

DGIII/DCS (2005) 37



## **European platform for dialogue on ethical and solidarity-based initiatives**

**23 and 24 May 2005, Strasbourg**

**Synoptic tables of partnerships between public authorities and citizen initiatives**

**Document prepared by the Secretariat**

## Synoptic tables of partnerships between public authorities and citizen initiatives

The various examples of concrete action that have been collected and published<sup>1</sup> illustrate the key role played by dialogue between citizen initiatives and the public authorities ensuring the success of action taken. This dialogue, which is often essential for carrying out that action, increases its visibility and impact beyond that of isolated measures and also enables public policy objectives – especially social, environmental and global solidarity policies – to be better realised and promotes new forms of democracy through knowledge-sharing, consultation and co-responsibility.

The result of this mutual benefit is that the partnership becomes stronger as the action taken progresses:

- 1- The source of this benefit often lies in **the search for dialogue and for complementary elements** or symbioses that may occur between action taken by citizens and the public authorities to achieve the same objective, such as the integration of the unemployed, where more normative public approaches and citizen-based approaches often centred on personal assistance clearly complement one another. The search for dialogue is also to be found in citizens' activities aimed at influencing certain public policies to ensure better recognition of the role of certain civil society organisations (see the example of the social co-operatives in Italy) or greater transparency (for example, the French National Centre for Independent Information on Waste or the Committee against Modern Slavery in France).
- 2- At a more advanced stage, citizen initiatives benefit from the **recognition and legal or financial support provided by the public authorities**, thus opening up prospects for rescaling and operationalisation and enabling the action taken to gain greater legitimacy. There are many examples that illustrate this form of partnership, which is the most typical.
- 3- A stage further in the partnership occurs when **public authorities and citizens unite around joint action**, whether it be for a short period (for example, promotion weeks like those held in Dortmund, Germany) or more long-term. In certain cases, action may be innovative or experimental and open up prospects for shared learning (for example, LEALILLE in France or Cambieresti in Venice).
- 4- Finally, closer relations between the public authorities and citizens are reflected in the **establishment of a framework for long-term concerted action**. Agenda 21 or the various decentralised co-operation programmes (such as between Nantes and Recife or Luxembourg and Cape Verde) are examples of this. In certain cases, such as in Rome, permanent consultation machinery enables the partnership and co-responsibility approach to be systematised. This closer relationship between public authorities and citizens is also seen in instances where the public authorities take account of citizens' concerns in the public rules governing market operation, in particular when ethical and solidarity-based rules are introduced in public procurement (there are many examples of this in all European countries, especially at the local level) or when official labels, such as the Belgian social label, are introduced.

Below are four tables (one for each type) that systematise these different stages in the progress of a partnership on the basis of the examples collected.

---

<sup>1</sup> Co-published with the Council of Europe in the periodicals *Alternatives Economiques* (France) and *Altreconomia* (Italy).

## 1- Search for dialogue and complementarities

Type of partnership	Examples in the fact sheets	Added value of the partnership	Driving forces / partnership facilitators
<b>a- Citizen initiatives aimed at influencing public policies (pre-partnership)</b>			
Independent second opinions	- CNIID (France), p.89	Fine-tuning of public policies	
Lobbying for new laws	- Réseau Financement Alternatif (Alternative Financing Network) (Belgium), p.43 - Comité contre l'esclavage moderne (Committee against Modern Slavery) (France), p.110	Political and legislative responses to problems of general interest to which little consideration is given	
Campaign to have better account taken in public policies of: - minority rights - equal opportunities	- Romeurope (several European countries ), p. 111 - AVEC network (France), p.33	Better governance by public institutions	
Campaign for ethical conduct and against corruption in the management of public funds	Integra Foundation (Slovakia, Romania, Croatia, Bulgaria, Russia and Serbia), p. 48		
Questioning of public authorities on institutional practices	Institute of Race Relations (United Kingdom), p.119		
Training of elected representatives	Isomi (Slovakia), p.118		
Campaign for better recognition of citizen initiatives	Niok (Hungary), p.118	Better recognition of the social benefits of citizen initiatives	
<b>b- Symbioses (mutually beneficial associations between public services and citizens' actions)</b>			
Symbiosis between social integration and the processing of waste	- Emmaüs (France, Spain),p.34 - Rusz, Vienna, p. 29	Operationalises social action by helping to find a solution to an ecological problem and/or to comply with legislation	Immediate objective benefit for each of the two parties
<b>c- Complementarities between public and private measures</b>			
Complementarity of actions to help a vulnerable group	a) Unemployed people - Boutiques Club Emploi (France), p.32 - Impuls (Switzerland), p.36 b) Crime and prisoners - ARPEGE (Belgium), p.30 - CRED (Romania), p.30 c) Elderly people - Alagadom, Limoges (France), p. 100	Better integration owing to complementarity between public policy (laying down rules) and citizen actions to provide personalised assistance	Learning process making it possible to discover complementarities and know how to develop them
		Complementarity between the integration of elderly people by means of social housing (state) and specific activities (associations)	
Complementarity for the creation of new occupations and jobs	- Formeville, Brussels (Belgium), p.97	The public authorities create jobs for new occupations that lend themselves to social cohesion and set up associations that provide training in these occupations	Action possible through additional European funding

