PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT IN THE DELIVERY OF SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES:

MIXED MODELS FROM OECD COUNTRIES

ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Paris 1994

015941

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Foreword

This notebook is the result of collaboration between the LEED Programme and the Centre for Economies in Transition CCET. It evolved from an ILE/CCET Experts Meeting held in November 1992 on the topic of the involvement of the private sectors in the delivery of social welfare services. The meeting, which was conceived in close collaboration with SAIR, the Social Affairs and Industrial Relations Division, brought together representatives from Poland, the CSFR, Russian Federation, Hungary and OECD Member countries to discuss ways in which local authorities in the CEECs could cope with burden of providing social services by relying on private sector, eg. voluntary and not-for-profit organisations, through contract and other arrangements. The long term goal of the project is to help promote community involvement and responsibility in the area of human services, the corner-stone to evolution of a civil society after forty years of planned economies in the CEECs. In addition, the invention of practical solutions to providing for the basic needs of the community can generate new employment as the private sector develops new, more flexible institutions.

This volume, a collection of papers from six OECD Member countries, was produced in response to the request of delegates from the CEECs participating at the initial meeting, for specific information on so-called "mixed" systems of social service delivery in OECD countries. It is intended for audiences in the CEECs, and OECD countries alike. Indeed, the debate on increasing private sector participation in provision of social and other services which were formerly a monopoly of the government has been evolving in OECD countries for the past decade, and will most likely continue to present dilemmas and opportunities to policy makers for some time. In the CEECs, the debate is more recent, but of course, none the less urgent in light of the need to explore new partnerships in the area of human services which will modernise the unsustainable structures still in existence, and which propose immense potential for employment creation in the future.