

## The Leadership Academy, UK<sup>1</sup>

### Description of the approach

The Leadership Academy is a national programme in England supporting local councillors in adapting and updating their skills and knowledge as local government is modernised. Senior councillors can opt in to the programme which provides a structured framework for learning over a period of a year or more. As the title of the programme suggests, leadership is regarded as the core competence of a senior councillor, including leadership within the context of partnership working which is a major component of the modernisation of local government. The programme mixes inputs from academics, policy makers and practitioners with sessions addressing the specific problems and issues faced by participating councillors.

### Reasons for the success of the approach

Part of the strength of the Leadership Academy is that it recognises that leadership can be a business itself. The Leadership Academy provides an environment where leaders both from the political spectrum and from other councils and parties can meet and opens up interesting room for discussion about issues that are common to them.

Developing participants' leadership style, it gives them confidence and create a support network of trusted colleagues among peers in other councils and parties.

### Website for further information

<http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pageId=1700429>

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1. Source: Mike Geddes (2007), in: "Building Effective Local Partnerships: Organisational Challenges and Strategic Orientations". OECD LEED Trento Centre Capacity Building Local Governance and Partnerships.