



# **PARTNERSHIP PRINCIPLE AND ROLE OF NGOs IN ACCESSION PROCESS**

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# PARTNERSHIP

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## MAIN PRINCIPLE AIMING AT:

- ◆ Increasing Transparency
- ◆ Improving Accountability
- ◆ Strengthening the methods of dialogue and consultations
- ◆ Improving the management culture of governmental institutions



# NGO ROLE

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- ◆ Policy formulation
- ◆ Development of legislation
- ◆ Programming, management, monitoring and evaluation of programmes/projects
- ◆ Implementation of best EU practices –role model
- ◆ Provision of information/ training on accession issues



# LEVELS AND PARTNERS

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## LEVELS

INTERNATIONAL

NATIONAL

REGIONAL

LOCAL

MICRO LEVEL-  
COMPANY

## PARTNERS

GOVERNMENT

SOCIAL PARTNERS

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

NGOS



# NGOS IN BULGARIA

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- ◆ Registered – appr. 3000 foundations and 12,000 associations
- ◆ More than 4000 listed in the Central Register
- ◆ Appr. 4000 submitted annual financial reports - reference for number of active NGOs in the country



# LEGAL BASE

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- ◆ Constitution
- ◆ Laws
- ◆ Key strategic documents
- ◆ A Charter on the Relations between the State and the NGOs - a basis for partnership between civic organizations and state institutions, including issues related to the adoption, implementation, and monitoring of public policies



# NGOs AND POLICY FORMULATION

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- **Participation in WG to Negotiation Chapters**
- **Participation in NDP and OP – 26 NGOs**
- **Members of OP Monitoring Committees**
- **National Economic and Social Council** - an Economic and Social Council (2001) has been established as a consultative body and permanent institutional frame of the social dialogue and platform to express the opinion of the civil society with respect to the social and economic policy of the country
- **Social Dialogue**
- **Regional Development Councils**
- **Consultative Councils (NCHRD, ASME, MoEW, etc)**



# NGOs AT LOCAL LEVEL

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- ◆ Correlation between NGO development and capacity for utilisation of pre-accession assistance
- ◆ 44% of municipalities without NGOs registered determine it as a hurdle for applying to pre-accession assistance
- ◆ Only 15% of local authorities that have not consulted projects with community succeeded in the application process – civil forums
- ◆ SAPARD - incl the partnership and public discussions as evaluation criteria





# NGOs AND POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

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A lot of the tasks of government bodies are subcontracted, i.e.:

- ◆ Development of plans and strategies
- ◆ Programmes monitoring and evaluation
- ◆ Management of the projects - implementation of VET for adults is sub-contracted to accredited training organisations selected after a tendering procedure
- ◆ Co-financing
- ◆ Provision of information – EIC, BIC, radio, TV programmes, bulletines, web-pages, trainings



# PROBLEMS TO PARTNERSHIP

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- ◆ Lack of information
- ◆ Lack of mechanisms for effective dialogue
- ◆ Lack of information on NGO sector – very dynamic
- ◆ New technologies?????
- ◆ Lack of capacity - work in all these consultative bodies requires substantial resources – i.e. 1 of the employer's organisations commented that they have to provide experts for 126 different consultative bodies (councils, supervisory committees, working groups)



# NGOS IN PROGRAMMING PROCESS

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- Needs analysis
- Development of project fiches
- Determining priority projects/programmes



# CRITICAL ISSUES

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- Consultations/ vs ad-hoc groups
- Min standards for efficient participation – procedures, time limits, resources
- Lack of knowledge and expertise on the overall process
- Conflict of interests
- How to balance i – min. standards that NGOs included in the programming cycle should respect – representation, expertise in policy advice, initiation and maintaining exchange of information with members, transparency of management structures



# MONITORING AND EVALUATION

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Civil society **should** play active, **independent** role in monitoring and evaluation

- ◆ Voice of citizens, guarantee transparency and efficiency of interventions
- ◆ Participation in Monitoring Committees
- ◆ Independent Monitoring - Watchdog



# CRITICAL ISSUE

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How to preserve the independency of the  
NGOs (prevent GONGOs – danger of  
overintegration or symbiosis)



# LESSONS LEARNED

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- ◆ Need for additional capacity building for NGOs, in order to ensure their effective participation - nearly 18 MEUR through grants allocated in the period 2000-2005
- ◆ Need to develop capacity of public authorities in order to apply adequate methods of public involvement
- ◆ Need to strengthen the transfer of best practices and networking
- ◆ Need for better access of NGOs to Pre-accession instruments and Structural funds