

CEI-LEED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK (LDN)

FIRST ASSEMBLY MEETING

**Co-organised by the OECD LEED Programme and the Central European Initiative
At the Seventh CEI Summit Economic Forum**

23 November 2004

Mediterranea hall (section 1)

**Grand Hotel Bernardin
Obala 2,
6320 Portoroz
Slovenia**

Rationale

Over the past 15 years, the countries of Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe have made considerable progress in the transition to market economies, adopting new forms of political and economic governance. At the same time, the principle of subsidiarity and economic efficiency have highlighted the need for active dialogue between national and sub-national government in promoting and identifying effective economic development strategies that can best tackle labour market issues, entrepreneurship development challenges, and social cohesion at the local level. Such trends, however, require increased capacity of local actors to design and manage locally-based initiatives for entrepreneurship, job creation and social cohesion.

The proposal of the CEI to create a network of local policy advisors to support economic development in its member countries coincides with the objectives of the OECD LEED Programme to foster local governance, entrepreneurship and social cohesion in Central and Eastern Europe through capacity building for local development, a mission for which the OECD has just established a Centre for Local Development in Trento, Italy (www.Trento.oecd.org).

The Local Development Network (LDN) pursues the following objectives:

- *Identify and address capacity building* needs and activities in support of entrepreneurship and SMEs, local economic development, local governance, job creation, and social cohesion in the target countries;
- *Assess current practices* in the design, implementation and evaluation of policy instruments employed by national and sub-national authorities;
- *Share the knowledge base* of the OECD LEED Programme and contribute to best practice exchange amongst local development professionals in the target region.

The LDN is hosted by the OECD LEED Centre for Local Development based in Trento. The Trento Centre acts as a permanent contact point for the LDN, facilitates the dialogue between LDN members, the CEI and the OECD, and contributes to the LDN by organising seminars, trainings and the exchange of experience.

The objective of the first LDN Assembly meeting is to:

- Establish a strategy for building the Network and define the profile of participants and institutions;
- Define the possibilities of synergies between the Trento Centre activities in the target countries and CEI and Business Advisory Services (BAS) activities;
- Identify capacity building priorities for local development.

AGENDA

13:30 ***Opening and introduction***

by Sergio Arzeni, Head of the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs and Local Development and Head of the OECD LEED Programme, and

Ambassador Harald Kreid, Director General, CEI Executive Secretariat

THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK (LDN): FRAMEWORK OF THE INITIATIVE, ITS MISSION, PARTNERS AND OBJECTIVES

Chair: Vincenzo Calogero, Head of the Secretariat for CEI Projects at the EBRD

13.45-14.30 ***Presentation of CEI structures and activities in support of SMEs***
Leonardo Baroncelli, Deputy Director General, Central European Initiative

Presentation of Business Advisory Services Programme
Christopher Rudd, Regional Director, Business Advisory Services Programme, EBRD

The role of the OECD LEED Trento Centre for Local Development
Paola Babos, Administrator, OECD LEED Programme

Local Development Network: mission and objectives
Michael Foerschner, Chairman, OECD LEED Forum on Partnerships and Local Governance

14.30-15.15 ***Discussion of the LDN mission and objectives, strategy for building the Network, information sharing and the profile of participants and institutions***

15.15-15.45 ***Coffee break***

BUILDING LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CAPACITIES IN CEI COUNTRIES: Challenges and opportunities for the Local Development Network

This session will present experiences from Romania, Slovenia, Croatia and Albania on in the field of entrepreneurship, local development, local governance, job creation and social innovation. The presentations are aimed at fostering a discussion on capacity building priorities in the field of entrepreneurship, local governance and social innovation at the local level.

Chair: Ekaterina Travkina, Consultant, OECD LEED Programme

15.45-16.15

LOCAL GOVERNANCE

Building local partnerships in Albania

Mimi Khodeli, Deputy Mayor of Tirana

Presentation of the Forum on Partnerships and Local Governance

Michael Foerschner, OECD LEED Forum on Partnerships and Local Governance

16.15-17.00

ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

Prospects of SME clusters' development in Romania

Dragos Pislaru, Executive Director of the Group of Applied Economics (GEA), Romania

Women entrepreneurship and social innovation

Marta Turk, President of the National Association of Entrepreneurs of Slovenia

The European Day of the Entrepreneur: main outcomes and policy recommendations of the Zagreb meeting

Katarina Jagic, President, UMIS-SMEA, Croatia

17.00-18.00

DISCUSSION ON IDENTIFYING CAPACITY BUILDING PRIORITIES FOR LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

18.00-18.30

Next steps and closing remarks

Sergio Arzeni, Head of the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs and Local Development and Head of the OECD LEED Programme, and

Vincenzo Calogero, Head of the Secretariat for CEI Projects at the EBRD