



Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development



Local Economic and Employment Development Programme



OECD LEED **forum** on
partnerships and
local governance

ENHANCING THE CAPACITY OF PARTNERSHIPS TO INFLUENCE POLICY

A capacity building seminar

18 – 20 April 2007, Pobal, Dublin, Ireland

Programme



PROGRAMME

Rationale

Partnerships are governance tools that facilitate cross-sector and multi-level collaboration. Partnerships bring a local dimension to the policy process, helping to ensure that national policies meet local needs and match the local conditions. To this end, they engage stakeholders from various policy areas and sectors of society. They seek to bridge gaps which exist between the policies of individual agencies and work towards long-term goals.

For partnerships, feeding into the policy design process and influencing the ways policies and programmes are implemented is a challenging objective. Achieving it requires the ability to outreach to different levels of governance, and to build legitimacy and relations of trust with other actors. Securing the latter may require achieving and maintaining a “critical mass” through ensuring the commitment of the main public services and government agencies concerned; a strong participation from business; and an unchallenged representation from civil society. In addition, the partnership’s public accountability and transparency must be exemplary, and its performance properly assessed and monitored. Partnerships must build a strong analytical capacity and have access to critical information.

With its new series of capacity building activities, the Forum on Partnerships and Local Governance has opened a discussion on such mechanisms for influencing public policy, looking at the principle interests of partnerships and their rationales, the underlying policy framework for their actions, and the potential added value resulting from the way in which partnerships feed into the policy design process.

The seminar

This 2.5 day seminar is the second stage of a capacity building programme designed for experienced partnerships from OECD member countries. After a lively first seminar in Vienna, this second meeting will allow a more in-depth discussion on how partnerships can enhance their capacity to influence policy at the local, national and international levels.

The thematic focus of this seminar will be on skills development, in particular on the contributions of partnerships in designing and delivering local skills development strategies.

Seminar participants will have the opportunity to engage in discussion with local community representatives and other stakeholders, national level policy-makers and OECD experts. The programme will include case study presentations and panel discussions.

In addition, study visits to selected Irish partnerships will offer valuable insights into the work, challenges and achievements of area-based partnerships in Ireland.

The seminar will be hosted by Pobal Ireland, a long-standing partner of the OECD LEED Programme.

Participants’ profile and applications

This seminar addresses partnership managers and practitioners, national co-ordinators of partnerships with an experience and interest in expanding their current involvement in policy and programme design, as well as government counterparts of partnerships. The working language of the seminar will be English.

Up to 16 participants have been selected on the basis of the applicant’s CV (in English) and completion of a questionnaire which was downloadable at www.trento.oecd.org

Cost of Participation

Participation is free of charge. Participants must cover their own costs of travel and accommodation.

For more information on the seminar, please contact Ms Elisa Campestrin at the OECD LEED Trento Centre, Italy

Elisa.Campestrin@oecd.org

Or follow the link www.trento.oecd.org

Working language

English

Location

POBAL – Supporting Communities

Dublin 2

Holbrook House

Holles Street, Dublin, Ireland

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Website: www.pobal.ie

(Please see map below)



Wednesday, 18 April 2007

- 9:00 - 9:15 **Welcome and opening remarks by the OECD and Pobal, Ireland**
 Tony Crooks, Pobal, Chief Executive Officer, Ireland
 Andrea-Rosalinde Hofer, OECD, LEED Trento Centre for Local Development, Policy Analyst

- 9:15 - 17:15 **1. The contribution of local partnerships to policy - opportunities and challenges in urban and rural contexts**
 This first day of the seminar will offer participants the opportunity to review the role of partnerships in influencing policy in multi-level governance contexts. Presentations and case studies from Ireland and other OECD member countries will illustrate resulting changes and adaptations in the organisational set-up of partnerships, including interactions with local stakeholders and communication strategies with national and sub-national governments.

