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### **OECD and Italian government step up cooperation on boosting jobs and local development**

The OECD and the Italian government are stepping up cooperation to ensure effective implementation of local development strategies to boost jobs, encourage entrepreneurship and increase social inclusion.

An agreement, to be signed in Rome on 1 December 2015, will renew the mandate of the OECD Trento Centre for Local Development and establish a satellite office in Venice. The Centre will be working with national ministries and agencies responsible for delivering EU Structural Funds to increase their impact on jobs and the economy. A key aspect of the work will be the integration of disadvantaged groups. Providing an effective response to the large influx of refugees is one of the urgent tasks the Centre is currently dealing with.

Over the next five years, the OECD Trento Centre will undertake an ambitious programme to improve effectiveness in implementing government programmes and local strategies in areas such as the development of small and medium sized business and on employment and skills. Work has already started with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism to boost economic development around cultural assets.

The Centre will also help the Italian government and regional authorities benefit from practical local development lessons emerging from the experience of other OECD countries.

OECD Deputy Secretary-General Stefan Kapferer, who will be signing the agreement with Benedetto Della Vedova, Italy's Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, said:

“Ensuring effective implementation is key if we want policies to have a real impact on jobs and the economy. This is especially important at the local level where policies are implemented. A cross-cutting approach is needed, but is often a challenge to put into practice. This is where the OECD's broad range of policy analysis and advice can play a crucial role.”

The Trento Centre for Local Development was created in 2003 with the support of the Autonomous Province of Trento. Other partners are now joining the project: the Autonomous Region of Trentino Alto Adige Sudtirol, the Autonomous Province of Bolzano Bozen, the Chamber of Commerce of Udine and the Foundation of Venice. The new office in Venice will participate in the organisation of these activities which will bring together international expertise.

The Trento Centre and its Venice Office are part of the OECD Programme on Local Economic and Employment Development (LEED). Since 1982, the LEED Programme advises government and communities on how to respond to economic change and tackle complex problems in a fast-changing world. Its mission is to contribute to the creation of more and better quality jobs through effective policy implementation, innovative practices, stronger capacities and integrated strategies at the local level. LEED draws on a comparative analysis of experience from the five continents in fostering economic growth, employment and inclusion.

Further information about the OECD's LEED programme can be found [here](#), and about the Trento Centre, [here](#). For further information, please contact Sylvain Giguère ([sylvain.giguere@oecd.org](mailto:sylvain.giguere@oecd.org)), Head of the OECD LEED Programme.