



4th Annual Forum Meeting

Partnerships for Skills and Competitiveness

18 – 19 February 2008, Vienna, Austria

Monday - 18 February 2008

12.30 – 13.30 Registration of participants (Welcome coffee)

OPENING SESSION

Chair: Sylvain Giguère, Deputy Head of the OECD LEED Programme and Manager of the Forum

13.30 - 14.00

Opening Remarks

Michael Förchner, Chair of the Forum, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Labour, Austria
Sergio Arzeni, Director for Entrepreneurship, SMEs and Local Development and Head of the LEED Programme, OECD
Robert Strauss, Head of Unit, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, European Commission

14:00– 15.30

Skills and Competitiveness: Key Issues - Plenary Session

Local labour markets have particular skills needs, and local stakeholders are increasingly developing specific local skills strategies to address them. However preparing a skills strategy can be difficult. A large number of different policy areas touch on the skills agenda: education, vocational training, employment, entrepreneurship, regional development, and community development. Harnessing the buy-in of policy makers in these areas, achieving agreement on clear targets and following this through to concrete implementation can be a significant challenge. To plan ahead, policy makers need to make an informed guess as to potential growth areas at the local level which will provide employment opportunities for tomorrow's generation of school and college leavers. However, trusted information on even current skills demand can be difficult to come by and even more difficult to maintain up-to-date. Strategies have to plan for the fact that skills may be both gained and lost through migration. Strategic efforts to improve local skills are increasingly focusing on three particular issues: attracting and retaining talent, upgrading the skills of the current labour force and integrating hard to reach groups into the skills development system. Based on the preliminary findings of the LEED Programme study on Local Skills Strategies, this session will introduce the key issues for the Forum meeting.

Panelists:

- *Francesca Froy, Policy Analyst, OECD LEED Programme*
- *Mike Campbell, Director of Policy & Research, Sector Skills Development Agency, UK*
- *Mark Troppe, Manager, Strategic Partnerships, NIST Manufacturing Extension Partnership, U.S.A*

15.30 – 16.00 Coffee break

Afternoon

	16:00 – 18.00	<p>Partnerships for Skills and Competitiveness: The Practice</p> <p>Chair: Michael Förschner, Chair of the Forum, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Labour, Austria</p> <p>Lessons from partnerships' experience in contributing to skills development in their area will be presented. This will be followed by a general discussion among Forum members.</p> <p>Partnerships for Skills in Booming, Shrinking and Global Cities: the Case of Australia by Cristina Martinez-Fernandez, Associate Professor, Urban Research Centre, University of Western Sydney, Australia.</p> <p>Measuring and Addressing Skills Needs in a Rapidly Changing Local Economy: Airport Berlin-Schönefeld by Lutz Franzke, Director, Technology Incubation Centre Wildau PLC, Germany.</p> <p>Building Capacities in Rural Canada: the Model of "Rural University" Partnership by Esther Côté, Rural Secretariat, Government of Canada and Hélène Deslauriers, Community Future Québec (Canada).</p> <p>Developing Competencies for the Labour Market (Moravian-Silesian Region) by Zdeněk Karásek, Director, RPIC-ViP Ltd., Czech Republic.</p> <p>Comment by Roland Schneider, Policy Advisor, Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD</p>
18.00 End of first Day		

Tuesday - 19 February 2008		
8.30 – 9:00 Welcome coffee		
INTERACTIVE PARALLEL WORKING SESSIONS		
Morning	9.00 – 10.30	<p>Working groups 1A: Measuring skills needs</p> <p>Local strategies need to be based on reliable information as to current and future skills demand. Which tools can be used to analyse and forecast the skills needs? How to transfer the findings into skills strategies?</p> <p>Presenting partnerships: Employment Pact GENERATION GOLD, East-Westphalia/Lippe (Germany) and Liverpool First (United Kingdom)</p> <p>Moderator: Anette Scoppetta, ZSI (Austria) Expert: Mike Campbell, Sector Skills Development Agency (UK) Rapporteur: Declan Brassil, Galway City Partnership (Ireland)</p>
		<p>Working group 2A: Upgrading the skills of the current labour force</p> <p>How to move from low skill equilibrium to high skills and high wages? How to ensure workforce development matches the future needs of the local economy? What kind of generic skills are needed for sustainable community development?</p> <p>Presenting partnerships: Tallaght Partnership (Ireland) and RESOC Leuven (Belgium)</p> <p>Moderator: Jana Machacova, ZSI (Austria) Expert: Mark Troppe, NIST Manufacturing Extension Partnership (U.S.A) Rapporteur: Reiner Aster, gsub – Social Business Consulting (Germany)</p>

