

OECD Regional Approaches

Central and Eastern Europe, The Caucasus & Central Asia

*Extract of the 2007-2008 Programme of Work -
OECD Co-operation with Non-Members*



EUROPE, CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA

OUTPUT AREA 1.1.2 – COUNTRY PEER REVIEWS OF ECONOMIC POLICIES

Output results 2007: Challenges paper followed by a seminar on Ukraine

Directorate: ECO

Description:

First EDRC policy seminar for Ukraine and launch of the final publication on Ukraine 2007. The report will focus on three major areas: (i) the sources and sustainability of growth in Ukraine; (ii) product-market regulation (PMR) and the scope for improving performance via competition-enhancing regulatory reform; and (iii) questions of competitiveness and competition. The report will include the results of an OECD PMR review of Ukraine conducted on the same model as is applied to member states, as well as empirical work on the impact of competition and privatisation on firm performance.

Events: EDRC Policy Seminar in Paris, 9 July 2007; launch of publication in Kyiv, Q3 2007.

Publications: Title unknown yet, Q3 2007

Website: www.oecd.org/eco/surveys/nonMembers

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OUTPUT AREA 1.2.1 – ENTREPRENEURSHIP, INDUSTRY AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

Co-operative Action Programme on Local Economic and Employment Development (LEED): OECD LEED Centre for Local Development

The OECD LEED Centre for Local Development, based in Trento, Italy, contributes to local development capacity building in Central, East and South East Europe and provides assistance in the design, implementation and assessment of local development strategies. The activities of the Centre focus on issues like co-ordination between labour market policies, vocational training and economic development, skills upgrading and local integration of immigrants, decentralisation management and local governance, entrepreneurship development, social inclusion and the role of the non-profit sector, and evaluation of local development policies.

A. Output results 2007-08: Reports and country reviews on employment, skills and local governance

Directorate: CFE

Description:

(i) The OECD's study of *Integrating Employment, Skills and Economic Development (IESED)* examines how labour market policy, vocational training and economic development strategies can best be integrated at local and regional levels, in order to meet business needs, and support economic competitiveness while providing sustainable solutions to the problems of the disadvantaged on the labour market. Country reports on *Bulgaria, Croatia and Romania* will be finalised in 2007.

(ii) Study on *Designing Local Skills Strategies*: skills matter to local economies in many different ways, impacting on issues as diverse as foreign direct investment, innovation and social cohesion. In response, local stakeholders are increasingly working together to develop local skills strategies, focusing on three issues in particular: attracting and retaining talent, upgrading the skills of the current labour force, and integrating hard to reach groups into the skills development system. In 2007-08, the OECD LEED Programme will be examining 14 case studies of strong and innovative practice in designing local skills strategies from OECD countries and China, El Salvador, Romania, Russia and Ukraine. The focus is both on cities and urban areas that need to adapt and increase their skills base, and on rural areas that are losing skills through demographic change and emigration. The project is receiving support from the European Commission and is implemented in co-operation with ELS and the Development Centre.

(iii) *Local Management of Employment and Training in East Asia*

A policy dialogue on the local management of employment and training is underway with East Asian countries who have expressed a growing interest in decentralisation and partnerships. The project analyses policy and institutional developments in Japan, Korea and China and make comparisons with development in Western countries.

(iv) *Capacity building on partnerships and local governance*

Capacity building activities implemented by the OECD LEED Trento Centre for Local Development support the development of area-based partnerships in Central, East and South East Europe.

Publications:

- Local Management of Employment and Training (2007)
- Integrating Employment, Skills and Economic Development (2008)
- Designing Local Skills Strategies (2008)
- Dealing with Loss of Skills (2008)

Website:

<http://www.oecd.org/cfe/leed>; <http://www.Trento.oecd.org>

Contact person(s):

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B. Output results 2007-08:

Entrepreneurship: reports and country reviews

Directorate:

CFE

Description:

The review on *Entrepreneurship and Local Innovation Strategies (ELIS)* examines how to strengthen entrepreneurship activity by strengthening the local innovation systems that support innovation performance in SMEs and the formation of new innovative enterprises. The *National reviews of the local dimension of entrepreneurship policy (LDEP)* assesses locally-differentiated national policies and locally designed and/or implemented policies aimed at stimulating national and local economic growth.

