

PARTICIPATION OF CSOs IN EU FUNDS

The Monitoring Committees

CPR Dialogue with partners
13 December 2023



Partnership Principle in practice

- **EU legislation:** EU treaties, European Code of Conduct on Partnership, Common Provision Regulations 2021 (Art. 8), funding Regulations
- **Bottom up approach:** Partners ranging from economic and social partners to **relevant bodies representing civil society** have to be involved throughout the preparation, implementation and evaluation of funding programmes
- **Monitoring Committees (Art. 38 – 43, CPR):**
 - Obligation for Member States to inform the Commission with their composition
 - Obligation to include various partners, including civil society organisations
 - Tasks: monitor implementation, check fulfilment of enabling conditions, review annual performance reports, etc.

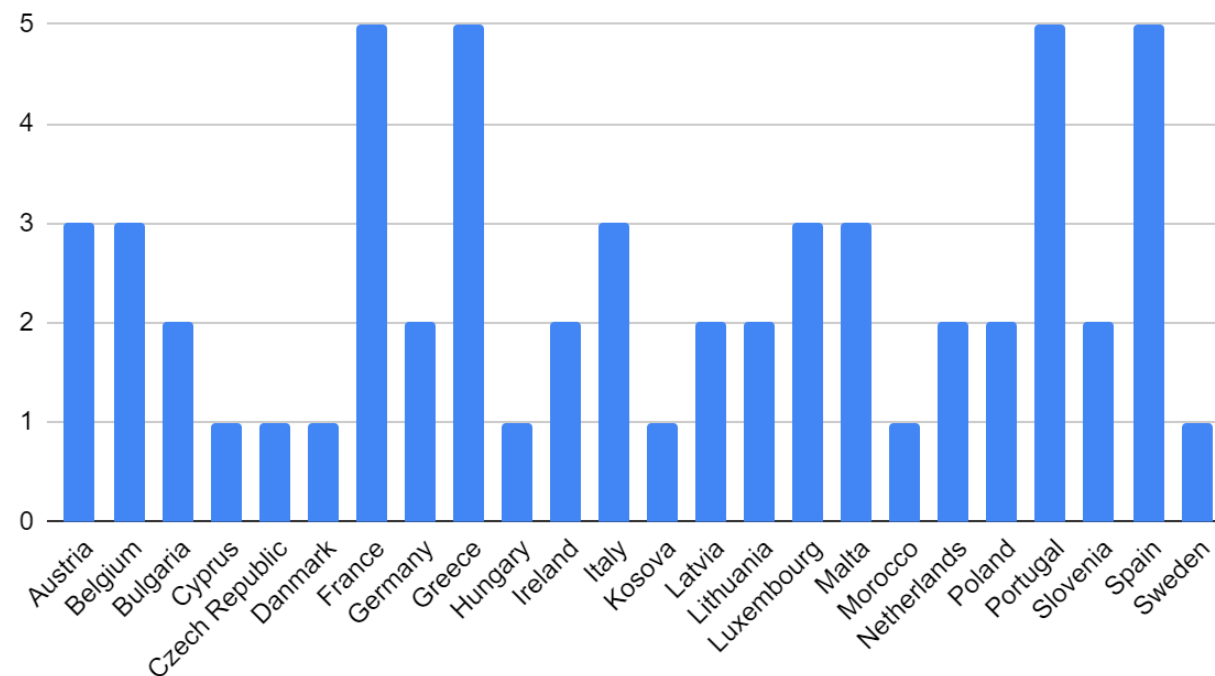
“Regional, local, urban and other public authorities or their representative associations, relevant international organisations, non governmental organisations, such as particular refugee and migrant-led organisations, national human rights institutions and equality bodies, and economic and social partners” Art.4, AMIF Regulation 2021

Survey: Participation of Civil society organisations in EU funds

Respondents:

- 59 organisations
- 11 PICUM, 8 ECRE and 11 ECRE-PICUM
- 22 EU countries and 2 non-EU countries

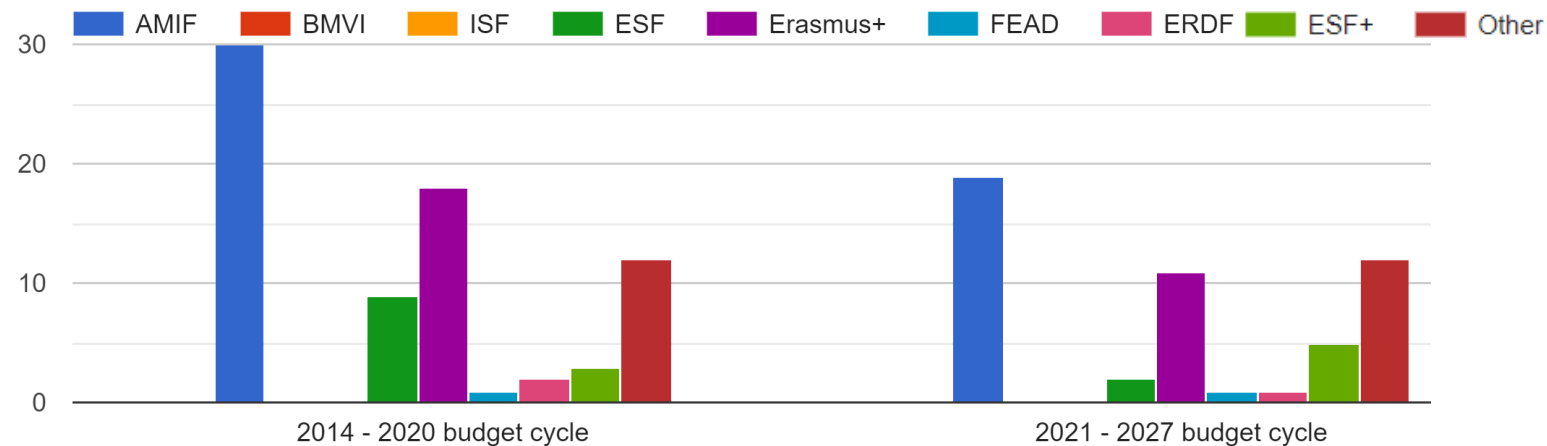
Countries:



