



Community of Practice on Partnership in the ESF ○

**Information on the
Community of Practice on Partnership
in the ESF 2009-6/2011
VP/2009/0086**

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Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs
and Consumer Protection)



Stakeholders in the network

- COP network comprises **12 members** (7 ESF-MAs and 5 other Public Authorities or Technical Assistances) out of 8 MS:

AT	Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection (BMASK), ESF-MA as well as ZSI (intermediate body)
BE(FI)	ESF-Agency/Ministry, ESF-MA
GE	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, ESF-MA and Gsub mbH (Coordination of Perspective 50 Plus, Germany)
EL	Ministry of Employment and Social Protection, ESF- MA
HU	National Development Agency, ESF-MA and Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour
IE	Pobal (intermediate body)
PL	“Cooperation Fund” Foundation (intermediate body)
PT	Programa Operacional Potencial Humano, ESF-MA
RO	Ministry of Labour, Social Solidarity and Family, ESF-MA

- Lead partner: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection (BMASK), Austria

- Enlargement process: 2 new members (February and May 2009); others partners (SE, LV) under the negotiation



Partnership Practices of MS

Partnership as a governance mechanism (ESF Reg. , Art. 5)

"The Member States shall ensure the involvement of the social partners and adequate consultation and participation of other stakeholders, at the appropriate territorial level, in the preparation, implementation and monitoring of ESF support"

Partnership in the form of territorial alliances / projects (ESF Reg., Art. 3)

"Promoting partnerships, pacts and initiatives through networking of relevant stakeholders, such as the social partners and non-governmental organisations, at the transnational, national, regional and local levels in order to mobilise for reforms in the field of employment and labour market inclusiveness"



COP on Partnership – History

Since **2003**

Cooperation between ESF-MAs: European Thematic Group on Partnerships

2006 – 2008

COP on Partnership in the ESF
<http://esflivearchive.zsi.at/>



Milestones:

- 'Key success factor framework'
- 'Guidebook How ESF Managing Authorities and Intermediate Bodies support partnership' (<http://partnership.esflive.eu/node/368>)

2009 – 06/2011

'New' COP on Partnership in the ESF



Mission & Vision

COP Mission: To stimulate more creative partnership thinking and implementation in the structural funds, especially in the ESF.

COP Vision: To contribute to change by jointly reflecting partnership practices, exploring effects and discussing opportunities in the MS in order to enhance policy outcomes.

Cooperation in the form of partnerships is an **integral part of policy planning and delivery** in future !



Aims

The COP aims for

- **Learning from experiences** and **sharing knowledge** on partnerships
- **Improving policy planning and delivery** (further developing of partnership approaches of MS)
- **Contributing** to employment policy and delivering reforms

Partnerships are recognised as **valuable** and **essential policy instrument and practice** with which policy outcomes of OPs, policies and actions can be enhanced.



COP SWOT Analysis (Sept. 2008)

Strengths

- **Eight MS** committed to 'partnerships' (building on the COP 2006-2008)
- **High capacity** of the network and its partners (expertise, innovation capacity, etc.)
- **Direct linkage to the 'ground'** (close cooperation with partnerships of the local and regional level)

- **Adaption to change** in governance systems (e.g. modification of policy planning and delivery)
- **Improved policy outcomes** via enhanced efficiency of OPs as well as increased competences and improved quality of services provided by MAs
- **Strengthening capacities to innovate** (partnerships as motors of change; multi-level governance)

Opportunities

Weaknesses

- **Heterogeneous implementation of partnerships** (formalised, informal)
- Few learning on the changing of governance systems and **few common approaches** to transnationality, governance and sustainability
- **Lack of jointly developed tools**

- **Loss of commitment / Overload of members** (highly diverse settings and varying frames for partnerships)
- **Resources of COP members** (achievements to reach national goals will come first)
- **'Paradigm chance' needs time** (e.g. by implementing new communication and consultation mechanisms in MS)

Threats



COP Content

The COP will focus on the policy areas identified for ESF interventions, thereby examining **PEOs**:

- Partnership **Pactices** of MS on all levels,
- **Effects** on policies as well as impacts for ESF target groups and
- **Opportunities** for improving policy planning and delivery.

COPs areas of concern are **governance, sustainability, transnationality** and **innovation**.



COP Work Programme

COP Activities 2009-6/20011			
Pillar A) "Exchange & Learning"		Pillar B) "Joint development"	
Nr.	Activity	Nr.	Activity
A.1.	Partnership portal	B.1.	PEO Key Lesson reports
A.2.	Policy fora	B.2.	Partnership Learning Manual
A.3.	COP meetings & PEO exploration	B.3.	Communiqué on partnerships of ESF-MAs
A.4.	Peer reviews		
A.5.	Partnership Conference		
A.6.	Dissemination activities and exchange between other networks		
A.7.	Project management activities (COP address database and reports, etc.)		



COP Milestones

- **‘Partnership Portal’**: A comprehensive knowledge base on the implementation of the partnership principle (the ESF portal) including policy fora, PEO practices, etc.
- **‘PEO Key Lessons reports’** informing on results achieved by the implementation of partnerships in up to 10 MS (4-6 pages per report)
- **‘Partnership Learning Manual’**: a publication on key outputs of the COP and the MS’s work by implementing partnerships (including PEOs as well as recommendations)
- **‘Communiqué on partnerships of ESF-MAs’**: Publication of a joint statement on partnerships released by ESF-MAs



Partnership Portal - <http://partnership.eslife.eu>

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Posted April 21st, 2009 by Petra Moser

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Most of the content of this site (e.g. policy fora) is viewable only by members. Please refer to ["How to use this site"](#) to learn more.

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COP Timetable

Time schedule COP on Partnerships in the ESF			Preparation and post work Meetings, Conferences, Seminars Publication date																																												
			2009												2010												2011																				
			I. Term						II. Term						I. Term						II. Term						I. Term																				
Pillar/ Numbers	Activities	Detailed Information on Activities	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6															
Exchange & Learning																																															
A1	Partnership Portal	Ongoing	Ongoing																																												
A2	Policy Fora	Ongoing	Ongoing																																												
A3	COP Meetings & PEO Exploration	1 Kick-off Meeting and 7 COP Meetings & PEO Explorations	█												█																	█															
A4	Peer Reviews	3 Peer reviews (dates have to be clarified)	Dates to be clarified (3 Peer reviews in total)																																												
A5	Partnership Conference	1 Conference (2 days; 200 participants)	█																																												
A6	Dissemination activities and exchange between other networks		Ongoing																																												
A7	Project management activities	3 Reports, Ongoing update of database, publication of the evaluation report (end of 2010)						█																																							
Joint Development																																															
B1	PEO Key Lesson reports'	7 Key lessons reports (additional 3 from peer reviews - publication dates still have to be clarified)							█																																						
B2	Partnership Learning Manual'		Ongoing																																												
B3	Communiqué on partnerships of ESF-MAs		█																																												



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COP Contact

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Homepages:

<http://partnership.esflive.eu/>

www.pakte.at, www.zsi.at, www.bmask.gv.at

! We are looking forward to cooperating with you !