



Structural Funds 2007-2013: a real step forward for social Europe?

A seminar co-organized by CECODHAS, EAPN and EDF

8 December 2008 - 09:30 to 13:00, European Economic and Social Committee, Rue Belliard 99-101, B-1040 Brussels

Background and Objectives:

Will Structural Funds be a real lever for more social cohesion in Europe during this programming period? Will social actors be able to use them in a coherent and efficient way? How to ensure that supported projects will improve accessibility for disabled people or more generally social inclusion of vulnerable groups?

As the 2007-2013 programming period of structural funds is entering its operational phase, strong concerns are emerging around EU Cohesion Policy's capacity to be a lever not only for *more* but also *better* growth, as well as for social cohesion. There is only little indication that lessons from the past have been acted upon, in particular those from the EQUAL programme, which had been a real catalyst for social innovation, partnership and transnational learning.

Bringing together representatives from the social NGO sector, regional and local authorities, and EU institutions, this seminar will aim to confront these principles to the reality of cohesion policy's implementation for 2007-2013, and propose concrete steps to move forward.

09:30 – 10:00 - Opening

- ▶ Staffan Nilsson, President of Group III, European Economic and Social Committee
- ▶ Carlotta Besozzi, Director, European Disability Forum

10:00-11:00 - Structural funds 2007-2013: which vision of social cohesion?

Panelists:

- ▶ Member of CECODHAS, "Social vision for neighborhoods"
- ▶ Thomas Bender, Head of ESF coordination unit, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, European Commission (tbc)
- ▶ Member of the Committee of the regions (tbc)
- ▶ Member of the Committee on Regional Development, European Parliament (tbc)

Questions from the audience

11:00-11:45 - Participation and governance: towards a better partnership

Panelists:

- ▶ Bernard Lange, Head of Unit Programme Coordination, Relations with other institutions and NGOs, DG REGIO, European Commission (tbc)
- ▶ Representative from regional government office (tbc)
- ▶ Elodie Fazi, European Anti-Poverty Network, "Delivering partnership in the fight against poverty: good practices and recommendations"
- ▶ National Federation of Disabled People (Greece) "Partnership from a Civil Society Perspective"

Questions from the audience

11:45-12:00: coffee break

12:00 -12:45 - Making it happen through efficient monitoring tools

Panelists:

- ▶ Pierre Godin, Policy Officer, Unit thematic coordination and innovation, DG REGIO, European Commission, "developing a mechanism to measure the impact of provisions on non discrimination"
- ▶ Member of the European Anti-Poverty Network, "Developing critical monitoring and evaluation"

Questions from the audience

12:45 Conclusion

- ▶ David Orr, President of CECODHAS



Mainstreaming of Non-discrimination and Accessibility for Disabled People

European Economic and Social Committee, Rue Belliard 99-101, B-1040 Brussels

14:00-15:15 – Panel discussion

Panelists

- ▶ Ask Andersen, Policy Officer, European Disability Forum, “The Potential of the Structural Funds for Disabled People”
- ▶ Maria Tussy, Fundacion ONCE (Spain), “Experiences with implementation on the Ground”
- ▶ National Federation of Disabled People (Greece), “Experiences with Implementation on the Ground”
- ▶ Johan Ten Geuzendam, Head of Unit Integration of Disabled People, European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, “How to Realise the Potential for Disabled People”

Questions from the audience

15:15 - Synthesis

- ▶ Carlotta Besozzi, European Disability Forum

Interpretation : FR/EN

Registration:

Registration for the two events is free of charge but compulsory. Please send an email with name, organisation, contact details to secretariat@edf-feph.org by November 28th

In cooperation with the European Economic and Social Committee

