



GOVERNANCE AND ARCHITECTURE OF FUTURE EU COHESION POLICY

AER workshops on structural funds

“What kind of cohesion policy do we want to implement from 2013 onwards?”

Objective and rationale

There is an ongoing political debate within AER on future EU cohesion policy. In December 2010 in Brussels, a Conference entitled: *Cohesion in Europe: Regions Take up the Challenge - Towards a visionary and innovative regional policy for all Europeans*.

In order to prepare this Conference and future negotiations at best, it is imperative to prepare concrete proposals to bring forward to the European institutions. These first proposals will of course have to be enriched with the experiences currently being gained by those who implement the programmes.

While the overall discussion on the future shape of cohesion policy is going on at political level, a more technical work has to be done at officer level: what about new indicators, participation of private actors, simplification, evaluation criteria, implementation and financial rules...?

The aim is double: identify problems and bring as many proposals as we can.

The topics identified as key issues to be discussed are:

- Indicators
- Governance, architecture and implementation of territorial cooperation
- Structural funds implementation modalities

Procedure and structure of the event

1. A number of AER member regions will be approached by the AER secretariat and will be proposed to entrust one of their experts on European Structural Funds to work with other European officers on at least one of these issues.
2. A list of questions to pre-brainstorm will be sent to all participants and shall be filled-in as a preparation for each workshop.
3. The next step will be the organisation of 3 workshops, where participants will share their inputs on each of these topics and discuss on possible proposal for improvement at EC level. In each workshop, an external expert and moderator will support the work of the group.

Each workshop should be composed of about 20 participants. The working language(s) will be determined according to the language spoken by participants.

4. After each workshop, the AER secretariat will issue a report and after the last workshop, draft conclusions will be sent out to all participants and presented at the Brussels Conference, to fuel the political recommendations that will be agreed on there.

Timeline and schedule

1st invitation and draft programme to be sent to identified officers in mid-February. A date and venue will be proposed for the first workshop.

Deadline for answering to the invitation: 1st March

List of questions to pre-brainstorm on to be sent by the secretariat on 1st March

Deadline for registering to the 1st workshop and sending the input: 29th March

Date of the 1st workshop: 20 April 2010

Date of the 2nd workshop: Mid-June 2010

Date of the 3rd workshop: Mid-September 2010

AER Conference on cohesion policy in Brussels: 7 December 2010

Follow-up of the event

Presentation of the conclusions and proposals to European institutions in Jan./Feb. 2011

AER Committee 1 secretariat, 21/01/2010