



Eurodiaconia's dashboard reporting tool on stakeholders' participation in the European semester

December 2014

Why this dashboard?

Eurodiaconia members offer very practical support to people at risk of poverty and social exclusion, but they are also involved in advocacy and policy shaping at national, regional and local level. They have been involved in the European Semester since its beginning and have experienced its functioning. The result is that they have often been disappointed by the lack of open and significant dialogue at national level. They request a more open and meaningful process of involvement which would reinforce policy ownership and contribute to legitimize the European Semester process.

Eurodiaconia therefore proposes this dashboard as a self-assessment/ reporting tool to facilitate members' assessment of their involvement in the European Semester and smooth Member States understanding of NGOs' expectation of a proper meaningful involvement in the European Semester.

How does the dashboard works?

The dashboard establishes 6 levels of cooperation between government/public authorities and civil society, going from information only (level 1a) to shared ownership (level 2c). The criteria have been developed by Eurodiaconia members, based on their own experience of the European Semester. It is a self-assessment tool for members to be able to level their participation in the semester, and enable comparability.

It is proposed to the European Commission as a first basis for the development of guidelines to be addressed to Member States for minimum standards of quality participation in the European Semester.





ORGANISATION'S NAME:

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|--|--|
| Contact details | |
| Objectives of the participation in the European Semester | |

LEVEL 1 – CONSULTATION

| a- Information sharing | b- Listening | c- Involvement |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Civil society is informed of the process of drafting the NRP but with no precise timetable <input type="checkbox"/> Civil society is informed on the process of National Reform Program but not through direct contact (e.g. not through meetings but a website is available, information is sent upon request) <input type="checkbox"/> Civil Society is informed on the National Reform Program through information meeting and dissemination of the NRP after it has been published <input type="checkbox"/> Most civil society actors generally involved in advocacy are involved in the information process <input type="checkbox"/> There is no possibility to comment on the NRP (draft or final text) <input type="checkbox"/> There is no possibility to comment on the Country Specific Recommendations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> A timeline is made available to key stakeholders at the start of the European Semester <input type="checkbox"/> The government/national public authorities invite stakeholders who wish to come to at least one relevant information session on the National Reform Program while it is being prepared <input type="checkbox"/> Civil society actors are formally able to comment on the draft NRP but the timeframe makes it de facto impossible to react. <input type="checkbox"/> The government/national public authorities invite stakeholders who wish to come to one information session on the National Reform Program after it has been released <input type="checkbox"/> There is no sign of official recognition of civil society's work/input on the NRP <input type="checkbox"/> Public authorities acknowledge civil society's comments on the Country Specific Recommendations but do not provide an official channel for this process | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> A timeline is made available to interested stakeholders at the start of the European Semester <input type="checkbox"/> Before the final publication of the NRP, information on the content of the draft NRP is regularly made available to all NGOs who have shown interest in the process <input type="checkbox"/> An opportunity is formally or informally given to civil society to provide input on the NRP while it is being prepared (with adequate time) <input type="checkbox"/> Before the publication of the NRP, information on the content of the draft NRP is made available to all civil society actors through several general information session <input type="checkbox"/> Stakeholders involved in the process are referred to in the NRP (e.g. their position is annexed to the NRP) <input type="checkbox"/> An opportunity is given to civil society to comment through an official channel on the Country Specific Recommendations after it has been released. |



LEVEL 2 - PARTICIPATION

| a- Dialogue | b- Collaboration | c- Shared ownership |
|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> A precise timeline is made available to interested stakeholders at the start of the European Semester <input type="checkbox"/> A notice period is issued to civil society to inform on the timetable of the elaboration of the NRP <input type="checkbox"/> Main representatives of the trade unions, social services providers, churches, and local authorities have been formally consulted <input type="checkbox"/> Before the publication of the NRP, specific information on the content of draft NRP is regularly made available to NGOs upon request <input type="checkbox"/> Civil society actors are able to comment on the draft NRP but time available is short (i.e. a minimum of 10 working days) <input type="checkbox"/> The government provides feedbacks on NGOs input upon request <input type="checkbox"/> There is a possibility for key NGOs to discuss the content of the draft NRP with a government representative while it is being prepared | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> A precise timeline is made available to interested stakeholders at the start of the European Semester <input type="checkbox"/> There is an opportunity for NGOs to provide input to the NRP at the start of the process, before the first draft is released, to contribute to the identification of key priorities <input type="checkbox"/> Main representatives of the trade unions, social services providers, churches, and local authorities have been formally consulted <input type="checkbox"/> An official platform gathering key civil society representatives has been set <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The platform is independently managed and moderated <input type="checkbox"/> The platform agrees on recommendations that are officially presented to the government to feed into the National Reform Program <input type="checkbox"/> The government responds to the platforms' points <input type="checkbox"/> The government works with the platform/civil society to define common goals and priorities that will be reflected in the NRP, activities needed to accomplish results, and success criteria. <input type="checkbox"/> Civil society representatives are able to meet with a government/public authority representative in a decision making position to discuss the NRP while it is being drafted and after it has been released <input type="checkbox"/> The government provides feedbacks on NGOs input | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> A precise timeline is made available to interested stakeholders at the start of the European Semester <input type="checkbox"/> NGOs are being asked for input to the NRP before the process has started <input type="checkbox"/> Main representatives of the trade unions, social services providers, churches, and local authorities have been formally consulted <input type="checkbox"/> The government regularly requests civil society's input on the NRP while it is being prepared (with adequate time) <input type="checkbox"/> To facilitate civil society's input, a joint working group involving governments and civil society representatives is set up to draft the NRP <input type="checkbox"/> Civil society takes responsibility for the implementation some aspects of the NRP <input type="checkbox"/> The government provides feedback to civil society's input and justifies the priorities and strategies presented in the NRP <input type="checkbox"/> The government takes specific measures to facilitate NGOs involvement in the process (e.g. training, funding opportunities) <input type="checkbox"/> The government and civil society representatives review together the process at the end of each cycle and discuss together ways to improve participation |