

The implementation of the Partnership Principle

stimulate *exchange*
review *disseminate*

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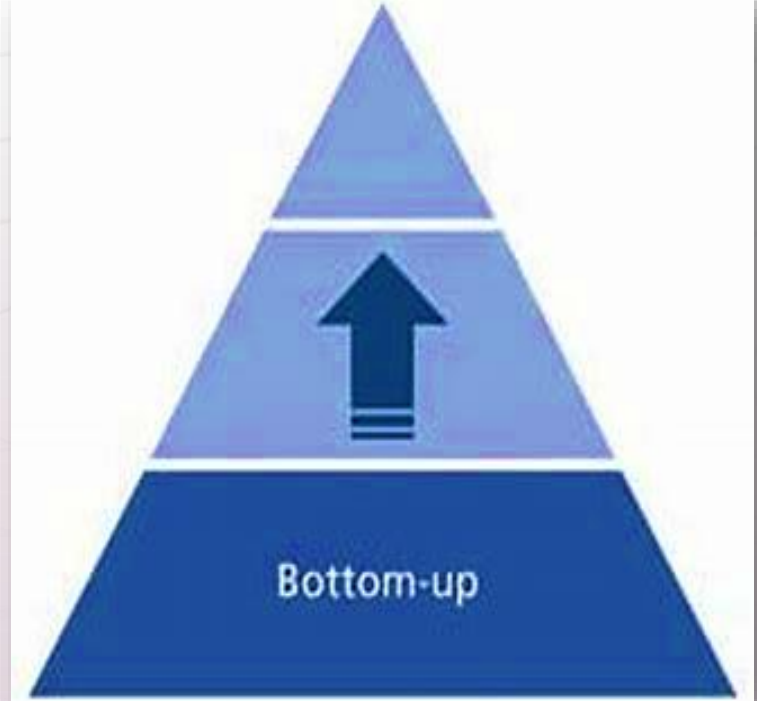
Partnership principle



Multi-level
governance



Bottom-up



Partnership shall include **at least** the following partners

Environmental partners,
NGOs, bodies
responsible for
promoting social
inclusion, fundamental
rights, rights of persons
with disabilities, gender
equality and
non-discrimination

(a) regional, local,
urban and other
public authorities;

(b) economic and
social partners;

(c) relevant bodies
representing civil
society;

(d) research
organisations and
universities, where
appropriate.

Key issues to consider

- Are partners well informed and in a timely manner?



- Are partners well consulted? Is there a functional feedback mechanism in place?



- Do partners have an impact on the final decisions?



- Are partners offered capacity-building opportunities?

Core principles stipulated by the ECCP

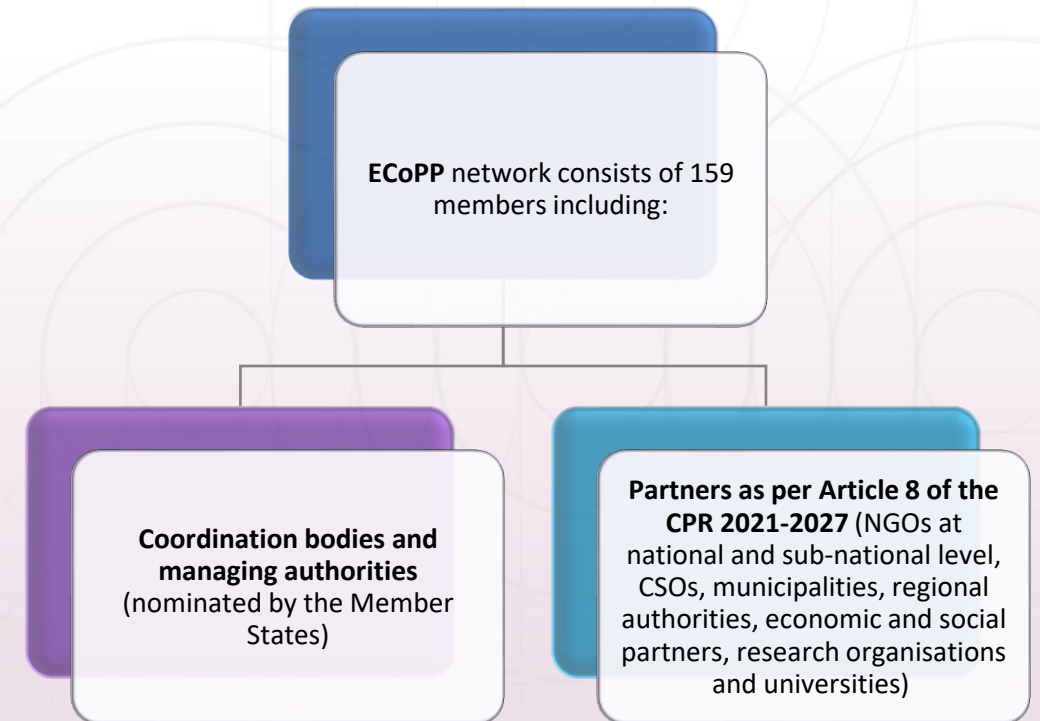
- Representativity of partners
- Transparency of selection procedures
- Partner involvement throughout programming and implementation
- Strengthening of institutional capacity of relevant partners
- Exchange of experience and mutual learning across the funds



