

## **Poland - Innovation and transnational cooperation**

Pursuant to Article 7 and Article 8 of the Regulation 1081/2006 the MS will support promotion and inclusion of innovative projects to national policy and transnational and interregional cooperation implemented through information, experience, results and good practices exchange, and through development of complementary approach and coordinated or common projects. Under the OP HC it has been accepted that innovative projects and transnational cooperation will be implemented under each of Programme Priorities including Priority X. Such approach will enable more flexible implementation of principles under discussion and at the same time it will facilitate developed, innovative tools and gained experience resulting from transnational cooperation under other measures.

Selection of areas in which measures may be implemented is of key importance for the success of innovation and transnational measures. In particular innovation measures must meet actual needs. They should also correspond to the sectoral strategies accepted for individual areas. Otherwise the effects of innovation measures do not meet appropriate interests and consequently they will not be used in practice.

Thanks to the use of innovative approach, the implementation of OP HC will contribute to finding new, better, more effective ways for solving problems on labour market. **The innovative approach** in this context means:

- support of new, not typical groups on labour market and solving of a problem which so far has been subject to state policy;
- use of new instruments in solving of previous problems on labour market including adaptation of solutions checked in other countries, regions or in other contexts (e.g. respect of other target group); this category also includes development, modification of previously applied instruments in order to increase their adequacy, efficiency and effectiveness.

In order to use effects of innovative approach this type of innovation measures must be accompanied by measures directed to dissemination and inclusion of developed results to the mainstream of policy.

Transnational cooperation should contribute to achievement of objectives of the given priority using experience of partners from other regions and countries of EU. Under the transnational cooperation it is possible to test the solutions which are ready and have been applied in other place, as well as development of new ones with assistance of partners from other regions and countries of the EU. Transnational cooperation contributes to occurrence of significant added value for partners involved in project implementation.

There are several forms of transnational cooperation possible.

- cooperation between projects implemented in various countries; cooperation might take place also with the project not financed by ESF, however, in such case the effects of cooperation must contribute to implementation of project objectives;
- cooperation between networks of institutions operating in the close areas;
- cooperation between institutions, operating in the same area and supporting each other; for such cooperation the public sector institutions are entitled to; this cooperation is possible also for institutions involved in implementation of ESF; in such option the effects of transnational cooperation must contribute to improvement of operating of the given institution.

From the point of view of quality of innovation projects, partnership is of key importance. The partnership principle means that the projects are implemented by not individual project providers but through partnership between several organizations or institutions. The objective of partnership is finding solution of problem through innovative approach using various experience of all partners.

The partnership is related to the empowerment principle - involvement in process of development of innovative solutions representatives of target groups. Consideration of opinion of interested people provides chances for large effectiveness of the developed product. Therefore each project provider must foresee appropriate form of involvement of representatives of target groups.