## 2- Public authorities' recognition of and support for citizen initiatives

Type de partnership	Examples in the fact sheets	Added value of the partnership	Driving forces / partnership facilitators
<b>a- Public support for the initiation and development of citizens' actions</b>			
Laws and legal and/or tax frameworks for facilitating the development of citizen initiatives	- Social co-operatives (Italy) - Sociedades laborales (Spain), p.64 - Law on earned income savings (France)	Leverage effects: boost citizen actions	Legal/tax frameworks often established following existing citizen initiatives that have exerted pressure in this direction
Support for promotion	- "Achat solidaire local" portal (local solidarity-based purchasing), Grenoble (France) - Spietz recipe book (Switzerland)	Citizens' actions gain increased legitimacy	Recognition by the public authorities of the social benefits of citizen initiatives
Facilitating access to public procurement	Compra Social (social purchasing) (Catalonia – Spain)	Ensures the viability of citizens' actions	
Making means available to launch a pilot experiment	- Centifiori farm, Modena (Italy), p.35 - Ecological Youth Hostel (Munich), p.81 - Atmosfair (Germany), p.82 - Industrial symbioses (Denmark), p.84 - Time Bank (Spain, Italy), p. 50 et 51		
Extension of successful pilot action by - giving it a new dimension - providing support for expansion	- Ropa amiga (Catalonia, Spain), p. 31 - Reciproco project (Portugal), p. 87	Rescaling	
Support for networking	Support for AMAP (Association for the Preservation of Peasant Farming) network (PACA Region, France), p.87 - Viabono label (Germany), p.83	Makes it possible to progress beyond start-up to the self-financing stage	
Support for the establishment of a business field	Fair cotton (coton équitable) chain (France), p.66		
<b>b- Public support for private services for the public benefit</b>			
Services for supporting the integration of immigrants, minorities and/or women	- Immigranten aan Zet! (Immigrants on the Move), Amsterdam (Netherlands), p.101 - Centre Bruxellois d'action multiculturelle (Brussels Multicultural Action Centre) (Belgium), p.109 - Femmes inter associations (national network of women's associations) (France), p. 112	More effective response to each specific problem concerned	Recognition by the public authorities of the effectiveness of citizen initiatives in the area considered

(Micro)Loan services for the socially excluded	- ADIE (France), p.45 - Charity Bank (UK), p. 49		
Services for providing loans to citizens' organisations	- Agreement between social co-operatives and the Veneto region (Italy), p.46 - Support for parish bodies in Veneto (Italy), p. 47		
Private agencies for the support of citizen initiatives	- Best, Berlin (Germany), p. 95		
<b>c- Public support for concerted citizens' actions in a specific area or region</b>			
Concerted action	- Platform of associations in the Barrio de la Mina (Mina district), Sant Adrià de Besos (Spain), p.98 - Inter-Organisational Projects Forum at Vaulx-en-Velin (France), p.99	Knowledge of one another and better co-ordination of actions	Recognition by the public authorities of their role as facilitators of citizen initiatives
Information sharing	Pagine Arcobaleno (rainbow pages), Bologna (Italy), p.75		

### 3- Joint actions of public authorities and citizens

Type of partnership	Examples in the fact sheets	Added value of the partnership	Driving forces / partnership facilitators
<b>a- Joint actions to promote ethics and solidarity</b>			
Events organised in partnership or joint awareness-raising actions	-Fair trade week in Dortmund (Germany), p.61 - Green Christmases (Andalusia), p.65 - Fa la Cosa Giusta (Do the right thing") , Milan (Italy), p.72 - Ökomarkt (Ecomarket), Sankt Gallen (Switzerland), p. 77 - MicroKyoto, Bologna (Italy) p 90 - The world of NGOs - campaigns (Austria), p. 108	Joint promotion of different forms of citizen involvement in the economy	Forums for dialogue such as Agenda 21 often play a crucial role
Establishment of specific channels	- Fair Coffee outlets, Ruhr (Germany), p.58 - Fair Bus, Berlin, p.58 - Val Siccomonte (Italy), p.90		
Education	- CTM Altromercato solidarity-based catering in Genoa (Italy), p. 71		
Promotion of forms of citizen involvement	- Global Action Plan (Basque Country, Spain), p.85 - Andalusian Bicycle Pact (Spain), p.86 - Redecole (campaign to reduce the number of car journeys to take children to school) (Grand Couronne, France), p.86		

