

Creating a better evaluation and monitoring system for the European Structural Funds

Comments for the Commission working document
“Consultation on the future „EU 2020” strategy “

1. Need for a substantial change for transforming the programming cycle and delivering of policies

By 2020 Europe will face a different world of new challenges, possible further economic turmoil and major demographic, climate and energy changes. When operating a major financial and developmental system (308 041 000 000 Euros for the 2007-2013 period, Article 18, Council Regulation 1083/2006), you need to make clear that all possibilities are used to create a better environment for a better implementation. In our view, we have 308 041 000 000 reasons to build a better monitoring and evaluation system. We need to make an equal balance on the both sides of the system, both in terms of financial possibility and in terms of practical implementation. For sure, Europe has a unique chance to master its own future. We would like to call the attention of the decision makers to improve the delivery system in order to meet these chances in 2020 and further on.

2. Designing a more effective delivery system through a bold policy change

Better use of funds-this is in short the ultimate challenge for those who still dream about a brighter future for Europe. The successful delivery of any strategic plan boils down to the small steps of the daily work for projects in all the Member States. When we speak about commitments and partnerships, we need to make clear these are not empty slogans and we need to find the ways and means for delivering for the citizens of Europe in need.

Speaking about the better use of existing instruments gives a possibility to review the existing system to strengthen the synergy between different policies, instruments and delivery. Adopting and signing a good and adequate EU 2020 strategy should be a great success for Europe. Even more, this is the fundamental 5 % of activity without there will be no development of all.

Nevertheless, we would like to underline, that at least 95 % of the activities and the success of the strategies relies on the actual implementation. When speaking about evidence based policy making, the last part of the idea makes a comfortable feeling in the reader. “Policy making”, this is what we do, when we have problems, policy making; this is the tool for improvement, etc. On the contrary, this paper would like to focus the first word of this phrase: “evidence”. Do we work for having more evidence? In another way, results are all evidence; good results are that evidence on which we would like to build our future policies.

We believe that “evidence” is the key word for EU 2020 strategy. Capturing the right piece of information should lead to a successful delivery of the future EU 2020 strategy. This paper would like to recommend changes to build the best possible developmental structure on the central levels and local levels of implementation.

3. Structural reforms for better evaluation and monitoring: creation of independent Evaluation Authorities and Monitoring Authorities

If Europe is in need for evidence based policy making, and in need for real information and feedback, we would propose the **amendment of Article 59 of Council Regulation 1083/2006**. Naturally, when we require setting up managing, certifying and audit authorities, there should at least 308 041 000 000 Euros strong reason to **set up as soon as possible the independent Evaluation Authorities and Monitoring Authorities** in each Member States. Also, it would be a great achievement to propose the non-optional use of common management tools, like Results Based Management.

There will be no success without a down-to-earth evaluation and monitoring system; **planning and management should be based on evidence and results.**

European Learning Card

A set of proposals for tools building the European Knowledge Area as part of the Future “EU 2020” Strategy

14 January 2010

This proposal is focusing on enhancing the possibilities of European citizens to have much better chances enjoying the benefits of a future world-class education area, regardless their age, knowledge level, ethnicity, gender or other backgrounds.

Europe needs a new, much stronger focus on the social, educational and employment dimension at all levels of decision making.

The consultation process has started to formulate the comprehensive strategy for “EU 2020” in November 2009. Europe must make clear signs for the future of 2020: one comprehensive strategy to achieve a sustainable social market economy, a smarter and greener economy.

The Commission Working Document (COM 2009 647/3) is aiming to **achieve the genuine European Knowledge Area by 2020**, supported by a world-class knowledge infrastructure, in which students, teachers, researchers, enterprises and citizens benefit from the free circulation of people, knowledge and technology. (**Creating the 5th freedom**).

This requires rethinking education systems and labour markets, enhancing mobility and boosting Europe’s dynamism to unleash our innovative and creative potential of the single market.

Doing so, Europe has already established some personal and institutional networks, uniformed systems like European Health Insurance Card (190/18.06.2003), a new proposal on European Certificate of Succession (IP / 09/1508; 14 October 2009) or the idea of a single European Road Toll Service in 2009 (IP/09/1423, 6.10.2009). Well known examples: European Computer Driving Licence or European Business Driving Licence.

According to the above mentioned Commission working document Europe should shape the next generation of public policies, but it is clear, that we will succeed if we design and implement a **bold policy response putting people and responsibility first**.

This proposal is about to put responsibility and people first by establishing a system of three pillars which are together could create the **European Knowledge Area**:

- **European Learning Card:** A smart personal card for all, supporting the transparency and transfer envisaged in the system of European Qualifications Framework, also holding data based on legal acts EC 1828/2008 annex XXIII. and EC 800/2008.
- **European General Education and Professional Testing Service and Diplomas**
An open possibility for the lifetime of citizens and future citizens and migrants of Europe to test their knowledge in a world-class level IT based testing and certificate environment. (The American Council on Education is using this technique of issuing general education diploma since 1942. Further information: www.GEDtest.org)
- **European Knowledge Database:** Holding data of the smart card certificate and validate the system while fully in line with the data protection legal instruments. The data should be used in a secure way for monitoring and evaluation purposes.

Strategies and visions without effective and precise implementation destroy all hopes of the future. European policies must be real achievements becoming values in people’s everyday lives. **Management must be based on results, and policy making should be based on evidence.**

Draft proposal for the elaboration of the concept:
“European Learning Card”

1. Reasons:

- For ESF funds, we need evidence for policies, no anecdotes
- FRA has hard facts that discrimination is widespread, Roma are the most vulnerable
- In line “58 concrete measures to ensure the success of the Lisbon Strategy” byEESC
- In line: Integrated Guidelines for Growth and Jobs (2008-2010)

2. Practical solution:

- Mainstream answer on a mainstream, general problem
- Based on non-discrimination and Life Long Learning policy
- In line with the EC Regulation 800/2008, European Qualifications Framework and with the “Political Guidelines for the next Commission”
- In line with 1828/2006 EC Reg. Annex XXIII.
- In concrete terms: dynamic data base and individualised chip card system: European Learning Card as follows in 64 options

Terms 800/2008→	A. No work for 6 months	B. Less than ISCED 3	C. Over 50	D. Single adult + dependents	E. Gender problem	F Ethnic background	G. No work for 24 months	H. Disabled
Knowledge levels								
1. Basic knowledge								
2. Basic factual knowledge								
3. General concepts, principles								
4. Broad contexts, facts, theory								
5. Comprehensive knowledge								
6. Advanced knowledge, critical understanding								
7. Highly specialised knowledge								
8. Most advanced knowledge								