This review will be undertaken subject to the availability of new voluntary contributions.

Extract of Document CCNM(2007)2: The OECD's Global Relations Programme - 2007-2008

Publications: Entrepreneurship and Local Innovation Strategies (2008)
Website: <http://www.oecd.org/cfe/leed>; <http://www.Trento.oecd.org>
Contact person(s): Jonathan Potter (jonathan.potter@oecd.org)

C. Output results 2007-08: Social Inclusion: reports and country reviews

Directorate: CFE

Description: The project on *Improving Social Inclusion Capacity at Local Level* in Central, East and South East Europe, implemented by the OECD LEED Trento Centre for Local Development, will (i) assess policy arrangements that impact service provision and social inclusion tools at local level (ii) assess obstacles and opportunities for the development of social entrepreneurship.

This project is subject to the availability of new voluntary contributions.

Events: Conference on The Role of Social Enterprises as Agents of Change in an Evolving Economy, Bucharest, June 2007

Website: <http://www.oecd.org/cfe/leed>; <http://www.Trento.oecd.org>

Contact person(s): Antonella Noya (antonella.noya@oecd.org)

D. Output results 2007-08: Tools for Local Development: reports and local reviews

Directorate: CFE

Description: The project on *Local Development Strategies*, implemented by the OECD LEED Trento Centre for Local Development, reviews and builds the capacities of local development policy makers and practitioners in Central, East and South East Europe to design and deliver effective strategies for improved local economic performance and well-being.

This project is subject to the availability of new voluntary contributions.

Website: <http://www.Trento.oecd.org>

Contact person(s): Ekaterina Travkina (ekaterina.travkina@oecd.org)

E. Output results 2007-08: Evaluation of local development policies and programmes: reports and capacity building

Directorate: CFE

Description: This activity promotes the appraisal and exchange of information on innovative local programmes of economic, employment and social development; reviews and seeks to improve evaluation methodology as applied to local development; promotes a culture of evaluation and builds and disseminates indicators of local development in Central and Eastern Europe.

Website: <http://www.oecd.org/cfe/leed>; <http://www.Trento.oecd.org>

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OUTPUT AREA 2.1.2 - EVALUATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF LEARNING OUTCOMES

Output results 2007: National review of education policy in Kazakhstan.

Directorate: EDU

Description:

On request of the government of Kazakhstan the Secretariat undertook a review of the tertiary education system in 2006-2007. The field visit of OECD experts took place in September 2006. The final report will be published in 2007.

Events:

- Video conference on review outcomes (Astana and Paris, February 2007).
- Round table to discuss the review findings with representatives of the Ministry of Education (Astana, March 2007).

Publications: National review on education policy (Q3 2007)

Website: www.oecd.org/edu/nonMembereducation

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OUTPUT AREA 2.2.3 – WELFARE AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

A. Output results 2007/08: Modernising social protection systems to meet demographic challenges.

Directorate: ELS

Description:

The *Pensions at a Glance*, *Modernising Pension Systems*, and *Child Well Being* projects will increase the awareness of the policy changes needed to reduce fiscal and social stress arising from the demographic changes, and explore the opportunities opening up for rebalancing social protection to improve its cost-effectiveness.

Joint Vienna Institute course: The Joint Vienna Institute is a co-operative training institute of which the OECD is a member together with the IMF, the Austrian government, the World Bank and others. As part of the JVI's Applied Economics Course, the OECD will offer a one-week course on social and labour market policies. It will address social policy formulation and implementation in a market economy. It will also address labour market policy and reform, with an emphasis on the need for coherence between labour market and social policies. Lecturers will present an overview of selected areas of experience among OECD Member countries with an emphasis on the specific problems of implementation in economies and societies in transition.

Events:

- Report on pensions in Non-OECD Members of the European Union, Q4 2007.
- Joint Vienna Institute Social and Labour Policy Courses (April 2007, to be determined in 2008)

Publications: *Pensions at a Glance*, publication in June 2007

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B. Output results 2007: Rights and responsibilities in social protection.

Directorate: ELS

Description: *Benefits and Wages* continues to be the only international source of information of the level of social benefits after-tax for different family types in different employment circumstances. As part of the ongoing co-operation with the European Commission. Non-OECD EU Member countries will be covered in the *Benefits and Wages* publication.