		<p>Working group 3A: Dealing with loss of skills in rural areas</p> <p>How to diversify rural labour markets? Investing in new skills and retaining qualified workers. How to adapt educational and vocational training services' provision to the specific needs and conditions of rural labour markets?</p> <p>Presenting partnerships: Gaining Work, Learning and Advice in Rural Areas - GWLAD Partnership (United Kingdom) and Daugavpils District Partnership (Latvia)</p> <p>Moderator: Ekaterina Travkina, OECD LEED Expert: Anna Orologa, Employment Observatory Research – Informatics S.A. (Greece) Rapporteur: Andrej Zybala, Centre for Social Partnership Dialogue (Poland)</p>
		<p>Working group 4A: Skills strategies in cities</p> <p>Skills demand structure and skills polarisation in cities. Attracting and retaining highly skilled labour. How to promote upward mobility for the “working poor”? How to integrate disadvantaged communities in cities.</p> <p>Presenting partnerships: Territorial Employment Pact Vienna (Austria) and Barcelona Activa (Spain)</p> <p>Moderator: Robert Strauss, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, EC Expert: Cristina Martinez-Fernandez, University of Western Sydney (Australia) Rapporteur: Maria João Filgueiras-Rauch, City of Munich (Germany)</p>
		<p>Working group 5A: The local management of skilled migration</p> <p>What are the obstacles experienced by skilled migrants entering new labour markets? How can inter-regional co-operation (between local employment services, training institutions, employers and the diaspora) help better manage migration, offset the loss of skills in sending countries and ensure good quality employment for temporary/seasonal workers? Opportunities for “sending” regions to facilitate the return of migrants. Training in the sending countries.</p> <p>Presenting partnerships: Veneto Lavoro (Italy) and Avondhu Development Group (Ireland)</p> <p>Moderator: Doris Ballwein, Federal Ministry for Economic and Labour (Austria) Expert: Francesca Froy, OECD LEED Rapporteur: Bart Roelandt, Flemish Employment and Vocational Training Service (Belgium)</p>
<p>10.30 – 11.00 <i>Coffee break</i></p>		
<p>11.00 – 12.30</p>		<p>Working groups 1B: Measuring skills needs</p> <p>Local strategies need to be based on reliable information as to current and future skills demand. Which tools can be used to analyse and forecast the skills needs? How to transfer the findings into skills strategies?</p> <p>Presenting partnerships: Employment Pact GENERATION GOLD, East-Westphalia/Lippe (Germany) and Liverpool First (United Kingdom)</p> <p>Moderator: Marion Byrne, Pobal (Ireland) Expert: Mike Campbell, Sector Skills Development Agency (UK) Rapporteur: Declan Brassil, Galway City Partnership (Ireland)</p>
		<p>Working group 2B: Upgrading the skills of the current labour force</p> <p>How to move from low skill equilibrium to high skills and high wages? How to ensure workforce development matches the future needs of the local economy? What kind of generic skills are needed for sustainable community development?</p> <p>Presenting partnerships: Tallaght Partnership (Ireland) and RESOC Leuven (Belgium)</p> <p>Moderator: H�el�ene Deslauriers, Community Future Qu�ebec (Canada) Expert: Mark Troppe, NIST Manufacturing Extension Partnership (U.S.A) Rapporteur: Reiner Aster, gsub – Social Business Consulting (Germany)</p>

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		<p>Working group 5B: The local management of skilled migration</p> <p>How can inter-regional co-operation (between local employment services, training institutions and employers) help promote good quality employment for temporary/seasonal workers? The role of diasporas. Opportunities for “sending” regions to facilitate the return of migrants.</p> <p>Presenting partnerships: Veneto Lavoro (Italy) and Avondhu Development Group (Ireland)</p> <p>Moderator: Roland Schneider, Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD Expert: Francesca Froy, OECD LEED Rapporteur: Bart Roelandt, Flemish Employment and Vocational Training Service (Belgium)</p>
12.30 - 14.00 <i>Lunch break</i>		
	<p>PLENARY SESSION</p> <p>HOW TO DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT AN INTEGRATED SKILLS STRATEGY: THE ROLE OF PARTNERSHIPS IN SKILLS DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>Chair: <i>Sylvain Giguère, Deputy Head of the OECD LEED Programme and Manager of the Forum</i></p>	
Afternoon	14.00 - 16.30	<p>This session will present and discuss the main findings from the working groups (the results will be presented by rapporteurs). This will flow into a discussion on the role of partnerships in designing and implementing skills development strategies: what are the lessons to be learnt to improve policies and practice?</p> <p>Assistance will be provided throughout the discussion by the Forum experts, who will comment on the proposals put forward.</p> <p>The session will include a 15 minute coffee break.</p>
	16.30-17.00	<p>Closing remarks</p> <p><i>Robert Strauss, Head of Unit, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, EC Michael Förchner, Chair of the Forum, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Labour, Austria Sylvain Giguère, Deputy Head of the OECD LEED Programme and Manager of the Forum</i></p>
17.00 <i>End of Conference</i>		