

RESEARCH ON ECONOMIC POLICY IMPLEMENTATION & MANAGEMENT
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Name:	MICHAEL JOHN DOWDEN
Date of birth:	17 April 1954
Nationality:	British
Qualifications:	MBA 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:	Turkey, Yemen, Egypt, Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, Philippines. Bulgaria, Russia, Lithuania, South Africa, Poland, USA, Hungary, Romania, Albania, Czech Republic, Serbia, Georgia, Ukraine, Croatia, Bosnia, Swaziland, South Africa, St. Lucia

Mike Dowden has 25+ years experience in economic / regional development, with 9 years working in a senior position at a regional development agency and 17 years as an economic / regional development consultant specialising in private sector and labour market development. This experience includes extensive regional development, programme, and strategy development using EU Cohesion and Structural Funds; with management of the necessary socio-economic programming research / review process, programming financing and budgeting activities – including PCM and other programme development tools. Mike Dowden's is experienced in project Cycle Management, has undertaken training in Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability (PEFA) assessment.

Highlights of his CV are

Ukraine – Support to EU Delegation to undertake a review and identification mission to analyse Ukraine's industrial sectors, analysis of the barriers to private sector / SME growth and development.; formulation of strategy and a 'multi-donor' programme for the implementation of measures to address "challenges" to growth, development of project pipeline with project fiches, budgets and financing.

Croatia – Working at Ministry of Economy, Labour and Entrepreneurship; as part of SME / private sector development in Croatia prior to country's EU accession: researching, drafting and implementing a cluster development programme including cluster mapping, restructuring of key 'tradable' clusters to improve value and supply chain, together with developing export potential.

UK – Smart City strategy In response to EU2020, research and consultations for developing a *smart city strategy* in north west region of the UK, including innovation, technology transfer and competitiveness responses – defining and determining the concept and developing outline the *Smart* policy approach and strategy

Serbia – Ministry of Economy and Regional Development, responsible for cluster development, cluster mapping and the development of six clusters. This work included the quantitative and qualitative analysis of the clusters to determine their strengths and weaknesses and their capacity for further development. The development of a

programme to ensure the growth and development of these six clusters – intervention projects, budgets, financing structures and indicators of achievement.

St Lucia – Seeking to reduce St Lucia’s dependency on tourism and counter impact of removal of banana quotas, undertook a review and identification mission of St Lucia’s SME sector (non tourism) and development of project fiche for ToR development – growing alternative agricultural products and establishing food / fish processing industry Monitoring and report on progress (2010)

Syria – Support to Ministry of Economy and Trade to develop Syria’s first SME Strategy Paper including analysis of Syria’s industrial sectors, analysis of the issues and challenges facing SME and entrepreneur growth and development – essentially a competitiveness review. An assessment of academic and business intermediary organisations ability to develop and to deliver SME initiatives, together with schedule for strategy implementation, project fiches, and budgets and financing requirements for potential donor support

Turkey – Task group leader responsible for the qualitative and quantitative cluster analysis leading to the development of cluster roadmaps in 10 cluster industry/ SME sectors, prior to development of draft national cluster initiatives for inclusion in Turkey’s National Clustering Policy. Responsible for developing an analysis methodology and roadmap structure and undertaking detailed analysis of four clusters, (organic food, agricultural machinery, automotive and automotive parts), implementing programme of assistance to the four clusters.

Bosnia – Identification and review mission to assess the Institutional capacity of Bosnia’s five Regional Development Agencies and their private sector / SME related service provision, development of a set of ToR (with budgets and financing structure) for continued TA support to RDAs and continued SME service provision support.

Serbia – Supporting the Ministry of Economy and Regional Development to ensure that seven Serbian regional SME development agencies were sustainable and capable to deliver appropriate SME consultancy services and trade / business development in priority sectors (agriculture / dairy, automotive, ICT and engineering). Establishment of the SME agency network to prepare their transformation to RDAs.

