

OECD LEED FORUM ON PARTNERSHIPS AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE
6th Annual Meeting
Vienna, 16 - 17 February 2010

FROM RECESSION TO RECOVERY: LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS TO REBUILD EMPLOYMENT

DRAFT AGENDA

Although the latest economic indicators suggest that a recovery may be in sight, the experience of previous economic downturns shows that it will take long before employment gets back to pre-recession levels. There is also a major risk that many of the unemployed drift into long-term unemployment and lose connection with the labour market and a large share of today's unemployment becomes structural in nature in the next years.

Rebuilding employment, ensuring progression and accessibility for all is not an easy task. Even during the period of strong economic growth and low unemployment, net wages and income have stagnated for a large proportion of the population while income inequalities have increased. In many prosperous regions firms did not see sufficient incentives to invest in and better utilise the skills available in the workforce and the quality of employment has therefore become a neglected issue in some OECD countries. Youth unemployment remained high in many countries, and if connections to the labour market or training are not established today, more young people will drift into long-term unemployment. Other vulnerable groups suffer dramatically from the recession.

While solutions are put in place to address urgent needs, new ways of working are required to create more sustainable, more productive and more equitable employment for the future. New approaches are needed to help people stay and progress in employment through greater skills utilisation. New skills are crucial to the development of a greener economy and in order to release its job creation potential. Social entrepreneurship can contribute to providing sustainable solutions to those most at risk of exclusion from the labour market.

Working in partnership is required to address these multiple challenges. Partnerships, many of which were first created to deal with social and unemployment consequences of previous economic downturns, have accumulated a considerable amount of knowledge and know-how in bringing different stakeholders together, ensuring coordination and policy adaptation to local needs. Today many partnerships are affected by the economic crisis with their funding being reduced, programmes cut and organisational structures reorganised. New ways of working must be put in place for partnerships to be able to continue to perform their roles so vital for the recovery.

The 6th Annual Meeting of the OECD LEED Forum on Partnerships and Local Governance to be held in Vienna on 16-17 February 2010 will bring together some 200 representatives of local partnerships, government officials, social entrepreneurs, business leaders, trade unions and academics to review how local development actors are adapting to this new reality and the innovations emerging on the ground to respond to these new challenges.



Day 1, Tuesday - 16 February 2010

8.30-9.15	Registration of participants and welcome coffee			
9.15-9.45	Opening			
9.45-11.00	<p>PLENARY SESSION 1: PUTTING IN PLACE JOBS THAT LAST: LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS IN THE RECOVERY</p> <p>Three presentations by renowned international experts will review the impact of the economic downturn on jobs and skills, how labour market policies address the new challenges and what needs to be done to reduce the risk of high persistent unemployment in the future. Lessons from past experience will shed light on the new ways of working required at local level to create more sustainable and more productive employment while also providing solutions to those most at risk of exclusion from the labour market. The presentations will be followed by discussion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimising the risk of high persistent unemployment during recovery and beyond: the role of labour market policies - Putting in place jobs that last: lessons from OECD experience - An inclusive recovery: tackling disadvantage in a new economic context 			
11.00-11.30	Coffee break			
Concurrent thematic workshops				
	SUPPORTING JOB CREATION	MANAGING CHANGE	ENSURING INCLUSIVENESS	THE 'ABC' of PARTNERSHIP WORKING
11.30-13.00	Anticipating new areas of growth: jobs and skills in the green sector	Local development finance: doing more with less	Social economy and social entrepreneurship – a pathway to employment	Creating a partnership: Engaging partners and creating trust
13.00-14.00 Lunch break (Buffet)				
14.00-15.30	Entrepreneurship and self-employment	Building career clusters: supporting employment retention and progression	The public sector, a source of good quality jobs for all?	Getting things done: How to ensure implementation?
16.00-17.30	Getting the young into jobs	Local economics of demographic change	Female employment: a new work/life balance?	Improving partnerships' work: Monitoring, evaluation and auditing
17.30	End of the day 1			
19.00	Dinner at a typical Viennese Heurigen (local restaurant)			

DAY 2, Wednesday - 17 February 2010

9.00-9.30	Welcome coffee
9.30-10.45	NETWORKING SESSION: LOCAL INITIATIVES FOR SKILLS, JOBS, SOCIAL INCLUSION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
	<p><i>The Annual Meeting of the Forum provides a unique networking opportunity for partnership practitioners. This session is open to all Forum members to exchange knowledge with peers and establish professional networks and contacts. A series of short interactive sessions will be organised featuring discussions around presentations of innovative initiatives and other topics of interest to partnership practitioners.</i></p> <p>Vienna Action Statement on Partnerships: Improving partnership working in a new economic context The Vienna Action Statement on Partnerships, agreed at the 3rd Annual Forum meeting in 2007, outlined the key principles and action needed from governments and partnerships themselves to improve local governance and the effectiveness of policies. This session will briefly discuss progress made in the implementation of the Action Statement and changes needed to facilitate partnership working in the new economic context.</p>
10.45-11.15	<i>Coffee-break</i>
11.15-13.00	PLENARY SESSION 2: LESSONS LEARNT AND THE WAY FORWARD
	<p>This session will review the key conclusions of the 12 thematic workshops and reflect on how partnerships and other local development actors can contribute to rebuilding employment in a new context and how governments can facilitate partnership working.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Lessons learnt from the conference on rebuilding employment and the role of local partnerships. Panel discussion
12.45-13.00	Closing remarks