

## **EMPLOYMENT, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE IN LITHUANIA**

*Seminar organised by the Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania and the OECD (LEED Programme) in co-operation with the European Commission, Vilnius, 3 March 2005*

Throughout OECD countries, new forms of governance are emerging as government, business and civil society seek ways jointly to develop and pursue economic development strategies and solve social and employment problems. Each with a specific function, these new models complement each other to foster endogenous development and draw on every opportunity to apply local assets, skills and knowledge to promote competitiveness.

First designed as a response to crisis situations related to economic restructuring, plant closures and socio-economic deficits in deprived urban areas, “local partnerships” have evolved over the years into a more proactive way of development. Today regional strategic platforms, area-based partnerships, participatory local governments and other agents of change help release the potential of their area thanks to better co-ordination, and adaptation to local conditions. They address a broad range of issues, including economic development, employment, social cohesion and quality of life, pursuing strategies consistent with shared long-term priorities.

From government to governance: the new forms of governance imply a radical shift in ways of working. Many important lessons have been learned from the recent work of the LEED Programme: *Local Partnerships for Better Governance* (2001), *Managing Decentralisation* (2003) and *New Forms of Governance for Economic Development* (2004). Yet, more remains to be learned through the exchange of experiences between policy makers, practitioners and other relevant actors, faced with similar situations in different contexts and countries.

This seminar will be a unique opportunity to debate the results of recent local governance developments in Lithuania in the light of experience from other countries, analyse the main obstacles met and identify ways to progress further. In particular it will compare the results obtained by new forms of governance experimented with in various parts of the Baltic Rim and address some critical issues related to their effectiveness in generating better economic and social outcomes.

### **General information**

#### ***Participants***

75 participants from Lithuania, the other Baltic states and countries of the Baltic Rim. Representatives of the following groups will be participating in the conference:

- government departments in economic and employment/social policy fields, regional governments and municipalities;
- non-governmental organisations (NGOs), community-based organisations and other organisations of civil society;
- private enterprises and trade unions;
- academics, experts and practitioners.

## ***Languages***

Lithuanian and English.

## ***Date and venue of the conference***

3 March, 2005 from 9:30 to 18:00

Holiday Inn Vilnius  
Seimyniskiu 1, LT- 09312 Vilnius, Lithuania  
Tel.: + 370 5 2103000,  
Fax: + 370 5 2103001,  
www.holidayinnvilnius.lt

## ***Hotel***

Holiday Inn Vilnius  
Seimyniskiu 1, LT- 09312 Vilnius, Lithuania  
Tel.: + 370 5 2103000,  
Fax: + 370 5 2103001  
www.holidayinnvilnius.lt

We have agreed the following room rates: standard single room - 70€; double room - 82€ (including taxes).

**To book your room, please contact the hotel directly.**

## ***To register, please contact:***

### **International participants:**

#### **Mr. Stephen Girasuolo**

OECD Local Economic and Employment  
Development (LEED )Programme  
Trento Centre  
Vicolo San Marco 1, 38100 Trento, Italy

Tel: +39 (0) 461 277 613

Fax: +39 (0) 461 277 650

E-mail: [stephen.girasuolo@oecd.org](mailto:stephen.girasuolo@oecd.org)

### **Participants from the Baltic states:**

#### **Ms. Natalija Ziminienė**

Ministry of Social Security and Labour  
Labour market and equal opportunities division  
A. Vivulskio 11, 03610 Vilnius, Lithuania

Tel.: + 370 5 266 42 77

Fax: + 370 5 266 42 09

E-mail: [NZiminiene@socmin.lt](mailto:NZiminiene@socmin.lt)

## ***For further information please contact:***

### **Ekaterina Travkina**

OECD

2, rue André-Pascal

75016 Paris

Tel: +33 (0)1 45 24 78 82

Fax: +33 (0)1 45 24 16 68

E-mail: [ekaterina.travkina@oecd.org](mailto:ekaterina.travkina@oecd.org)

