



Identification, Dissemination and Exchange of good practice in
Local Employment development and promoting better governance

<IGO-Leuven-Belgium >

General details

Name of contact	Jo Discart, Director
Organisation	IGO-Leuven
Address	Aarschotsesteenweg 212 3010 Leuven Belgium
Telephone no.	00 32 / 16 / 29.85.40
Fax	00 32 / 16 / 29.85.59
Email address	Jo.discart@igo-leuven.be

Details of activity

Background to the case study	<p>Aims and objectives</p> <p>IGO Leuven has been set up as a service-delivery association for local authorities. It develops and grants durable, socially relevant services of high quality, anticipating the needs of the local governing boards and their inhabitants in order to stimulate the socio-economic development of the region.</p> <p>IGO Leuven develops, in an expert and efficient manner, together with public and private partners, a actions in relevant socio-economic fields, among which employment, well-being, environment, tourism, culture and international co-operation.</p> <p>It undertakes therefore different kinds of tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Initial policy work for a single or a group of local authorities - Training and education - Individual and collective services - Organized and co-ordinated consultation and co-operation - Various executive tasks for local authorities - Creating employment - A co-ordinating role in its territory, when it gets the mandate to do so <p>Brief rationale</p>
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European Commission

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main challenge of the labour market in the region of “Leuven” is <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Participation on the labour market of targetgroups (long-term unemployment, marginal groups, low skilled people, disabled people, elderly people (45 - 65)) ○ Challenge of the “problematic” jobs (demand on labourmarket is high – unemployed people do not fit) ○ Creation of new jobs <p>Founders/ Donors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Local government (municipals – province) • National en Flemish government (administration for work and employment / social economy) • European Social Fund <p>When did the activity start - end date? IGO Leuven started working on unemployment since 1989. Year after year we started more projects. Most of the projects are planned until 31/12/2007.</p>
Description of activity	<p>Outline of programme / activities and approaches used</p> <p>COÖPERATION and DIALOGUE with other actors in the district: IGO Leuven is involved in regional platforms, but also in local activities. Cooperation with different institutions and regional/local groups is an essential part of the working method. Research, advice, local and regional actions make part of his possibilities.</p> <p>Activities related to employment</p> <p>Regional development</p> <p>Inter-disciplinary research, confrontation of the results with socio-economic and socio-cultural actors in the region, syntheses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - measures to protect the landscape - creation of information-networks (culture, tourism and agriculture)



	<p>Welfare-social programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welfare Development Plans on Municipal Level (local social policy) - local poverty-programmes - community structure projects - creation and organisation of children care after school time <p>Welfare-employment programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - vocational training programs and work-experience projects for semi- and unskilled long-term jobseekers in several technical professions: lay-out of the garden, gardening, maintenance of green areas; construction and renovation; cleaning; executive administrative jobs; additional home care; sale and distribution of region products (40 VTE) - creation of durable jobs (25 VTE) for unskilled, long-term with continual vocational training and acquisition of skills and competencies - the Inter-Municipal team for nature and landscape: 50 nature workers, pooled towards the municipal authorities (50 VTE) - creation of durable jobs additional home care (15 VTE) <p>Education and training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - formation and education for specific groups: municipal workers and staff off the public centre of social work employed in greenness services, technical services, cleaning and care - education programs designed on demand for the personnel of local organisations: security on the work floor, training in communication, application training for jobseekers, durable weeds management, intervision techniques for low- and unskilled workers.
Geographical focus of the case study	Arrondissement of Leuven: regroups 30 municipalities (some of



	<p>them are cities), km² : 1.163, number of inhabitants : 440.000, socio-economic aspects, unemployment of 22500 people, number of lower-educated is 55%</p>
Partners' details	<p>Co-operation with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - municipals - OCMW - the province - regional socio-economic platforms - tourism platforms - socio-cultural groups - economic groups - environmental NGO'S - IGO Leuven has links with "Interleuven", the economic inter-municipal organisation of the district of Leuven, Regional Economic and Social Committee (social partners), many social and cultural organisations in the region.
Impact	<p>Describe the impact of the programme Outputs – scale and scope of people reached</p> <p>Outcome at local level In the work experience team the principle of “learning by doing” stands centrally: no scholastic learning, but on-the-job-training in real work situations. In such circumstances the participants can develop their technical skills. As much and even more attention goes out to acquiring and steering the labour attitude: arriving in time, informing at sickness, learning to organise certain matters in the private time. About 3 days in a month are foreseen for evaluation and specific training: theoretical courses to obtain a driving licence, application training... Those efforts result in increasing the chances of the participants on the job market.</p> <p>Continue to economic integration or social economy The aim of these work experience projects is for a jobseeker to find a job and to get integrated on the labour market. When this is not possible or a too high goal for a participant (on criteria as independency, flexibility, age) he will be accompanied to a social economy project. This is possible at IGO Leuven at INL-teams,</p>



greenness teams, the monument teams, Route-Net or Careteam-plus or with other social economy projects in the region (re-us and recycling centres,...).

In 2004 these result got up to 43%. This means that 4 on 10 jobseekers finds a job after the work experience project. It concerns often people who were unemployed for a considerable time. A research of the Higher Institute of Labour (Prof. Ides Nicaise) confirm our results. Moreover is established that although some jobseekers fall back - after their work experience- in unemployment, they succeed then nevertheless some years later still to find connection at the labour market. Who participated in a work experience project scored evident better than jobseekers who passed through no work experience.

The effort of all our teams together is on an annual basis approximately 140000 hours. This corresponds almost to 100 full-time equivalents which stand in service of the local governing boards and their inhabitants!

It is a surplus value for our region in several ways:

- Through working in nature conservation, green maintenance of public grounds, monument care, maintenance of tourist routes, maintenance of mobility infrastructure, sale of region products and distribution of organically grown fruit, additional home care, installation of doorsteps and playgrounds, renovating schools our region is getting better and more attractive to live, to work and to visit...
- Employment is created for groups who have difficulties to make connection with the labour market: lower- and unskilled, long-term unemployed, ex-prisoners... In sum it concerns 80 full-time equivalents in durable employment (social economy) and 30 full-time equivalents in work experience projects (for 1 year). Furthermore we offer different kinds of training programs.
- The efforts of these lower or unskilled and sometimes long-term jobseekers show also that they can be integrated into socially relevant tasks, if good accompaniment is provided. For many of those jobseekers training and work experience projects provide a springboard to a job (in the regular or in the social



	<p>economy). With this result they can be proud and regain selfconfidence, recognition and appreciation.</p> <p>Outcome for the region</p> <p>These initiatives have effect in the subregional employment policy. We gather knowledge which is acquired to develop activities for specific questions and needs for actions to potential employers.</p>

Theme-Specific Questions

Who was targeted by the programmes?	<p>The main target group of the program are:</p> <p>People who are low skilled, longterm unemployed (more than 2 years – in some cases more than 5 years), women, elderly people, marginals groups</p> <p>All The people in the projects receive services free of charge.</p>
Which levels of government were involved, informed or consulted?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We work together with the regional Agency for Employment (VDAB) on the field. The VDAB labels the targetgroup an work on the income of targetgroups • We work together with NGO in the region • The Flemish government labelled our organisation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ EFQM – label (ESF) ○ trainingorganisation
What actions resulted in mainstreaming?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • System of work experience plough • “invoeg” – setting (social economy)