ECoPP launched in April 2022 with the aim to improve the quality of partnership across Europe and stimulate the exchange of good practices.

Objectives include:

- (1) to facilitate exchange of experience with partnership;
- (2) to stimulate capacity building;
- (3) to disseminate relevant outcomes, in particular good practices and innovative approaches;





WORKING METHODS

- Plenary Meeting (each February)
- Continuous work in thematic sub-groups/task forces/working groups

2026 ECoPP WORKING GROUPS:

- European Code of Conduct on Partnership (ECCP) Group;
 - Partnership Advocacy Group;
 - Webinar Groups;
 - Informal group(s).

Outputs of the network are available on the [ECoPP Info regio Webpage.](#)



Partnership and multi-level governance

Continuity/Change	2021-2027	2028-2034
Partners to be involved	Article 8(1) 'Partnership shall include at least '	<p>Article 6(1) 'Partnership shall include a balanced representation of'</p> <p>Explicit addition of following partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) - ...associations representing regional, local, urban, rural and other public authorities b) farmers, fishers and their organisations (under CAP) c) youth organisations, national human rights institutions and organisations <p>Article 6(4) expands representation appropriate to corresponding territorial level and geographical coverage of the chapter</p> <p>Article 6(5) provides for derogation from requirements for proposed regulations on border management and internal security and partnerships with relevant authorities and organisations related to migration, asylum and integration</p>
Administrative capacity building	Article 8(2)	Continuity: Article 3(1)(e)(iii) as 'a specific objective'
European code of conduct on partnership	Article 8(4)	Continuity: Article 6(3)
Commission consultation with partners at European level	Article 8(5)	Continuity: Article 6(6), with removal of requirement to report to the European Parliament and Council on the outcome of the consultation
Preparation and submission of Programme/Plan	Article 21(2)	Article 21(2) partnership principle explicitly mentioned
Programme/Plan setting out partnership	Articles 22(3)(h)	Article 22(2)(e): more explicit requirement

Partnership and multi-level governance

Continuity/Change	2021-2027	2028-2034
Composition of Monitoring Committee	Article 39(1)	<p>Article 55(1) adds that committee member selection through ‘a public procedure and based on objective and transparent criteria’</p> <p>Article 55(1) adds that ‘the number of partners shall be equal or superior to members belonging to authorities or intermediate bodies.’</p>
Function of Monitoring Committee	Article 40	<p>Article 56(1)(c) adds that the Monitoring Committee shall examine the fulfilment of the newly incorporated Rule of Law and Charter horizontal conditions laid down in Articles 8 and 9, and their application throughout the programming period</p> <p>Article 56(1)(g) adds that the Monitoring Committee shall examine the effective functioning of the partnership</p>

Monitoring and coordinating committees

Objective: strong and transparent representation of partners ensuring their involvement in all stages of implementation of the Plan; ensuring coherence of the Plan; largely continuing with 2021-2027 CPR

RULES OF ESTABLISHMENT AND FUNCTIONING

- All chapters of the Plan covered by a monitoring committee
- Meeting at least one per year
- Members selected in a public procedure, based on objective and transparent criteria
- Number of partners equal or superior to members representing Plan authorities
- Composition adapted to the chapter(s)
- Each member has a vote
- List of members publicly available
- COM participating in an advisory capacity

MONITORING COMMITTEE

Examination: progress in implementation, fulfilment of rule of law and Charter horizontal conditions, issues linked to performance, evaluations, visibility, administrative capacity building, functioning of partnership

Approval: proposal of Plan's amendment, methodology, criteria and procedures for selection of operations, evaluation roadmap, communication strategy, territorial development strategies

NEW: COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Set up when more than one Monitoring Committee

Recommendations for the authorities of the chapters in case of delays or implementation challenges – with correction actions

Examining and approving the elements at the level of the Plan (eg. horizontal selection criteria or communication strategy for the whole Plan)

PARTNERSHIP IN PRACTICE: LESSONS FROM THE GROUND



Partnership requires openness to innovative approaches and new ways to circumvent systemic issues for public authorities and partners alike such as lack of resources and expertise or weak capacity-building.