UK – Research and development of a regionally focused SME support initiative in North West, UK. This included the analysis of the competitiveness of local SMEs and an assessment of the region’s related business development /support organisations (Chambers of Commerce and Business Link). Subsequently developed a full project fiche and financing proposal with technical and time outlines for the implementation of the initiative.

South Africa – Support to National Treasury to utilise Official Development Assistance – evaluation of current position, development of measures overcoming project implementation problems associated with lack of ODA absorption capacity. Develop outline capacity building project proposal for NT staff and other stakeholders to address identified short comings.

Lebanon – Identification and review mission to assess the competitiveness needs of Lebanese SMEs. Responsibilities included the analysis of SME competitiveness with a view to establishing a programme to improve their business competitiveness and productivity – development of programme, with three projects, (with project fiches) budgets and financing structures

Russia – A review and identification mission to ascertain management and development needs of Russian Regional Development Agencies undertake development of a set of

ToR to provide technical assistance to growth of Russian RDA structures.

Czech Rep – Set up CVET / ‘lifelong learning’ institutions in Vysočina

Moravskoslezský regions – improving training and skills base of SME workers and unemployed in order to encourage inward investment. Undertook an SME skills analysis and developed vocational training initiatives to address these. Oversaw €5m grant scheme for SME equipment purchasing.

Hungary – Introducing EQUAL Community Initiative – establishing MA and NSS and Structural Funds training programmes

Turkey – Turkish textile sector / Istanbul, SME textile company export effectiveness development – better exporters

Poland – HRD / SME development Podkarpackie region – including EU grant scheme & tender using Prag 2 rules

Poland – Development of ERDF programme complement and development of ERDF guidelines training programme

Russia – Evaluation of Tacis finance, banking and accounting projects

Serbia – Implementing RDAs / SME Agencies action plans – including grant scheme management

Hungary – Developing HRD Operational Programme for the introduction of EU ESF funded programmes

Romania – Developing 2003 ESC Phare SME multi-annual programme initiative – including SME export assistance

Georgia – Development, review & evaluation labour market information systems for Department of National Statistics

Bulgaria – Direct assistance project to Ministry of Economy / ASME and BARDA, developing and growing the RDA and SME policy and infrastructure across Bulgaria

Bulgaria – Policy development and implementation of 2002 Economic and Social Cohesion Phare programme

Yemen – Investigative mission to measure the impact of WTO accession on SMEs, fisheries & agriculture sectors.

Lithuania – Evaluation of Lithuania’s readiness to operate the EU’s Structural Funds on Accession in 2004

Bosnia Herzegovina – Development and implementation of SME management development programme for managers in the textile and agricultural sectors including management of Grant Scheme

Bulgaria – Institutional capacity building, project management and implementation, Pernik Regeneration Initiative

Romania – Monitoring & evaluation of mining social mitigation programmes operated by NAD. Various labour market initiatives to overcome redundancies and unemployment issues in coal mining regions

Bulgaria – Ex-ante evaluation of National Development Plan – the plan for 6 years of EU support

Ukraine – SME development strategy for implementing business incubators & support infrastructures.

Poland – Analysis of the impact on two communities of the closure of state owned steel plant.

South Africa – Development and implementation of labour market information system for South African Dept of Labour and for the SETAs - Sectoral Education & Training Agencies

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

Romania – Assisting the National Association for Regional Development to develop and write Romania’s National Development Programme for pre-accession

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

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

Russia – Employment Service to encourage self-employment amongst redundant workers from state industries.

Gaza – Identify and investigate 'growth potential' of SMEs in Gaza, develop a business / action plan with them to obtain funding and assistance from the MEDA – including ability to 'export'

Swaziland – Establishment of a denim clothing factory in Swaziland,

Philippines – Industrial & SME policy development for the Subic Bay RDA

Bulgaria – SME & tourism development programme Pirin Region

Russia – Development and training of staff and consultants in the Regional Employment Service enabling them to provide relevant advice and guidance services.

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

South Africa – Development of a micro finance strategy for SMEs – Dept Labour, South Africa

Poland – Project development / management of business incubator for redundant miners start up SMEs.

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

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

Hungary – 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 training and re-skilling initiatives