



OECD Workshop Indicators of local transition to a low-carbon economy In Benelux

Ghent - Belgium
Conference Center Novotel Gent Centrum, 11th June 2012

Agenda

Organised by

OECD LEED Programme and Benelux Union

Hosted in Ghent Region by

Euregio Scheldemond & Research Institute for Work and Society, University of Leuven

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Background

This study is proposed within the framework of the [OECD Green Growth Strategy](#).

The project aims to define key indicators of area-based transition to a low-carbon economy. The objective is to define *measurable indicators* at regional/local level that can inform over time of transition to low-carbon economic and industrial activities addressing the two aspects of the green growth economy: fostering job creation and economic development in new areas of growth and sustainable development.

The central aim of the Benelux region is to be a region without borders, improving well being, mobility, safety and sustainable development. The Benelux Union is a cross-border partnership between Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxemburg as well as Flanders, the Walloon government, the French community and the German community of Belgium and Brussels Capital Region.

This project will examine some of the cross border regions of the Benelux and define indicators of an area-based transition to a low carbon economy in these regions, with focus on job-creation and economic development in specific cross border areas of growth and sustainable development. Two cross-border assets will be the focus on in-depth analysis:

- *The cross border cluster “Bio Based Europe” (in the provinces Western-Flanders, Eastern-Flanders and Zeeland) – the focus of the **Ghent workshop***
- *The cross-border area of the Belval (the geographic perimeter for consideration corresponds to the area remit of the European Group of Territorial Coordination (EGTC) Alzette/Belval, including the municipalities of Esch/Alzette, Sanem, Mondercange and Schiffflange in Luxembourg and the municipalities of Russange, Ottange, Boulange, Redange, Thill, Villerupt, Audan-le-Tiche et Aumetz in France) – the focus of the **Belval workshop***

For more information on the project visit the OECD LEED website www.oecd.org/cfe/leed/projects/lowcarbon or Benelux Union website www.benelux.int

Venue: Conference Center Novotel Gent Centrum, Ghent, Belgium

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■ Monday, 11th June 2012

Morning session

08:00 – 08:30 *Arrival and registration*

08:40 – 09:00 **Welcome to the workshop**

Mr. Luc Willems, Deputy Secretary-General, Benelux Union

Mr. Marc De Buck, Co-chairman Euregio Scheldemond

Facilitator: Prof Hans Bruyninckx

09:00 – 09:50 **The OECD project on ‘Measuring the Potential of Green Growth’**

Dr. Cristina Martinez, Senior Policy Analyst, OECD LEED Programme

Dr. Samantha Sharpe, University of Technology, Sydney & OECD LEED Expert

Presentation of the Ghent Background Note

Prof. Hans Bruyninckx, HIVA - Research Institute for Work and Society

Q&A

Facilitator: Mr. Luc Willems

09:50 – 10:00 **Explanation of the parallel roundtable sessions**

The roundtable sessions are one of the primary forms of data collection for the local case studies. The session will be used to get participants to respond to the material they have heard in the presentations in the morning – particularly the background note, and respond to this material and discuss their thoughts on four categories of local indicators of transition.

The roundtables will need to be facilitated by discussion leaders. These can be local leaders and academics familiar with the project and facilitating data collection from groups. Each table will have a “host” (the facilitator) who will welcome participants in their table and explain what they are expected to do. The hosts need to moderate the debate in their tables, ensuring that questions are addressed. A member of the OECD expert delegation will also be on each roundtable to welcome participants, pose questions, and add commentary to the roundtable discussions. The group will nominate a rapporteur to transmit key conclusions to the final panel session.

It would be two sessions with two parallel roundtables each session. Participants in the workshop will be split into two groups for each session and then discuss in different roundtables.

Participants cannot seat at the same roundtable when theme changes; everybody except facilitators and OECD experts moves to a different table with different participants so as to generate different type of discussions.

Roundtable leader: Prof. Hans Bruyninckx

10:00 – 11:00

Roundtable session 1 - Regional environmental assets and infrastructure

Every region will start the process of transitioning to a low carbon economy with different endowments of assets – physical, industrial and human capital. This first roundtable session investigates the environmental assets and addresses issues of environmental quality such as air and water quality, and availability of green spaces and biodiversity. Also how the local areas contributes to this quality by examining transport emissions and waste volume and how the region responds to issues of regeneration of industrial and contaminated sites and threats to decreasing biodiversity.

The environmental assets and the quality of these assets are important in determining the ability of

Roundtable session 2 - Green production and consumption

This roundtable examines the local industry base, its links with the wider economic and labour markets of surrounding areas and highlights key competitive advantages in local industry clusters. This session will also look at the entrepreneurial culture of the local area and the prevalence of start-up and spinout businesses.

The presentations in the morning session described the industrial profile of the Ghent region and emerging areas of ‘green’ sector clusters. This session builds on this evidence to discuss the potential of the existing industry base for ‘greening’ – less carbon intensive production and operation, and the emerging opportunities for the region in green or clean tech specific clusters. Of

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local regions to mitigate and adapt to Ghent region. The Background note in the morning session presented some analysis of the environmental quality of the Ghent region. This session builds on that information.

