

Preface

The OECD Local Economic and Employment Development (LEED) Programme's first biennial publication tackles a question that is at the top of government agendas: how to create more and better quality jobs. Addressing this question is a key aspect of the OECD's efforts not just to strengthen the recovery, but also to make our economies and societies more resilient.

The policy environment for job creation is becoming even more complex and interconnected. Taking a narrow perspective that only considers one level of governance or one area of policy brings significant risks, both for growth and resilience. LEED plays a critical role in helping the OECD avoid this trap. Its work focuses not just at the level of national policy design, but also on local-level policy implementation and governance. And, because of the cross-sector nature of LEED's Directing Committee, which includes representatives of both labour and economic ministries, it takes an integrated approach to its work.

LEED's unique perspective within the OECD is well reflected in this publication. The introduction outlines potential tensions between national and local policy objectives, and highlights the potential danger of prioritising efficiency in national policy delivery over more sophisticated cross-cutting implementation which will procure longer lasting and more holistic results. The thematic chapters set out how a variety of policy areas can contribute to local job creation, from skills to economic development, from entrepreneurship to the social economy. All of this is discussed not just with the lens of "what needs to be done", but also paying special attention to "how it can be done": what governance mechanisms are needed; how responses can be tailored to local conditions; and how the various stakeholders can be brought together.

Accordingly, insights are offered to policy makers at all levels. National policy makers can better understand how policy design decisions made centrally can facilitate, or inhibit, local growth and resiliency. At the same time, local policy makers can draw inspiration from the examples that the publication provides on innovative initiatives in communities across the OECD. The country profiles in the second part of the report provide a helpful snapshot of local conditions in each country, highlighting both areas "at risk" and areas of growth in terms of employment, skills and economic performance. National policy makers will better understand local variations in their countries, while local policy makers can see where their jurisdiction fits within the broader national and international context.

I hope policy makers at both levels as well as researchers, practitioners, and other stakeholders find the research and guidance presented in this publication both informative and actionable.



Angel Gurría

Secretary-General of the OECD



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