

SRN Network Steering Group Barcelona

**Preparation for Structural Funds
programmes 2007-13 – some results
from the questionnaire**

Reasons for asking :

- SRN wants to publicise and promote decentralised management & delivery of Structural Funds & other regeneration programmes
- European Commission & other EU institutions want sub-regional organisations to be more involved in programming & delivery next time – is this really happening ??
- Help SRN partners to prepare for the session with S3
- Help to plan our work on good practice

Replies from :

- Bristol (UK)
- Modena (Italy)
- Langhe Monferrato Roero (Italy)
- Hranice (Czech Republic)
- Turku (Finland)
- Tampere (Finland)
- Santa Cruz de Tenerife (Spain)



NSRFs preparation

- Draft NSRF published for Italy, Finland, UK – Czech Republic soon (lots of preliminary work through the National Development Plan). Spain – maybe ?
- Some countries have organised an inclusive drafting process (eg Finland, Italy ?), so sub-regional organisations have had a chance to make inputs early
- In other countries (eg UK ?) national government has taken a strong lead in drafting. Other stakeholders – including local authorities - then respond to the consultation draft
- Countries with long & inclusive drafting process have only a short consultation time and *vice versa*

Direct involvement of SRN partners in NSRF?

- Some local authorities (eg Turku, Tampere, Bristol) are making official responses on the draft documents
- National associations of local authorities are representing municipalities
- Italy – some worries that local organisations are not involved enough
- Some partners are trying to influence the NSRF & future programmes through participation in regional events & networks (eg Bristol City Council taking part in South West events & working with Eurocities network)
- Some partners only expect to be involved in doing projects, so are just keeping themselves informed (eg Langhe, Santa Cruz). Hard for them to find out what's going on.

Has work on Operational Programmes started, & are SRN partners involved ?

- Work has started in Finland, Italy, Czech Republic, Spain – not sure in UK
- SRN partners in Finland & Italy (Modena) are involved in programming. In Turku & Tampere the main task is preparation of the urban dimension. In UK involvement so far is through regional consultations. In CZ Hranice must channel contributions through national association of municipalities.
- Treatment of the urban dimension varies – in Finland the cities are actively preparing this. Need to find out more.

Does the NSRF say that sub-regional strategies will have to be taken into account in preparing Operational Programmes ?

- Yes – UK
- Yes, but not explicitly, and there is more about consistency with regional strategies – Finland, Italy
- Don't know yet – Czech Republic, Spain

Any national assessment of current sub-regional management & delivery or special studies in designing the new arrangements ?

Mostly none – national ministries have mainly relied on the EU documents

But Spain mentions national & regional level reports & activities of consultants

Any detail in the NSRF on practical arrangements for sub-regional involvement ?

- UK has possibilities for delegation & will build on past experience, but regional level is in control. Probably opportunities for city-regions. UK is trying to streamline EU & domestic budgets as part of the process.
- Finland – expect something similar to what happens now. Region has the power, sub-region will implement
- Italy – regions will have most power – local authorities are consulted but it is not clear whether they will get decentralised powers. There may be delegation to city authorities for urban actions
- Czech Republic – don't know yet

What funds will the region receive, will SRN partner organisations have a role & how are they preparing ?

- Partners know which funds they will be eligible for, but allocations (how much money) are not yet finalised
- Partners which already have a role in management & delivery expect to continue, building on current experience
- Partners mainly involved in doing projects are already preparing project ideas to be ready to bid for the new programmes
- All partners are receiving information, taking part in seminars. Awareness-raising for staff is just starting

Does the NSRF include a national strategy for the new Territorial Cooperation objective ?

- No – UK
- Yes, but very brief – Finland, Italy (maybe there will be a separate document ?)
- Don't know yet – Czech Republic