



Luxembourg

Local Development Partnerships for Employment (OPE)

Framework and setting

Geographic scale Objectif Plein Emploi asbl (OPE) is made up of the Moulin Bestgen Resource Centre and 30 local organisations (Centres d'Initiative et de Gestion / Centres of Initiative and Management / CIG) associated by agreement. The network covers 48 out of 116 districts.

Policy framework The OPE network is working to promote an economic system with more solidarity and equality. In its commitment to local development, OPE tries to find and initiate different forms of partnership with different local actors in order to improve the situation of the population and municipalities in the spheres of job creation, quality of life, social integration and equal opportunities.

Partnerships at work

Rationale The aim of local development activities in Luxembourg is to improve the quality of life of inhabitants in towns and villages. To put its ideas into practice, OPE joins up with any organisation or person that might contribute to the realisation of this goal. Here, partnership is essential.

Objectives The major objective of Local Development Partnerships for Employment is to ensure and improve the situation of the population and municipalities in the spheres of job creation, quality of life, social cohesion and equal opportunities.

Functions The network provides a wide range of specialised services: e.g.

- _ local strategic planning;
- _ implementation of strategies;
- _ information and assistance;
- _ training;
- _ communication; and
- _ health, safety and culture.

Policy areas Community economic development, environmental services, social cohesion services, education and training, culture and tourism

Policy tools/ Instruments A network of local associations: Centres of initiative and management (CIG). These centres work at a local (CIGL), regional (CIGR) or sectoral (CIGS) level. In close co-operation with local representatives, they implement any project considered to improve the quality of life of the local population and to promote social cohesion.

Timeframe OPE was created in 1999 to continue and further develop work initiated by the members of "Action Sociale pour Jeunes" during the 1980s, and has been implementing both ongoing and short-term projects.

Partners

- _ at the local level: local councillors, associations, unions, companies and all persons interested in promoting the local development of their district;
- _ at a national level: ministries, public services and economic chambers; and
- _ at an international level: universities and local development networks.

Contracts Contracts are signed with each district (where the network is operating) and with the Ministry of Employment.

Legal status Non-profit organisation

Sources of Financing OPE's resources are a mixture of private and public funding. The largest financial contribution comes from the government. Additional resources are allocated by the districts.

OPE charges beneficiaries for some of the services provided. The proceeds can then in turn be invested locally.

Results Over 120 long-term projects implemented and 700 jobs per year created.

Partnerships' highlight

Programme/Project Community care and social cohesion services; new communication technologies; environmental services

Timeframe Ongoing (initiated in 1997)

Objectives

- _ Community care services aim to enlarge the autonomy of elderly people and people in need, and to ensure that they are able to stay at home for the longest time possible.
- _ Web cafés are being created all over Luxembourg in order to offer access to the world wide web to as many people as possible, not only in urban areas, but also (and mostly) in rural areas.
- _ Environmental teams work with the objective of preserving a safe and healthy environment for the local population as well as the local cultural heritage.

Activities

- _ 24 local community-based services are operating and delivering all kinds of minor services to elderly people or people in need, in close co-operation with local craft.
- _ 16 web cafés are providing free access to the Internet for all and offering training lessons (computer software) in co-operation with the national eAgency.
- _ 26 environmental teams are working in over 40 districts of the country on the basis of local needs: maintenance of playgrounds, public parks and paths, recycling tours, etc.

Results The response of clients is very positive, which has led to the creation of more community-based services and web cafés all over the country.

Contacts

Partnership co-ordination at national / regional / sub-regional / local level

Objectif Plein Emploi asbl, B.P. 12, 3801 Schifflange,
Tel.: +352 / 530445-0, Fax: +352 / 530445-510, e-mail: info@ope.lu
Romain Biever, Managing Director, e-mail: biever@ope.lu
Romain Binsfeld, Managing Director, e-mail: binsfeld@ope.lu