- 9.15 - 9:45 **1.1 Partnerships influencing public policy – the "Why", "What" and "How" issues**
 This session provides an introduction and overview on the question why partnerships are interested in influencing policy, what did it hope to achieve, and how has it exercised influence.
 Presentation by [Mike Geddes](#), University of Warwick, Warwick Business School, Local Government Centre, Professorial Fellow, United Kingdom

- 9:45 – 10:15 **1.2 The Irish case - Pobal – rationale, mission and organisational development**
 This session will introduce the debate about national co-ordination units of partnerships. A presentation of POBAL, the Irish co-ordination model will illustrate the organisation's role towards local partnerships and national government agencies.
 Presentation by [Marion Byrne](#), Pobal, Programme Manager, Ireland

10:15 - 10:45 *Coffee Break*

- 10:45 - 12:30 **1.3 The Irish case – the contribution of local partnerships to policy in Ireland**
 A moderated panel discussion with Irish local partnerships
[Toni McCaul](#), Community Partnership Network (CPN), National Co-ordinator, Ireland
[Gabriel O'Connell](#), County Monaghan Partnership, Manager, Ireland
[David Connolly](#), Dublin Inner City Partnership Limited, Director, Ireland
[Declan Dunne](#), Ballymun Partnership, Chief Executive Officer, Ireland
 Rapporteurs: [Mathias Kuhlmann](#), LASA Brandenburg State Agency for Structural Development and Labour, Senior Consultant, Germany and [Carmel Fox](#), Ballyhoura Development, Chief Executive Officer, Ireland
 Moderation: [Mike Geddes](#)

- 12:30 - 13:00 **1.4 Summing up on the "Why", "What" and "How" issues**
 Presentation by the rapporteurs

13:00 - 14:00 *Lunch Break*

- 14:00 - 16:30 **1.5 Partnerships influencing public policy: experiences in other countries**
 Presentations and moderated discussion
[Paul Blackmore](#), Liverpool First (Local Strategic Partnership), Economic and Enterprise Co-ordinator, United Kingdom
presentation on Liverpool's Local Area Agreement – Accelerating Delivery
[Reiner Aster](#), Gsub mbH, Gesellschaft für soziale Unternehmensberatung mbH, Managing Director, Germany
presentation on the Local Social Capita and Global Grant
[Birgit Gericke](#), LASA Brandenburg State Agency for Structure and Labour, INNOPUNKT Project, Project Co-ordinator, Germany
presentation on building and extending networks through land-wide annual thematic competitions
[Lutz Franzke](#), Development Partnership "Structural Development and Labour Berlin-Brandenburg", General Co-ordinator, Germany
presentation on how constant dripping hollows out a stone: convincing policy makers of what is needed locally
 Rapporteurs: [Mathias Kuhlmann](#), LASA Brandenburg State Agency for Structural Development and Labour, Senior Consultant, Germany and [Carmel Fox](#), Ballyhoura Development, Chief Executive Officer, Ireland
 Moderation: [Marion Byrne](#)

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| 16:30 - 16:45 | <i>Coffee Break</i> |
| 16:45 - 17:15 | 1.6 Summing up on the "Why", "What" and "How" issues Presentation by the rapporteurs |
| 17:15 - 17:30 | 1.7 Reflections on the day: learning points for future policy-making Mike Geddes and Andrea R. Hofer |
| 17:30 | End of Day 1 |
| 20:00 | Welcome dinner hosted by Pobal |

Thursday, 19 April 2007

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| Part A Urban Thursday, 9:00 - 17:30 | 2. The contribution of local partnerships to local skills strategies - opportunities and challenges in urban and rural contexts The contribution of partnerships to the design and implementation of local skills strategies in urban and rural contexts will be reviewed with the help of case study presentations and discussions focused on challenges and barriers to and achievements in skills development of hard to reach groups. The programme will be enriched by a study visit to the Ballymun partnership in Dublin and a presentation highlighting experiences in rural Canada. |
| Part B Rural Friday, 9:00 - 11:00 | |

