



National Commission
for the Promotion
of Equality for
Men And Women

Kummissjoni Nazzjonali
għall-Promozzjoni
ta' l-Ugwaljanza
għall-Irġiel u n-Nisa

Equinet Training Session:

Helping Equality Bodies to Apply for and Use of EU Funds

Partnership and Application Methodology

3rd & 4th September 2015
Bulgaria

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Annalise Frantz, NCPE, Malta



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Partnership

Partnership is one of the key principles of the implementation of the European Union's shared management funds.

- An increased focus is being placed on partnership, especially with the 2014-2020 programmes.
- Moreover, some funding programmes allocate marks for partnership at application stage.
- Partnership may be an eligibility criteria.

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Types of Partnership

Terminology	Definition
Local	Projects implemented between two or more eligible partners at a national level
Transnational / Cross-border	Transnational cooperation between a minimum of two eligible Member States with the aim of promoting mutual learning

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Types of Partnership

Terminology	Definition
Partner	The organisation which, in cooperation with the Applicant, participates in designing the project activities and participates in the partnership which submits the application . The Partner aims to receive Union co-financing for the costs it incurs during the implementation of the Project.
Associate Partner	The organisation which participates in or is associated to the project, but will not receive Union co-financing for the costs it incurs during the implementation of the Project.

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The Principles of Partnership

- Mutual learning
- Sharing of experiences and best practices
- Enhancing cooperation with organisations in other Member States
- Networking

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Finding and choosing the right Partners

Transnational partners

- Equinet is a great source for finding partners
- High level groups
- European Commission Project Meetings

Local partners

- Choose partners who have knowledge on and access to the cohort which will be targeted through the project, as well as those most knowledgeable and perhaps experienced on the subject matter
- Partners who are able and willing to participate

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Factors of a successful partnership

Practical tips for a successful partnership:

- The **duties and roles** of each participating partner should be agreed upon prior to submission of the application form and they should be listed clearly. This ensures a smoother implementation process
- Any **expenses** to be reimbursed also need to be listed
- **Constant communication;** partners need to be and feel involved in order to be able to contribute effectively towards the project objectives as well as have a hand in promoting the project activities

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Factors of a successful partnership

- **Plan ahead** – planning is crucial for a successful partnership, even more so when transnational partners are involved
- **Adhere to the partnership agreement** – keep in mind that retraction of a partnership could jeopardise the project if marks were awarded at application stage
- **Comply with the tasks and roles agreed upon** – each and every partner needs to fulfil their duties diligently in order to have a successful outcome

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Application Methodology

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Planning Ahead

- Strategic Plan
 - In which direction is the equality body headed?
 - Which are the topics which will be the focus of the upcoming year/s?
 - What has already been done in the past 5 years?

Review also documents issued by the European Commission as well as Country Specific Recommendations.

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Calls for Proposal

- Monitor various calls for proposal, pay particular attention to pre-announcements as this will provide the equality body with ample time to prepare a project proposal
- When the call is issued, always check:
 - Eligibility criteria
 - Duration of the project
 - Partners

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Drafting the proposal

- Importance of having a good basis for the proposal. This may be done by getting info from / quoting various sources, e.g.
 - EC, e.g. Strategy document/s
 - CSR
 - Equinet documents, EIGE, FRA...
 - Previous research done by the equality body/ies



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Activities

It is highly recommended to be aware of other equality bodies' work:

- Be aware of each others' ongoing activities
- Equinet provides a good point of reference for the equality bodies to keep up to date with each others' activities
- Learn from other equality bodies' experiences
- Consider involving other equality bodies as partners on the project

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Activities

- Be inspired by other equality bodies' organised activities and projects
- Do not simply copy what others have done – adapt it to the national context and add value to it
- The innovative aspect is important when submitting a proposal for EU funding
- Always stay within the confines of the eligibility rules

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Budget

- Be realistic
- Budget for sustainability purposes – budget for items to last beyond project lifetime
- Check if the call is restricted to a minimum or maximum budget
- Plan for a project coordinator if needed
- Include any mandatory expenses, e.g. meetings in Brussels

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Project Duration

- Check the call for proposals to view the indicative timetable for the various stages of the call's procedure
- Plan accordingly
- Create a gantt chart to map out the timeline of the planned activities as well as the timeline of any procurement and recruitment procedures

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Thank you!

Any questions?

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