Key questions of the session – How important are these environmental assets to the region? How will they assist to local area in transitioning to a low carbon future?

OECD experts: [Dr. Maj Munch Andersen](#), [Prof. Bertil Haack](#), [Dr. Samantha Sharpe](#), [Mr. Robert Strauss](#)

Facilitators: [Mr. David Michiels](#), [Dr. Ariane König](#), [Dr. Marleen Van Steertegem](#)

special interest in this theme will also be the relationship and linkages of clusters across country borders in the Benelux region, and the opportunities to leverage these linkages for cluster development.

Key questions of the session – How does Ghent support and manage these emerging ‘green’ clusters? What is the potential for these clusters in green jobs? Describe the Ghent entrepreneurial culture, what are the positives and negatives? What is the potential of other industrial sectors for greening? What does the interactions of current industry structure and ‘green growth’ industry sectors (particularly the cross-border dimensions) mean for industry and employment development in Ghent?

OECD experts: [Dr. Alwine Woischnik](#), [Dr. Alex Stimpson](#), [Dr. Helen Mulligan](#), [Mr. Eiko Kauffmann](#) (GIZ)

Facilitators: [Dr. Kris Bachus](#), [Prof. Hans Bruyninckx](#), [Dr. Sander Happaerts](#)

11:00 – 11:15 *Coffee break*

11:15 – 12:15 **Roundtable session 3 - Green skills and training ecosystems**

The development of new ‘green’ sectors and the greening of existing industrial sectors is closely related to the ability of the region to attract and retain the right pool of talent and skills, create the right labour market conditions and support and retain ‘green know how’ within the region. This session examines the operation of local training and skills development organizations, what we refer to as the skills and training ecosystem in Ghent, and the implications for the labour market of transitioning to a low carbon economy. Specific skills sets are needed for emerging green clusters but also generally throughout the local Ghent economy to allow existing industries to become greener; through more efficient production and operation of local businesses.

Key questions to be answered include, what are the characteristics of the current skills ecosystem in Ghent, what are the advantages and challenges currently facing the local labour market for green skills development, where and most importantly how this can be improved and customized, and what support and mechanisms are required to effect this industrial transition.

OECD experts: [Mr. Robert Strauss](#), [Dr. Alex Stimpson](#), [Dr. Samantha Sharpe](#)

Facilitators: [Mr. David Michiels](#), [Dr. Ariane König](#), [Dr. Marleen Van Steertegem](#)

Roundtable session 4 - Strategies for green growth for regional policy makers

Regional policy makers and other local stakeholders are faced with the challenges of combining a business-friendly and competitive local economy that offers employment and skills development opportunities for local residents but at the same time protects and enhances the natural environment. The background notes in the morning session presented some of the local policy positions on a number of key environmental variables.

Key questions for this session – What should be the policy priorities? How do we identify these priorities? What should be the role of government and other stakeholders in understanding and acting on these priorities for issues such as emissions reduction, environmental protection? Where does the local governance have the strongest leverage??

OECD experts: [Prof. Bertil Haack](#), [Dr. Helen Mulligan](#), [Dr. Alwine Woischnik](#), [Dr. Maj Munch Andersen](#), [Mr. Eiko Kauffmann](#)

Facilitators: [Dr. Kris Bachus](#), [Prof. Hans Bruyninckx](#), [Dr. Sander Happaerts](#)

12:15 – 13:15 *Lunch*

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13:15 – 13:40 **Feedback from Roundtables**
Rapporteurs present key points
Facilitator: Prof Hans Bruyninckx

13:40 – 14:20 **Panel Roundtable**
Prof. Bertil Haack, Technische Hochschule Wildau, Germany
Dr. Alwine Woischnik, Ministry of Environment, Chile
Dr. Maj Munch Andersen Technical University of Denmark, Denmark
Dr. Helen Mulligan, Cambridge Architectural Research, UK
Dr. Alex Simpson, European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP)
Dr. Samantha Sharpe University of Technology Sydney, Australia
Q&A
Facilitator: Prof. Hans Bruyninckx (HIVA)

14:20 – 14.30 **Closing**
Prof. Hans Bruyninckx (HIVA)
Dr. Cristina Martinez-Fernandez (OECD)
The City of Ghent

Afternoon session

14:30 – 15:00 *Transfer by bus to site visit*

15:00 – 15.30 **Site visit:** Bio Base Europe Pilot Plant, Rodenhuizekaai 1, 9042 Gent-Desteldonk, Belgium

15:30 – 17:00 **Opening ceremony:** Bio Base Europe Pilot Plant

17:00 – 17.30 **Site visit:** Bio Base Europe Training Center, Zeelandlaan 2, 4538 CA Terneuzen, Netherlands

17:30 – 18.00 **Opening ceremony:** Bio Based Europe Training Center

18:00 *Dinner reception at invitation of Bio Base Europe*

19:00 *Depart to Belval by bus*
Approx. 4-hours
