



INVITATION

e+i Face-to-Face Meeting

27-30 April 2015, Hotel Freienhof, Thun

Berne, 21 January 2015

Dear Colleagues

It is our pleasure to invite you to the face-to-face (F2F) meeting 2015 of SDC's Employment and Income network (e+i network). This year's common thread throughout the event is "effective partnerships with the private sector" – a timely topic that is of high relevance and importance in all three e+i domains: vocational skills development, private sector development and financial sector development.

How can we collaborate with the private sector for development objectives like inclusive growth and decent employment? How can we mobilize/channel more resources from the private sector? What kind of resources? Human resources? Financial Resources? Know-How? With whom should we collaborate? How? What is SDCs role?

On a macro-perspective, this year's F2F will discuss the changing role of the private sector in development cooperation and global trends of working with it. This part is addressed by our keynote speakers and elaborated in a panel discussion.

On a meso-perspective we'll give you the opportunity to look at different approaches and examples of partnering with the private sector, presented in form of market stalls.

Most importantly though, on a micro level, we want to provide some ideas on how to (better) partner with the private sector in your work. Therefore, the program foresees a lot of room to exchange with other participants and learn from other projects.

We are looking forward to meeting you in Thun!

Best regards,

Sybille Suter
Head of the Latin America and the Caribbean
Division (including Focal Point e+i)

Peter Beez
Head Focal Point e+i



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27-30 April 2015, Hotel Freienhof, Thun

Registration

Where: Hotel Freienhof, Thun, Switzerland

When: 27-30 April 2015 (for NPOs the program starts 26 April evening, see program overview)

Costs: There are no participation fees. Lunches and one joint dinner are offered. Travel expenses accommodation, breakfast and dinner are to be paid directly by the participants.

You can register **until 31 March 2015** via this link: <https://fr.surveymonkey.com/s/f2fRegistrationForm>

Objectives

The purpose of the e+i network - and its F2F in particular – is making e+i programs and projects more effective. Identifying gaps concerning our knowledge and instruments and finding ways to close them is one important aspect in this quest. We do this by collecting your and other expert's experiences, by discussing and synthesizing them. Participants will:

- (i) Explore and discuss ways of engaging with the private sector in vocational skills development (VSD), private and financial sector development (PSD and FSD);
- (ii) Learn about practical tools and experiences in working with the private sector from other VSD, PSD and FSD programmes and projects, as well as from experts;
- (iii) Network and establish new ways to better interact and exchange with the learning community and use the e+i network support them in their daily work.

To get a better idea on what we mean by working effectively with the private sector a concept note is introducing the topic and gives food for thought to stimulate the discussion. The concept paper is the framework for two separate (pre-F2F) e-discussions. One is VSD specific and the other focuses on PSD/FSD topics. While the paper is a first theoretical input, both e-discussions will help us to identify important practical aspects to be integrated into the F2F.

The F2F and its preparation will create a joint understanding of the various options on working effectively with the private sector. As usual, the idea is not only to learn from experts, but from each other.

Call for market stalls

What is your experience in VSD, PSD or FSD project implementation in collaborating and working with the private sector? What worked and what did not? We are looking for additional practical examples and will select a few to show-case in form of market stalls (see program). Please let the e+i focal point know if you want to contribute.



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

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On the one hand, the program foresees tailor-made workshops where you can exchange with other people working in your domain. On the other hand, there are program blocks where you receive inputs from other fields hopefully contributing to widening your horizon. Last but not least, there is room for networking which allows you to meet people from cooperation offices, SDC headquarters, projects implementers and experts, all apt to support you in your projects and programs. A continuously updated version of the program is available under:
<https://www.shareweb.ch/site/Employment-and-Income/overview-about-us/network-events/face-to-face-network-meeting-2015>

April 26, 2015: Welcome and registration for NPOs

Arrival and Registration NPO

19.00 All National Programme Officers (NPO's) are invited to a welcome drink, meet each other and the e+i focal point staff

Programme Day 1 – April 27, 2015: Opening and Introduction to the topic

8:30 Opening of the e+i F2F 2015

Opening and welcome speech by the **SDC director general Manuel Sager**

Introduction to the topic by **Peter Beez** (Head Focal Point e+i)

Key note speeches by

- **Thomas Streiff** (Consultant Brugger und Partner)
- **Patrick Struebi** (Social Entrepreneur, Ashoka Fellow and Fairtrasa CEO and founder)

followed by a panel discussion.

Joint Lunch break

Market stalls: Learning from ongoing programs and experiences from other participants (within and outside of SDC) on how, when and where to partner with the private sector.

17.30 Official closing of day 1 followed by a social networking event



Programme Day 2 – April 28, 2015: Field Visits (SDC only)

08.00 Joint introduction into the day

VSD and PSD/FSD group specific field visits
Sharing insights with the whole group

18.00 Closing of day 2

Programme Day 3 – April 29, 2015: Learning and Capacity Building

08.30 Joint introduction into the day

VSD working group: “How to involve the private sector in in VSD projects concretely?”
PSD/ FSD working group: “Effective Collaboration with the private sector: the case of improving the productivity of smallholder farmers”

Joint Lunch break

Continuation of VSD and PSD/FSD working groups, peer to peer learning and elaboration of different topics subject to the e-discussion and participants’ inputs

17.00 Closing of day 3

17.30 Social event (joint dinner, SDC only)

Programme Day 4 – April 30, 2015 Exchange and the way forward (SDC only)

09.00 Arrival of participants and Coffee

Presentation of the e+i network program and group work on topics of most interest to participants, e.g. which came up during the e-discussion and/or F2F

Joint Lunch Break

Joint review of work plan and collaboration agreements of the various working groups
Evaluation of the event and closing by **Sybille Suter**, Head of Latin America and the Caribbean Division (including Focal Point e+i)

15.45 Farewell drinks

Information Thun f2f 2015



Thun is a small charming town, 20 km away from Bern and located on the beautiful lake of Thun. The view of the lake and the mountains is magnificent! Thun is the gateway to the Bernese Oberland. For more information on Thun: <http://www.thun.ch/>

The workshop will take place in the Hotel Freienhof in Thun: <http://www.freienhof.ch/>

