

Local development

as a key pillar of post-2013
EU integrated territorial policies

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Seminar

29 November 2011
European Parliament
Room ASP 1E1
9:00-12:30



Purpose

Inter disciplinary seminar aiming at bringing together EU officials elected representatives from Member States and practitioners - to jointly examine the case for integrated local development policies in the post-2013 EU programmes, having a territorial development focus, mainly urban, peri-urban and rural development policies under EU Territorial Development policies.

Part Two of General Regulation of the EU Structural and Rural Development funds has proposed **new common provisions for Community-Led Local Development**. This proposal means a great step forward to making Local Development a key feature of the next programmes. Local partnerships will be able to define, bottom up, Integrated Local Development Strategies that can be simultaneously supported by ERDF, ESF and EAFRD. To this purpose common rules are tabled for them to facilitate integrated delivery on the ground.

Our event is the first one to publicly discuss this matter by bringing together key players from the European Commission, European Parliament, the Council Presidency and CoR. It will be an ideal occasion to identify whether these proposals can work on the ground or if there is need for improvement during the legislative phase. The Commission is also undertaking a detailed study of Local Development across the EU, which will be presented for the first time in this conference. For this reason, the proposed seminar aims to approach the issue of local development in a holistic way addressing both the policy making and the technical implementation issues.

When

Tuesday 29th November, from 9:00 to 12:30
European Parliament, Spinelli Building, Room ASP 1E1.

To register and access the Parliament premises it is compulsory that you send your name and ID number before **18th November**. [Please register online here](#)

Where

Thanks to the Urban Intergroup chair this event will be organised at the European Parliament premises. This would also facilitate attendees to cover the Covenant of Mayors agenda later that day. Around 50 attendees are expected to take part at the debate. Given the limited places available, early registration is encouraged,

Who will be organising it

This conference is a partnership between the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) and two of its members the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) and the Association of Municipalities of Romania (AMR). Other CEMR members such as the House of Dutch Provinces and the Swedish Association of Local and Regional Authorities are also collaborating with this event.

Moreover, this event enjoys the patronage of the *Urban Housing Intergroup of the European Parliament* whose key MEP representatives are speaking at this event.

Key questions to be addressed

1. *Where are the main obstacles and challenges towards a community lead approach for local development? What can EU and national authorities do in order to improve the situation?*
2. *How can European regional and rural development policies better serve the purpose of local development? Is there a contradiction between the European and local views on this?*
3. *What lessons did we learn from the 2000-2006 and current programming periods?*

Draft Agenda

8.30 Registration

9.00 Welcome addresses

- *Jan Olbrycht, President of the Urban Intergroup*
- *Carola Gunarsson, CEMR Rapporteur on Cohesion and Territorial Policy*

9.15 The Local Development approach

Chair: *Jan Olbrycht, President of the Urban Intergroup*

- **Polish Presidency perspective on the local development approach**
Piotr Zuber, Director of the Department of Structural Policy Coordination
- **The Local development approach in the future EU Cohesion Policy**
Nicolas Martyn, Deputy Director-General DG REGIO

10.15 Local development partnerships in practice

Introduction and chair: *Tudor Pendiuc, AMR President, Mayor of Pitești, Romania*

- *Carola Gunarsson, CEMR Rapporteur on Cohesion and Territorial Policy*
- *Ramona Mănescu, MEP*
- *Wladyslaw Piskorz, DG REGIO*

11.15 The contribution of the EAFRD and the ESF to the local development

Introduction and chair: *Corrie McChord, COSLA Vice-President*

- **Local Development in the new Rural programmes**
Pedro Brosej, DG AGRI
- **Local Development in the future ESF**
Christian Lefebvre, DG EMPL
- **Contribution of Local Development in delivering ERDF funded measures in 2000-2013**
Presentation of a study under preparation
Flavia Pesce, Deputy Project coordinator REGIO Evaluation Local Development
- **Response and conclusions from the EP Rapporteur on the General Structural Funds Regulation**
Lambert van Nistelrooij, MEP

12.30 Lunch Reception provided by the organisers

Background

- The European Commission new Regulations are proposing to fully develop community led local development partnerships to deliver EU Cohesion and Rural Development funds. CEMR and its national associations have actively been advocating this. The seminar will explore how the new proposals can be put into practice in the 2014-2020 period.

Definition

- The Commission's current work is explicitly developing the ideas already proposed in the Barca report *"the solution to local problems requires the contribution of local actors and local resources: an area-based strategy is essential as it "promotes the supply of integrated goods and services tailored to contexts, and it triggers institutional changes. In a place-based policy, public interventions rely on local knowledge and are verifiable and submitted to scrutiny, while linkages among places are taken into account"*
- This establishes a bigger focus on the development of the surrounding local environment rather than solely on the specific target group of activity to be addressed. For instance, rather than aiming only at increasing the number of local business, it focuses on the wider local conditions that stimulate/refrain economic performance. Hence, Local Development places a bigger focus on the impact of institutional performance, characteristics of civil society and social capital on the performance of regional economies
- Furthermore, activating local partnerships in a bottom-up strategy, multi-level cooperation, local networking and capacity building are its main tools. Many territorial and social policies promoted by the European Union both during the 2000-2006 and 2007-2013 programming periods adopted a local development approach to better achieve the expected outcomes.

The story so far

- The review of the pre-2006 and the evidence already gathered during this period showed that the mainstreaming of the local development initiatives into the operational programmes has not provided the expected results. Following the so-called Kiruna paper published in late 2009, a local development study fleshed out this concept further in March 2010.
- This resulted in Local Development being proposed in the 5th Cohesion Report, alongside a new urban, rural-urban and functional area approaches as new drivers of the policy at sub-regional level.
- DG REGIO has, however, continued working on this concept and is currently undertaking a study on Local Development to achieve a common and clear definition of local development and operational recommendations on how and when local development could be used to deliver Cohesion Policy and how to monitor and evaluate the effects of local development interventions on economic, social and territorial cohesion at regional and national level.
- Moreover, the case for Local Development now also extends to the European Social Fund. In fact, DG EMPL is carrying a similar policy scoping.
- Equally the existing provisions in the EAFRD Regulation on Local Development are reinforced.
- Crucially, **the new Cohesion and Rural Development Regulations tabled on 5 October do include clear proposals for Community-led local development.** The EC proposes: focus on specific sub-regional territories and community-led, by local action groups composed by local authorities and representatives of the public and private local socio-economic interests and development and implementation of integrated local development strategies. Local Development will also be integrated as it will be supported by the Structural Funds, EAFRD and EMFF, with one of them acting as lead fund.
- This meeting wants to explore how this can be done. We aim to explore how far we can exploit the potentialities of this concept and to help EU institutions and practitioners to increase their understanding of how the local level assesses its value for the post 2013 programmes.