



Dear CPESEEC members,

We are pleased to follow up on the conclusions of the 6<sup>th</sup> Expert Conference of the CPESEEC held in Zagreb in March 2011 and invite CPESEEC members to participate in the following initiative.

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and its Local Economic and Employment (LEED) Programme is conducting a study on '[Local Development Capacity Assessment in EU Candidate Countries and Potential Candidates in the Western Balkans](#)'. The objective is to provide practical recommendations to national and local policy makers on how to improve local capacity to:

1. Promote employment and skills development;
2. Foster social inclusion;
3. Support SME creation and growth;
4. Design and implement integrated local development strategies.

CPESEEC members are invited to participate in this project and the following 3 co-operation steps:

1. **CPESEEC representatives are invited to join project teams on employment and skills and inclusion in each country:** These teams are the main interlocutor for the OECD and will validate the final reports. In particular, the role of the teams is to:
  - Provide information to project experts on current national policies and implementation frameworks;
  - Facilitate project implementation in the case study territory;
  - Comment on the draft assessment report and participate in the validation thematic round table meeting (October - December 2011).
2. **CPESEEC representatives are invited to complete a Survey of PES:** as part of this project OECD would like to undertake a survey of Public Employment Services offices at regional and local levels in each country to better understand the policy implementation arrangements. The survey will be carried out from 5 September to 5 October 2011. The survey will be undertaken through telephone interviews of 30 minutes and will be carried out in local languages. We kindly ask you to nominate your PES representatives who will be able to participate in the Survey.
3. **CPESEEC Directors or Deputy Directors are invited to participate in the Meeting of the Directing Committee of LEED Programme on 22 November in Paris:** a special peer dialogue session will be organised in the framework of the 59th meeting of LEED Directing Committee to review the first findings and exchange policy lessons between policy making community in OECD member countries and SEE. The LEED Committee brings together representatives of relevant ministries from OECD member countries. High-level representatives (at deputy minister or director level) from SEE partner ministries (responsible for employment, inclusion and SME promotion) will be invited.

We hope that you will be able to participate in this project and encourage your PES members to participate in the Survey.

Yours sincerely,

The Croatian Employment Service

