

Why Bother with Partnership?

A collection of case-studies about good examples of partnership
in EU Cohesion Policy from CEE

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Why Bother with Partnership?

About SFteam for Sustainable Future

- a network of NGOs in HU, PL, CZR,SL, NL, LAT, RO, BG;
- Since 2001;
- Aim and mission: to promote that EU Structural Funds serve sustainable development through public participation
- Tools
 - facilitation of partnership in programming, implementation and monitoring of Sfs;
 - research and advocacy in this regard;
 - promotion, development of (local, pilot) projects for SFs.

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About SFteam - Members

- Centre for Community Organising, Czech Republic
- BlueLink Foundation and PECSD, Bulgaria
- Focus Eco Center, Romania
- Friends of the Earth – CEPA, Slovakia
- Green Liberty, Latvia
- Milieukontakt International, The Netherlands
- National Society of Conservationists, Hungary
- Polish Green Network, Poland

All: leaders of national NGO coalitions; also working with non-green NGOs; first-hand experience with the implementation of partnership in SFs

Why Bother with Partnership?

The Study

Purpose

Partnership in implementation of EU funds in 2007-13:

Is it possible to find good cases and practices?

Coordinator and editor

Petko Kovachev, GPI, Bulgaria

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The Approach: case studies in 7 themes

- Access to information;
- Bottom-up and coordinated planning;
- Participation in programming;
- Financing for sustainability;
- Delegation in committees;
- NGOs participation in project evaluation;
- Cooperation among NGOs.

Why Bother with Partnership?

Main findings (1)

- The partnership between NGOs and institutions is still resulting mainly from civil initiatives, but there are good cases about activities initiated by various authorities too.
- Effective formally organised schemes for partnership often result from single problematic projects or programmes, not from long theoretical debates.
- The partnership is not yet effectively implemented during the development of regional policy. This is a crucial problem as the EU funds should be planned on the basis of or alongside to the regional plans and strategies. This is a great opportunity to spread partnership on local and regional level, to promote real decentralisation in the planning of needs and funds that would support solutions for them.

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Main findings (2)

- Within the partnership initiatives NGOs (or CSOs in a broader sense) may provide very good expertise in a number of areas, related to EU funding:
 - independent monitoring and control;
 - qualified experts in regional planning, programming of OPs, project and programmes' evaluation;
 - various services under outsourcing schemes (e.g. social issues);
 - managing projects in specific areas (e.g. nature protection);
 - moderating dialogue and communication with affected communities, etc.

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Main findings (3)

- For a fruitful partnership it is crucial that all partners be treated equally – providing information timely and in full scale, giving same opportunities for comments and other input, taking their alternative proposals as serious as the ones that come from institutions, etc. It is worth discussing further whether a more balanced structure of working groups, monitoring committees or other bodies with more representatives of stakeholders (e.g. 50:50 percent) would improve the work on EU funds in our countries.

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**Thank you
for the
attention!**

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