Execution of this activity will be subject to additional grants.

Publications: *Benefits and Wages*, Q4 2007

Contact person: Mark Pearson - mark.pearson@oecd.org

C. Output results 2007: OECD Social Indicators: Social expenditures database.

Directorate: ELS

Description:

Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa will be included in as many of the indicators published in *Society at a Glance* as possible. In addition, social indicators information will be collected for the Asian region using the OECD-Korea Joint Regional Centre on Health and Social Policy. The initial focus will be on social expenditures data. Execution of this activity will be subject to additional grants.

Publications:

- Report on social indicators in the BRICS, Q4 2007
- Report on social expenditures in Asia, Q4 2007

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OUTPUT AREA 2.3.6 - ENVIRONMENT IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

Environmental Action Plan for Central and Eastern Europe

Output results 2007:

- Identification of synergies between economic globalisation and the environment
- Contribution to the OECD horizontal project on infrastructure (co-ordinated by the Futures Group and involves several Directorates)

Output results 2008:

- Identification of synergies between economic globalisation and the environment

Directorate: ENV

Description:

Since the 1998 Aarhus "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference, the Environmental Action Plan for Central and Eastern Europe (EAP) Task Force and its Secretariat at the OECD have focused their work on Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA), where progress in strengthening environmental policies and institutions has lagged behind that of countries in countries further to the west.

The EAP Task Force is the primary international forum for promoting dialogue and co-operation between OECD and EECCA countries on environmental issues. It also engages the main international organisations, financial institutions, the business community and NGOs in its work. In addition to developing "best practice" guides, the Task Force supports the implementation of projects to demonstrate practical approaches for environmental policy and institutional reform. In preparing its Sixth "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference, the EAP Task Force will focus on three main priority areas: (i) strengthening the effectiveness of environmental policy implementation; (ii) supporting reforms in the urban water sector; (iii) the OECD/EAP Task Force will also co-ordinate the preparation of a comprehensive report to help EECCA countries make progress in achieving the goals of the EECCA Environment Strategy adopted at the 2003 Kiev Ministerial Conference.

Extract of Document CCNM(2007)2: [The OECD's Global Relations Programme - 2007-2008](#)

- Events:**
- 6th Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference, Belgrade, October .
 - A series of meetings will be organised through 2007 and if approved in 2008 on three priority areas listed above.
- Publications:**
- Several publications for sale and a large number of free documents will be produced in conjunction with the Ministerial conference in October 2007.
- Website:** www.oecd.org/env/eecca
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OUTPUT AREA 3.3.1 - TAX POLICIES AND INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

- Output results 2007/08:**
- Updates to the Model Tax Convention and expansion of its use (Q2 2008)
 - Updates and Extension of Transfer Pricing Guidelines (Q4, 2008)
 - Annual Report on Current Tax Reform Issues (Q4)

Directorate: CTPA

Description:

Following a request from the Baltic countries for a revival of the successful Baltic programme on taxation, a new programme is currently being developed in co-operation with these countries which will encompass four events in 2007-08. Negotiations have not yet been completed – except that Lithuania will be hosting an event on bribery awareness for tax examiners – but the OECD has proposed additional events on tax policy reform, on recent developments regarding the model tax convention and on auditing multinational enterprises, with a focus on international tax issues such as transfer pricing.

- Events:**
- Bribery Awareness for Tax Examiners Lithuania, 23-27 April 2007
 - Income Tax Workshop (tbd 2007).
 - Recent developments in Tax Treaties (tbd 2008)
 - Auditing MNEs, (tbd 2008)

Website: www.oecd.org/ctp/handbook

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OUTPUT AREA 4.1.2 – ANTI-CORRUPTION

Anti-Corruption Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia

- Output results 2007:**
- Completion of the First Round of Monitoring under the Istanbul Anti-Corruption Action Plan for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Russia: monitoring of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.
 - Analysis of the progress in fighting corruption based on the results of the First Round of Monitoring under the Istanbul Anti-Corruption Action Plan.
 - Policy dialogue about practical measures to prevent corruption in the framework of the Anti-Corruption Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (ACN).
 - Capacity building for the ACN experts in selected priority areas, such as legal reform and law-enforcement, preventive measures in civil service and conflict of interest management.

