



10 GOLDEN RULES for NGO partnership

This paper outlines the rules that will ensure effective stakeholder participation in steering and monitoring committees established under EU funding policies.

*According to the new Regulations on Regional and Rural Development Policy, the objectives of EU funds should be pursued in co-operation between the Commission, national authorities, social and economic partners **and** any other appropriate bodies “representing civil society, environmental partners, non-governmental organisations, and bodies responsible for promoting equality between men and women”. In practice, partnership varies in the different Member States. Nevertheless, we propose that Member States adopt the following minimum standards in order to promote NGO involvement that fulfils the purpose of the partnership principle:*

- 1) **Give all partners equal status and voting rights**
- 2) **Provide all partners with the same information and the same documents at the same time and ensure their access to all documents relevant to the committee work**
- 3) **Ensure that information and relevant documents to be discussed by the committee are received by partners at least 2 weeks in advance of the meeting**
- 4) **Establish transparent feed-back mechanisms for comments and input given in the committees**
- 5) **Involve all partners in the development of project selection criteria and in the process of project appraisal and selection**
- 6) **Ensure that the minutes of all committee meetings are publicly available, at latest 2 weeks after the meeting**
- 7) **Offer all committee members training and capacity building to ensure high-quality participation**
- 8) **Cover direct costs of travel, overnight accommodation and copying for NGO committee members**
- 9) **Use a transparent selection process for the appointment of NGO committee members**
- 10) **Offer at least one place for an environmental NGO partner in all ERDF, EAFRD and Cohesion Fund committees (not only for the OP environment)**

For further information please contact: <http://www.coalition-on-eufunds.org/>

Stefanie Lang, WWF European Policy Office, +32-2-7400930

Rachel Lee, BirdLife International, +44 1767 680551

Martin Konecny, Friends of the Earth Europe, +32-2-5420185

Magda Stoczkiewicz, CEE Bankwatch Network, +32-2-5420188

Pieter de Pous, EEB, +32-2-2891306