

**Question for written answer P-010361/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Implementing the multi-level governance principle in cohesion policy action in Italy in the period 2014-2020

The regions now play a central role in cohesion policy, right from the programming stage. The current policy is based on a multi-level governance system in which, according to the Commission, the regions have a leading role. However, for the policy to be effective, local stakeholders also need to be fully involved, in order to tailor policy action to local needs.

Under the new Structural Fund programming arrangements, partnership is seen as being of key importance in the drafting of operational programmes (OPs). The relevant European Parliament and Council regulation states that: 'In accordance with the multi-level governance approach, the partners shall be involved by Member States in the preparation of Partnership Contracts and progress reports and in the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes.'

This approach has been further consolidated by the adoption of the 'European code of conduct on partnership in the framework of the European Structural and Investment Funds'.

1. How closely involved were local stakeholders in drawing up OPs in Italy?
2. What steps can be taken to bring about greater local involvement in the decision-making process?