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Committee on Culture and Education

2011/0276(COD)

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DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Culture and Education

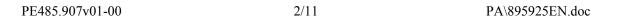
for the Committee on Regional Development

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund covered by the Common Strategic Framework and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006

(COM(2011)0615 - C7-0335/2011 - 2011/0276(COD))

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PA\895925EN.doc PE485.907v01-00



SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund covered by the Common Strategic Framework and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 establishes the framework for EU cohesion policy over the period from 2014 to 2020.

It provides for funding to be focused on the priorities linked to the Europe 2020 Strategy for 'smart, sustainable and inclusive' growth. It draws up a list of thematic objectives consistent with those priorities and encourages integrated programming.

More specifically, in the Common Strategic Framework the Commission sets out the main measures to be taken to achieve the priorities, identifies the target groups and proposes examples of suitable measures, laying down a series of principles applicable to all the funds (partnerships, multi-level governance, promotion of gender equality, non-discrimination, sustainable development, etc.).

The aim of this opinion is to turn the spotlight on the issues the proposal for a regulation neglects, such as youth policy, cultural aspects and sport.

Youth policy

Point 9 of Annex IV on ex-ante conditionalities addresses youth-related topics, such as early school-leaving, higher education and lifelong learning and training. A more ambitious approach is needed which makes the needs of a generation severely affected by the crisis a priority, in particular by ensuring that the Member States regard bodies dealing with youth-related problems as fully-fledged partners.

Cultural aspects

Article 167(4) TFEU stipulates that 'the Union shall take cultural aspects into account in its action under other provisions of the Treaties'. Unfortunately, the proposal for a regulation completely ignores the cultural aspects of cohesion. It makes no reference to the contribution made by culture to local and regional development, despite its being closely bound up with issues of education, social inclusion and innovation and, by extension, the Europe 2020 Strategy. The varied contribution culture makes to education and learning through the development of competences and know-how, to economic development through the creative industries and the arts, and to social inclusion by countering the marginalisation of communities, justifies the inclusion of primarily cultural projects in the proposed schemes.

Sport

Sport can do much to foster social cohesion and equal opportunities in European societies, as emphasised by Parliament in an own-initiative report (2011/2087(INI)). Some sports projects

should therefore be regarded as a way of supporting struggling groups and combating early school-leaving and discrimination.

CONCLUSIONS

The scope created by the proposal for a regulation for drawing support from several Structural Funds to finance a given project is a major step forward, one which will certainly make it possible to put the measures financed on a more permanent footing. However, when projects and their results are assessed it would make sense to use a range of indicators which extend beyond the purely quantitative. For example, in connection with the 'Creative Europe' programme the Commission proposed that indicators and databases should be set up which make it possible to determine the impact the cultural sector has on economic and social development¹.

It should also be borne in mind that the results of cohesion policy are certainly among those which have the most tangible impact on the daily lives of EU citizens. The onus is on the Member States to translate the proposal into comprehensible and accessible legislation whose provisions are designed to meet citizens' needs and to ensure that the action taken by the Union has a high public profile.

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Culture and Education calls on the Committee on Development, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following amendments in its report:

Amendment 1 Proposal for a regulation Recital 9

Text proposed by the Commission

(9) For the Partnership Contract and each programme respectively, a Member State should organise a partnership with the representatives of competent regional, local, urban and other public authorities, economic and social partners, and bodies representing civil society, including environmental partners, nongovernmental organisations, and

Amendment

(9) For the Partnership Contract and each programme respectively, a Member State should organise a partnership with the representatives of competent regional, local, urban and other public authorities, economic and social partners, and bodies representing civil society, including environmental partners and partners active in areas such as culture,

¹ *Impact assessment* of 23.11.2011, point 6.3, accompanying the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the 'Creative Europe' framework programme and Commission Communication to the European Parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions – 'Creative Europe' framework programme.

bodies responsible for promoting equality and non-discrimination. The purpose of such a partnership is to respect the principle of multi-level governance, ensure the ownership of planned interventions by stakeholders and build on the experience and knowhow of relevant actors. The Commission should be empowered to adopt delegated acts providing for a code of conduct in order to ensure that partners are involved in the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Partnership Contracts and programmes in a consistent manner.

education and youth policy, nongovernmental organisations, and bodies responsible for promoting equality and non-discrimination. The purpose of such a partnership is to respect the principle of multi-level governance, ensure the ownership of planned interventions by stakeholders and build on the experience and knowhow of relevant actors. The Commission should be empowered to adopt delegated acts providing for a code of conduct in order to ensure that partners are actively involved in the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Partnership Contracts and programmes.

Or. fr

Amendment 2 Proposal for a regulation Recital 72

Text proposed by the Commission

(72) With a view to strengthening accessibility and transparency of information about funding opportunities and project beneficiaries, in each Member State a single website or website portal providing information on all the operational programmes, including the lists of operations supported under each operational programme, should be made available.

Amendment

(72) With a view to strengthening accessibility and transparency of information about funding opportunities and project beneficiaries and explaining more clearly the thinking behind the European integration process in the areas of regional development and cross-sectoral action, in each Member State a single website or website portal using clear and comprehensible language and providing information on all the operational programmes, including the lists of operations supported under each operational programme, should be made available.

