



Hosted and organised by: Jens Nilsson



Group of the Progressive Alliance of
Socialists & Democrats
in the European Parliament

Implementing multi-level governance and partnership in EU cohesion policy 2014-2020 - Which role for social economy and civil society at large?

14 May 2012, from 3.00 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Venue: European Parliament, room A3G-2

With its new proposals for the cohesion policy reform package 2014-2020, issued on 6 October 2011, the European Commission intends to promote the principle of partnership between different levels of governance and different actors much more intensively than in the past and render its realization - at least partially - obligatory.

Article 5 of the general regulation stipulates partnership and multi-level governance in all stages of design, implementation and monitoring of activities at Member State level, starting from the conception of the Partnership Contract between a Member State and the European Commission. Also civil society (and with it social economy) is supposed to have its place. Compulsory and voluntary elements for the realization of such a partnership are to be detailed in a code of conduct. The Commission's proposals - welcomed by local governments, social partners and civil society, as many of the suggestions made in the framework of a public consultation seem to be taken up - are now being discussed by the European Parliament and the Council.

Insiders fear that the content of the texts might be watered down, if not emptied by national governments - in particular with regard to the implementation of the partnership principle.

The objective of this conference is three-fold:

First of all, it aims to clearly display new opportunities provided for in the Commission proposals, their implications and value in particular for local/regional authorities, social economy and civil society in general. Secondly, to have a better ground for comparison, the event would like to analyse, based on concrete examples of already existing partnerships with social economy/civil society (realized on the basis of different forms of promotion of partnerships through structural funds and other measures) at local level, elements of success and obstacles in the promotion of social and territorial cohesion in Europe. Finally, participants will be encouraged to draw conclusions on the necessary policy framework at local, national and European level (also in terms of better integration of different policies and strategies with EU cohesion policy).

Which lessons are to be learnt for the future? Which messages should be brought forward to the member states? Which kind of actions to develop?



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Draft programme

3.00 p.m. Welcome by *Jens Nilsson (MEP)* and *Constanze Krehl (MEP)*

3.20 p.m. Debate part 1: "Multilevel governance and partnership: from good will to a real sharing of responsibility?"

Input: The experience of the global grant management in the Apulia Region (IT), *Giovanni Tricarico (Confcooperative Apulia)*

Open debate with the participation of:

*Pascal Canfin (MEP)**
Rudolf Niessler (European Commission, DG Regio)
Luc Van Den Brande (Committee of the Regions)
Herman Raus (VOSEC)

4.30-4.45 p.m. Break

4.45 p.m. Debate part 2: "Reviving/reinforcing community-led local development and territorial pacts - building on past experiences"

Input: Promotion of community initiatives and territorial pacts in Moravia (CZ), *Roman Haken (CpKP, member of the EESC)**

Open debate with the participation of:

Kent Johansson (MEP)
*Charles Picqué (Brussels Capital Region)**

with the support of REVES AISBL – European Network of Cities and Regions for the Social Economy

Thomas Bender (European Commission, DG Employment and Social Affairs)

*Enrico Rossi (Region of Tuscan)**

Philippe Chesneau (PACA region, Co-President of REVES)

5.50 p.m. Debate part 3: "Cohesion policy, Europe 2020, ...: How to avoid piecemeal and fully tap on partnership potentials?"

Input: Local action group Aktion Österbotten r.f. (FI), *Mathias Högbacka*

Open debate with the participation of:

*Fabrizio Barca (Ministry for Territorial Cohesion of the Italian Republic)**
Apostolos Ioakimidis (European Commission, DG Enterprise)
*Jean-Philippe Magnen (Nantes Métropole)**
Josef Weidenholzer (MEP)
Alain Coheur (AIM, Social Economy Europe)

6.50 p.m. Conclusions by *Jens Nilsson (MEP)* and *Fabrizio Barca (Ministry for Territorial Cohesion of the Italian Republic)**

The debate will be moderated by *Jan Olsson (Co-President of REVES and former member of the EESC)*.

Interpretation from and into English, French and Italian

**to be confirmed*