



Policy recommendations based on stakeholder input at TSI stakeholder meeting in Rome

1. Policy recommendations Funding / Financing

Put the third sector on the policy agenda

Improve access to capital for TSOs

- Several mechanisms
- Loan guarantees
- Ethical banks
- Social loans
- Sharing working capital among working organizations
- Transferring assets

Public procurement

- Grants
- Legal definition of grants
- Contracting
- Size of contracts
- Need for long-term contracts
- Structure: entering payments
- Social clauses
- Need for procurement to be adapted to TSOs
- New funding mechanism
- Grant matched with private funds at the community benefitting a tax reduction which can be adjusted to the economic capacity of the community

Transparency

- Transparency
- TSO income
- Government spending



Capacity Building

- Capacity building for adapting to new funding opportunities
- For EU funding
- For alternative funding mechanisms
- For project implementation

Revision of EU directives

- EU directive on public procurement needs to be adapted to public interest organizations
- EU directive on VAT; reduce VAT to TSOs

EU funding

- Structural funds
- Need of pre-financing mechanisms
- Simplification of project application processes
- Matching funds (make it possible to use voluntary work as equivalent)

Legal Framework for Social Enterprise

- There is no legal framework for Social Enterprises (example: Croatia)

Additional points to consider

- Dimensions are interrelated
 - Changes of funding environment are differentiated
- Big vs. small organizations
- Well-connected organizations vs. outsiders
- National level vs. local level
- Do not forget power relations and politics!

2. Policy recommendations Human Resources

EU level

- “ERASMUS” for Third Sector
- EU should recognize the specificity of TSO’s (tenders, contracts)
- Developing a common policy regarding Third Sector (important for upcoming issues, such as refugees)
- Raising acknowledgment



- Should develop funding for capacity building
- More impact studies on TSO's, volunteers, staff and public institutions (hospitals, schools, prisons)
- Providing structures to have more TS-representatives inside EU institutions

National Levels

- Highlighting the role of TS in education
- Recognizing the skills of volunteers (by certifications, diploma, CV for labour market etc.)
- Have to invest in volunteers – they're not for free!
- Innovations developed in TS should not only be transferred to but rewarded by public institutions
- Help to strengthen training of Human Resources which is a route of career to the TS
- Encouraging the merging of TSO's resources to qualify employees
- Help for training of TSO managers
- Paying more attention to working conditions in TSO's
- More time for volunteering inside education and work-life-relation → more flexibility of work time
- Voluntary services have not to be oriented towards enterprises but towards TSO's
- Initiate a debate to clarify the boundaries between paid and voluntary work
- More support for training and organizing volunteers

3. Policy Recommendations Governance

EU

- Acknowledgment of the diversity of the sector as an element of European culture
- Third Sector Department in the commission
- Representative of Third Sector contributing in designing programmes → making the programmes applicable for TSOs
- Legal stipulation which works all over Europe

National level

- Legal framework for new types of initiatives (Post socialist countries)
- Implementation of the existing laws
- Infrastructure for TSOs that is organized by the sector autonomously



- Avoid Politization of infrastructural organizations
- Acknowledge the sector on the same footing as business sector

Local level

- Decide on a regime of cooperation between TSOs and local governments

Organizational level

- Qualification, diversification, recruitment of the board
- Do not outsource your reputation and functions, like fundraising, recruitment of members

Research

- Long term research project on value based impacts of the Third Sector
- Highlight how the Third Sector contributes to solving social problems and how it is communicated in the media (solution based journalism)

