

<p style="text-align: center;">COUNTRY</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Lithuania</p>
<p>How many OPs are there in your Member State? Do they have very different provisions in terms of partnership?</p>	<p>4 OPs:</p> <p>OP for the Development of Human Resources for 2007-2013</p> <p>OP for the Economical Growth for 2007-2013</p> <p>OP for Promotion of Cohesion for 2007-2013</p> <p>Technical Assistance for 2007-2013</p> <p>OP have similar provisions in terms of partnership</p>
<p>Does partnership have a geographical focus in your Member State's OP(s)? If so, national, regional, sub-regional e.g. county, district, group of municipalities, municipality, etc.?</p>	<p>National</p>
<p>Is partnership linked to specific thematic issues / objectives (incl. possible targeting of specific groups / links with policy) in the OP(s)?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Please specify further what is understood as “partnership” in the OP(s) in your Member State?</p> <p>(See Note 1)</p>	<p>Partnership - when a broad circle of relevant institutions and organisations is involved in policy-shaping and decision-making processes.</p> <p>Function of partnership within the OP: ranging from implementation of activities on the ground (e.g. through projects) to high level strategic decision making (Monitoring Committee, Project Selection and Evaluation Commission)</p>

<p>What requirements are there for partnerships to become formally established in your OP's?</p> <p>(e.g. they need to: write a declaration with intent to work together, prepare a more detailed partnership agreement detailing tasks/roles, launch a call for tenders to acquire partners through contracts or join up in a separate legal entity)</p>	<p>Written declaration with intent to work together in the project, more detailed joint partnership agreement detailing tasks/roles</p>
<p>What specific questions regarding partnership are asked in (previous/current) ESF application forms?</p>	<p>Has the project promoter a partner? What added value will be created in the project with participation of the partner?</p>
<p>Types of organisations typically involved in partnership (eg. social partners, NGOs, companies, academia, etc.) in the OP(s)</p>	<p>All types of organizations can be involved in partnership</p>
<p>If partnerships are embedded within existing national, regional or local structures, how are these different levels linked to each other and how does this facilitate mainstreaming in the OP(s?)</p> <p>(See Note 2)</p>	<p>Mainstreaming refers to horizontal mainstreaming where lessons learnt and good practice are spread</p>

<p>How do the choices of the OPs in terms of partnership address the EC regulation? (See Note 3)</p>	<p>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</p> <p>Art. 5:</p> <p>1. The Member States shall ensure the involvement of the social partners and adequate consultation and participation of the stakeholders, at the appropriate territorial level, in the preparation, implementation and monitoring of ESF support</p> <p>2. The Managing Authority of each operational programme shall encourage adequate participation of the social partners in actions funded under Article 3. Under the Convergence objective, an appropriate amount of ESF resources shall be allocated to capacity-building, which shall include training, networking measures, strengthening the social dialogue and activities jointly undertaken by the social partners, in particular as regards adaptability of workers and enterprises referred to in Article 3(1)(a).</p>
<p>Are there major differences with how partnership was organised in the past OP(s)? Why was the choice made to change? Did EQUAL have influence on this choice and, if yes, how?</p>	<p>The principle of active partnership - when a broad circle of the relevant institutions and organisations is involved in the policy-shaping and decision-making process - started to be practically applied in Lithuania in 2002 with the initial drafting of the Lithuanian Single Programming Document (SPD) 2004–2006.</p> <p>Development of the non-governmental sector has so far been uneven (some areas remain unrepresented or insufficiently represented). It is not distinguished by deep tradition and its participation in policy-shaping is rather fragmentary. During the planning process for 2007-13 measures were thus taken to properly implement the principle of partnership by applying it more widely than when drafting the SPD. These included: direct involvement in the preparation process, discussion of intermediate results with partners and institutions, and informing society. At the start participation of partners was rather passive and the institutions involved had a very sectoral attitude. To overcome this, relevant institutions and partners were involved in the activities of subgroups for the working groups that drafted OP documents and open discussions and other information events took place. This experience continues to be successfully applied when implementing the SPD, and societal and partner interest in EU structural assistance together with active involvement has grown significantly.</p> <p>The implementation of the principle of partnership in the 2004–2006 programming period was ensured by a Supervisory Committee. Social, economic and regional partners comprised about a third of the members of the Committee, controlled by the Managing Authority. In the new programming period 11 working groups were formed according to the fields, and they prepared Operational Programmes. In total, working groups comprise 376 members, who are representatives of the responsible public authorities – more than one-third of them are representatives of social, economic and regional partners representing general interests, quite a big part are representatives of various bodies, agencies and other concerned institutions. Members of working groups, including partners, provided information for separate parts of the operational programmes prepared by a concrete working group, offered information on the fields that need to be supported, and participated in group discussions.</p>

	<p>Interim results for preparing the strategic documents on EU structural assistance for 2007–2013 are discussed publicly with social, economic and regional partners and other concerned institutions and organisations. 4 public discussions have been held to date. These events are attended by drafters, state policy-makers, scientists and partners, representatives of municipalities and counties, various non-governmental organisations, business and science groupings and organisations that work directly with certain fields. The coordinator is always a public authority, such as the Lithuanian Development Agency for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises, or an independent subdivision of the authorities, for example, the Department of Cultural Heritage or Department of Tourism. The Office of the Seimas (Senate) and the President of the Republic of Lithuania, as well as active participation of the representatives of these authorities in public discussions, have also been important.</p> <p>From the very beginning of preparation for the use of EU structural assistance for 2007–2013, greater attention has been paid not only to the involvement of partners and other concerned organisations but also to informing wider society. In 2007-2013 the overall monitoring of the programme will be conducted by the Managing Authority by collecting information from responsible authorities and computerised Information System for Management and Monitoring of EU Structural Support (SFMIS). Other relevant institutions and organisations and representatives of social, economic and regional partners will be included in the monitoring through the activities of the Monitoring Committee. Social Partners will participate by selection and evaluation of the projects in Selection and Evaluation Commission organized by the Support Fund for the European Social Fund Agency.</p> <p>EQUAL is good example how to promote partnership in the projects.</p>
<p>What are the strong points of the way the OP(s) organise(s) partnership?</p>	<p>Social partners are involved in OP preparation, project selection, evaluation, monitoring</p>
<p>What are the draw-backs of the way the OP(s) organise(s) partnership?</p>	<p>Lack of activity and initiatives in some cases, and lack of capacity building of social partners.</p>
<p>What measures, if any, are being taken to build on the strong points and reduce the draw-backs in the OP(s)?</p>	<p>In Lithuania there is one Monitoring Committee for all OPs. With the task of involving more social partners in the activity of the Monitoring Committee the separate meetings with involvement of supplementary social partners from other non-governmental organizations is used, especially in OP for the Development of Human Resources for 2007-2013</p>
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