

CEFET'S POLICY REGISTER

- **A stable functioning definition of “Exclusion” and/or “Hard to Reach”, which probably requires prior conceptual clarity.**

The Sector, especially the Grassroots, feel that exclusion is often compounded by shifting definitions and shifting programmes which sometimes leave successful local actions stranded. (Established through GRN positions, L-Power Research, Catalyst & TIGER Local Social Capital Action involving nearly 8,000 excluded people, Successive Conferences by CEFET, EAPN & TSEN)

- **The inclusion in the ESF Framework of allocations and specific methodologies – founded on self-activity – to deal with help for Excluded people**
- **A full partnership approach to developing ESF planning tools, for example the Regional Framework**

The Sector still seeks closure on the debacle of the first ESF Framework, which it has never signed off. (CEFET had two 80-strong conferences, 5 sub regional events with over 100 participants, and consulted Grass Roots Groups to scope and plan a single coherent sector position for the 2007 ESF Framework. It was traduced down to a single misrepresentation in the Consultation analysis. Recent work with LSC tender respondents and Grassroots Network groups show the issues – both of the process and the loss of expertise – are still burning)

- **Strategic input by the sector into shaping and specifying tenders by CFOs**
- **A full partnership debate on factors in the procurement process that compromise access by those best placed to deliver.**
- **In particular a method, other than forming larger partnerships or “corporate-ising” their offer as a *delivery body*, which preserves their independence and general involvement in the community,**

The sector clearly feels that solving the problem of access by forming bigger organisations or consortia is unfair in practice; and actually defeats the USP of smaller local bodies – i.e. that they are imbedded in the communities they serve. (Source LSC tender respondent Survey July/Aug 2008, with response rate of 53% of entire population [not a sample]). Calls to participate in shaping “smarter tendering” have been registered at National level.)

- **Identification of a mechanism for the programme to resolve its difficulties in meeting its Operational Programme commitment to ensure that the Third Sector can access TA.**

Why is it that NGO TA is the only part of the Programme for which “external” Match has to be identified? This severely limits the scope of strategic Third Sector bodies to participate in the life of the Programme and be able to speak for the Programme in assisting access to it. The sector believes – and various ESFD officials have conceded – that this is a problem for the Programme NOT for the NGOs! TSEN work since 2006 supports this including a study report by KBM Partnership.

- **Longer term, “progress path”, planning that allows relatively small self-activity projects to link and make sustained contributions to Inclusion.**

Basis: The – unanimous – call from the first Regional Grassroots Network meeting is the need for an integrated, long term, agreed strategy to combat poverty and exclusion. One that focuses on Exclusion itself and does not substitute demographic categories or single solution models for a strategising method of engagement that works.