

The IDELE solution



Best practice lessons from
20 years of local employment
development in Europe.



The IDELE solution

This document outlines the key points raised by ECOTEC Research and Consulting Ltd in its IDELE project for the European Commission to draw out best practice and the valuable lessons learned from over 20 years' of locally-led employment initiatives in Europe.

Using a combination of research, case studies and seminars bringing together the best players across Europe, ECOTEC Research and Consulting Ltd captured the essence of what it is to act locally for employment and development.

The IDELE seminars facilitated by ECOTEC evolved over three years into a unique and effective 'conversational' format capable of bringing together the views of local people and promoters, policy experts, academics and government policy-makers – exploring complex and often controversial issues about what local employment development (LED) is and how best to sustain it.

The results offer a comprehensive insight into the contribution of local pacts and partnerships in contributing to EU member state employment and job creation programmes over the past two decades and pinpoint exciting and innovative ideas that can help shape future programmes and action.

Based on case studies and the real-life experiences of people who come together, in spite of the conditions they face, to take ownership of their problems and mobilize themselves and their communities, the reports reveal crucial evidence of how acting locally for employment and development really does add value.

“ There is evidence of a truly remarkable record of success both in the way local approaches have been widely adopted and in the way they have come to ‘colonise’ so much of the local development scene. ”

“ The last two decades have seen enormous strides in the adoption of more open, creative and inclusive approaches to creating more and better jobs, giving people access to skills and tackling social exclusion. ”

“ The crucial elements of the value added of LED are notoriously hard to measure and even to put a value on and yet acting locally may well have been the ‘x-factor’ that defined the best activities and delivered the best quality job and access outcomes. ”

“ It is about the buzz of driving toward a common purpose, the clever resolution of a long festering conflict, the engagement of people who have been driven to be outsiders and so on. ”

“ LED carries within it some ideas that have much wider social and political significance. These come from the power of the local to recapture those, now unfashionable, but perhaps in the future even more vital, distinctively European, ideals of common purpose, mutuality, solidarity and inclusiveness. ”



Through case studies and analysis these reports explore in detail:

- > How local initiatives boosted the economies and employment prospects of a diverse range of communities
- > How locally-led partnerships helped to transform cities, rural communities, and old industrial landscapes
- > How locally-led initiatives inspired innovative and creative solutions to complex problems
- > Why we need a clear strategy to secure the skills and capacity of local partnerships for future generations
- > What lessons can be learned by the new member states of the EU from over two decades of experience in local employment development in EU15
- > What sorts of survival strategies are available for successful locally-led initiatives as they lose their traditional funding sources and begin to compete for mainstream funds
- > What needs to be done to build sustainability into local employment development programmes to ensure their legacy long into the future
- > How partnerships built on shared goals and trust enabled locally-led employment initiatives not only to be innovative and forward looking but also to give those communities a lasting future



 **The IDELE reports delivered by ECOTEC Research and Consulting Ltd provide a platform for policymakers and promoters to share a real dialogue about how the local approach can make a difference and why it needs to be widened and deepened across Europe in a sustainable way. To access more information and the detailed conclusions of the following IDELE reports go to <http://www.ECOTEC.com/idele/resources/>**

- > Cross border and transnational cooperation for employment development
- > Funding the long term: mainstreaming and sustainable finance for local employment development
- > Maximising employment potential: local approaches to lifelong learning
- > Connecting the local: linking local employment and economic development into national and regional governance systems
- > Old industrial and mining centres
- > The Metropolitan City: seeking competitive advantage through local actions to integrate immigrant and minority groups
- > Successful local milieux and the Lisbon process
- > Remote Rural Areas: stimulating and managing new firm creation and entrepreneurship through local action

ECOTEC Research & Consulting:
12-26 Albert Street, Birmingham B4 7UD. United Kingdom
T +44 121 616 36 00 F +44 121 616 36 99 E birmingham@ecotec.com

ECOTEC Research & Consulting:
13a Avenue de Tervuren B-1040 Brussels Belgium.
T +32 2 743 89 49 F +32 2 732 71 11 E brussels@ecotec.com

For further information email: james.rampton@ecotec.com
Call: 0121 616 3663 Visit: www.ecotec.com/idele