Compendium of Good Practices on Partnership

Context: follow-up on the third plenary meeting of the European Community of Practice on Partnership

Why? To inspire, to raise awareness on partnership and the European Code of Conduct on Partnership

Process so far: community and beyond, input-based

Current state: published on dedicated InfoRegio webpage, updates expected in the future

Compendium Structure/Clusters overview

- I. Setting-up a system that helps partners to get involved
- II. Selecting the right partners
- III. Smart and diverse consultation methods
- IV. Engaging with partners beyond consultation
- V. Making the best of the monitoring committee
- VI. Skilled people and organisations for better partnership

CLUSTER V. *Making the best of the monitoring committee*

Question: Monitoring Committee (MC) meetings: friends or foe? How to better support decision-making processes in the MCs?

Element of storytelling

The monitoring committees are key to cohesion and shared management funds' partnerships. They are often at the core of the partnership itself, where consultation and decision-making take place. However, they can also become contentious when issues like unequal stakeholder representation or conflicts of interest arise. Some managing authorities have successfully addressed these challenges, improving the effectiveness of these fast-paced, agenda-heavy meetings. Meanwhile some stakeholders have understood that timely preparation, increased expertise and smart advocacy can lead to concrete results that benefit their sectors and communities.

For whom?

Coordination bodies and managing authorities at national and regional levels; partners and relevant stakeholders.

Reference to European Code of Conduct on Partnership

Chapter IV: Good practices concerning the formulation of the rules of membership and internal procedures of monitoring committees

Search criteria/ tags

Code of Conduct chapter IV, ECCP chapter 4, monitoring committee, membership, procedures, youth involvement, social and economic partners, umbrella organisations, agricultural organisations, sector representatives, environmental and social NGOs, academia, rural stakeholders, SMEs, social enterprises, public debates, study trips, thematic days, feedback processes, peatland, CAP, ERDF, JTF

CLUSTER V. *Making the best of the monitoring committee – Examples*

Example 1: In Czech Republic the managing authority for the JTF identified youth groups and organisations as privileged stakeholders

Example 2: In Ireland the CAP Strategic Plan (CSP) managing authority organises site visits and uses a mix of formats and activities to facilitate stakeholders' discussions

Example 3: In Romania, partners who are members of the monitoring committees turn potential into concrete action with targeted measures

Example 4: The monitoring committee for the 2021-2027 Investment Programme in Lithuania established the rules of procedure during its first meeting

Example 5: Portugal implements a more dynamic engagement of the monitoring committee members, including platform sharing and project visits

Example 6: In Estonia, monitoring committee meetings function as a compass for capacity building initiatives

Compendium animated videos



Cluster I. Enabling
partnership



Cluster II. Partner with
purpose

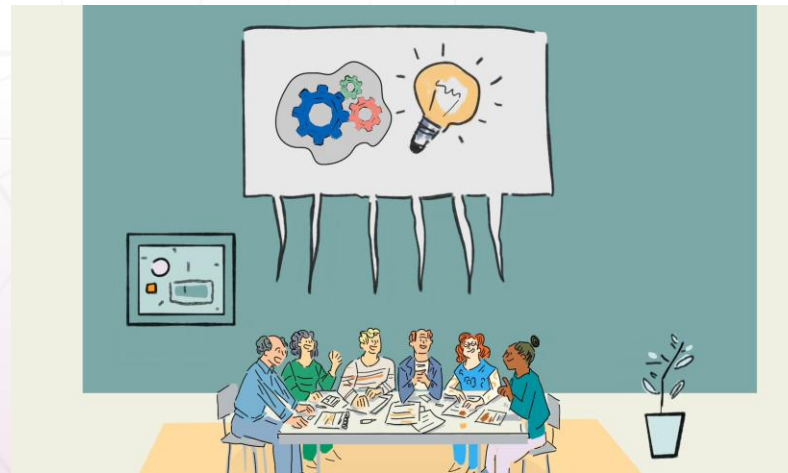


Cluster III. Smart & diverse
consultation methods

Compendium animated videos



Cluster IV. – Engaging with partners beyond consultations



Cluster V. – Making the best of the monitoring committee



Cluster VI. – Skilled people and organisations for better partnership



Contact the ECoPP Team via email: EC-ECOPP@ec.europa.eu

ECoPP Webpage: [Inforegio - European Community of Practice on Partnership \(ECoPP\)](#)

Compendium Webpage: [Inforegio - Compendium of Good Practices on Partnership](#)

