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 you for your attention

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