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# Technical Assistance as a Catalyst in Partnership Building for Social Inclusion

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EUROPEAN ANTI POVERTY NETWORK

RESEAU EUROPEEN DES ASSOCIATIONS

DE LUTTE CONTRE LA PAUVRETE

ET L'EXCLUSION SOCIALE

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

# Technical Assistance as a Catalyst

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## Overview

- ❑ EAPN Structural Funds Task Force
- ❑ The Fourth Cohesion Report
- ❑ Partnership in Design
- ❑ Social Inclusion
- ❑ Barriers to Participation
- ❑ Strategic Scope of Technical Assistance
- ❑ Building on Good Practice
- ❑ Questions to Ask
- ❑ Virtuous Triangle for Targeting TA

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## EAPN Structural Funds Task Force

- Multi-national membership of social NGOs
- Agenda 2000 & Agenda 2007
- *“Manual on the Management of the EU Structural Funds” ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 2006*
- *“A Contribution to the EU Employment & Social Inclusion Agenda”*

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## The Fourth Cohesion Report

*“ Local authorities, the voluntary sector and more generally the not-for-profit sector are often major partners in the delivery of ESF services. Indeed the support for partnerships and mobilisation of public, private and local actors is regularly mentioned as a source of added value ...”*

Growing Regions, Growing Europe – Fourth Report on economic and social cohesion

EUROPEAN COMMISSION, May 2007

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## Partnership in Design (*“EAPN Manual”*)

- recognise NGOs as full partners: including social NGOs
- operate an open door policy to NGOs in design & planning
- publish a consultation plan & timetable with clear stages
- ensure there is plenty of time for all stages
- provide Technical Assistance for NGOs in consultation
- share plans and drafts at earliest possible stage
- use working groups, involving NGOs, for specific themes
- use several forms of media to spread knowledge
- involve NGOs working with most excluded (Roma, gypsies)
- show how and why comments have been incorporated
- report on consultation process afterwards

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## Social Inclusion Proofing

- ❑ National Strategic Reference Framework priorities?
- ❑ Operational Programme features?
- ❑ Regional Framework elements?
- ❑ Is social inclusion a key factor in planning, design & debate?
- ❑ Is there diversity in delivery?
- ❑ Which socially excluded groups are targeted?
- ❑ Can those previously missed be incorporated?
- ❑ Is social inclusion an integral part of both ESF & ERDF?

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## Barriers to Participation

- ❑ lack of information
- ❑ lack of resources in application rounds
- ❑ nature of co-funding requirements
- ❑ application of rules around the labour market
- ❑ rules changed after projects signed
- ❑ requirements for accreditation to do training
- ❑ long wait for approval
- ❑ funding for only a year at a time
- ❑ unfriendly to small NGOs

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## Strategic Scope of TA

- preparation and appraisals
- studies
- evaluations
- partner support
- information
- computerised systems
- exchange



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## Building on Good Practice

- Spain ~ Operational Programme for Combating Discrimination
- Malta ~ Malta Resource Centre
- Slovenia ~ Action Plans for Capacity Building & TA
- United Kingdom ~ Voluntary Sector Regional Networks

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## Questions to Ask

- ❑ Do you know who decides on TA in your country?
- ❑ Do you know where TA has been spent and on what?
- ❑ If all TA is spent by government agencies, why not wider?
- ❑ Have NGOs promoting social inclusion applied for TA?
- ❑ Is your government aware of such practice as in UK?
- ❑ Are you aware of the wide scope of the new Regulations?
- ❑ How about starting a dialogue with your government on TA?
- ❑ Where can TA help in promoting social inclusion?
- ❑ If government says no, what's your strategy to get a rethink?

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## Virtuous Triangle for Targeting TA on NGOs

- Regional Authorities
- Member-State Governments
- European Commission

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*Thanks for your attention!*

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