



## NATIONAL CONVENTION ON EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

### Session 3, Working Group IV (Structural Funds)

**Topic:** Management and Implementation bodies of funding programmes – EU and

Slovakia case

25 May 2021

### Recommendations

- Establishment of Intermediary Bodies (IB) is a long-term process having in mind the legislation process, and to clarify and specify: their modus operandi; management & competences; infrastructure and planning/programming procedure to be followed by the IB. Based in these complex matters the preparation for establishing these bodies should be start in advance in order for preventing any issues or difficulties that can be arise during the process.
- There is a risk that the IBs can be influenced politically, or that political interest can diminish their function or they can be used by these interests. This can be problematic because it can shift the attention to peripheric results and objectives and can fail to fulfil all the aims of the program/project that is being implemented.
- There should be taken measures and strict and concise rules to limit the political influence on the work and functionalities of the IB-s. From Slovak experience there have been cases where due to limited cooperation among Ministries the main objectives of the Integrated Health - Social Care programme in 7 years have been achieved only one of the objectives of this programme.



- It is essential the promotion of cooperation and dialogue among various public institutions in local and national level, and this can be possible only if their functions and responsibilities, and the hierarchy of the relations are clearly stipulated.
- Funds are limited for interesting and development programmes, thus it is important to have a clear and specific strategic approach and then to decide for the most immediate ones. The dilemma between Integrated investments or Sectoral approach will always be present, that's way the decision-making process should be transparent and accepted by general public, while the criteria of assessment and evaluation should be objective and thorough, and should combine two elements: 1) information and data for the said issue and 2) demand and emergency, in order for choosing the most relevant strategic plan.
- Managing Authorities should never lose control over the IB activities and there should be in place anticorruption measures and monitoring systems for all the levels of the implementation of the project.
- The implementation system of project programming and implementation should not be too much complicated, if there are a lot of rules and measures that are hard to follow and/or to monitor there are opportunities for corruption and deviations. In this regard a simple system should be set up, where all the actors are clear about the rules and procedures and the monitoring authorities can supervise the process without any difficulties.
- Increase capacities and cooperation with municipalities and local level authorities. Most of the programmes are to be implemented in a local level or specific roles and functions local authorities will play, are crucial for the implementation of the programme including issues like social services, health care, infrastructure etc. In this regard a closer cooperation and collaboration with municipalities is key for further success of the program.



- Raise information and promotion of the programme that is being implemented by targeting and offering opportunities to target groups to be included and to be actively engaged. Most of the times there is a need for engagement from civil society actors, business community and local authorities, but the lack of information and cooperation makes these actors uncertain and not willing to be engaged in various calls for applications, activities and consultations.

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