

ENDR Workshop 'Stakeholder Involvement:  
Monitoring Committees and the Partnership Principle'

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# Rural Development Monitoring Committees from a biodiversity conservation NGO perspective

*Jesús Pinilla · SEO/BirdLife · Regional Officer in Andalusia*



Partnership for  
**nature** and **people**

## 2. TRANSPARENT PROCEDURES FOR IDENTIFICATION OF RELEVANT PARTNERS



- Main stakeholder groups have been identified and have representation (foresters / hunters / environment NGOs / farm unions / rural development, etc).
- The list of stakeholders is made public



- No common selection criteria
- No open consultation procedure
- No public explanations for the selection
- Conservation/Environmental NGOs forced to speak with one united voice

# The partnership principle

## 3. INVOLVEMENT OF RELEVANT PARTNERS IN THE PREPARATION OF THE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT AND PROGRAMMES



- Involvement (access to info, minutes...) has been improved
- Internet tools for debate and transfer of information were developed



- No working groups on specific themes
- Short deadlines for analysis and evaluation of huge documents
- Very limited options to influence the content of the programmes
- Voices of NGOs particularly sidelined in the allocation of funding for individual priorities
- Difficult or impossible to follow and link regional and national discussions
- No dissemination of European Commission comments

# The partnership principle

## 4. FORMULATION OF THE RULES OF MEMBERSHIP AND INTERNAL PROCEDURES OF MONITORING COMMITTEES



- Possibility for written consultation for certain issues



- No common criteria for functioning
- No open consultation procedure
- No public explanations for the decisions
- No contribution in agenda settings

## The partnership principle

### 5. INVOLVEMENT OF RELEVANT PARTNERS IN THE PREPARATION OF CALLS OF PROPOSALS, PROGRESS REPORTS AND IN RELATION TO MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF PROGRAMMES



- Biodiversity indicator begins to be timidly taken into account
- Ideally the National Rural Network could support in sharing evaluation findings –not until now–



- Only minor changes in drafts are accepted
- No public explanations for the decisions taken
- Monitoring and evaluation are measured in hectares and euros
- Scarce feedback on NGOs demands, suggestions or critics
- No comprehensive view on what's happening in other regions

# The partnership principle

## 6. USE OF THE ESI FUNDS TO STRENGTHEN THE INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY OF RELEVANT PARTNERS



- Own networks linking stakeholders (i.e. BirdLife International, participation in Rural Networks Assembly, etc.)



- No funds provided
- No courses provided
- No real engagement to find out capacity raising needs from stakeholders
- No sufficient working groups under coordination of National Rural Networks

### Article 5

#### **Union priorities for rural development**

The achievement of the objectives of rural development, which contribute to the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, shall be pursued through the following six Union priorities for rural development (...)

4. restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry, with a focus on the following areas:
  - a. restoring, preserving and enhancing **biodiversity** (...)

### Article 6

#### **Rural development programmes**

1. The EAFRD shall act in the Member States through rural development programmes. Those programmes shall implement a strategy to meet the Union priorities for rural development through a set of measures (...)

## Conclusions/Suggestions

- Biodiversity conservation must be assumed as a **real commitment** by AGRI Administration.
  - Specific working groups for priorities are needed.
  - Need to include a long-term vision in the strategic plans to verify that interventions match the ultimate goals.
- **More transparency**
  - Set basic standards for stakeholder involvement, including a clear feedback on adopted decisions.
  - No hidden agendas. Open discussions based on facts to ensure transparent decision-making.
  - Representation on different bodies needs to be balanced.
- Need of **support** for capacity building and coordination of NGOs.



Thank you!

[www.seo.org](http://www.seo.org)

[Jesús Pinilla · jpinilla@seo.org](mailto:jpinilla@seo.org)



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