



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

IPA Cross-Border Cooperation component

—

Structures and programmes

Anne-Marie Maskay, DG Enlargement
Zagreb, 23 March 2007



Ownership and responsibility of the Beneficiary

- IPA: increased ownership by and responsibility of the beneficiary country
- As a consequence, decentralised management shall apply wherever possible...
- ...with the ultimate objective of decentralised management without ex ante controls by the Commission



Ownership under the CBC Component

- CBC programmes drawn by participating countries
- Management and implementation by specific bodies in participating countries (including or not tendering, contracting and payments)
- Decentralised management encouraged



The CBC management bodies

National Structures:

- National IPA Co-ordinator (CBC co-ordinator)
- Operating Structures OS
- EC Delegations (+ EAR in phasing out)
- + for decentralised management: National Authorising Officer, Audit Authority, Implementing Agency (included in OS or CFCU)

Joint Structures:

- Joint Monitoring Committee
- Joint Technical Secretariat (+ possible branch offices)



National structures : Centralised Management (1)

National IPA Co-ordinator:

- Representative of the beneficiary vis-à-vis the Commission
- Responsible for co-ordinating the beneficiary's participation in the relevant CBC programmes
- May delegate this latter task to a CBC co-ordinator

Operating structures:

- Responsible for preparing, managing and implementing the part of the programme relating to the country concerned, to the exclusion of awarding grants, tendering and contracting (no Implementing Agency)
- Represented in the Joint Monitoring Committee



National structures : Centralised Management (2)

Role of the EC Delegation:

- Contracting authority: responsible for awarding grants, tendering, contracting, payments
- *Ex ante* control on call for proposals, etc.
- Participate in Joint Monitoring Committee (advisory function)



National Structures: Decentralised management (1)

NIPAC: overall coordination

Competent Accrediting Officer CAO: *issues, monitors, suspends or withdraws accreditation NAO and NF*

National Authorising Officer NAO: head of the National fund and responsible for the overall management and control system (accreditation of operating structures, financial corrections, annual statement of assurance....)

National Fund NF: payment tasks

Audit Authority AA: verifies effective and sound functioning of the management and control systems (annual opinions)



National Structures: Decentralised management (2)

Operating Structures:

- Responsible for managing and implementing the part of the programme relating to the country concerned (Art. 139 and 28 IPA IR)
- Represented in the Joint Monitoring Committee
- Include an Implementing Agency responsible for awarding grants, tendering, contracting, payments

Role of the EC Delegation:

- According to progress in decentralisation process of CC/PCC bodies, may perform ex ante control
- Participate in Joint Monitoring Committee (advisory function)