## AGENDA

8:30 - 9:30	<i>Registration</i>	
	Chair:	<i>Mr. Sylvain Giguère, Deputy Head of the LEED Programme, OECD</i>
	Rapporteur:	<i>Mr. Micheál Ó Cinnéide, National University of Ireland, Galway</i>
9:30 - 10:00	<b>Opening remarks</b>	<i>Mr. Mečislovas Zasčiurinskas, Minister of Social Security and Labour</i>  <i>Mr. Sylvain Giguère, Deputy Head of the LEED Programme, OECD</i>
10:00 - 12:30	<b>Local Economic and Employment Development in Lithuania</b>	
10:00 - 10:20	Challenges of the employment policy in Lithuania at the regional level	<i>Mr. Valdas Rupšys, Secretary of the Ministry of Social Security and Labour</i>
10:20 - 10:40	Major challenges of the regional development policy in Lithuania. Concept and principles of the National Regional development policy until 2010	<i>Mr. Algirdas Astrauskas, Secretary of the Ministry of Interior</i>
10:40 - 11:00	Coffee break	
11:00 - 11:45	Panel discussion on increasing growth and employment through better governance at local level: obstacles and promises	<i>Mr. Alf Vanags, Director, Baltic International Centre for Economic Policy Studies</i>  <i>Mr. Kostas Zymantas Svetikas, Vilnius University</i>  <i>Mr. Algis Šileika, Director, Institute of Labour and Social Research</i>
11:45 - 12:00	Question/answers and general discussion	
12:00 – 12:20	Development of the Local Employment Initiatives projects	<i>Mr. Vidas Šlekaitis, Director, Lithuanian Labour Exchange</i>
12:20 – 12:30	Remarks by the rapporteur	
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	

<b>13:30 - 18:00</b>	<b>Sharing the experience</b>	
	Chair:	<i>Mr. Michael Förschner, Chairman of the OECD LEED Forum on Partnerships and Local Governance</i>
<b>13:30 – 14:30</b>	<b><i>Lessons from the Baltic Rim: case studies</i></b>	
	Regional labour market councils to ensure that labour market policy meet business needs: a Danish case	<i>Mr. Jan Hendeliowitz, Director of the Public Employment Service, Storstrøm, Denmark</i>
	The experience of decentralisation and local autonomy in Poland	<i>Mr. Antoni Sobolewski, Higher School of Public Administration in Szczecin</i>
	The case of an area-based partnership in Germany	<i>Mr. Holger Kuhle, Board Member of the European Association for Information on Local Development (AEIDL) and Deputy Head of Unit, Investitionsbank Berlin (IBB)</i>
<b>14:30 – 15:30</b>	<b><i>Comments by a panel of officers and regional/local actors from the three Baltic states, followed by a discussion</i></b>	
		<i>Mr. Ričardas Malinauskas, President, Association of Local Authorities in Lithuania (ALAL)</i>
		<i>Mr. Bronis Ropė, Mayor of Ignalina district, Chairman of the Board of the Ignalina PP Regional Development Agency</i>
		<i>Mr. Romualdas Stankaitis, Director, Vilnius Business Consulting Center</i>
<b>15:30 – 16:00</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>	
<b>16:00 – 17:00</b>	<b><i>Key issues for local governance</i></b>	
	Implementation of the INTEREG initiative in Lithuania: perspectives and problems	<i>Mr. Marijus Gudynas, Ministry of Interior, Regional Policy Department, Deputy Head</i>
	Innovation and regional co-operation	<i>Ms. Emily Wise Hansson, IKED representative</i>
	How to enhance cross-border co-operation on local development and governance in the Baltic Sea Region	<i>Mr. Teppo Heiskanen, Director of the Nordic Council of Ministers Office in Lithuania</i>

17:00 - 17:30	General discussion and concluding remarks by the rapporteur	
17:30 - 17:45	Closing remarks by the OECD, the EC and the Lithuanian government	<p><i>Mr. Sylvain Giguère, Deputy Head of the LEED Programme, OECD</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Valdas Rupšys, Secretary of the Ministry of Social Security and</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Andrew Chapman, European Commission, DG Employment and social affairs</i></p>
18:15	Buffet dinner	