

# DEEPENING *UNIVERSITY COOPERATION*

## *OSIJEK – PÉCS*

# *DUNICOP*



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**Hungary-Croatia**  
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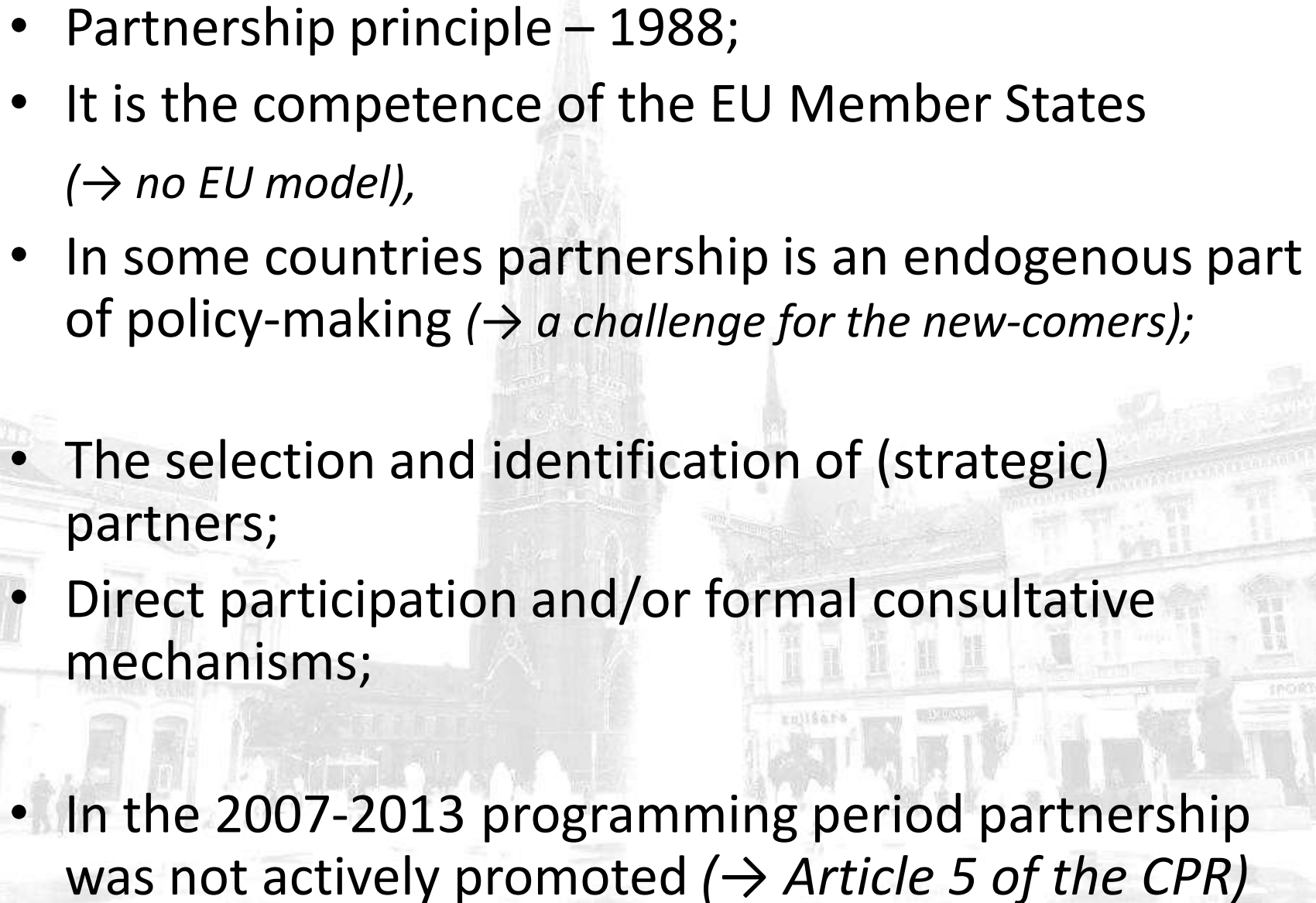
# The conditions of active and effective NGO participation in regional development policy

