



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

LATVIA
BALTIC STATES RURAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME
&
REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT NEEDS STUDY

General details

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Details of activity

Rural Partnership Programme (RPP) in Latvia

Background to the case study	<p>Aims and objectives</p> <p>The aim of the project was to make a contribution to the “reduction of poverty and social exclusion in the Baltic States” through “improved rural and regional development”.</p> <p>The objectives were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ to create and test a model for the delivery of integrated (improved) rural development;○ to provide training and on-the-job experience in “bottom-up” rural development strategies;○ to propose a framework for continuation of the Leader type activities in the country. <p>Brief rationale</p> <p>In Latvia from 2000 to December 2003 three Rural Partnerships were set up and developed their local development strategies for reduction of poverty and social inclusion. The implementation of those were funded by DFID by 100 000 pounds. In total 82 community initiative and programme approach projects were implemented in Latgale region three districts. The framework for Leader type initiatives included in SPD 2004-2006.</p> <p>Implementing organisation</p> <p>ENTERPLAN International in association with NICO;</p> <p>Funders</p> <p>UK Department of International Development</p>
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European Commission

	<p>Activity started / end date 2000 – 2003</p>
<p>Description of activity</p>	<p>The main activities of the RPP in Latgale region 3 districts were the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Development of the Partnerships ○ Development of the Partnership strategies for local development ○ Implementation of the strategies ○ Empowerment of local communities ○ Networking of communities <p>The approaches used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bottom up local development ○ Piloting of partnership activities ○ Action research ○ Lessons learned and recommendations to be mainstreamed <p>RPP was very much based on the experience of the Northern Ireland for local development.</p> <p>The programme has been recognised as good practice and mainstreamed in SPD 2004-2006 (Although by different reasons having slow start with in it)</p>
<p>Policy context within which the programme operates</p>	<p>The RPP provided example of a new bottom–up partnership approach for local development which was overtaken by other regions of Latvia and included in policy document worked out by Ministry of Agriculture. Local activities make difference for the policy priorities.</p> <p>RPP facilitated relationship between rural policy development institutions and local level. High interest for project results was shown by Ministry of Regional Development and Local Governments and Ministry of Welfare.</p>
<p>Geographical focus of the case study</p>	<p>At three districts of Latgale region in Latvia (and the same in Lithuania and Estonia)</p>
<p>Impact</p>	<p>More than 1000 people were directly involved in the activities of the Programme through the Partnership Boards, Community Facilitators, Rural development specialists, Policy dialogue group, and 82 implemented community initiative and programme approach projects.</p>



	<p>The Programme involved people from local communities and local governments, district and regional level institutions and was closely working with the national level institutions.</p> <p>The impact of the programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outputs – Three partnerships established and operational; 82 projects implemented. • Outcomes: <i>at local level</i> – Partnerships established cooperation with local governments which continue supporting of local initiatives; Communities were empowered to uprise their needs and to find solutions. • Outcomes: at <i>regional level</i> – Latgale Region Development Agency which was actively involved in the programme was very much supporting lobbying for local development at national level. • Outcomes: at <i>national level</i> – Other regions overtake the experience and now more than 15 partnerships are set up in Latvia. Ministry of Agriculture included Leader type measure in SPD 2004-2006.
Partners' details	Inara Stalidzane, Consulting company Konsultanti Country team leader for Latvia part of the project.

Theme-Specific Questions

Who was targeted by the programme?	Local communities, socially excluded groups in rural areas, like young people, long-term unemployed, disabled and others.
Which levels of government were involved, informed or consulted?	Local governments involved in Partnership Boards; Regional - for evaluation of the local development strategies; National - learning from the programme and mainstreaming the results.
What actions resulted in mainstreaming?	Development of Partnerships and their strategies for local development and support for implementation. Training of local communities.
Sustainability	The Partnerships established within the BRPP are now operating as NGOs on their own capacity using funding from different resources, like: the WB, UNDP, EU Phare, Latvian Integration Fund, etc.



