

# Vanguard Initiative High Level Directors Meeting 7th November 2016

## Follow up notes : Key Decisions and Next steps

---

On November 7 the High Level Directors of the 30 member Regions of the Vanguard Initiative (VI) held meetings in Brussels. This High Level meeting, being the Vanguard Initiative General Assembly, aimed to pave the way towards an effective role of the VI as a policy influencer towards the EU and as an efficient cooperation partner with the European Institution, thus setting a new milestone in the progress of the Vanguard Initiative and in the collaboration with EU partners.

### **The Statutes**

According to the mandate of the last Annual Political Meeting of the VI, held on February 2016, the High Level Directors of the Vanguard Initiative Regions examined the Statutes that will establish the Vanguard Initiative No Profit Association (ASBL according to the Belgian law).

The proposed statutes have been slightly modified during the Directors meeting of the Vanguard Initiative. The new version has already been sent to the Government of Wallonia in French language, in order to proceed to have the legal check with Belgian Law. The final version of the Statutes will be sent to the Representatives of the Regions of the Vanguard Initiative by the 21<sup>st</sup> of November in French (official version) and in English (courtesy translation). Every Region is requested to give a consent on this final document by the 28<sup>th</sup> of November. This consent does not mean a formal approval by the Regional Authorities but an agreement on the content of the document. No more modifications on the text will be accepted after the legal check anyway.

### **Next steps**

Once the ASBL is officially created, an invoice (see the paragraph on pilot sustainability for the exact amount) will be sent to every current member of the informal network of the Vanguard Initiative (30 Regions). Each Region will then have the responsibility to officially join the Vanguard Initiative and to pay the 2017 invoice. As each Region has different procedures (sometimes long) to approve the adhesion to an association, a period of transition is foreseen exceptionally in 2017. Nevertheless, as a necessary condition, to be a member of the Vanguard Initiative, the 2017 invoice should be paid before December 2017. During this period of transition, every current members of the informal network of the Vanguard Initiative will have the possibility to participate as a full member in all the bodies and decision making processes of the new Vanguard Initiative ASBL.

From the 1<sup>st</sup> of December, Basque Country, Flanders and Tampere will begin the process of official registration as founding members of the ASBL in Belgium.

The first meeting of the General Assembly of the Vanguard Initiative ASBL will approve the internal rules of the association, according to the Statutes.



### **The Sustainability – Shared Funding Model**

The HLDM approved the ‘Shared Funding Model’ as proposed, in order to create a sustainable Vanguard Pilot Support.

All regions (VI member regions and regions participating without being a VI member) participating in one or more Vanguard Initiative Pilot Projects will pay a unique ‘Pilot participation fee’ for their Pilot participation.

The budget needed for the support of all current 5 Pilot Projects (320.000 EUR) will be divided by the total number of participating regions, in order to calculate the level of the ‘Pilot participation fee’. The regions that have not yet explicitly shared their position on being part of the Shared Funding Model will have the time to do so till 21st of November 2016, so the HLDM decided. The 4 VI member regions in this situation and the 2 non-Member regions concerned will be informed individually about this.

The ‘Pilot participation fee’ relating to the year 2017 will not include an additional financial margin.

For VI Member regions, the resulting amount of the ‘Pilot participation fee’ will be complemented by a 1.000 EUR fee/member covering costs related to the ASBL operations. Together, the ‘Pilot participation fee’ and the ‘1.000 EUR fee’ constitute the single ‘VI Membership Fee’. This financial figure will be communicated with all regions as soon as possible after 21<sup>st</sup> of November 2016.

The invoice relating to the VI Membership Fee will be sent to all VI Member regions, once the Vanguard Initiative ASBL is up and running.

For non-Member regions participating in one or more VI Pilot Projects, the ‘Pilot Participation Fee’ will be multiplied by 1,5. The invoice will be sent once the Vanguard Initiative ASBL is up and running.

Regardless of the moment in 2017 of sending the invoice, HLDM agrees that the fee to be paid by each individual region must cover 12 months of activities. All participating regions will be asked in due time to communicate the details of the organisation appointed to make the actual financial transfer to VI ASBL. All participating regions are asked already now to take all necessary steps to assure their budgets are or will be able to cover the fee to be paid.

### **“Shaping Future EU policies for growth and Investment” – VI Position Paper on post 2020 vision**

Vanguard Initiative position paper following the Directors meeting has been approved. It will now be diffused through the Vanguard Initiative website, sent to the European Commission, and to the MEPs invited to our 8th November meeting.

Members of the VI Network are encouraged to spread it and use it as basis for future interventions in the Vanguard framework.