Survey: Participation of Civil society organisations in EU funds

Respondents:

- Over 80 % has received EU funding to support their activities
- Mostly AMIF beneficiaries, but also ESF, ESF+ and other (CERV, EIDHR)



Survey: Participation of Civil society organisations in EU funds

Main findings:

(1) Low participation in the programming phase of AMIF and ESF+ and no involvement in funds for security and border management

- **Low participation in programming phase:**
20 out of 59 organisations provided inputs to national programmes
Reports of low quality or only informal consultations
- **More experiences with AMIF consultations:**
AMIF: 17 times
ESF+: 8 times
Other: EIDHR and CERV

Survey: Participation of Civil society organisations in EU funds

Main findings:

(2) Persistent marginal inclusion of civil society organisations in monitoring committees

- Fragmented approaches among Member States and within Member States
- 6 organisations are members of monitoring committees: ESF+ in France; ESF+ and AMIF in Germany; AMIF in Sweden; AMIF in Czechia; AMIF in Hungary
- Composition is not inclusive (BMVI Spain, AMIF Malta & many others)

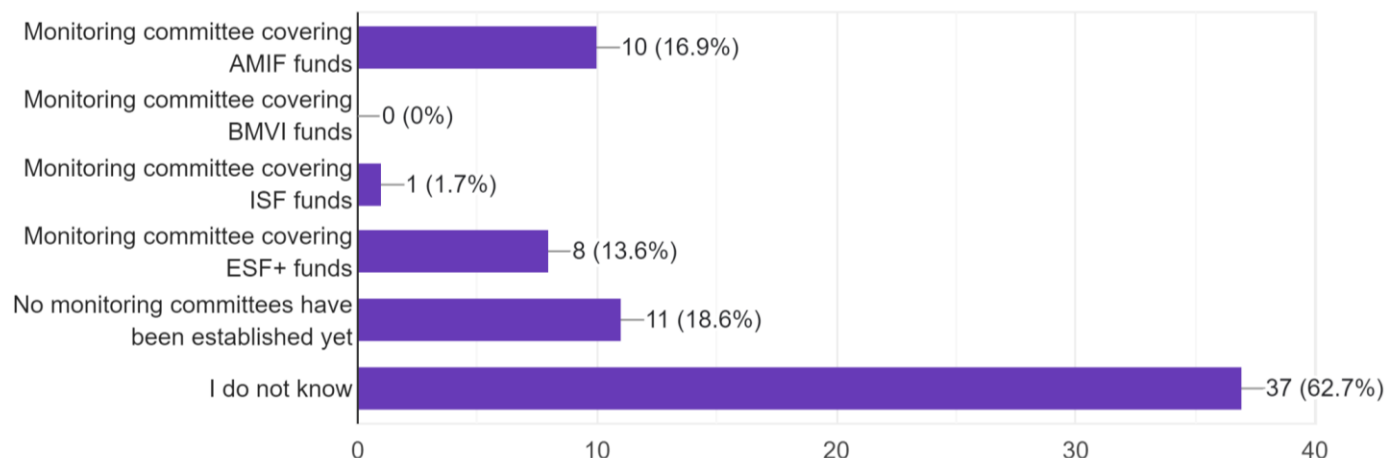
Survey: Participation of Civil society organisations in EU funds

Main findings:

(3) Lack of transparency affects participation in monitoring committees

- Quality and quantity of information received from managing authorities on MCc is generally low (41 out of 59 rated 1-2 out of 5)
- Lack of awareness among stakeholders

Are you aware of any monitoring committees that have been established in your country under the current programming period (2021-2027)? Please...lect any monitoring committees you are aware of:
59 responses



Feedback from Germany: AMIF and ESF+ Monitoring Committees

- **Composition & involvement:**
 - **ESF+:** Positive feedback on federal level, mixed feedback from regional MCs
 - **AMIF:** Major improvement compared to previous MFF, however not full ability to address existing challenges
- **Main challenge:** lack of institutional capacity of smaller organisations to ensure meaningful participation
- **Best practice:** Rückenwind programme for social enterprises

Feedback from Hungary: AMIF Monitoring Committee

- **Composition:** 1 NGO per fund + fundamental rights NGO, representatives of other NGOs (promoting the protection of the environment or disability rights), regional/local governments, chambers of commerce, UNHCR are invited as observers, government representatives
- **Functioning:** the managing authority makes the draft documents available 10 days ahead of the meeting, some comments and inputs are taken into consideration
- **Main challenges:** structural deficiencies of the asylum and migration policy & lack of other fora where stakeholders can meet and discuss policy-related issues
- **Horizontal Enabling Conditions (HEC):** Incompliance with HEC is blocking disbursement of AMIF funds

Conclusion

- Inclusion of Home Affairs funds in CPR is very positive
- BUT implementation fragmented and ineffective
- Risk that Monitoring Committees just respond to a «tick the box» approach should be mitigated
- Build capacity of smaller organisations

Further readings:

- [Op-Ed](#): *Partnership Principle in EU funds: Strong on Paper, Weak in Practice, March 2023*
- [ECRE and PICUM Policy Note](#): *Fundamental Rights Compliance of Funding Supporting Migrants, Asylum Applicants and Refugees Inside the European Union, 2023*



Thank you!

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