

Report: „Structured Dialogue with European Structural and Investment Funds' partners group of experts (ESIF SD)“ meeting

Date: 26th April 2016

Place: Brussels

Program:

- 1. Welcome address by Walter Deffaa, Director General DG REGIO**
 - 2. Exchange of views on thematic issues of common interest:**
 - EU Urban Agenda
 - Contribution of ESIF to Europe 2020 and the political priorities of the Juncker Commission
 - Feed-back and discussion with Structured Dialogue members
 - 3. Programming and partnership**
 - Study on the implementation of the new regulatory provisions on the involvement of partners in the preparation and implementation of Partnership Agreements and programmes – final report
 - Results of the online survey on partnership in the European Social Fund programmes
 - The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and the social dialogue
 - Feed-back and discussion with Structured Dialogue members
 - State of play of negotiations of programmes
 - Update on the activities of the Thematic Network on Partnership
- Feed-back and discussion with Structured Dialogue members

Presentations available at

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/communication/structured-dialogue-with-partners/#1

Remarks:

- DG Regio ensured that the EU Urban Agenda is not going against but is compatible with previous EU regional policies, i.e. territorial dimension, rural-urban, regional development and rural development policies
- empowering civil society through tools like CLLD is a part of the Urban agenda
- 2 mil. SMEs out of 22 mil. existing (10%!) within the EU should be supported from ESIF funds
- coordination between ESIF and EFSI (European Fund for Strategic Investments) funds essential, EFSI also for rural areas
- partnership as one of the key EU principles – study should be finished and published by the end of June, situation better than ever, however, still improvements needed, big differences between member states
- ELARD remark on big differences in engaging LAG networks in monitoring committees and other relevant platforms and in the quality of partnership as such between member states, sometimes just partnership on the paper
- ELARD mentioned the problem with eligibility of networking costs, especially with regard to DG Regio, as networking is one of the main LEADER principles
- biggest challenges are representativeness and objective selection of the members of the monitoring committee
- ELARD asked regarding different level of co-financing rate within CLLD between ERDF and EAFRD in some countries, i.e. case of Slovakia and support of SMEs, discussion with Mrs.

Torok Rozska from DG Regio and Ms. Falter from DG Agri, DG Regio deals with this problem based on the letter from ELARD, it's a structural issue, will reply as soon as they find answer

- networking with other organisations, esp. ERGO (European Roma Grassroot Organisation) and Social platform, ELARD invited to ERGO network meeting in Prague, support for CLLD by European Economic and Social Committee represented by Roman Haken
- generally positive approach and support of CLLD within Structured Dialogue Group both by Commission representatives from different DGs and the members

Report made by Radim Srsen, ELARD Vice-president and representative in ESIF SD