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# The importance of partnership

- Partnership is a horizontal principle of EU cohesion and regional development policy;
- Multi-level (good) governance is essential to achieve sustainability;
- The objectives of the EU cannot be reached without effective partnership (→ *EU 2020*);
- Involvement of all (public and private) partners and stakeholders;
- The acknowledgement is common across all MSs;
- There are wide differences across the MSs on the application

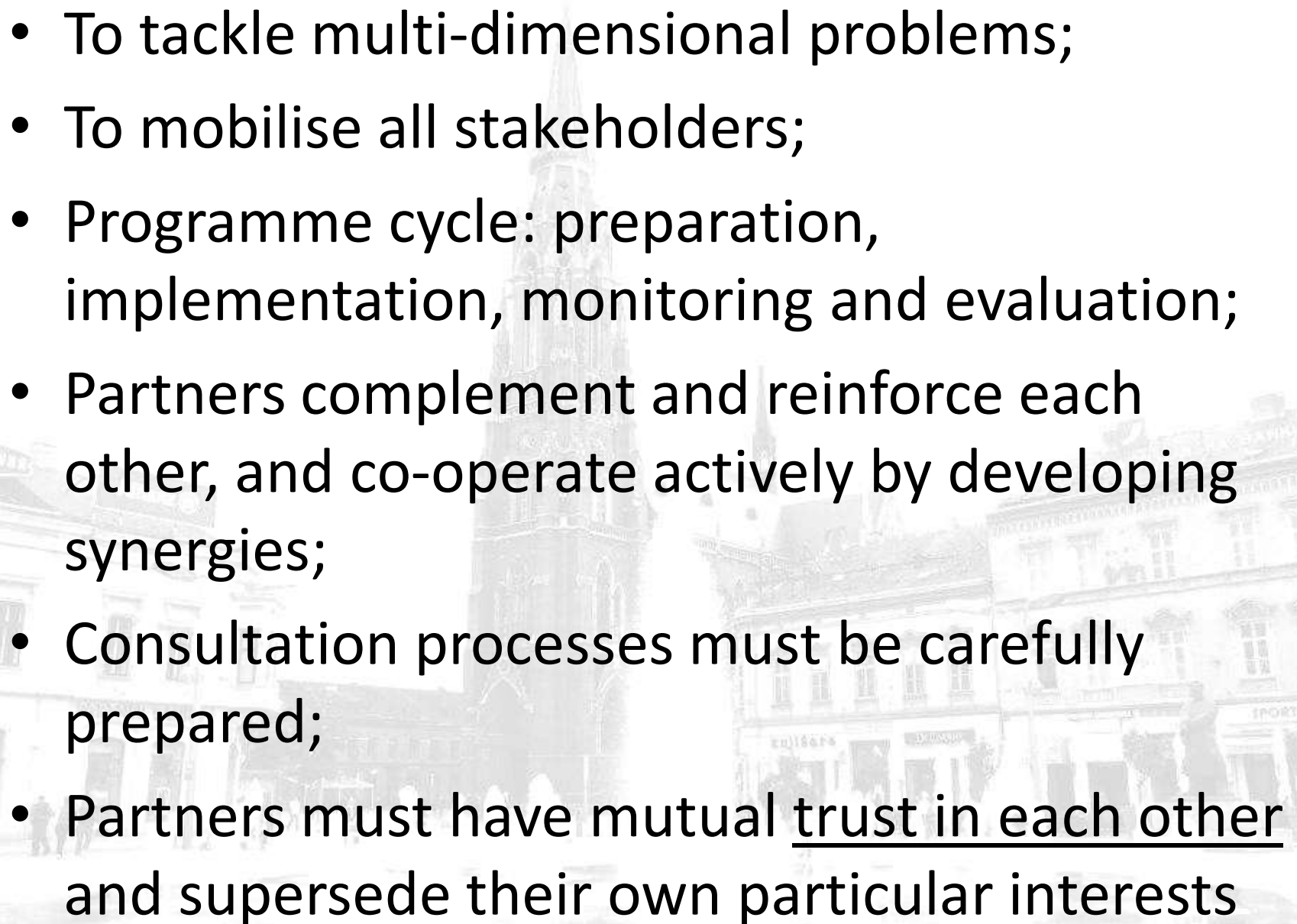
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- Partnership principle – 1988;
  - It is the competence of the EU Member States  
(→ *no EU model*),
  - In some countries partnership is an endogenous part of policy-making (→ *a challenge for the new-comers*);
  - The selection and identification of (strategic) partners;
  - Direct participation and/or formal consultative mechanisms;
  - In the 2007-2013 programming period partnership was not actively promoted (→ *Article 5 of the CPR*)

