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Funding for Consumer Organizations

Breda Kutin, 10th October 2017

Many **consumer organizations (CO) struggle for survival instead of focusing on their primary aim to serve consumers:**

- to advice, inform and help them to make informed and sustainable choices,
- to represent consumers as stakeholders in society
- to advocate for consumer policy /legislation on behalf of consumers

For many years and specially in »new member states« CO believed they are entitled to get financial support from national governments. They also **expected to get financial support from EU** funding projects. During the enlargement process a lot of support was provided by EU to consumer NGOs.

After 2007 EC stopped publishing tenders and provided financial support for national CO. CO were »victims« of economical crises in 2008 when several national government suspended or significantly reduced public funding.

There is still believe CO should receive funding from EU and from national governments.

Objective

1. CO should re-gain public funding (EU/ national) for:

Programmes (permanent activities)	National	EU
Advice/ information	+	+
Monitoring of implementation of legislation	+	+
Consumer representation at different fora	+	+

Projects	National	EU
Campaign on specific consumer topic	+	+
Research projects on specific topics	+	+
Pilot projects	+	+

- 2. Consumer organizations should set up& develop services for consumers** (paid by consumers or by business) and
for business (like training for SMEs on consumer legislation).

For further list of possible activities see Business models of consumer organizations.

- 3. Funding (contribution in kind)** from strong and well established consumer organizations by sharing know how, tests results, apps, video clips, etc to less affluent / small consumer organizations .

4. Diversification of funding sources to allow CO sustain and to grow and to enable them to keep their independence.

(contribution of BK after reading written contributions)

- Significant proportion of funding from one source , specially government or projects can be a serious treats for sustainability of consumer organizations on a long run.
- For smaller and less develop organizations it might be useful to set up an minimal funding mix for sustainable organization.
- List of potential funding sources overlap the list of potential activities of consumer organizations.

(we can talk of two sides of the same medal)

Addition to Monique points out

several important deadlines are to be taken account of :

- EP elections June 2019
- New Commission end 2019
- New multiannual financial programme in 2021

This means we need a mature document to be ready in spring 2018.

We should as well think of short term proposals for 2018 - 2020 on a project base approach.