Or. fr

Amendment 3 Proposal for a regulation Article 5 – paragraph 1 – point c

Text proposed by the Commission

c) bodies representing civil society, including environmental partners, non-governmental organisations, and bodies responsible for promoting equality and non-discrimination.

Amendment

c) bodies representing civil society, including environmental partners, *partners active in areas such as culture, education and youth policy*, non-governmental organisations, and bodies responsible for promoting equality and non-discrimination.

Or. fr

Amendment 4
Proposal for a regulation
Article 9 – paragraph 1 – point 6

Text proposed by the Commission

6) Protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency;

Amendment

6) Protecting the environment, including natural heritage and landscapes, and promoting resource efficiency;

Or. fr

Amendment 5
Proposal for a regulation
Article 9 – paragraph 1 – point 10

Text proposed by the Commission

10) investing in education, skills and lifelong learning;

Amendment

10) investing in education, skills, *qualifications* and lifelong learning;

Or. fr

Amendment 6 Proposal for a regulation Article 27 – paragraph 1

PE485.907v01-00 6/11 PA\895925EN.doc

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The EIB may, at the request of Member States, participate in the preparation of the Partnership Contract, as well as in activities relating to the preparation of operations, *in particular major* projects, financial instruments and public-private partnerships.

Amendment

1. The EIB may, at the request of Member States, participate in the preparation of the Partnership Contract, as well as in activities relating to the preparation of operations, both large- and small-scale projects which offer significant potential for innovation, financial instruments and public-private partnerships.

Or. fr

Amendment 7 Proposal for a regulation Article 28 – paragraph 1 – point d

Text proposed by the Commission

d) designed taking into consideration local needs and potential, and include innovative features in the local context, *networking* and, *where appropriate*, cooperation.

Amendment

d) designed taking into consideration local needs and potential, and include innovative, social, cultural and educational features in the local context and the promotion of cooperation projects and the development of trans-territorial networks.

Or. fr

Amendment 8
Proposal for a regulation
Article 30 – paragraph 3 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

a) building the capacity of local actors to develop and implement operations;

Amendment

a) building the capacity of local actors to develop and implement operations, taking account of the social and cultural characteristics of a given region in order to develop innovative know-how which can generate new types of jobs at local level:

Amendment 9
Proposal for a regulation
Article 30 – paragraph 3 – point g

Text proposed by the Commission

g) monitoring the implementation of the local development strategy and the operations supported and carrying out specific evaluation activities linked to the local development strategy.

Amendment

g) monitoring the implementation of the local development strategy and the operations supported and carrying out specific evaluation activities linked to the local development strategy, taking account of the qualitative aspect of the measures and their long-term results.

Or. fr

Amendment 10 Proposal for a regulation Article 84 – paragraph 2 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

a) eligible population, regional prosperity, national prosperity and unemployment rate for less developed regions and transition regions;

Amendment

a) eligible population, regional prosperity, national prosperity and unemployment rate **by age group** for less developed regions and transition regions;

Or. fr

Amendment 11 Proposal for a regulation Article 84 – paragraph 2 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

b) eligible population, regional prosperity, unemployment rate, employment rate, educational level and population density for more developed

Amendment

b) eligible population, regional prosperity, unemployment rate **and** employment rate **by age group**, educational level and population

PE485.907v01-00 8/11 PA\895925EN.doc

regions;

density for more developed regions;

Or. fr

Amendment 12 Proposal for a regulation Article 87 – paragraph 2 – point d

Text proposed by the Commission

d) the contribution to the integrated approach set out in the Partnership Contract to address the specific needs of geographical areas most affected by poverty or target groups at highest risk of discrimination or exclusion, with special regard to marginalised communities, and the indicative financial allocation;

Amendment

d) the contribution to the integrated approach set out in the Partnership Contract to address the specific needs of geographical areas most affected by poverty or target groups at highest risk of discrimination or exclusion, with special regard to marginalised communities, young people and persons with disabilities, and the indicative financial allocation;

Or. fr

Amendment 13
Proposal for a regulation
Annex IV – point 6 – columns 2 and 3 – point 6.2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria for fulfilment

Amendment by Parliament

Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria for fulfilment
(6.2a) Cultural heritage sector: Development of projects to safeguard, pass on, promote and develop tangible and intangible cultural heritage.	- Effective instruments are available at national, regional and local level so that, in particular in regions with very specific characteristics, culture can become a force for economic development,

for example through the cultural and creative industries and tourism;
- Measures designed to exploit cultural and linguistic diversity and all aspects of the living heritage of the Union are developed in order to meet the challenges relating to access to culture, active participation in society and social inclusion.

Or. fr

Amendment 14
Proposal for a regulation
Annex IV – point 8 – point 8.1 – column 3 – point 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Criteria for fulfilment

Criteria for fulfilment

- training measures which provide people with the cross-disciplinary skills they need to find long-term employment more easily.

Or. fr

Amendment 15
Proposal for a regulation
Annex IV – point 9 – point 9.1 – column 3 – point – indent 4

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Criteria for fulfilment

 cuts across-sectors, and involves and coordinates all policy sectors and stakeholders that are relevant to address ESL. Criteria for fulfilment

 cuts across-sectors, and involves and coordinates all policy sectors and stakeholders, in particular in the areas of culture, the arts and sport, that are relevant to address ESL.

Or. fr

PE485.907v01-00 10/11 PA\895925EN.doc

