

UEAPMEs position on:

DISCLOSURE OF BENEFICIARIES OF COMMUNITY FUNDS

- Do you agree that it is desirable to introduce, at Community level, an obligation for Member States to make available information on beneficiaries of EU funds under shared management?

Yes. UEAPME believes that this is an essential tool for democratic transparency. It fully supports the commitment of the European Commission to raising awareness of the use made of EU money. The Commission - and the member states - are indeed accountable to the taxpayer. Also UEAPME considers it to be in the general public interest to provide information on how all EU funds are spent regardless of the kind of management. From the moment that European taxpayers' money is involved (thus also for "shared management"), the subsidiarity principle cannot and should not apply. But, for UEAPME it is of utmost importance that disclosure should not lead to additional administrative work (or red tape) for SMEs and that the disclosure respects the data protection and business secrets.

However, at the same time, there should be more transparency and clarity about the criteria and rationale to grant funds.

More attention should also be drawn to enforcing existing obligations to publish information about the assignment of financial means obtained from Structural and Cohesion Funds. This would help to increase transparency in a way visible to every EU-Citizen.

- If so, what information should be required at national level? What would be the best means to make this information available (degree of information required, period covered and preferred medium)?

The Community Program or Community Fund on the basis of which the funds are attributed; the division per member state, region; the criteria; the total amount of means; the amount received by the beneficiary; complete data of the beneficiary.

This should be published yearly or after the approval of the program or call.

Medium: website.

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