Output results 2008:

(* to be confirmed)

- Review of anti-corruption legislation and institutions for fighting corruption in the Russian Federation under the Istanbul Anti-Corruption Action Plan*.
- Developing methodology for, and possibly launching the Second Round of Monitoring under the Istanbul Anti-Corruption Action Plan.
- Dialogue on effective detection and prosecution of corruption among ACN law-enforcement practitioners.
- Project on anti-corruption law-enforcement reform in Ukraine*.
- Private-public dialogue on integrity in business sector in Russia*.

Directorate:

DAF

Description:

This activity serves to continue the analysis of anti-corruption policy, legislation and institutions in the economies of Eastern Europe and Central Asia and to provide active support for anti-corruption reform in the region. The work will strengthen implementation and enforcement of anti-corruption conventions, *i.e.* the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials, the Council of Europe Criminal Law Convention on Corruption and the United Nations Convention Against Corruption.

The ACN General Meeting provides a unique regional forum for the governments of 23 ACN countries, as well as some OECD countries, civil society, business and international organisations to exchange best practices and establish future anti-corruption priorities in the region.

A methodology for the second round of the monitoring of the eight countries of the ACN Istanbul Anti-Corruption Action Plan will be developed to maintain effective peer pressure for anti-corruption reform.

In order to provide analytical support and strengthen capacity of its Members for the implementation of the anti-corruption reforms, the ACN will finalise several regional and country studies. The priority will be given to the organisation of the ACN meeting of law enforcement practitioners to discuss specific corruption related cases and effective methods for detection, investigation and prosecution of corruption.

Events:

(* to be decided)

- Seminar on Criminalisation of Corruption for the ACN countries (Almaty, Kazakhstan, March 2007).
- 7th Plenary Meeting of the Istanbul Anti-Corruption Action Plan to monitor Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan (Paris, France, 26-28 September 2007)
- 7th General Meeting of the Anti-Corruption Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (ACN).
- Meeting of the ACN law-enforcement practitioners.
- Round table of business and government representatives on business integrity in Russia (Russia, 2008).
- 8th Plenary Meeting of the Istanbul Anti-Corruption Action Plan to launch the second round of monitoring, and possibly to review the Russian Federation.

Publications:

- Regional Study about progress in fighting corruption based on the results of the First Round of Monitoring under the Istanbul Anti-Corruption Action Plan; first half of 2008.
- Monitoring reports on Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan; September 2007.
- 7th ACN General; Meeting Report end of 2007 (to be confirmed).
- Publication "Corruption: Glossary of International Criminal Standards"; April/June 2007.
- Publication of "Specialised Anti-Corruption Institutions: Review of Models", April/June 2007.
- Review report on the Russian Federation.

Website: www.oecd.org/corruption/acn

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OUTPUT AREA 4.1.3 – CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Output results 2007: - Implementation of the OECD Principles of Corporate Governance Eurasian task force survey on banks and corporate governance

Output results 2008: - Implementation of the OECD Principles of Corporate Governance: Eurasian Roundtable on Corporate Governance regional survey of policy options and good practices

Directorate: DAF

Description:

The Eurasian Roundtable on Corporate Governance at its 2006 meeting identified corporate governance of banks, and their role in influencing company corporate governance, as a priority for the upcoming work programme. Therefore, a regional task force is being established to begin work on a survey and policy options and/or recommendations for the region to improve the corporate governance environment from a banking and financial institution perspective. Subject to funding, the task force work will lead to recommendations for the policy officials, regulators, stock exchanges and other stakeholders participating in the Eurasian Roundtable. The Roundtable will also identify other key corporate governance challenges for regional comparative work and identification of policy options and promising practices.

Events: Eurasian Corporate Governance Bank Task Force, Tbilisi, May 2007

Website: www.oecd.org/daf/corporateaffairs/roundtables

Contact person: Motoyuki Yuf - motoyuki.yufu@oecd.org

OUTPUT AREA 4.2.1 – COMPETITION

Output results 2007/08: Regional Centre for Competition programme of capacity building seminars and workshops.

Directorate: DAF

Description:

The Regional Centre for Competition was established jointly by the OECD and the Hungarian Government, and is located in Budapest. The Centre has a regular programme of events throughout the year. The programme covers most of the areas of competition law and economics, and further details can be found on the web site below.

