Throughout OECD countries, partnerships are being set up as government, business and civil society join forces to promote economic development and solve social and employment problems more effectively. Often supported (and sometimes initiated) by the government, these partnerships seek to co-ordinate policies and actions, adjust national policies to local conditions, and involve representatives of all sectors of society in shaping measures and projects. Some countries have a particularly long experience of implementing partnerships in different fields, including: Ireland (social inclusion), Canada (economic development), Austria (employment), United Kingdom (urban regeneration), to name but a few. New EU member states and accession countries are fast developing their own partnership models in response to EU encouragement and learning from the experiences of other member states.

Building partnerships is a difficult exercise. Effective partnerships can influence the way policies and programmes are implemented in their region, and challenge and alter projects led by business and the non-profit sector. Where partnerships raise ideas and concerns that are based on a shared vision and strategy, they are not easily dismissed. Yet to achieve such a solid strategic and analytical approach, significant organisational effort is required. Partnerships must build a critical mass through ensuring the commitment of the main public services and government agencies concerned; a strong participation from business; and an unchallenged representation from civil society. Public accountability and transparency must be exemplary, and performance monitored and properly assessed.

The best partnerships are strong on both the substantive and organisational aspects of their work. These aspects will be the main themes of the capacity building seminar on partnerships in Central and Eastern Europe, which will be held in Bucharest on 8 November. The seminar will focus on new developments in the field of partnership in Romania, whilst also providing a unique opportunity to discuss the preliminary results from the OECD LEED project on Integrating Employment, Skills and Economic Development (IESED) in Romania. The latter project seeks to identify the main determinants for the integration of policies at the local level, among which effective partnership and the development of strong local capacity to deliver are obvious candidates. Capacity building for partnerships is a central objective of both the OECD LEED Trento Centre for Local Development and the OECD LEED Forum on Partnerships and Local Governance.
AGENDA

8:30 - 9:30  Registration

Chair: Cristina Iova, Director General, Managing Authority for HR Operational Program, Romania

9:30 - 10:00  Opening remarks

Georghe Barbu, Minister of Labour, Social Solidarity and Family of Romania
Sylvain Giguère, Deputy Head, Local Economic and Employment Development (LEED), OECD

10:00 - 11:00  Plenary session 1. Partnership and Local Governance in Romania

Moderation: Paulo Pedroso, Team Leader of TA to MLSSF in employment policy, former Minister of Labour of Portugal

10:00 – 10:20 OECD project on integrating employment, skills and economic development in Romania. What lessons for partnerships and local capacity building in Romania? Sorin Ionita, Romanian Academic Society

10:20 - 10:45 Discussion with input comments Ecaterina Blanuta, PIU North east region, coordinator

10:45 – 11:15  Coffee break

11:15 – 13:00  Plenary Session 2. Partnership formation in Romania: opportunities, challenges and obstacles

11:15 – 11:30 New policy developments in Romania Cristina Iova, Managing Authority for HR Operational Programme Director General

11:30 - 11:45 Presentation of the Romanian Partnership Model Maria Rauch, Expert

11:45 – 12:15 Discussion with input comments by the experts Experts: Mike Geddes and Michéal O Cinneide

12:15 – 12:30 Presentation of OECD LEED Forum on Partnerships and Local Governance Jana Machacova, Forum office at the ZSI Vienna, and Andrea-Rosalinde Hofer, Policy Analyst, OECD LEED Trento Centre for Local Development
13:30 – 17:00 Parallel Workshops A and B

All participants split in two groups (list of participants in each group to be provided by the organisers). Group 1 attends Workshop A from 13:30 to 15:00 and Workshop B from 15:30 to 17:00. Group 2 attends Workshops B from 13:30 to 15:00 and Workshop A from 15:30 to 17:00.

Each Workshop starts with an introductory presentation by an international expert (20 mn). This is followed by a brief presentation of two case studies prepared by practitioners (10 mn), highlighting achievements and limits. The discussion will involve the presentation of an international case study.

13:30 – 15:00 Workshop A. The organisational challenges of partnerships. Ensuring the commitment of public services and government agencies; acquiring support from business; facilitating the transparent representation of civil society; communication; public accountability; performance management; evaluation; managing collaboration and conflict.

Chairperson: Cândida Soares, General Director of Studies, Employment Policies and Statistic, Portugal

Expert: Mike Geddes, Warwick Business School

Romanian case study: Craiova Regional Pact

Paul Rinderu, Expert facilitator of the Pact

Foreign case study: Halifax partnership

Fred Morley, Vice-President

15:00 - 15:30 Coffee Break
15:30 – 16:30  **Workshop A. The organisational challenges of partnerships**

Chairperson: Cândida Soares, General Director of Studies, Employment Policies and Statistic, Portugal

Expert: Mike Geddes

Romanian case study: Bistrica County Partnership

Valentin Vladu, Expert facilitator of the Pact

**Workshop B. Strategic planning and implementation**

Chairperson: Nicolae Olaru, Subprefect of Bacau (North East region pact)

