© OECD 2014

Reader's guide

The OECD Local Job Creation project involves a series of country reviews in Australia, Belgium (Flanders), Canada (Ontario and Quebec), Czech Republic, France, Ireland, Israel, Italy (Autonomous Province of Trento), Korea, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States (California and Michigan). The key stages of each review are summarised in Box 1.

Box 1. **Summary of the OECD LEED Local Job Creation project methodology**

- Analyse available data to understand the key labour market challenges facing the country in the context of the economic recovery and apply an OECD LEED diagnostic tool which seeks to assess the balance between the supply and demand for skills at the local level.
- Map the current policy framework for local job creation in the country.
- Apply the local job creation dashboard, developed by the OECD LEED Programme (Froy et al., 2010) to measure the relative strengths and weaknesses of local employment and training agencies to contribute to job creation.
- Distribute an electronic questionnaire to local employment offices to gather information on how they work with other stakeholders to support local job creation policies.
- Conduct an OECD study visit, where local and national roundtables with a diverse range of stakeholders are held to discuss the results and refine the findings and recommendations.
- Contribute to policy development in the reviewed country by proposing policy options to overcome barriers, illustrated by selected good practice initiatives from other OECD countries.

While the economic crisis is the current focus of policy-makers, there is a need for both short-term and longer-term actions to ensure sustainable economic growth. In response to this issue, the OECD LEED Programme has developed a set of thematic areas on which local stakeholders and employment and training agencies can focus to build sustainable growth at the local level. These include:

1. **better aligning policies and programmes to local economic development challenges and opportunities;**
2. **adding value through skills:** Creating an adaptable skilled labour force and supporting employment progression and skills upgrading;

3. **targeting policy to local employment sectors and investing in quality jobs,** including gearing education and training to emerging local growth sectors and responding to global trends, while working with employers on skills utilisation and productivity; and,
4. **being inclusive** to ensure that all actual and potential members of the labour force can participate in, and contribute to, future economic growth.

Local Job Creation Dashboard

As part of its reviews on Local Job Creation policies, the LEED Programme has drawn on its previous research to develop a set of best practice priorities in each thematic area, which is used to assess local practice through the local job creation dashboard (see Box 2). The dashboard enables national and local policy-makers to gain a stronger overview of the strengths and weaknesses of the current policy framework, whilst better prioritising future actions and resources. A value between 1 (low) to 5 (high) is assigned to each of the four priority areas corresponding to the relative strengths and weaknesses of local policy approaches based on LEED research and best practices in other OECD countries.

Box 2. **Local Job Creation Dashboard**

Better aligning policies and programmes to local economic development

1.1. Flexibility in the delivery of employment and vocational training policies.

1.2. Capacities within employment and VET sectors.

1.3. Policy co-ordination, policy integration and co-operation with other sectors.

1.4. Evidence based policy making.

Adding value through skills

2.1. Flexible training open to all in a broad range of sectors

2.2. Working with employers on training

2.3. Matching people to jobs and facilitating progression

2.4. Joined up approaches to skills

Targeting policy to local employment sectors and investing in quality jobs

3.1. Relevance of provision to important local employment sectors and global trends and challenges.

3.2. Working with employers on skills utilisation and productivity.

3.3. Promotion of skills for entrepreneurship.

3.4. Promoting quality jobs through local economic development.

Being inclusive

4.1. Employment and training programmes geared to local "at-risk" groups.

4.2. Childcare and family friendly policies to support women's participation in employment.

4.3. Tackling youth unemployment.

4.4. Openness to immigration.

The approach for Northern Ireland

This study has looked at the range of institutions and bodies involved in workforce and skills development in Northern Ireland. A key focus of the project has been to examine the range of strategies for addressing the problems of NEETs (young people who are not in employment, education or training) and for employer engagement with the public employment service.

In-depth field work focused on local activities in the Belfast region. Interviews were conducted with a wide set of stakeholders. An electronic questionnaire was sent to 35 employment offices seeking information on their contributions to local job creation policies as well as the degree of flexibility in the management of the employment and training system. In March 2013, a local roundtable was held in Belfast in addition to a departmental roundtable to discuss the findings and recommendations. These meetings brought together a range of departmental and local stakeholders, including relevant officials in the fields of employment, economic development and training; employers; and other local community and social development organisations.

References

Froy, F., S. Giguère and E. Travkina (2010), *Local Job Creation: Project Methodology*, OECD Local Economic and Employment Development (LEED), OECD, Paris, *www.oecd.org/cfe/leed/Local%20Job%20Creation%20Methodology_27%20February.pdf*.

From:

Employment and Skills Strategies in Northern Ireland, United Kingdom

Access the complete publication at:

https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264208872-en

Please cite this chapter as:

OECD (2014), “Reader's guide”, in *Employment and Skills Strategies in Northern Ireland, United Kingdom*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

DOI: https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264208872-4-en

This work is published under the responsibility of the Secretary-General of the OECD. The opinions expressed and arguments employed herein do not necessarily reflect the official views of OECD member countries.

This document and any map included herein are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area.

You can copy, download or print OECD content for your own use, and you can include excerpts from OECD publications, databases and multimedia products in your own documents, presentations, blogs, websites and teaching materials, provided that suitable acknowledgment of OECD as source and copyright owner is given. All requests for public or commercial use and translation rights should be submitted to rights@oecd.org. Requests for permission to photocopy portions of this material for public or commercial use shall be addressed directly to the Copyright Clearance Center (CCC) at info@copyright.com or the Centre français d’exploitation du droit de copie (CFC) at contact@cfcopies.com.