Events: Budapest: 12-16 February, 16-27 April, 21-25 May, 2-5 October, 4-7 December 2007

Website: www.oecd.org/competition

Contact person: Edward Whitehorn – edward.whitehorn@oecd.org

OUTPUT AREA 4.2.2 – FINANCE, INSURANCE AND PENSIONS

Output results 2007/08: Promoting open and efficient financial, insurance, pensions, public debt markets in Europe

Directorate: DAF/FIN

Description:

The OECD will be associated with the organisation of a Pan-European Insurance Conference in June 2007. The conference will gather high-level representatives from insurance supervisory and regulatory authorities in Europe, including Russia, Central, Southern and Eastern Europe.

Issues to be discussed during the conference will likely focus on effective mechanisms for consumer protection including disclosure of information on insurance, regulation of insurance intermediation, risk awareness and education on insurance issues.

Events:

Insurance:

- 19th Conference of European Insurance Supervisory Services, Sofia, Bulgaria, 7-8 June 2007

Public Debt Management:

- Annual OECD Global Public Debt Management Forum

Website:

www.oecd.org/daf/fin

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OUTPUT AREA 4.3.2 – SUPPORT FOR IMPROVEMENT IN GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (SIGMA)

A. Output results 2007-08 : Analytical and good practice reports, assessments, peer reviews, peer assistance, tender evaluations, *etc.* (defined in collaboration with the European Commission) to support horizontal systems of governance in Bulgaria, Croatia and Romania (as well as Turkey, an OECD Member).

Directorate: GOV

Description:

Activities: (i) Assist in institution-building and development of legal and administrative frameworks; (ii) assess progress towards meeting good European practice and existing EU legislation and identify reform priorities; (iii) facilitate donor assistance by helping to design projects and ensuring preconditions and complementary support.

Expected Outcomes: (i) Improved legal and administrative framework for a professional public service; strengthened public integrity system; (ii) further development of systems for public internal financial control, internal and external audit, and sound management of EU funds; strengthened anti-fraud systems; (iii) further development of budget, treasury and public procurement systems; (iv) strengthened capacities for policy-making and co-ordination and better regulation.

This activity will be carried out subject to additional grants.

Website: www.oecd.org/gov/sigma
Contact person: Bob Bonwitt - bob.bonwitt@oecd.org

B. Output results 2007-08 : Analytical and good practice reports, assessments, peer reviews, peer assistance, tender evaluations, *etc.* (defined in collaboration with the European Commission in the framework of the European neighbourhood policy) to support horizontal systems of governance in Central Asia, Middle East and North Africa [*NB: Contract under negotiation with the European Commission*]

Directorate: GOV
Description:

As under A, above.

Website: www.oecd.org/gov/sigma
Contact person: Bob Bonwitt - bob.bonwitt@oecd.org

OUTPUT AREA 5.1.6 – DEVELOPMENT ANALYSIS AND POLICIES

Output results 2007-08: Black Sea and Central Asia Economic Outlook (BSECAO). The systematic monitoring and evaluation of economic performance and underlying policies in the Black Sea and Central Asian regions, in order to facilitate information sharing and evidence-based policy dialogue, at the national and regional levels.

Directorate: DEV
Description:

The BSECAO will provide cross-country comparative analysis of macro-economic, structural and policy developments in the Black Sea Economic Co-operation (BSEC) and Central Asian regions. The report will include analyses of thematic, cross-cutting policy issues, in order to identify major hindrances to policy reform and highlight successful cases of such reform. Thus, it will complement other existing reports focusing on this area. Comparable information, including several monitoring indicators, and innovative analyses of social and governance developments across the regions will also provide added value to the Outlook relative to other publications. A distinctive feature of the report will be to involve local research institutes, think tanks and policy units in the project, thus promoting capacity building in the regions. The Development Centre will seek to establish synergies with its own Programme of Work as well as with other Directorates within the OECD.

Events:

- A high-level Black Sea Economic Co-operation (BSEC) meeting in Ukraine or Romania in November 2007 where BSECAO will be launched.
- Workshops and numerous meetings at which BSECAO would be presented.

Publications:

- BSECAO Report in November 2007
- Policy Insights, Policy Brief, Working Papers in 2007

Website: www.oecd.org/dev
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