Expert: Michéal O Cinneide

Romanian case study: County Based Partnership of Vaslui

Silviu Calanca and Iulia Crocis, Coordinators of the Partnerships and Directors of the County Employment Agency

16:30 - 17:15  **Plenary Session 3: Lessons for Romanian partnerships: the way forward and the aspects to improve**

16:30 – 16:50  Panel discussion  Two rapporteurs (TBC)

16:50 – 17:15  General discussion

17:15 – 17:30  **Closing remarks**  Romanian government OECD
General information

Participants
150 participants from Romania and other countries from Central and Eastern European countries. Representatives of the following groups will be participating in the conference:

- partnership managers;
- government departments in economic and employment/social policy fields, regional governments and municipalities;
- non-governmental organisations (NGOs), community-based organisations and other organisations of civil society;
- private enterprises and trade unions;
- researchers and experts.

Languages
Romanian and English.

Date and location
Hotel Intercontinental, Sector 1 - Bucharest
8th November 2006 from 9:30 to 18:00.

To register please contact:
Daniela Nedelcu or Adela Dorobanțu,
Managing Authority for Sectoral Operational Programme Human Resources Development, Ministry of Labour, Social Solidarity and Family, Romania,
46-48, Calea Plevnei, Sector 6, Bucharest
Tel: +40 21 315 02 08,
fax +40 21 315 02 05
E-mail: buildingpartnership06@mmssf.ro.

For further information please contact:
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OECD LEED Trento Centre for Local Development
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Tel: +39 0461 277 616
andrea-rosalinde.hofer@oecd.org

Organizational information

During the seminar 2 coffee breaks and lunch shall be provided by the organizers to all participants.
**Accommodation:**

The cost of the accommodation shall be covered by the participants.

**Hotel Intercontinental 5* (Conference Venue)**
Room rates: single 150 Euro, double: 165 Euro  
(breakfast included, excluded VAT (9%) and city taxes (3%))
To book, please indicate your choice in the registration form

**Other hotels in the area**

**Hotel Ambasador***
8-10 Magheru Blvd., Sector 1, Bucharest
Phone: +40-21-315.90.80  
+40-21-315.90.84  
Fax: +40-21-312.35.95  
E-mail: hotel@ambasador.ro  
http://www.ambasador.ro  
Room rates: Single: 78 EUR, Double: 90 EUR

**Hotel Capitol***
Calea Victoriei, 29, Bucuresti, Romania  
E-mail: office@tourneo.ro  
Tel: +4021 411 66 90  
Room rates: Single: 70 EUR, Double: 95 EUR

**Hotel Lido****
Bulevardul Magheru nr.5-7 Bucuresti, Romania  
E-mail: office@tourneo.ro  
Tel: +4021 411 66 90  
Room rates: Single: 90 EUR, Double: 100 EUR

**Hotel Majestic ****
Bucharest, Romania-11, Academiei Street  
Tel.  +4021 411 66 90  
Fax.  +4021 411 66 48  
E-mail: office@tourneo.ro  
Room rates: Single - 150 EUR, Double - 185 EUR

**CAPSA HOTEL*****
Address: Bucharest - 36 Victoriei Street  
Tel: +40 21 313 40 38  
Web address: www.capsa.ro  
Reservations: office@capsa.ro  
Room rates: Single de luxe - 175 EUR, Double - 200 EUR

**Howard Johnson Grand Plaza Hotel *****
5-7 Calea Dorobantilor, District 1, Bucharest  
Tel: +4021 201 5000  
Fax: +4021 201 1888  
E-mail: sales@hojoplaza.ro  
Web address: www.hojoplaza.ro  
Room rates: single 150 Euro, double: 168 Euro
Transfer from the airport

Taxi
The taxi cars bringing customers to the airport have free access in front of the International Departures Terminal and Domestic Flights Terminal.

FLY taxi cars are available in front of the International Arrivals Terminal.
FLY Taxi phone: 9440

Tariff: 20.000 ROL/2 RON/km (total amount 300.000 ROL/30 RON. cca 10 Euro)

Public Transport - BUS
783 Express Line
The 783 Express line connects Bucharest Henri Coanda International Airport with the city center (about 60 minutes) (in front of the hotel Intercontinental)

Airport stops
In front of the Domestic Flights Terminal and International Departures Terminal

Schedule
Monday-Friday
05:30-20:00 (every 15 minutes)
20:30-23:00 (every 30 minute)

Saturday, Sunday and legal holidays
05:30-23:00 (every 30 minute)

Card desk
In front of the Domestic Flights Terminal
Schedule
Daily: 06:00-21:00

The magnetic card valid for two travels costs 50.000 ROL / 5 RON (1.5 Euro) * The price recommended may be modified.

Route:
- Bucharest Henri Coanda International Airport
  - Domestic Flights Terminal
  - International Departures Terminal
- Otopeni
- "Aurel Vlaicu" Baneasa Airport
- Piata Presei Libere
- Arcul de Triumf
- Piata Victoriei
- Piata Romana
- Piata Universitatii – opposite side of the Intercontinental Hotel