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| Part A Urban 9:00 - 10:30 | 2.1 The contribution of partnerships to local skills development in urban areas: a focus on strategies, tools and hard to reach groups Presentations and moderated discussion Linda Curran , Blanchardstown Area Partnership, Partnership Manger, Ireland <i>presentation on strategies and tools for skills development and labour market integration in urban areas - examples from Blanchardstown area</i> Reiner Aster , Gsub mbH, Gesellschaft für soziale Unternehmensberatung mbH, Managing Director, Germany <i>presentation on strategies and tools for skills development and labour market integration in urban areas - examples from Berlin</i> Discussion |
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10:30 - 11:00 *Coffee Break*

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| 11:00 - 12:15 | Peter Nolan , Dublin Inner City Partnership Limited, Employment & Enterprise, Co-ordinator, Ireland <i>presentation on local ways to integrate hard to reach groups in the labour market</i> Johanna Gericke , Dacorum Borough Council – CEMENT Project, Equal Partnerships Manager, United Kingdom <i>presentation on how to overcome "learned helplessness" - improving skills and employment options for young people at risk</i> Discussion Rapporteurs: Lutz Franzke , Development Partnership "Structural Development and Labour Berlin-Brandenburg", General Co-ordinator, Germany and Toni McCaul , Community Partnership Network (CPN), National Co-ordinator, Ireland Moderation: Andrea R. Hofer |
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12:15 - 12:45 **2.2 Summing up by the rapporteurs**

12:45 - 13:00 **2.3 Information on the Study visit**

13:00 - 14:00 *Lunch break*

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| 14:00 - 17:30 | 2.4 Study visit to the Ballymun partnership in Dublin (boroughs 9 and 11) Ballymun partnership, which covers an urban disadvantaged area in Dublin, is highly focused on social regeneration and has been involved in addressing the needs of its vulnerable community and helping them to participate in the broader economic and housing developments. A particular area of strength and interest has been in building the skills of mainstream agencies and local deliverers, including schools, in relation to the development and implementation of an education/early childhood strategy for the area. In this regard, they have developed good national links with policy makers and attracted philanthropic funding. |
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17:30 End of Day 2

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Friday, 20 April 2007

Part B Rural 2.5 The contribution of local partnerships - opportunities and challenges in rural contexts

9:00 - 9:30 Introduction drawing on examples from rural Canada

Presentation by [David J. A. Douglas](#), University of Guelph, School of Environmental Design and Rural Development, Professor of Rural Planning and Development, Canada

9:30 - 10:45 Presentations and moderated discussion

[Carmel Fox](#), Ballyhoura Development, Chief Executive Officer, Ireland
presentation on the Ballyhoura Integrated Development Strategy

[Mathias Kuhlmann](#), LASA Brandenburg State Agency for Structural Development and Labour, Senior Consultant, Germany
presentation on how rural areas can best make use of their proximity to urban areas - and vice versa

Discussion

Comments: [Gabriel O'Connell](#), County Monaghan Partnership, Manager, Ireland and [Paul Blackmore](#), Liverpool First (Local Strategic Partnership), Economic and Enterprise Co-ordinator, United Kingdom

Moderation: [David J.A. Douglas](#)

10:45 - 11:00 *Coffee break*

11:00 - 12:45 3. Reflections on the seminar – learning points for future action

This session will allow participants to stand back and reflect on their overall options, needs and priorities in influencing policy. In a group exercise participants will be required to develop recommendations for the improvement of their partnership's organisational set-up and their communication strategies with regard to influencing policies.

11:00 - 11:45 3.1 Drawing together the learning from the seminar: developing recommendations for enhanced capacities

Work in two teams on what are the learning points from urban and rural partnerships

Team facilitators: [Mike Geddes](#) and [David J. A. Douglas](#)

11:45 - 12:45 3.2 General discussion on lessons learned from the seminar: learning points for future policy making

Moderation: [Mike Geddes](#) and [Andrea R. Hofer](#)

12:45 Closing remarks

[Marion Byrne](#), Pobal, Programme Manager, Ireland

[Andrea-Rosalinde Hofer](#), OECD, LEED Trento Centre for Local Development, Policy Analyst

13:00 End of the seminar