Launch of a common instrument	- The eco-plus card, Heidelberg (Germany), p.57 - Eco-Aspromonte local currency (Italy), p.72 - Guide to sustainable consumption, Sesto San Giovanni (Italy), p.74 - Information points, Berne (Switzerland), p. 102		
Joint action for promoting corporate social responsibility	Tuscany Region (Italy), p.76	Action impossible without a joint approach involving public authorities and citizens	
<b>b- Specific joint actions</b>			
Ethical and solidarity-based funds and micro-credit services in public-private partnership	- Eco-credit and town of Neuss (Germany), p.41 - Un sol mon (One world) (Spain), p.44 - Caisse solidaire (solidarity fund) Nord-Pas de Calais (France), p.45 - Banca Etica (Italy), p.46	Fight against social exclusion, job creation, local development	Dialogue between public authorities and citizen initiatives on the specific difficulties involved in seeking solutions to these problems
Joint action for social integration	- Loans for home ownership, Carpi (Italy), p.48 - WebSourd (web-based information system) extended from Toulouse to other towns (France), p.115	Operationalisation of an integration measure Non-discrimination against persons with disabilities	
Concerted action for a public service	Separation of household waste (eg, at Saint-Denis, France), p.67	Action impossible without a joint approach involving public authorities and citizens	
Joint actions for the rehabilitation of living space	- Erika Mann School, Berlin (Germany), p.96		
Joint experimental actions	LEALille (France), p.70 Cambieresti, Venice (Italy), p.73	Shared learning	

#### 4- Establishment of a framework for long-term concerted action.

Type de partnership	Examples in the fact sheets	Added value of the partnership	Driving forces / partnership facilitators
<b>a- Aspects that facilitate dialogue and citizens' participation</b>			
Interface for facilitating partnership between the public authorities and the citizens	Patrimoine Sans Frontières (Heritage without Frontiers) (France), p.127 - Association Habitat et Participation (Housing and Participation Association) (Belgium), p.97 - Birch Project (Birch: district of Schaffhausen, Switzerland), p. 102 - Fondation Solidarité (Solidarity Foundation) (Belgium), p. 109	Boosting the dialogue between the public authorities and citizens	Existence of promoters of these initiatives and the interest they arouse
Information points	- Stifinfo services, Venice (Italy), p.73 - Platform for responsible investments (Austria), p. 42 - Observatory of transnational enterprises, Cordoba (Spain), p.65	Transparency and sharing of information on the socio-economic situation	
Forums for exchange and sharing information	- Place publique locale (local public area) (France), p.113	Co-production of a survey of local reality	

Opening up of spaces for citizen participation in public life	Quartiers du Monde (Neighbourhoods of the World) for young people (France), p. 114	Participatory democracy	
<b>b- Establishment of consultation frameworks on a permanent basis</b>			
Public-private partnerships with a facilitating and co-ordinating function	- Mous (Maîtrise d’Oeuvre Urbaine et Sociale – Supervision of urban and social projects), Stains (France), p.100 - Spiez aktiv (Spiez: town in Switzerland), p.77	Partnership activation and continuity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Existence of a shared will</li> <li>- Initiating role of certain specific programmes</li> <li>- Key role, depending on the case, of the public authorities (example: Rome) or citizen initiatives (example: centre for anti-discrimination foundations)</li> </ul>
Permanent consultation forums	Consultation table, Rome (Italy), p.74	Common charter, ongoing joint actions, development of synergies between the players	
Framework for co-operation between territories (decentralised co-operation)	- Luxembourg – Cape Verde, p.128 - Nantes-Recife, p.126 - Grenoble, p.69	Development of North-South solidarity bonds	
Shared commitments for the management of an area	- Espace MontBlanc (Mont Blanc Area) (France, Italy and Switzerland), p.88	Participatory, consistent and sustainable management of the area	
European networks of public-private partnerships for a public policy	- Centre for anti-discrimination foundations (France, Italy, Spain, Belgium), p.117	Collection and dissemination of good practices on the public policy concerned	
<b>c- Incorporation of citizens’ concerns in public rules concerning market operation</b>			
Rules on ethical and solidarity-based behaviour with regard to public procurement	- City of Munich (Germany), p.59 - Town of Saint-Denis (France), p.67 - City of Ferrara (Italy), p.71 - Catalonia (Spain), p.63 - etc.	Better integration of social and environmental externalities into prices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Convergence on values</li> <li>- Shared political will</li> </ul>
General rules on market operations	- Charter for the protection of GMOs (20 European regions), p.88		
Official labels	- Social Label (Belgium), p.62 - Viabono Label (Germany), p.83 - Ecolabel (EU, France, etc), p.83 - Financial ecolabel (Austria), p.42	Greater transparency in the social externalities that are not included in prices	