



# socialplatform

Mr Peter Berkowitz, DG Regio  
Ms Manuela Geleng, DG Empl  
ESIF structured dialogue group of experts secretariat

Brussels, 16 April 2015

**RE: Social Platform's proposals for topics to be discussed in future meetings of the ESIF structured dialogue group of experts**

Dear Mr Berkowitz, dear Ms Geleng,

First of all, we would like to thank you for giving stakeholders the opportunity to give input to upcoming meetings of the ESIF structured dialogue group of experts (ESIF SD).

On behalf of Social Platform, we would like to propose the following topics of common interest to be included on the agenda of future ESIF SD meetings:

- Implementation of ex-ante conditionalities by member states (in particular we are interested in those concerning the promotion of social inclusion and combating poverty, including the implementation of a national strategic policy framework for poverty reduction, anti-discrimination, gender equality, those addressing disability, the access to employment for job-seekers and inactive people, and promoting the transition from institutional to community-based care).
- Monitoring the implementation by member states of the ESF 20% earmarking for social inclusion and the fight against poverty, including assessment of the quality of the selected projects
- Monitoring the use of ESIF to support the thematic objectives, in particular objective 8 on sustainable and quality employment and objective 9 on social inclusion, fight against poverty and discrimination; and objective 10 on investing in education and lifelong learning (art. 9 CPR).
- Preparation of the mid-term review of ESIF and the methodology to be used by member states to report on their implementation.
- The relationship between ESIF and the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI).
- Follow-up to the implementation of the partnership agreements, including the involvement of social NGOs, by member states.
- The monitoring framework, including:
  - The reach of structural funds and general feedback by the European Commission on content, timing for Managing Authorities' (MAs') feedback, timing for publication of EC reports to the EP, any issues highlighted so far by MAs, etc.
  - feedback by the members of the ESIF SD on how the monitoring framework is being picked up at national level.

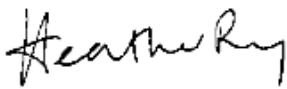
- Monitoring of technical assistance at the initiative of member states, including actions to reinforce the capacity of partners, including civil society organisations (art. 59 CPR). This could be done also by using global grants.
- Measures to monitor and facilitate take-up of the funds in the member states, including identifying the reasons why payments by member states are much below their commitments.
- Monitoring if ESIF Funds are used by member states to implement the Country Specific Recommendations, in particular on poverty, social inclusion, employment, education and lifelong learning, social infrastructure and services.
- Measures to enable the access of the ESI funds for small and medium size organisations which normally face problems linked with lack of information, heavy bureaucracy, capacity to anticipate the whole amount for a very long time before receiving the payment by the Managing Authority.

In order to ensure the effectiveness of meetings and the expertise and information that members gather through their members at national level, we would appreciate if you would consider:

- Sending the agenda one month – or at least three weeks – ahead of the meeting.
- The opportunity to organise thematic sessions.

Thanking you in advance,

Yours sincerely,



Heather Roy

*President*



Pierre Baussand

*Director*