

“Community on Practice on Partnership in the ESF” (2009 – 2011)

The “**COP on Partnership in the ESF**” was set up as mutual learning network under the ESF 2007-2013. The transnational cooperation ensures knowledge exchange of ESF-Managing Authorities (MAs) as well as other stakeholders, in particular, other programme managing authorities, such as e.g. MAs of the ERDF. Our COP focuses on partnerships being adopted by national and regional Operational Programmes (OPs) of Member states (MS)/regions and builds on the work of the COP on Partnership in the ESF 2006-2008.

Our aim is to stimulate more creative partnership thinking and implementation in the Structural Funds, especially in the ESF, in order to enhance policy outcomes of Operational Programmes.

The COP members exchange and learn about their ways in implementing partnerships with special attention drawn to **processes and actions of governance**. The areas of concern (governance, sustainability, transnationality and innovation) are explored by the COP considering partnerships Practices, Effects and Opportunities (“PEOs”):

- **PARTNERSHIP PRACTICES** of MS/regions on all levels of governance, in particular on the programme level;
- **EFFECTS** on policies as well as impacts for ESF target groups achieved via the partnership approach practiced in the specific MS/region; and
- **OPPORTUNITIES** for improving policy planning and delivery for both the visited/reviewed MS/region as well as the reviewers MS’s/regions (in particular for the ESF-MA).

The COP Meetings & PEO Exploration are the core activity for identifying and sharing good practice. Central to the PEOs is a “**critical friend**” **review model** in which visiting COP members work together with their hosts as equals in a reciprocal relationship that promotes continuous learning.

The major outcomes of our work include publishing “**PEO Key Lessons reports**” informing on results achieved by the implementation of partnerships in selected MS/regions, the “**Partnership Learning Manual**” and “**Communiqué on partnerships of ESF-MAs**” - a joint statement of ESF- MAs on partnerships. The **Partnership Conference** (organised in 2011) will present best practice examples of partnership practices adopted by the MAs at programme level from all 27 MS. The “**partnership portal**” (<http://partnership.esflive.eu>) serves as a comprehensive knowledge base on the implementation of the partnership principle in respect of tools used by ESF-MA, PEO practices, country fiches, updated good practice templates.

Who we are

- **Austria:** Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection (BMASK) (*lead partner*), ESF-MA; Centre for Social Innovation (ZSI)
- **Belgium/Flanders:** ESF Agency Flanders, ESF-MA
- **Germany:** Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, ESF-MA; Gsub-Projektgesellschaft mbH
- **Greece:** Ministry of Employment and Social Protection, ESF- MA
- **Hungary:** National Development Agency, ESF-MA and Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour
- **Ireland:** Pobal
- **Poland:** Cooperation Fund Foundation
- **Portugal:** Programa Operacional Potencial Humano, ESF-MA
- **Romania:** Ministry of Labour, Social Solidarity and Family, ESF-MA

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