

FORUM E-Bulletin 01/07

Capacity Building Activities

Local partnerships aim to become vehicles for local development which integrate the strategies and actions of different local development stakeholders, increasing both their effectiveness and efficiency in policy delivery and their active participation in the policy-making process.

Accomplishing and managing a steadily growing number of tasks and challenges effectively requires a number of different contextual factors and preconditions. These demand constant maintenance and updating.

The **Forum** offers unique opportunities to meet and to engage in discussions about current challenges to the contribution of partnerships to local development with peers and leading international experts. It does so through its series of **capacity building activities** that includes **conferences**, **seminars**, **study visits** and **active reviews** of the performance of local partnerships in OECD member and non-member countries.

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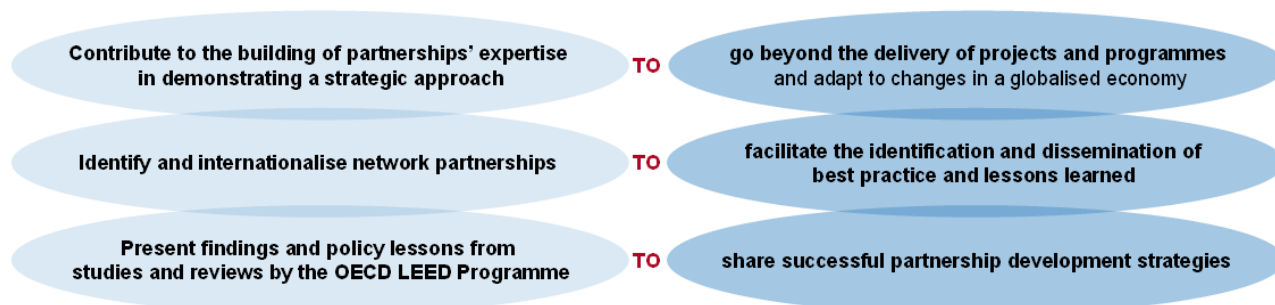
1. The effectiveness of local partnerships in accomplishing a local development agenda

Partnerships need increased capacities in three areas: within the partnership and its partner organisations; inside the government and counterpart structures for partnerships; and amongst the wider public. Despite differences between capacity building approaches in each of the different areas, the **effectiveness of local partnerships** in accomplishing a local development agenda will depend upon a collective undertaking of the following:

- **Establishing a supportive institutional framework** requires building the capacity of local government representatives to participate in and co-ordinate partnership activities, and raising awareness amongst such representatives on the importance of both decentralisation and strong local participatory governance.
- **Training and support is needed for wider participation in partnerships** (for example, representatives from civil society and the private sector) to build their capacity to contribute effectively to partnerships and make their voices heard.
- **Strengthening communication structures amongst partners** will help to settle conflicts of interest and contribute to maintaining effective management and operational structures within partnerships.

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2. Capacity building activities: the main objectives



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3. 2006/2007 activities overview

During 2006 and 2007, a series of activities was organised that included conferences, seminars and active reviews. These activities were aimed at both **well-established partnerships** and **nascent and newly-founded partnerships** across OECD member and non-member countries.

3.1 Well-established partnerships

Local partnerships role in influencing public policy was discussed in two seminars for managers of well-established partnerships in OECD member countries. The seminars in [Vienna \(December 2006\)](#) and [Dublin \(April 2007\)](#) offered participants from eight different OECD member countries an opportunity to engage in a lively debate and an intensive exchange of experience around the “Why”, the “What”, and the “How” of influencing public policy.

3.2 Nascent and newly-founded partnerships

To enhance the capacity and effectiveness of nascent and newly-established partnerships, a conference was held in [Bucharest, Romania \(November 2006\)](#). In collaboration with USAID [Croatia, a 6-month active review](#) on local partnerships was conducted in Croatia that included a one-week study visit, a workshop to discuss preliminary findings and policy recommendations, and a discussion paper that brought together international learning models in building and strengthening local partnerships.

In December 2007, the Forum will organise an international seminar on the contribution of local partnerships to local development in urban and rural areas, and the challenges faced. The one-day event will be held in [Lisbon, Portugal \(10 December 2007\)](#) in collaboration with the Portuguese government, the European Commission, and the Romanian Ministry of Labour under the Portuguese presidency of the European Union. The event is expected to host around 150 participants from OECD member and non-member countries representing local partnerships and their government counterparts. A delegation of key project partners from the active review on local partnerships in Croatia will attend the event, which will allow a greater continuation of the commenced capacity building efforts. Presentations on government strategies to support local partnerships and case studies on best practice in partnership working will provide participants an opportunity to stand back, reflect on their overall options, needs and priorities, and gain inspiration for policy innovation.

