

8th Annual Meeting

PARTNERSHIPS FOR YOUTH

GETTING THE YOUNG INTO JOBS AND BUSINESS FOR
SUCCESSFUL WORKING LIFE

20 - 21 March 2012, Berlin, Germany
Kalkscheune, Johannisstr. 2

*In co-operation with the German Federal Government Commissioner for the New Federal States,
the Senate of Berlin Department for Labour, Integration and Women's Issues,
the German Federal Employment Agency, the European Youth Forum and
gsub mbH - Social Business Consultancy Corporation*

Agenda

■ What

The **transition from education to work** is not easy for many young people, particularly when it comes to finding **sustainable employment** with progression opportunities. While many OECD countries have recently put in place new national policies to support youth, they will be more effective if they are implemented in a coordinated way at local level. Providing jobs for youth requires **place-specific, cross-sectoral responses** involving different local players (schools, VET, universities, employment services, employers, not-for-profit organisations, regional and local authorities, and social partners) as part of wider local development strategies.

At the same time, it will be important for industry groups, colleges and employment agencies to work together to ensure that young people have the right **skills** and accurate **career guidance** as to opportunities in the local economy, and access to career ladders to support employment progression. Many localities are putting in place programmes to attract and retain talented and skilled youth to support the growth of emerging or existing competitive advantage sectors. **Skills utilisation** in the workplace is a particular issue for young people – if talents are not spotted young, long term career trajectories can suffer.

For some young people, **starting up their own business** (including social enterprises) can be a viable alternative to dependent labour. Success here requires investment in entrepreneurship skills, creation of entrepreneurial attitudes as well as start-up and early-stage business development support.

The impact of **demographic change** and the **ageing of societies** in OECD countries puts further pressure on labour markets to integrate the diminishing youth cohort. As industries and organisations age, different job conditions are required for older workers as is a better utilisation of in-house knowledge-intensive activities between younger and older workers.

■ Who

The 8th Annual Meeting of the OECD LEED Forum on Partnerships and Local Governance will bring together some **200 representatives** of local partnerships, government officials, local leaders, youth organisations, social entrepreneurs, business representatives, trade unions and academics to review how local development actors are adapting to this new reality and emerging innovations on the ground to respond to these new challenges.



Social Entrepreneurs
Government Officials Academics
200 Representatives
Local Partnerships Trade Unions
Business Leaders

Tuesday, 20 March 2012

8.30 - 9.00 Registration of participants and welcome coffee

9.00 - 9.30 **Conference facilitator:** *Paul Adamson*, Editor-in-Chief, EISharp

Opening remarks

- *Sergio Arzeni*, Director for Entrepreneurship, SMEs and Local Development, OECD
- *Farhad Dilmaghani*, Permanent Secretary for Labour and Integration, Senate Department for Labour, Integration and Women's Issues, Berlin, Germany
- *Robert Strauss*, Head of Employment Analysis, DG Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion, European Commission, Chairman, OECD LEED Forum on Partnerships and Local Governance

9.30 - 10.45 **PLENARY SESSION 1: SETTING THE CONTEXT**

Young people have been hit hard by the economic recession. Despite the signs of recovery in some OECD countries, youth unemployment is likely to remain high due to a low level of demand for young people's labour coupled with a long-standing problem of structural youth unemployment. This session will set the policy context for the more practice oriented discussions during the conference. First the discussion will review the factors behind high and persistent youth unemployment and examine the short and medium term prospects. Based on lessons learnt from previous recoveries, panellists will share their views on policy answers that have proven to be effective. In particular, panellists will reflect on what works and what does not in fostering youth entrepreneurship, preventing early school leaving and getting dropouts back into employment, education or training, helping young people break out of intergenerational cycles of poverty, and helping youth to acquire the right set of skills for a successful working life. Finally, panellists will exchange ways to ensure implementation on the ground and the value added of area-based approaches.

Moderator: *Dr. Sylvain Giguère*, Head of LEED Division, OECD

Panel discussion

- *Dr. Randall Eberts*, Executive Director, W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, US
- *Luca Scarpiello*, Vice-President, European Youth Forum, EU
- *Ekaterina Travkina*, Manager, OECD LEED Forum on Partnerships and Local Governance
- *Maira McKerracher*, Assistant Director, UK Commission on Employment and Skills, United Kingdom
- *Dr. Holger Seibert*, Senior Researcher, Institute of Employment Research, Federal Employment Agency, Germany

Discussion from the floor

10.45 - 11.00 **OVERVIEW OF THE BERLIN PROJECTS HOSTING FORUM WORKSHOPS IN THE AFTERNOON**

11.00 - 11.30 *Coffee Break*

11.30 - 12.30 **NETWORKING SESSION: LOCAL INITIATIVES FOR JOBS, INCLUSION AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**

Short interactive sessions

The Annual Meeting of the Forum provides a unique networking opportunity for partnership practitioners. This session is organised around a series of short interactive sessions where Forum members present and discuss their projects with experts from other countries.

