of the PA & OPs
  - *Also consult on: consultation plan (schedule, tools etc.)*
- + Involvement in selection of thematic objectives and indicative allocations
  - *Involvement in discussion on financing mechanisms*
- + National Rural Networks
  - *Ensure a balanced representation of the partners there*
  - **Timely and early** involvement of partners.
  - Involve the **general public**: information incl. non-technical summary – commenting – adoption



## Main principles for rules of membership and internal procedures of monit. comts

- Confidentiality clause
  - **Clarification!**
    - *Monitoring presumes disclosure;*
    - *Delegates - representatives of their constituency*
    - *Information affecting the environment – Aarhus Convention*
- + MSs will ensure the establishment of clear and transparent arrangements concerning rules of internal procedures:
  - *Add: conditions, principles and arrangements for reimbursement rules, capacity building opportunities and the use of technical assistance by partners.*



## Main objectives and best practices - preparation of calls for proposals, progress reports, monitoring and evaluation

- Necessary to avoid conflict of interest
  - *Acknowledge the value of balanced and knowledge-based involvement of partners, and propose best practices! E.g.*
    - *Calls for proposals – knowledge of the problems, needs, most appropriate solutions – prior needs assessment, public commenting on draft calls*
    - *Project assessment – knowledge of the sector etc. – conflict of interest to be avoided measure by measure*

## Strengthening institutional capacity

- Technical Assistance for the institutional capacity of partners
  - *Rather: identify needs where partnership can be improved*
  - *Strengthen the work of platforms, umbrellas*
  - *Institutional capacities of partners so that they could participate effectively*

### MSs' assessment of partnership

- Evaluation of partnership required
  - *For successful partnership: appointed institution and persons in charge of partnership*
  - *Evaluation: also collect feedback from the partners*

**Thank your for your attention**

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