<p>Successes / lessons learned</p>	<p>The success of the programme was ensured by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ involvement of all levels (from local to national) in implementation and following the action research from the very beginning of the project; ○ good cooperation off all institutions involved; ○ high responsiveness to the provided support at the local level and a lot of voluntary work done at community level. <p>The lessons learned include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Those who were not willing to participate at the beginning were convinced by good results of neighbours. ○ Implemented community initiatives are convincing local governments to support their further activities. ○ Transparent work of the Partnerships convinced Banks to provide grants to local initiatives. ○ 100 000 pounds provided by project fund were doubled by attraction of other funds. ○ Attention should be given to the capacity building at the local level, as lack of skills brings to the lack of confidence and low involvement in local initiatives. <p>What would be done differently:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ More attention should be paid to dissemination off good results, good practice; ○ More support to networking.
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Details of activity

Regional employment needs study

<p>Background to the case study</p>	<p>Aims and objectives</p> <p>The aim is to develop long-life training strategy for Latgale region to ensure human resource skills development according the market needs.</p> <p>The objectives are to study the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ needs of local inhabitants for skills and training; ○ needs of employees; ○ needs of employers; ○ training opportunities. <p>Brief rationale</p> <p>The project should provided the base for the development of the long-life training strategy for Latgale region.</p>
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	<p>Implementing organisation Latgale region development Agency Experts from Konsultanti</p> <p>Funders ESF</p> <p>When activity started / end date? February – September, 2006</p>
<p>Description of activity</p>	<p>The study includes the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Questionnaires for population, employees and employers; ○ Interviews; ○ Discussions in the focus groups; ○ Development of the Report including analyses of the results, recommendations and conclusions for strategy development. <p>More and more local activities are taking place in the region and at the same time more and more complains are on lack of skills needed by the market economy. The need for such Strategy is coming through local partnerships, which are delivering case to case training and asking for more sustainable approach.</p> <p>Project was designed by the Latgale Region Development Agency and it's Training Centre. The Study is done by the consulting company Konsultanti. The project received funding within the wider study of employment needs in the framework of the national programme.</p>
<p>Policy context within which the programme operates</p>	<p>The national programme for development and implementation of the lifelong learning strategy is in line with the local needs to understand and respond market needs for employment and to develop personal skills.</p> <p>Needs for capacity building in Latgale region at the local level were raised by different institutions and also within Rural Partnerships Programme and taken on board by the Ministry of Welfare.</p>
<p>Geographical focus of the case study</p>	<p>Programme operates in whole Latvia. Project operates in Latgale region.</p>



Impact	<p>The project is ongoing and therefore we can speak about the planned impact:</p> <p>Outputs – Questionnaires for population and employees; interviews and discussions in the focus groups are being carried out to cover the whole area of the region to give the realistic picture of the needs (population 400 000)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcomes: <i>at local level</i> – Training provided respond local needs. • Outcomes: <i>at regional</i> – Training programmes developed according the market needs. • Outcomes: <i>at national level</i> – (the programme is covering whole country) and all regions are doing studies and developing long life learning strategies implementation of which will make difference at national level by ensuring skills development according market needs and making country economy competitive at EU level.
Partners' details	Latgale Region Development Agency Consulting company Konsultanti

Theme-Specific Questions

Who was targeted by the programme?	Latgale region employees and employers, training institutions.
Which levels of government were involved, informed or consulted?	Local governments in interviews, defining the needs. Region – in development of the strategy.
What actions resulted in mainstreaming?	The development of the strategy will result in mainstreaming of the training programmes defined.
Sustainability	The strategy will likely to be sustainable as it is responding to the local and national level needs.
Successes / lessons learned	Intelligent needs study should be made to ensure the development of realistic long-life learning strategy development for Latgale region.