12.30 - 13.30 *Lunch Break*

13.30 - 14.30 **PLENARY SESSION 2: GETTING THE YOUNG INTO JOBS AND BUSINESS - LEARNING FROM GERMANY**

The German economy recovered rapidly from the 2008-09 recession, with GDP topping pre-crisis rates during 2011 and unemployment falling significantly. Youth employment is high compared to most OECD countries largely thanks to the availability of well-established vocational education and training options and the successful apprenticeship system. This session will provide an opportunity to learn from this experience and analyse its successes and pitfalls in a broader demographic change context (increased mobility, declining youth population rates and population ageing). Approaches to support youth in starting their own businesses will also be reviewed, touching upon entrepreneurship skills as well as start-up and early-stage business development support. Finally, the panel will reflect on the conditions for transferability of the German experience.

Panel discussion followed by discussion from the floor

- *Dr. Christoph Bergner*, Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Commissioner for the New Federal States, Germany
- *Sabine Hübner*, Head of Department of Labour, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Family of the State of Brandenburg, Germany
- *Farhad Dilmaghani*, Permanent Secretary for Labour and Integration, Senate Department for Labour, Integration and Women's Issues, Berlin, Germany
- *Aart De Geus*, Member of the Executive Board, Bertelsmann Foundation, Germany, former OECD Deputy Secretary-General

Tuesday, 20 March 2012

14.30 - 18.00

CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS 1-5
(hosted by Berlin youth projects)

CONCURRENT WORKSHOP 6
(conference venue)

14.30 - 15.15

Participants will be transported to the sites of local initiatives for youth employment in Berlin

15.15 - 18.00

Workshop 1 YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP	Workshop 2 SUPPORTING SCHOOL-TO-WORK TRANSITIONS	Workshop 3 BUILDING FUTURES FOR DISADVANTAGED YOUTH	Workshop 4 SKILLS FOR SUCCESSFUL WORKING LIFE: APPRENTICESHIPS AND BEYOND	Workshop 5 JOINED UP APPROACHES TO YOUTH EMPLOYMENT
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18.00

Transfer back to conference venue

15.00 - 18.00

Workshop 6: MANAGING DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE - Transitions in labour markets

19.00

Dinner reception: "Oranium" restaurant, Oranienburger Straße 33-34, 10117 Berlin (walking distance from conference venue)

Wednesday, 21 March 2012

9.00 - 9.30

Welcome coffee

9.30 - 10.00

FEEDBACK FROM DAY 1: facilitated discussion

10.00 - 11.30

GETTING THE YOUNG INTO JOBS AND BUSINESS: the 'WHO' and the 'HOW'

These 4 concurrent workshops will discuss the role of key institutions in supporting youth entrepreneurship, school-to-work transitions, helping young people break out of intergenerational cycles of poverty, and helping youth to acquire the right set of skills for a successful working life. The discussions will build on the results of the workshops of the previous day.

Workshop A WHAT COULD THE SOCIAL ECONOMY DO?	Workshop B WHAT COULD LOCAL PARTNERSHIP ORGANISATIONS DO?	Workshop C WHAT SHOULD LABOUR MARKET AND TRAINING INSTITUTIONS BE FOCUSING ON?	Workshop D WHAT COULD BUSINESSES DO?
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11.30 - 12.00

Coffee Break

12.00 - 13.00

PLENARY SESSION: LESSONS LEARNT AND THE WAY FORWARD

12.00 - 12.45

Drawing on earlier discussions, this session will reflect on the lessons and recommendations stemming from the conference and on the role of youth organisations in the co-creation of policies and co-implementation of projects at local level.

Facilitated panel discussion

- [Leonardo George Christodoulou](#), General Director, Athens S.O.S./Young Socialists, Greece
- [Romina Matei](#), President, Youth Express Network, Romania
- [Vesna Milosevic](#), National Youth Employment Council and Youth Employment Action, Slovenia
- [Michael Schwab](#), Chairman, Rural Youth Europe, Germany

Comments by

[Sally Sinclair](#), Chief Executive Officer, National Employment Services Association, Australia

Discussion from the floor

12.45 - 13.00

Closing remarks

[Jan Hendeliowitz](#), Senior Advisor, Ministry of Employment, The Danish National Labour Market Authority, Chairman, OECD LEED Directing Committee

13.00

End of the conference

13.00 - 14.00

Lunch

OECD LEED Forum on Partnerships and Local Governance

www.oecd.org/cfe/leed/forum/partnerships

FORUM TEAM

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FORUM BOARD

Chairman: Robert Strauss, Head of Unit, Employment Analysis, DG Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion, European Commission

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