

## Detailed Description

This Summer School offers the opportunity to learn the principles, strategies and applied skills necessary to equip policy makers and practitioners to be able to design, implement and measure participatory and inclusive local economic development (LED) enabling environments, policies, strategies and projects. In the current economic climate it is more important than ever that every possible lever is used to improve growth and economic inclusiveness and accountability. This course will share local economic development strategies, tools and instruments that participants will be able to use to improve their sub-national economies.

This is the first course of its kind run by the Central European University and offers an excellent faculty who are not promoting any specific 'tied' approach to LED. The course takes an interdisciplinary approach starting with a distance learning familiarization component, which will comprise a number of readings and opportunities to share knowledge. The main component is a two-week residential course based in Budapest, Hungary.

The Faculty has been selected from academics from leading universities, practitioners with experience working in and with the World Bank, UN Family, EU, bi-laterals and with governments and the private sector. The faculty is multilingual and has worked between them on and in every continent and in many countries in all continents. The aim is to enable participants to both understand the principles of inclusive LED but also the practice too. Participants are encouraged to apply from across the world and across different organizations to maximize peer to peer learning and exchange.

## Context

High levels of unemployment and underemployment across the globe have been exacerbated by the global economic crisis of 2008/2009. Poor and marginalized communities suffer disproportionately. At national levels, governments and donors are addressing the crisis through macro-economic, sectoral and fiscal policies. In advanced countries these efforts are complemented with local government partnerships enabling more vibrant local economies through Local Economic Development (LED) policies, planning and projects.

At the local level in most transition and developing countries there are no such co-coordinated efforts, despite increasing demand for such LED activities. This course aims to address this gap by sharing knowledge, building capacities and competencies in strategically planned inclusive local economic development. In particular the course will seek to develop understanding of how LED can be practiced in a participatory and inclusive manner.

## Overview of Learning Experience

This first pilot course takes an interdisciplinary approach starting with a distance learning familiarization component which will comprise numbers of readings and case identification to ensure the participants have a basic grounding in inclusive LED.

The two-week residential course in July 2011 offers a lively mixture of workshops, comprising a balance of presentations, discussions, case studies from across the world, assignments, 'afternoon conversations' and study tour.

The Plenary Sessions will look at the principles and practice of inclusive LED as well as including various exercises, breakout groups and other interactive learning media. All sessions will have a seamless and joint focus, LED and inclusiveness and participation.

The Practice Labs will use case studies, peer reviews and exercises to develop skills and effectiveness in designing and implementing LED policies, strategies and projects. Each day will end with a special event/discussion or guest speaker.

There will be two parallel elective Master Class breakout day(s) this year:

- A Master-class on LED in oil, gas and mining-rich areas – How to maximize opportunities and minimize threats to Local Economies

- A Master- Class – Nuts and Bolts of Implementing Local Economic Development projects.

***Participants will be expected to indicate their choice of the elective Master Class in their Statement of Purpose at the time of submitting their application.***

The course will be supported by a permanent on-line knowledge hub (in the public domain) including web-based course materials, many other related LED and Inclusion resources and knowledge hubs. There will be also be an intranet for course communication, before, during and after the course.

## **Schedule**

The first four days of the course will focus on understanding the intellectual underpinnings of participatory local economic development, concepts and tools, broad topics include:

- Introduction to the Theoretical Underpinnings and International Context for Local Economic Development
- Introduction to Understanding Local Economies, Indicators, Monitoring and Evaluation - International Practice
- Democratic Accountability, Participation and Inclusion Aspects of Local Economic Development – Theory and Practice
- Facilitating and Measuring Inclusive, Participatory Local Economic Development

The next three days will be more concerned with practical application, case studies and debates and accountability activities. Every day will comprise a mix of Plenary sessions and Practice labs providing a lively mixture of activities including seminars, workshops, presentations, discussions, case studies, team work, quizzes, debates, worked examples from across the world, assignments and ‘afternoon sofa conversations’. Topics include:

- Local Economic Development – From Principles to Practice –Making LED Work, Tools, Methods and Resources
- Public Policy, National and Local Enabling Frameworks and the Political Realities of Local Economic Development
- Financing, Prioritisation and Monitoring Local Economic Development

All the participants will be undertaking a study tour in Budapest on Wednesday of the second week to experience how some LED tools and methods have been applied in Hungary.

The final two days will offer specific specialist learning and participants will be offered a choice between two **elective thematic events**:

1. A Master-class on LED in oil, gas and mining-rich areas – *How to maximize opportunities and minimize threats to Local Economies*. Key points on this master class are:
  - Understanding the principles of business of extraction – industry structures, life cycles, value chain
  - Overview of specific challenges and opportunities created by the extraction of non-renewables – economic, political, social, environmental
  - Learning from practical experiences in resource-rich areas: case studies from Indonesia, Peru, Ghana and Nigeria
  - National and local policies to support effective LSED in oil, gas and mineral-rich areas
2. A Master- Class – *Nuts and Bolts of Implementing Local Economic Development Projects*. This Master-class will go into detail on design and delivery issues on specific types of LED projects using case-studies from practitioners who have either designed and/or delivered projects on the ground.
  - Case Study - Establishing an LED delivery vehicle (agency/team/department) at the local level
  - Case Study - Designing and developing an LED strategy on the ground
  - Case Study - Identifying and delivering on a ‘do-able’ monitoring and evaluation system
  - Case Study - Improving the Local Business Enabling Environment - Establishing one-stop-shops in Albania

- Case Study - Business premises as part of your local economic development strategy
  - Case Study - Business Improvement Districts
- Roundtable on other LED project options, challenges and opportunities

### **E-Learning Page**

Participants will be expected to have read and understood some basic texts on Local Economic Development Policy and Practice, Participatory Governance and Inclusiveness prior to the course. These will be made available to accepted applicants in the spring.

### **Certificate of Attendance**

SUN awards a certificate of attendance upon successful completion of the course. In order to gain this certificate, participants will be expected to **attend and actively participate** in **all** classes and **complete all assignments** required by the course.