



**MINISTERIUM
FÜR EIN
LEBENSWERTES
ÖSTERREICH**

bmlfuw.gv.at



LE 14-20

Entwicklung für den Ländlichen Raum

THE MONITORING COMMITTEE FOR THE EAFRD IN AUSTRIA 2014-2020

BRUSSELS, 20.09.2016

MARTIN LEITNER
MANAGING AUTHORITY, AUSTRIA



OVERVIEW

1. Purpose of the Monitoring Committee (MC)
2. Legal background
3. Rules of Procedure (RoP)
4. Information of Monitoring Committee members
5. Composition of the Austrian Monitoring Committee
6. Decision making procedures
7. Thematic Working groups
8. Relation with MCs of other ESI-Funds
9. Limitations...?



PURPOSE OF THE MONITORING COMMITTEE

MC = important platform for exchange of information and discussion

Functions and responsibilities of the Monitoring Committee:

- **Monitor** quality and effectiveness of the implementation of the programme
- **Review** progress towards achieving objectives (financial data, indicators, milestones etc.)
- **Comment** on any amendment of the programme and selection criteria
- **Observe** implementation and evaluation of the programme including actions related to the reduction of the administrative burden on beneficiaries
- **Examine** fulfilment of *ex-ante* conditionalities
- **Participate** in the National Rural Network (NRN)
- **Approve** annual implementation reports + amendments to the RDP



LEGAL BACKGROUND

EU-Regulations and national specifications

- Regulation (EU) Nr. 1303/2013 (CPR)
- Regulation (EU) Nr. 1305/2013 (EAFRD)
- Regulation (EU) Nr. 240/214 (code of conduct on partnership in the framework of the ESIF)
- National RDP (Chapter 15.2)

Regulate:

- Set up of MC: not later than three months after the adoption of the programme
- Composition of MC:
 - Competent regional, local, urban and other public authorities
 - Economic and social partners
 - Bodies representing civil society, such as environmental partners, non-governmental organizations, and bodies responsible for promoting social inclusion, gender equality and non-discrimination
- Frequency of MC-meetings: at least one/year



RULES OF PROCEDURE

OF THE AUSTRIAN MONITORING COMMITTEE

→ adopted at the 1st meeting of the MC 2014-2020 on January 16th 2015

Structure:

- I. General Information
- II. Composition, voting right, chair, coordination office
- III. Tasks (according to regulations)
- IV. Functioning
- V. Procedures for decision-making
- VI. Final provisions



INFORMATION OF MC MEMBERS

Platform (restricted access for MC members) provides information on:

- Rules of procedure
- EU regulations
- Relevant meeting documents such as:
 - Annual reports
 - Programme modifications, amendments of selection criteria, communication strategy etc.
 - Agenda, presentations, minutes
- Invitations and agenda will be provided 4 weeks prior to the meeting
- Meeting documents will be provided 2 weeks prior to the meeting
- Suggestions for additional agenda items need to be submitted at least 3 weeks prior to the meeting
- MC is informed about ongoing developments in rural development via E-mail (newsletter)

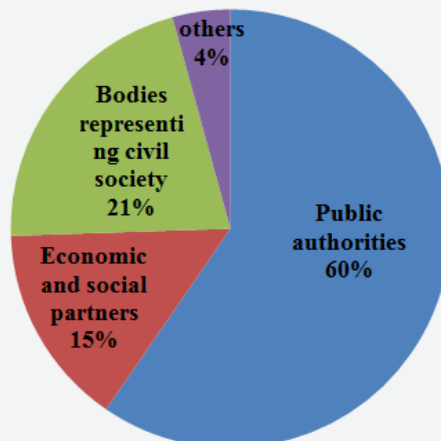


COMPOSITION OF THE AUSTRIAN MC

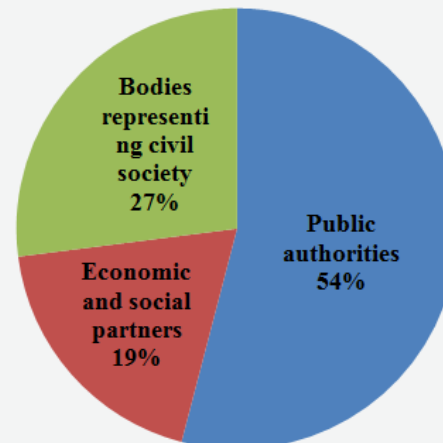
Based on legal requirements and the MC 07-13:

- Representatives of the relevant member state authorities
- Intermediate bodies
- Representatives of the partners
- For each member a substitute member has to be announced
- Per member it is possible to consult one additional expert

All members (47)



Members with voting right (37)



→ Taking into account a balanced representation of most important stakeholders



DECISION MAKING PROCEDURES

- At least **half of the voting members** must be present at the meeting
→ **simple majority decisions**
 - **In case of a tie**, the vote of the chair will be decisive
 - **In urgent matters**, electronic circulation procedure for information/comments is possible in lieu of a meeting:
 - MC members will be informed about:
 - Provision of relevant documents with a respective justification
 - Deadlines (written statements must be submitted within 2 weeks, non-response is synonymous with approval)
 - Result of the written procedure
 - **Approval** of annual implementation reports and amendments of the RDP (→ latter no longer obligatory!)
 - **Decision** on composition/members of thematic working groups
- **Information** of broader public about decisions made



THEMATIC WORKING GROUPS I

- Rules of Procedure allow establishment of working groups on certain topics upon request
- Active involvement and cooperation of a representative sample of stakeholders in the working process
- Results have to be presented in MC

2007-2013: 3 thematic working groups have been implemented with the support of the NRN: on equal opportunities, youth & employment

2014-2020: „Assessment of environmental and climate impacts”
in order to:

- support MC in addressing related evaluation activities
- optimize implementation of RDP concerning environmental and climate issues



THEMATIC WORKING GROUPS II

Experiences from the previous period:

- Everyone involved has been highly committed to achieve **concrete results**
- Involving a range of different stakeholders has proofed to be very **valuable for the process**:
 - solution-oriented way of working
 - identification of **local needs** including **local experts**
 - information exchange & input from representatives from different areas and administrative levels
 - decision making takes longer but support is stronger

RELATION WITH MCs OF OTHER ESI-FUNDS

- Members of the MC for the EAFRD may also be represented in other European Structural & Investment Funds (ESIF) programmed in Austria:
 - European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
 - European Social Fund (ESF)
 - European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)
- Representatives of MAs for ERDF, ESF & EMFF are members of the MC for the EAFRD in order to ensure coherence with other programmes and the national partnership agreement (advisory role) & vice versa



LIMITATIONS...?

- Different opinions among MC members
- Political dimension
- Final responsibility
- Limited financial and human resources

IMPRESSIONS...





MINISTERIUM
FÜR EIN
LEBENSWERTES
ÖSTERREICH

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION.

MARTIN LEITNER

FEDERAL MINISTRY OF
AGRICULTURE,
FORESTRY, ENVIRONMENT AND
WATER MANAGEMENT

Division II/2, Coordination Rural Development and
Fisheries Fund
Stubenring 1, 1010 Vienna
T +43 1 71100 60 6734
martin.leitner@bmlfuw.gv.at
www.bmlfuw.gv.at



MINISTERIUM
FÜR EIN
LEBENSWERTES
ÖSTERREICH