

## Latvia-OECD seminar: Private Sector Engagement in Development Co-operation

**23 November 2021 - Online**

Session 1 – 10.00 to 13.00 (Riga time) / 09.00 to 12.00 (Paris time)

Session 2 – 14.30 to 17.00 (Riga time) / 13.30 to 16.00 (Paris time)

### Background

Since May 2020, Latvia and the OECD Development Cooperation Directorate – Foresight, Outreach and Policy Reform Unit (FOR) have partnered in the context of a roadmap of collaboration on development co-operation. In this framework, the OECD collaborates with Latvia to support the reform and strengthening of the country's development co-operation system in different strategic areas.

As part of this collaboration, the OECD contributed to a conference on the future of Latvia's development co-operation, intervening in two panels on megatrends and private sector engagement. In November 2020 and after the approval of a new institutional architecture for its development co-operation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Latvia and the OECD/DCD/FOR co-organized a seminar to discuss development co-operation architectures and the roles and responsibilities of the different components of its system.

As a follow up to these events, Latvia requested further support in two areas for 2021: private sector engagement (PSE) and transversal strategies, planning and reporting. This seminar, held virtually in November 2021, will explore the first area, namely the opportunities, challenges, modalities and questions around the engagement of private sector actors in development co-operation activities.

### Objective

The Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) call for enhancing partnerships and concerted efforts of all development actors. There is a need for all actors from both public and private sector to work together and leverage strengths to solve persistent development challenges, close the “financing gap” and deliver on the SDGs in developing countries. Latvia, in accordance with its new [multi-annual strategic guidelines on development co-operation for 2021-2027](#), reflects this call for a strengthened partnership with the private sector.

The seminar, organised jointly by the OECD-DCD/FOR and the Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs aims to facilitate a discussion and an exchange of ideas on partnering with the private sector to deliver on the objectives of Latvian development co-operation. It will provide an overview of PSE in development co-operation, how PSE links with the rest of the Development cooperation national system, the existing PSE strategies deployed by other donors, the principles and considerations for successful partnerships between private sector, government and also with other stakeholders, the roles and contribution of different actors, the modalities and instruments to engage, or the challenges and areas of attention when engaging with private sector. The seminar will be articulated around two main sessions.

Participants will have the opportunity to engage actively during the seminar using interactive modalities (polls, chat, etc.).



Participants will include development co-operation experts from the Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and embassies, the Central Finance and Contracting Agency (CFCA), Latvian development cooperation project implementers, NGO representatives and partners, representatives from the Investment and Development Agency of Latvia (LIAA), ALTUM – Latvia state-owned development finance institution, and business associations.

## Registration details

[Registration available through this link.](#)

## Agenda

The timing in the agenda is in Riga time (EEST).

<b>Session 1. Private sector engagement in development co-operation: Comprehensive overview</b>	
<b>10:00-10:20</b>	<p>Welcoming remarks</p> <p><i>Alise Balode</i>, Director for Development Co-operation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Latvia</p> <p><i>Ana Fernandes</i> – Head of Foresight, Outreach and Policy Reform Unit, Development Co-operation Directorate, OECD</p> <p><b>Discussion points</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How is development co-operation and development financing changing?</li> <li>• What are Latvia’s objectives and key considerations for engaging with the private sector and what are the novelties of the new 2021-27 Guidelines?</li> <li>• What are the expectations and opportunities for the Latvian private sector to engage in development co-operation activities?</li> <li>• How is PSE mainstreamed in the development cooperation system?</li> </ul>
<b>10:20-11:40</b>	<p>Private sector engagement: rationale, strategies, lessons and challenges</p> <p><i>Priscilla Boiardi</i>, Policy Analyst, Private Finance for Sustainable Development, Financing for Sustainable Development, Development Co-operation Directorate, OECD</p> <p><i>Inese Vaivare</i>, Executive Director, Lapas - Latvian Platform for Development Cooperation, Latvia</p> <p><i>Diego López González</i>, Policy Advisor on Private Sector, International Trade Union Confederation</p> <p><b>Discussion points</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why is private sector engagement necessary and what does that mean for development co-operation providers? What are the different ways of doing private sector engagement? What are the different roles of private sector actors</li> </ul>

