

REPIM Curriculum Vitae – MICHAEL DOWDEN

RESEARCH ON ECONOMIC POLICY IMPLEMENTATION & MANAGEMENT
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Name:	MICHAEL JOHN DOWDEN
Date of birth:	17 April 1954
Nationality:	British
Qualifications:	Master of Business Administration. Middlesex Business School, 1984 - 1986 MA Politics, Philosophy and Economics, Oxford University, 1980 - 1983 Diploma in Labour Economics, Ruskin College, Oxford, 1978-1980
Languages:	English Mother Tongue ,German fair
Countries of work experience:	European Union (original 15+12+2 accession states), Albania, Bosnia, Caribbean, Egypt, Gabon, Georgia, Ghana, Kosovo, Lebanon, Palestine, Philippines, Qatar, Russia, Serbia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Syria, Swaziland, Turkey, UAE, USA, Yemen.
Professional Experience	
1996 – present	Senior Consultant REPIM
1987 – 1996	Project Executive, Lancashire Enterprises / Enterprise
1983 -1987	Development Manager, British Red Cross Society
1978 - 1983	Various independent roles
1970 - 1978	Various, National Westminster Bank

Mike Dowden has over 20 years experience of work as a practitioner and consultant on local economic and regional development initiatives; this work has an emphasis on labour market economics and HRD development issues; SME development and competitiveness issues, including cluster development. Mr Dowden's work has also included the establishment of regional / SME development agencies, together with consultancy support to their management and administrative structures.

This range of work has been undertaken at policy development level, including the development of Operational Programmes and other regional and local strategy initiatives together with their implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Mike Dowden is used to working with government ministries, often at deputy minister level, with mayors and other members of regional and local administrations together with the owner or manager of SMEs. His work is built around understanding and relating to clients and their needs and to those whom the client is responsible for.

Mike Dowden's work has been undertaken across the European Union, in EU accession countries, Middle East, Southern Africa and in other transition economies.

Highlights of Mr. Dowden's career are presented below.

Turkey – Cluster Policy Development. Undertaking cluster analysis and subsequent development of cluster roadmaps for up to ten industry sectors to establish parameters for Turkish cluster policy

Bosnia – Project ToR Development. Development of EU ToR for RDA and SME development projects

Serbia – SME and RDA Agency Development Working at Ministry of Economy to ensure the sustainability of Serbian SME development agencies, including the provision of appropriate SME business support services and products and conversion to RDAs

Albania – Programme Evaluation. Evaluation of USAID labour market intervention HRD and VET programmes in terms of effectiveness and efficiency

UK – Project Development Research and development of Blackpool and Preston LEGI initiative (into employment training and SME development), initial feasibility studies together with full project and financing proposals

Qatar – Labour Market Policy Working at Economic Council to review and evaluate labour market strategy – in terms of effectiveness and efficiency and development of employment programmes for *unemployed* Qatari youth

South Africa – Programme Evaluation and Implementation Support to National Treasury to efficiently utilise Official Development Assistance – develop measures to overcome the problems of project implementation associated with lack of absorption capacity and project management skills

Lebanon – Project ToR Development Assessing HRD and training needs of Lebanese SMEs to improve business productivity and to create employment opportunities for unemployed; development of feasibility study and funding proposal

Czech Republic – Labour Market Intervention Setting up CVT institutions in Vysočina Moravskoslezský regions to improve the training and skills base of SMEs and their workers in order to encourage inward investment by multi national companies (TNA)

Serbia – SME and RDA Agency Development Implementing SME Agencies action plans – including direct consultancy to SME Agencies to establish new and up date existing SME service provision; and reviewing business incubators and technology parks management actions

Hungary – Labour Market Interventions Introducing EQUAL Community Initiative – seeking to instigate innovative training and development initiatives to ensure that the economically and socially disadvantaged can enter the labour market

Turkey – Cluster Development Turkish textile sector Establish Cluster Coordination Agency for the fashion and textile cluster in Istanbul and establishing cluster partner (SME) support requirements, especially market development, exporting and trade needs

Poland – Labour Market Development Podkarpackie region – develop and implement labour market interventions to ensure reductions in regional unemployment, through targeted training for employment in SMEs (TNA).

