

National Reform Programme – Hungary

(Excerpt)

Annex 4: Social partnership of the National Reform Programme

During the preparation of the National Reform Programme (NRP), the involvement of the professional and non-governmental organizations was crucial, in line with the previous years' practice and the recommendations of the European Commission.

The government, decided by the Government Resolution No. 1061/2013 (II.14.) on the tasks relating to the preparation of National Reform Programme 2013 of Hungary, called (in part 12. a.) the ministers to involve the appropriate social partners in the preparation of the measures of in their respected fields.

The partnership consultation process was carried out in two major steps: first, the line ministries carried out the essential partnership consultations with the legally designated and other relevant stakeholders; then the Ministry for National Economy organized a partnership conference on the 26th of March 2013, to present the planned measures.

The consultations, undertaken by the ministries, were focused around the questions of: How do the planned measures support the realization of the national goals? What are the risks, or barriers, which could undermine the successful implementation of the measures? How can the results be achieved in the most efficient manner?

The main conclusions of the partnership process regarding to the thematic objectives are the following:

With regards to the **competiveness objective**, the e-government measures were discussed with the National Council for Telecommunications and Informatics. A survey about the electronically available administrative processes needed to establish e-enterprises, an entrepreneurs' web portal and an administrative interface is currently carried out, engaging the major administrative authorities. The identification of those information obligations, which sum up to 90% of the administrative burden is also in progress. The regulatory framework, which needed to establish the interoperability of the governmental databases, is also being prepared.

With regards to the **modernization of the public administration**, the template for action has been sent out to the partners for consultation about the development of new career models for Civil Servants. The consultation of the Corruption Prevention Programme of the Public Administration was carried out via the internet, the received proposals will be considered during the legislative process.

In connection with **employment** policies, there have been public consultations about the development of the new vocational training system, the improvement of women's labour market activity and the promotion of the reconciliation of work and family among others. There have been open public consultations about the measures of the Social Renewal Operational Programme (e.g.

about the programmes supporting young people to enter the labour market, as the traineeship programmes, NGO-based programmes and transit employment).

On the field of **research and development and innovation**, there is a constant development of an incentive scheme for the measures based on comprehensive and combined both direct and indirect tools. Additionally, the development of the Hungarian smart specialization strategy is in progress. The measures' public consultation will be done during the administrative consultation of the related proposals.

With regards to **climate policy**, the National Climate Change Strategy will be reviewed in 2013, for which the line ministry will try to reach as many potential data and information administrators as possible.

In **education**, the public consultation on the streamlining of the education structure of state-owned higher education institutions was within the framework of the Higher Education Roundtable, during which participants have agreed to review the national course structure and to develop proposals in a few months' time on their restructuring. The concerned NGOs were involved in the administrative consultation of the Public Education Bridge programmes which provides assistance for pupils who are performing poorly. The NGOs in their remarks about the Bridge programmes agreed with their concept, regulation content and implementation.

With regards to **decreasing poverty** and **social inclusion**, an extensive consultation process was carried out during the development of programmes financed from EU funds. Consultations with partners were included in the administrative consultation of programmes financed from national funds.

On 26 March 2013, the Ministry for National Economy organised a **partnership conference** to introduce the measures. Around 100 social and expert groups had been invited for the conference. During the conference, the Minister of State for National Economy and the Deputy State Secretary for Competitiveness, who are responsible for the national coordination of the Europe 2020 strategy, have introduced the process of the European Semester and the structure of the NRP, its development process and its connection to the EU2020 strategy and to the country specific recommendations. The line ministries responsible for the five main goals of the NRP have elaborated in three blocks on the implementation of the measures presented in last year's NRP and on the proposed measures in the NRP of 2013. The measures on education were elaborated in the first block, on employment and poverty in the second block and on competitiveness, economic growth, increasing research and development financing and on increasing energy efficiency in the third block.

The participants had the possibility during the conference and after it electronically to raise questions and to formulate proposals. Remarks were received primarily on measures on employment and poverty, among others, from Roma organization included in the public work scheme, church organisation and chamber of commerce.