	<p>in development co-operation (e.g. implementer, beneficiary, co-financier, investor, etc.)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are some good practices or principles in engaging with the private sector in development co-operation? What are some challenges and areas of attention (e.g. Corporate Social Responsibility principles, market distortion)</li> <li>• What are some examples and lessons on the raising of awareness and selection procedures of private sector actors for development co-operation activities?</li> <li>• What are the roles of civil society, including trade unions, in PSE for development co-operation? How can development co-operation foster partnerships between civil society and private sector actors?</li> <li>• How can PSE platforms engage strategically with civil society to build trust, identify and align interests and facilitate a common language and agenda?</li> <li>• What are some examples of good practices of CSO engagement in PSE?</li> </ul> <p><i>Poll questions and Q&amp;A session</i></p>
<p><b>11:40-12:00</b></p>	<p>Break</p>
<p><b>12:00-13:00</b></p>	<p><b>Sharing country experiences around private sector engagement strategies and modalities</b></p> <p><i>Katarzyna Rozesłaniec, Unit for EU development policy and international cooperation, Development Cooperation Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland</i>  <i>Michal Holik, Private Sector Specialist, UNDP</i>  <i>Gunter Shall, Head of Unit, Private Sector &amp; Development, Austrian Development Agency</i></p> <p><b>Discussion points</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the PSE ‘eco-system’ in your organization (legal framework, strategy, guideline, tools)?</li> <li>• What were the first steps, tools and mechanisms that were used to engage with the national private sector?</li> <li>• What are some of the opportunities / challenges around PSE for development co-operation?</li> </ul> <p><i>Q&amp;A session</i></p>
<p><b>Session 2. PSE Instruments &amp; the EU context</b></p>	
<p><b>14:30-15:30</b></p>	<p><b>Instruments for private sector engagement</b></p> <p><i>Priscilla Boiardi, Policy Analyst, Private Finance for Sustainable Development, Financing for Sustainable Development, Development Co-operation Directorate, OECD</i>  <i>Eva Lacinova, Innovation Specialist, UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub</i>  <i>Jolana Dragounová, Development co-operation Officer, Czech Aid.</i></p> <p><b>Discussion points</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What types of PSE mechanisms/instruments are being used by DAC members?</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus on the Challenge Fund modality and B2B programme</li> </ul> <p><i>Q&amp;A session</i></p>
<p><b>15:30-16:45</b></p>	<p><b>Latvian private sector engagement in a European Union context (60')</b></p> <p><i>Representatives from the DG International Partnerships:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Paulus Geraedts, Team Leader, Secretariat of the External Investment Plan, European Commission</i></li> <li>• <i>Erica Enne, Unit Development financing and effectiveness, Relations with Member States, European Commission (TBC)</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion points</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is EU's approach to partnering with Member States' private sector?</li> <li>• What are the different modalities / mechanisms? (External Investment Plan, Sustainable Business for Africa Platform)?</li> <li>• What steps could be taken by Latvia to strengthen its partnership with the EU on PSE?</li> <li>• What are some examples / experiences / lessons on implementing programmes as part of the EU External Investment Plan?</li> </ul> <p><i>Q&amp;A session</i></p>
<p><b>16:45-17:00</b></p>	<p><b>Concluding remarks &amp; closing of seminar</b></p> <p><i>Alise Balode, Director for Development Co-operation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Latvia</i></p> <p><i>Ana Fernandes – Head of Foresight, Outreach and Policy Reform Unit, Development Co-operation Directorate, OECD</i></p>

## Key resources to be shared with the participants

- Presentations from the OECD and participants
- Comprehensive report following the seminar
- [Private Sector Engagement for Sustainable Development: Lessons from the DAC](#) (2016)
- [Blended finance principles and guidance](#) (2020/2021)
- [Impact standards](#) for financing for sustainable Development (2021)
- Action-oriented policy briefs
  - [Policy Brief 1: The holistic toolbox for private sector engagement in development co-operation](#)
  - [Policy Brief 2: Capacity for private sector engagement in development co-operation](#)
  - [Policy Brief 3: Ensuring results when engaging the private sector in development co-operation](#)
  - [Policy Brief 4: Private sector engagement to address climate change and promote green growth](#)