Poland – Structural Funds Development of ERDF programme complement and development of ERDF guidelines training programme – ensuring that Poland makes effective usage of EU's development funds

Russia – Programme Evaluation, Evaluation of Tacis finance, banking and accounting projects

Serbia – SME and RDA Agency Development Establishing and implementing SME Agencies action plans – including direct consultancy to SME Agencies to encourage economic and employment growth; including establishing business incubators and technology parks

Hungary – Structural Funds establishing HRD Operational Programme – labour market intervention programme for employment generation, into work initiatives, training and re-skilling actions et al – including OP priorities and measures

Romania – Programme Development 2003 ESC Phare SME multi-annual programme initiative – development and implementation of SME programme to encourage the development, setting up and growth of SMEs, including business incubator network

Georgia – Labour Market Information Systems, Development, review and evaluation of labour market information system for Department of National Statistics - creating the statistical and data infrastructure to understand and analyse Georgia's labour market

Bulgaria – SME Institutional Development Direct assistance project to MoEE / ASME to develop and implement SME policy and oversee the implementation process – including business support services to start up and growth SMEs and cluster development initiatives

Bulgaria – Labour Market Policy Development and Implementation of 2002 Economic and Social Cohesion Phare programme – design and implementation of EU funded Labour Market interventions in Bulgaria for 2002 to 2004

Yemen – WTO Accession Investigative mission to measure the impact of Yemen's WTO accession on employment in the fisheries and agriculture sectors, development of funding proposal

Lithuania – Structural Funds Evaluation of Lithuania's readiness to operate the EU's Structural Funds on Accession

Bosnia – SME Development. Development and implementation of SME management development programme for managers in the textile and agricultural sectors including management of financial grant scheme

Bulgaria – Industrial Regeneration Institutional capacity building, project management and implementation, Pernik Regeneration Initiative –SME start up and growth initiatives

Romania – Labour Market Evaluation Monitoring and evaluation of mining social mitigation programmes operated by NAD – monitoring the success of various labour market initiatives to overcome redundancies and unemployment issues in coal mining regions

Bulgaria – Policy Evaluation Ex-ante evaluation of Bulgarian National Development Plan – the plan for 6 years of EU support and intervention

Bulgaria – SME Development Strategy for implementing business incubators and support infrastructures.

Poland – Industrial Restructuring Analysis of the impact on two communities / labour markets of the closure of state owned steel plants

South Africa – Labour Market Information Systems Development and implementation of labour market information system for South African Department of Labour and for the Sectoral Education and Training Agencies to understand South Africa's LM dynamics

Romania – EU Accession Training and development of staff from NARD and RDAs on EU accession issues.

Romania – EU Accession Training management and staff of Romanian RDAs to meet the challenge of pre-accession and dealing with the European Union Structural Funds

Romania – EU Accession Assisting the National Association for Regional Development to develop and write Romania's National Development Programme for EU pre-accession – including HRD operational programme

Hungary – EU Accession Analysis and recommendations of the ability of training and regional development institutions in Central and South Transdanubia to utilise EU pre-accession funding

Egypt – SME Development. Business / action plan development for a range of SMEs in the Egyptian food and drink sector.

Russia – Labour Market Intervention Working with Russian Employment Service to encourage self-employment / SME development amongst redundant workers from state industries, especially those from mono-company towns in Siberia

Palestine – SME Development Identify and investigate 'growth potential' of SMEs in Gaza and West Bank – develop a business / action plan to obtain growth funding and assistance from the MEDA

Swaziland – Establishment of a Denim Clothing Factory

Philippines – RDA Development Industrial and SME policy development for the Subic Bay RDA – to create employment and SME development opportunities after the closure of US military base

Bulgaria – SME Development SME and tourism development programme Pirin Region – rural employment generation initiatives

Russia – Labour Market Intervention Development and training of staff and consultants in the Regional Employment Service enabling them to provide relevant advice and guidance services to redundant state industry workers – especially for self-employment and SME development purposes

Lithuania – Institutional Development TA to Chambers of Commerce, for the development of SME and export promotion initiatives

South Africa – Micro Finance Development of a micro finance strategy for SMEs – Dept Labour, South Africa – providing funding to unemployed, especially women, to start their own business

Bulgaria – Industrial Restructuring. Development, establishment and initial management of business incubator - encouraging redundant miners to re enter the labour market through the start up and / or spin out of SMEs.

USA – Programme Evaluation Marketing audit and review of agricultural promotion campaign for Sonoma Valley

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Hungary – Labour Market Restructuring. Restructuring Hungarian apprentice training programme to provide training relevant to labour market needs

Hungary – Regional Development. Industrial and labour market restructuring in the Szaboloc-Szatmar- Berg region, leading to the development of a RDA, a SME creation programme, incubator units and into employment training and re-skilling initiatives

South Africa – RDA Development. Creation of an action plan for the formation of a RDA in the Free State South Africa.

Bulgaria – SME Development. Coordinator for feasibility study for the creation of SME development centres.

Albania – Institutional Development. Project management and appraisal for the development of a network of regional economic development agencies. Management and evaluation of the Albanian SME micro credit capital fund