



The partnership principle in the implementation of the CSF funds

Elements for a European Code of Conduct



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THE ROLE AND ADDED VALUE OF THE PARTNERSHIP PRINCIPLE

- A key principle to deliver European priorities (Europe 2020 objectives, CSF priorities)
 - To take ownership of the EU priorities by enhancing the collective commitment and mobilisation of all actors
- A dialogue with stakeholders improving the design and implementation of RDPs
 - Designing and adapting an optimal delivery reducing the administrative burden to what is necessary
 - Better territorial and thematic targeting



Legislative package

Article 5 of the Common provisions Regulation

- Obligation for the MS to organise a partnership for the Partnership Contract and each programme respectively
- Main categories of partners listed
- Involvement of partners at all stages of the "policy cycle"
- Adoption by the Commission of a European code of conduct on Partnership (delegated act)
- At least once a year, for each CSF Fund, consultation of the organisations which represent the partners at Union level

Elements of the code of conduct

(as proposed by the Staff Working document sent on 24 April to the Council and Parliament)

- Introduction (context, purpose, added value)
- Which partners to select?
- How to involve the partners in the preparation of the programming documents?
- How to involve the partners in the implementation phase?
- How to involve the partners in the evaluation phase?
- Assistance to partners
- Continuous exchange of good practices

Which partners to select?

- Competent regional, local, urban and other public authorities
- Economic and social partners
- Bodies representing civil society, including environmental partners, non-governmental organisations, and bodies responsible for promoting equality and non-discrimination

Involvement in the preparation of the strategic document

- Partners should be meaningfully involved in the preparation of the partnership contract and the programmes (analysis of the challenges, definition of the priorities, coordination mechanisms).
- Member States should organise the partnership in a transparent manner for all partners
- The Partnership Contract and the programmes should detail in particular how the partnership principle has been implemented during the preparation phase.

Involvement in the implementation phase

- Role of the **Monitoring committee** (rules of procedure ensuring the good involvement of partners; consultation on annual implementation reports)
- **Involvement in project selection:** Partners should be involved, where appropriate, at the stage of defining calls for proposals and evaluating the resultant proposals (information to avoid conflict of interest)
- Member States should actively associate the partners in preparing the **progress reports** on the implementation of the partnership contract in 2017 and 2019

Involvement in the evaluation phase

- Managing Authorities should involve partners in the evaluation process through the monitoring committees, from establishment of the terms of reference to finalisation of the evaluation.
- Member States could be required to carry out an evaluation of the performance and the effectiveness of the partnership principle during the programming period across the funds and the programmes.

Assistance to partners

- Member States and managing authorities should use part of their technical assistance to ensure that partners have the capacity necessary to participate in preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Partnership
- Support may take different forms (dedicated workshops, training sessions, coordination and networking structures or contributions to partners' costs incurred for participation in the programmes).

Continuous exchange of good practices

Regular exchanges of experience and best practice will be encouraged at EU level in different expert groups and fora (e.g. ENRD)

Stakeholders involvement in the RDP preparation phase

- Possibilities for consultation platforms using National Rural Networks involving members of Monitoring Committees and LAGs
- EAFRD: long experience with using networking as a policy tool
- Funding: 2007-2013 TA budget can be used

Consultation on what ?

What objectives should be pursued by the RDP?"
and not “Who should benefit from the policy?”

(recommendation from TWG 4)

Consultation on what?

1. General SWOT of the programme area covering:
 - Competitiveness of agri-food sector, inc. innovation aspects
 - Environmental and climate situation/ territorial dimension
 - Socio-economic situation of rural areas
2. Detailed needs assessment by priority & focus area
3. Strategic response:
 - Which priorities/focus areas relevant, issues to be addressed
 - Target setting, planning of measures, outputs, financial resources

A top-down photograph showing approximately 12 hands of diverse skin tones (ranging from light to dark brown) pressed together in a circle on a sandy surface. The hands are arranged in a ring, with fingers pointing towards the center. The sand is light-colored and textured. The text "Who should be involved?" is overlaid in the center of the image.

Who should
be involved?

Who should be involved?

- A partnership representative of the national, regional and local dimension
- Balance between public and private actors, gender, minority groups, social, economic and environmental partners, and local, regional and national actors
- Balance between non-governmental actors (RD policy is for the benefit of the whole society)

Thank you very much for your attention!

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