



PARTNERSHIPS FOR LABOUR MARKET INCLUSION

Study Visit for Local Development Practitioners

TO

TERRITORIAL EMPLOYMENT PACTS IN AUSTRIA

28 – 30 September 2009, Innsbruck, Austria

**Draft Agenda,
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The issue

One of the aims of our societies is to ensure that all members participate in economic activity and thus share the fruits of growth. Active participation in the labour market is considered as an important factor of accomplishment and self-esteem in our societies, and it contributes to social cohesion and stability. However, in many countries, regions and localities, the conditions for labour market inclusion for all are not met, despite implementation of policy reforms and other initiatives. Marginalisation affects certain groups of the population and certain geographical areas (e.g. minorities and people with a migration background, non- or less educated persons, school drop-outs, , urban areas where these groups concentrate), and this problem appears to transcend the various phases of the business cycle.

The issues of exclusion and marginalisation are complex and unlikely to disappear in the foreseeable future. The global economic crisis has increased the likelihood that more people will enter the vicious circle of low income and labour market exclusion.

Partnerships and labour market inclusion

Inclusion in the labour market is a cross-cutting issue, touching upon the responsibility of institutions in charge of social policies, employment, education, integration, housing, transport, and economic development. The effective collaboration of these institutions is thus required. Many countries have now started to set up, favour or use already existing partnerships to focus on social integration by combining resources and knowledge of different stakeholders.

The Austrian Territorial Employment Pacts (TEPs) have been invited by the Austrian Ministry of Labour, Social Inclusion and Consumer Protection to establish measures for active labour market integration of marginalised groups. This is done within the framework of the European Social Fund operational programme 2007-2013. The first results are promising, and a second call is being issued for 2010.

The Study Visit

The OECD LEED Forum on Partnerships and Local Governance organises a study visit for a selected group of local development practitioners to review the labour market inclusion experience of Austrian Territorial Employment Pacts (TEPs). The study visit will provide opportunities to meet with people responsible for the TEP co-ordination in Tirol and in Austria, as well as with TEP Tirol partners and project promoters. In particular, the study visit will offer the possibility to:

- Get insights about the TEPs labour market integration strategies and programmes, their rationale, development and how barriers to their effective implementation have been addressed;

- Learn about the organisational and funding structure of Austrian TEPs within the framework of the ESF; and,

- Network with people running local social inclusion projects.

Preliminary programme

Day 1, afternoon

The first afternoon of the study visit, after an introduction of the activities of the OECD LEED Programme and the Forum on Partnerships and Local Governance, is dedicated to a detailed presentation of the Austrian wide public policy support for Territorial Employment Pacts within the framework of the European Social Fund. The strategy developed by the TEP Tirol will serve as a concrete example and some of the key labour market integration activities will be discussed as case studies.

- 12:00 Welcome lunch, hosted by OECD LEED Forum on Partnerships and Local Governance
- 13:15 Introduction: OECD LEED and OECD LEED Forum on Partnerships and Local Governance activities; by Michael Förschner (ZSI)
- 13.45 Social inclusion in the times of crisis
Presentation by Emma Clarence, Policy Analyst, OECD LEED followed by discussion on how partnerships can contribute to combating social exclusion
- 14:45 Coffee break
- 15:00 The Austrian TEP policy within the framework of the European Social Fund; presentation by Michael Förschner (ZSI) and discussion
The strategy developed by TEP Tirol;
Presentation by Rainer Fellner (AMG Tirol) and discussion with members of TEP Tirol (AMS, Regional Government, Service for Disabled, Social Partners)
- 17:30 End of day 1
- 19:00 Dinner with representatives of TEP Tirol, hosted by OECD LEED Forum on Partnerships and Local Governance

Day 2

Selected key labour market integration initiatives undertaken by TEP Tirol will be put “under the lens” on the second days of the study visit. The in-depth analysis will include achievements and challenges encountered. It is planned to have additional input from other Austrian regions. The day will be organised around 3 project visits to allow for discussions with people engaged in these projects.

- 9:00 Overview regarding policies of TEP Tirol in support of the marginalised and socially excluded,
- 9:30 Project visit “**Produktionsschule**” (see www.via-produktionsschule.at), an instrument combining school education with professional training
- 10:45 Project visit “**Wams**” (see www.wams.at, currently under re-design), a socio-economic enterprise
- 12:00 Lunch break
- 13:00 Bus travel to “**Loitasch Klamm**”, mountain path construction as an example of a labour market integration project
- 17:00 Return to Innsbruck

Day 3, morning

In a concluding morning session participants will draw key learning points from the review of strategies and projects. Special attention will be given to issues of transferability.

Possible follow-up activities in participating countries or regions shall be identified.

9:00 – 12:30

Who

Policy makers and practitioners directly involved in the design, implementation and evaluation of regional/local strategies for labour market inclusion.

Please return your application before 31st August 2009 and attach a short description of your field of specialisation and interest. As the number of places available is restricted to 20, priority will be given to applicants with similar interest and work experience to allow for high level discussions and mutual learning.

Cost of Participation

No participation fees are required. Participants will cover their own travel and accommodation.

Working language

English

Contact and Information

For more information on the study visit, please contact Mr. Michael Förschner at ZSI – Centre for Social Innovation, Vienna, foerschner@zsi.at.