2006/2007 Activity Stream for well-established partnerships		2006/2007 Activity Stream for newly-founded partnerships
Capacity Building Seminar and Study Visit to Austria, 5-7 December 2006, Vienna, Austria		Capacity Building Seminar, 8 November 2006, Bucharest, Romania
	<u>Annual Forum Meeting</u> , 1-2 March 2007	
Capacity Building Seminar and Study Visit to Ireland, 18-20 April 2007, Dublin, Ireland		Capacity Building Seminar, 28-29 May 2007, Opatjia, Croatia
		Capacity Building Seminar, 10 December 2007, Lisbon, Portugal

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4. 2008 activities

In 2008, the Forum will continue its activities designed for nascent and newly-established partnerships. In addition, a **new series of capacity building activities** will be developed around prior identified common thematic issues.

4.1 Well-established partnerships

The **themes** will focus on the substantive issues that are on the top of partnerships agendas, such as:

- **skills and competitiveness;**
- **integrating migrants,** ethnic minorities and aboriginal communities into the labour market; and
- **economic diversification** at regional and local level.

The **seminars** are expected to vary in their duration **from 2.5 to 3.5-days** of plenary sessions, panel discussions, workshops and study visits. These events are aimed at partnership practitioners, managers, and national co-ordinators of partnership networks, policy makers at national, regional and local level from OECD member and selected non-member countries .

A first seminar is planned to be held in **Trento, Italy** in **June 2008** on local approaches to skills development and competitiveness. The seminar will build on findings from the [LEED Programme study on Local Skills Strategies](#), Dublin seminar (2007) and the [2008 Annual Forum meeting](#).

4.2 Nascent and newly-founded partnerships

Building partnerships is a difficult and long-term exercise. Local partnerships need a **solid strategic and analytical approach**, and significant organisational efforts are required to construct a shared vision and a sound strategy. Partnerships must build and maintain a critical mass by ensuring the commitment of the main public services and government agencies concerned, a strong participation by business and an unchallenged civil society representation. A lot can be learned here from an international exchange of experience.

To this end a **4-day seminar** will be held in **Trento, Italy** in **November 2008**.

It is expected to bring together around 30 managers of nascent and newly-established local partnerships and their government counterparts. The seminar format foresees work on three different themes and a **one-day study visit** to selected initiatives in Trentino.

The **themes** will build on the following:

- **addressing organisational challenges** in building and maintaining partnerships;
- **effective partnering in public policy design and delivery** and the role of partnerships in building and implementing local development strategies; and
- **strong performance management, monitoring and evaluation systems** that would allow partnerships to better perform and would provide government and the wider community with information to measure and assess the contribution of partnerships to local development.

The **one-day study visit** to selected initiatives in Trentino will offer valuable insights into the work, challenges and achievements of area-based partnerships in the Autonomous Province of Trento

	DAY 1 - theme (i)		DAY 2 - theme (ii)		DAY 3 – STUDY VISIT	DAY 4 - theme (iii)	
Plenary session	key issues – debates around theme (i)		key issues – debates around theme (ii)		<i>Work, challenges and achievements of area-based partnerships in the Autonomous Province of Trento</i>	key issues - debates around theme (iii)	
Parallel sessions	Best practises (BP) presentations		Best practises (BP) presentations			Best practises (BP) presentations	
	<i>Group A</i>	<i>Group B</i>	<i>Group A</i>	<i>Group B</i>		<i>Group A</i>	<i>Group B</i>
	BP 1 BP 2	BP 3 BP 4	BP 5 BP 6	BP 7 BP 8		BP 9 BP 10	BP 11 BP 12
	BP 3 BP 4	BP 1 BP 2	BP 7 BP 8	BP 5 BP 6		BP 11 BP 12	BP 9 BP 10
Plenary session	Developing an Action Plan		Developing an Action Plan			Developing an Action Plan	

Country specific capacity building seminars can be organised within the Forum. Countries and organisations interested in co-organising a seminar or in working with us on an active review of local partnerships please [contact us](#).

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5. Coming next

10 DECEMBER 2007, Lisbon, Portugal

Seminar on "[Building partnerships for rural and urban development](#)" organised within the framework of the OECD LEED Forum on Partnerships and Local Governance and the Portuguese EU Presidency, in collaboration with the European Commission

We would be grateful if you could confirm your attendance at your earliest convenience by contacting [Ms. Elisa Campestrin](#) (please note that registration is obligatory and the number of available places is limited).

18 – 19 FEBRUARY 2008, Vienna, Austria

4th Annual Meeting of the OECD LEED Forum on Partnerships and Local Governance

'Partnerships for Skills and Competitiveness'

The 4th Annual Meeting will seek to identify the best ways for partnerships to contribute to the design and implementation of skills development strategies which can boost competitiveness and make the economy more inclusive. 150 partnership practitioners, managers, national co-ordinators of partnership networks, and policy makers from OECD member and non-member countries will join the debate.

To register, please fill in the [registration form](#) and send it to [Ms. Eva Rubik](#) by **18 January 2008** at latest.

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Contact the [Forum on Partnerships and Local Governance](#)