



Ministry of Regional Development and Local Government

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND EVALUATION FOR REGIONAL AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT IN LATVIA

FINAL SEMINAR

17th of June, 2008
Radisson SAS Daugava Hotel
Rīga

Background

In EU new member states, recent devolution and decentralisation trends highlight the need to strengthen the capacity of cities and regions to design and deliver coherent and integrated development strategies. For countries undertaking major restructuring efforts, effective regional and local development policies and strategies are crucial to the success of wider reforms. Strong regional disparities and resulting economic and social implications can hamper or delay the implementation of reforms and sectoral policies. Rapid restructuring can exacerbate traditional regional gaps (e.g. between urban and rural regions) and create new disparities. Once prosperous heavily industrialised regions can find themselves in decline, whilst other areas rapidly advance towards “new” prosperity.

Designing a policy or regional strategy that can successfully address these challenges is not an easy task. Not only should it try to even out the regional imbalances in the transition, but also define policies and tools that tackle the different structural problems: plant closures and industrial restructuring, economic decline and conversion, social exclusion and joblessness. Whilst central governments pull the macro-economic levers, interventions at city or regional level can enhance the beneficial (or remediate the negative) impacts of the macro changes and the higher tier policies. The capacity of cities and regions to develop and implement effective development strategies becomes vital to harnessing indigenous strengths, contributing to national growth and levelling regional disparities.

This seminar will present and debate the result of work undertaken by the OECD Local Economic and Employment Development (LEED) Programme on how best to support the design, implementation and evaluation of local development strategies in Latvia. The issues raised and recommendations made will equally have important resonance in other Baltic States and countries of the Baltic Rim.

The Discussion will be based on the two interlinked projects undertaken by the OECD LEED Programme in 2007-2008 in collaboration with the Latvian Ministry of Regional Development and Local Government. The objectives were to: i) contribute to the elaboration of high quality regional and local economic development strategies in Latvia; and ii) improve the current framework of analysis of the development of territories and the impact of government policies on regional and local development in Latvia. After a series of peer review visits and consultations with national, regional and local development actors in Latvia two reports have been produced by the OECD: *Guidelines for Regional Strategic Planning in Latvia* and *A Strategic Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for Regional and Local Development in Latvia* which will be presented and debated at the international seminar to be held in Riga on 17 June.

General information

Participants

105 participants from Latvia, the other Baltic States and countries of the Baltic Rim. Representatives of the following groups will be participating in the seminar:

- Government departments in regional development, economic and employment/social policy fields;
- Regional and local authorities;
- Regional and city development agencies;
- Non-governmental organisations (NGOs), community-based organisations and other organisations of civil society;
- Academics, experts and practitioners.

Languages

Latvian and English.

Date and venue of the seminar

17 June, 2008 from 10:30 to 18:00

Radisson SAS Daugava Hotel
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To register, please send the attached registration form to:

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AGENDA

10.30 – 11.00 *Registration, Coffee*

11.00 - 11.30 **Opening session**

Zanda Kalniņa Lukaševica, Deputy State Secretary of the Ministry of Regional Development and Local Government

Ekaterina Travkina, OECD LEED project leader

Jonathan Potter, OECD Senior Economist

11.30-14.10 **Session I: National strategy for regional and local development: identifying options and translating vision into regional and local development goals**

National frameworks for regional and local development: lessons from international experience and issues to consider in Latvia

Greg Clark, Lead Advisor on City and Regional Development at the UK Department for Communities and Local Government, Chair of the OECD Forum on Forum for Development Agencies and Investment Strategies

Regional and local development model for Latvia: choices and implementation arrangements

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Panel discussion

Coffee break

A regional policy monitoring and evaluation framework for Latvia

Jonathan Potter, OECD Senior Economist

Putting the framework in place

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Panel discussion

14.10-15.10 **Lunch break**

15.10-17.40 **Session II: Regional and local development planning, financing and evaluation**

Mobilising the region

Thierry Baert, Head European Department and the Cultural Studies team, Lille Development Agency, France

Understanding the region and developing the regional economic profile

Kieron Hyams, Associate, Arup, UK

Designing a strategy and action plan

Gordon Kennedy, Deputy Chief Executive of Scottish Enterprise Glasgow, UK

Coffee break

Local and regional development finance

Greg Clark, Lead Advisor on City and Regional Development at the UK Department for Communities and Local Government, Chair of the OECD Forum on Forum for Development Agencies and Investment Strategies

Evaluating strategy results and improving performance

Petri Uusikylä, Senior Partner, Net Effect Ltd.

Development planning system in Latvia and foreseen implementation arrangements

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Panel discussion

17.40-18.00

Closing session

Summary of discussions and next steps

Ministry of Regional Development and Local Government

OECD LEED project team

From 18.00

Informal discussions