WP4
Learning Process for Reflective Policy Making

PPs' Needs and Expectations regarding ClusterPoliSEE

Project	ClusterPoliSEE	Version 00	20/09/2012
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In order to best possibly ensure that the ClusterPoliSEE project meets PPs' needs and expectations, please indicate the main issues that in your opinion should be addressed in the course of the ClusterPoliSEE project.

For WP4, this information will be used as input for the elaboration of methodologies, guidelines and tools.

Please briefly provide your needs and expectations below (incl. prioritisation), in accordance with the 6 cross-cluster development areas:

Context:

In Romania there are no **past experiences** with cluster policy mechanisms implementation. We had a financing scheme for urban growth pole(under ROP 2007-2013, where RDA was IB) and an open call for competitiveness poles (under SOP for Competitiveness 2007-2013, where MECMA was IB).There are emerging clusters identified and bottom-up initiatives of SMEs groups association in our region that could be interrogated too under WP 4.1

We are interested to **learn from innovative data sources gathered from study visits** about financing regional clusters (first priority) and regional specialization (second priority) WP4.2.

In respect to WP 4.3 **SWOT of current regional policy framework** we would like to assess especially performance of financing programs and implementing agency administrative capacity. Our main goal is to convince MECMA that we have to decentralize the policy implementation in Romania (the territory is too large to be administrated only from Bucharest).It is a pity that responsible authority with RDI policy in Romania retired from the project (National Authority for Scientific Research). We are still missing that link too in order to speak about innovation and sustainable technologies promoted in clusters.

WP4.4 Benchmarking in my opinion should create a mechanism to improve performance of cluster policy using best practice implementation, monitoring, evaluation solutions found in other SEE regions/countries.

1. **Innovation, R&D (WG1)**
   - to reflect in the assessment methodology the positioning of regional clusters in the SEE/national/regional knowledge economy and competitive framework
   - to have methodologies guidelines and tools that help the region to fundament the need for better (and decentralized) cluster policy framework in Romania

2. Sustainability (WG2)

- to stimulate orientation of the cluster technologies to EE and green technologies
- What(or how to) motivate cluster management?

3. International cooperation & networking (WG3)

- to develop a scenario for a future SEE Alliance of clusters where knowledge and experience can be shared among partners
- ensure real sustainability of the Cluster POLI SEE platform

4. Financing (WG4)

- to learn more from PPs and find solutions together with MECMA (RO) for combining structural instruments and governmental funds in financing clusters (emerging and development) in order to ensure a good correlation between our regional absorption capacity (level of development) and the priority goals (conditionalities) of EC regulations in the field of cluster policy development
- determine financing criteria for a successful cluster management. Assess in detail a model of success in this area.

5. Regional specialisation (WG5)

- find the way to set in the context of national S3 approach a regional specialization system Fundament the reduced number of targeted development sectors in the context of cohesion policy requirements
- define, raise good level of understanding and acceptance regarding the role of clusters in S3 implementation
- identify synergies between different policies and funding schemes – from theory to practice. How things happen in a successful example? Is there one to be analysed?

6. New skills & job creation (WG6)

- to develop a path for performance for the cluster policy management system
- identify which are the skills that should be envisaged for the performance cluster management
- training programs for cluster managers
- assess the role for cluster policy implementing agencies in clusters' HR development. How to access TA in the absence of juridical agreement between cluster members and dedicated financing source for interface structures.

7. Others

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