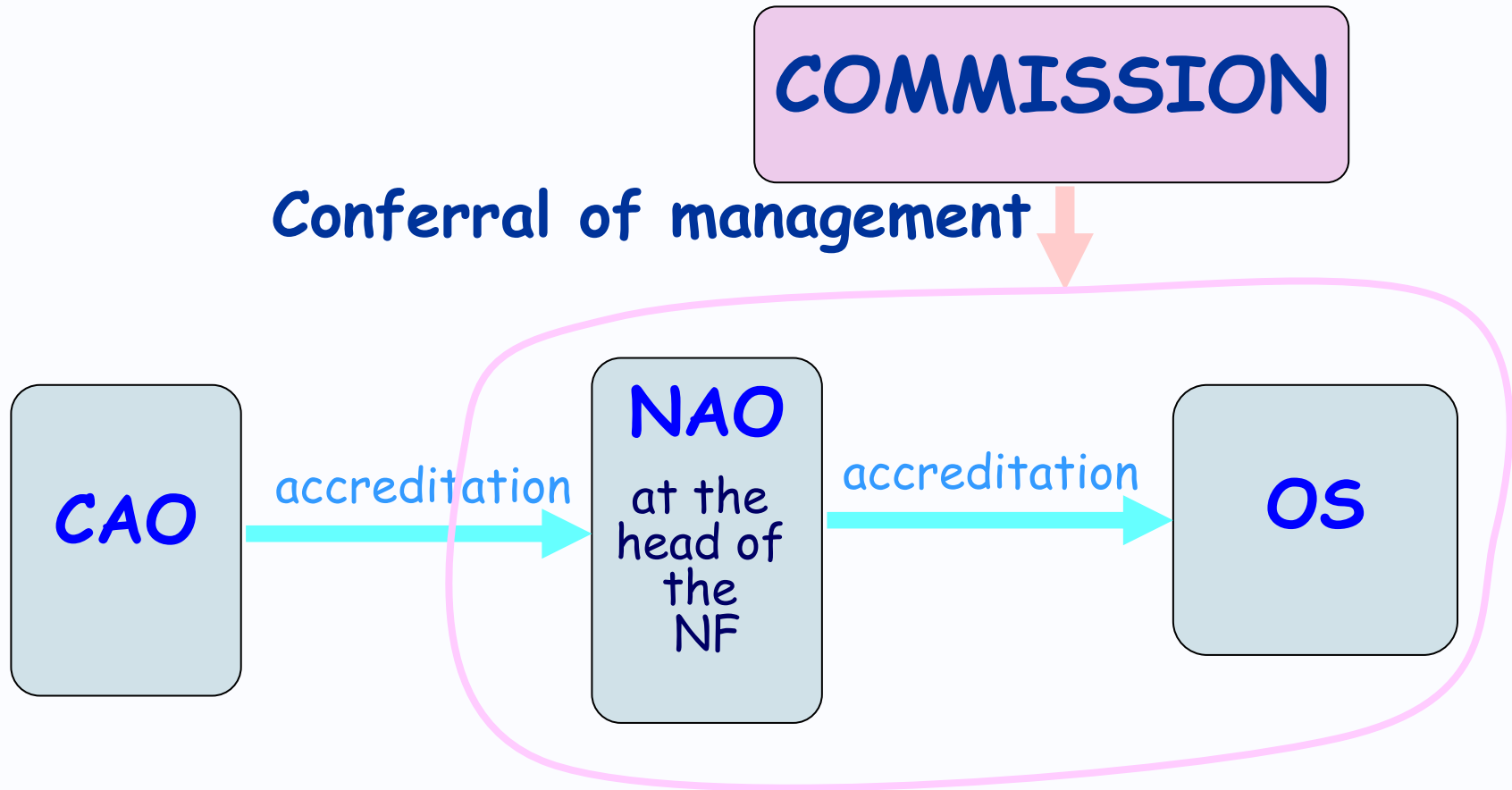
Decentralised management: Accreditation process and conferral of management powers (1)

A 3-steps process :

- Accreditation of the NAO and the NF by the CAO
- Accreditation of the OS by the NAO
- Conferral of management powers by the Commission (EC decision)



Decentralised management: Accreditation process and conferral of management powers (2)





Progressive steps towards decentralisation

- *Ex ante* controls by the EC Delegation in the beginning, then *ex post* controls only (when system operates satisfactorily): establishment of a roadmap for decentralisation
- Sensitive issues : financial management, audit and control, public procurement, staffing
- Provisional arrangements in countries where a certain degree of decentralisation already effective (HR)



Joint Structures (1)

Joint Monitoring Committee:

- Oversees the programming and implementation of the programme
- Considers and approves selection criteria
- Responsible for selecting projects - may delegate this task to a **Steering Committee**
- Examines annual reports
- Approves any proposal to amend the programme



Joint Structures (2)

Joint Technical secretariat:

- In charge of day-to-day management of the programme
- Assists the Joint Monitoring Committee and the Operating Structures in carrying out their duties
- Organises calls for projects, advises project partners, monitors project implementation



Programme preparation

- **Multi-annual cross-border programme to be jointly drawn up by authorities of participating countries**
- **Participating countries establish a Task force/Drafting team to prepare the cross-border programme**
- **CBIB project to assist beneficiary countries in this process**



Programme content

Shall Include:

- One multi-annual (2007-2010) financial table for each participating CC/PCC
- Implementing provisions shall differentiate between modalities applying to “decentralised management” countries and “centralised management” countries, as applicable



Adoption of Programmes

One financing decision per programme:

- One annual financing decision (relating to one year of the financial tables)
The cross-border programme is an integral part of the decisions.

One financing agreement per participating country:

- Annual financing agreements concluded between the Commission and each participating beneficiary country. The cross-border programme is an integral part of the financing agreement.



Conclusions

- Important to finalise structures and locations early in the programme process
- Experience shows that delays lead to late implementation of the whole programme
- Crucial to avoid politicising the exercise