# Actors

- EU institutions and bodies,
- National parliaments and governments,
- Public authorities and agencies,
- Official consultative structures,
- Academia (universities), research institutes and clusters,
- SMEs, business networks,
- Mass-media,
- Social partners,
- Non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

# Art. 5 CPR

- MSs shall organise a partnership with the following partners:
  - competent regional, local, urban and other public authorities, representatives of universities, educational facilities, research centres, and other national public bodies;
  - economic and social partners (in particular general cross-industry organisations and sectoral organisations, national chambers of commerce and business associations, and equivalent bodies organised at national/regional level);
  - **bodies representing civil society** (including environmental partners, NGOs, and bodies responsible for promoting social inclusion, gender equality and non-discrimination).

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- To tackle multi-dimensional problems;
  - To mobilise all stakeholders;
  - Programme cycle: preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation;
  - Partners complement and reinforce each other, and co-operate actively by developing synergies;
  - Consultation processes must be carefully prepared;
  - Partners must have mutual trust in each other and supersede their own particular interests

- Contribution to the preparation of the Partnership Contract through active participation in the consultation process;
- Contribution to the drafting of the OPs (→ *cooperation with the designated bodies for drawing up the OPs*);
- Participation in the monitoring committees for programmes (→ *alone insufficient*),
- Timely disclosure and easy access to adequate information;
- Sufficient time to analyse and comment on key preparatory or draft documents;
- Availability of channels for partners (→ *through which they ask questions, provide contributions and receive feedbacks*);
- Dissemination of the outcome of the consultation process

- Responsibilities and functions of the partners should be fixed
- **CSOs – NGOs**: many different classifications are in use;
- A wide array of non-governmental and not-for-profit organizations;
- The diversity and autonomy of NGOs (in terms of type, size, activities, role, etc.)
- Who are „the most representative” partners at national, regional and local level in the economic, social, environmental and other spheres?

# European Code of Conduct on Partnership (ECCP)

- A staff working document (SWD);
- The Commission's initiative;
- A first step to make the partnership principle effective;
- ECCP will:
  - lay down objectives and criteria for the implementation of partnership,
  - facilitate the sharing of information, experience, results and good practices among MSs;
- MSs will have a clear obligation to organise a partnership;

# Capacity-building

- Capacity building is necessary for partners in all MS to contribute substantially to the process  
→ *the enhancement of participation of partners in the preparation, implementation and monitoring of the CSF Funds at all stages;*
- Training, networking measures, strengthening the social dialogue and activities jointly undertaken by the social partners
- Allocating an appropriate amount of the CSF resources → *technical assistance but also Member State own funds should be used for this;*
- Funding available to NGOs from the EU could enhance their independence of their governments → *NGOS as beneficiaries(!)*

- Partnership can be an effective and efficient approach to tackle the problems
  - *leads to more targeted and effective use of CSF funds;*
- The absence of partnership was one of the main reasons for the reduced impact of EU Funds in 2007-2013 in several MS;
- Need for an stronger commitment of social civil society organisations (CSOs) in the time of crisis;
- Targeted programmes and enhanced capacity building should be major guidelines;
- Differences must fully be taken into account;
- Resources, time, political will and ability to adjust and compromise are needed.



*Thank you for the  
attention!*