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UNIDO alliance with Crans Montana Forum for investment and technology promotion

Monaco, February 24, 2006



Mr. Jean-Paul Carteron, Crans Montana Forum (right), and Mr. Jean-Claude Plana UNIDO-ITPO Marseille, formalised the alliance on February 24, 2006.

The [Crans Montana Forum](#) and UNIDO signed an agreement in Monaco on February 24, 2006 to formalise and strengthen an alliance between the two organizations that dates back some 18 years. According to the agreement, UNIDO's Investment and Technology Promotion Office (ITPO) Marseille will act as focal point connecting various UNIDO's programmes and the Forum. Stéphane Valeri, President of the [National Council of Monaco](#) was present for the exchange of letters. The agreement forges a strategic alliance expected to increase the number of industrial partnerships between private sector in countries with transition and developing economies and the Principality of Monaco.

The first event to "operationalize" the agreement will be the Crans Montana Forum in Zagreb, Croatia, April 5 - 7, 2006. The Forum will gather Heads of State, Prime Ministers and senior Members of Governments of the European Union, South-Eastern Europe as well as high level representatives from European Union, International Organizations and of course, private sector decision makers from all over the world. "The Crans Montana Forum will be a very important event for Croatia and South East Europe, which will enter a new era in 2006. It will showcase efforts that governments and companies can make together for the success of the European process and the economic development and security of the continent. ITPO Marseille is working closely with Crans Montana Forum to promote and develop new opportunities between firms of the south of France and Croatia." said Head of UNIDO-ITPO Marseille, Jean Claude Plana.

The Crans Montana Forum takes place every year at the end of June, usually bringing together some 1200 high-level figures on the economic and political scene. It is a platform for institutional and business exchanges as well as for meetings between representatives and firms of the 120 member states and international organizations. Crans Montana Forum also organizes various Regional Summits around the globe. Since the first such event in Athens in 1992, Regional Summits have taken place in Bucharest, Malta, Belgrade, among others.

ITPO Marseille, officially launched in December, 2004, has the particular task of identifying and mobilizing technological and financial resources to enhance industrial and technological cooperation between the companies of the Provence-Alpes-Cote d'Azur Region and UNIDO target countries in the Mediterranean Region. The Office in Marseille offers services tailored to the needs of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) of the region relating to international industrial cooperation. Its privileged location in the Mediterranean basin exposes it to the dynamic and diversified economic network of the Region. The closer linking with the Crans Montana Forum will enable the ITPO Marseille to widen its promotional activities by strengthening the partnerships with firms in the South of France. ITPO Marseille complements the activities of UNIDO ITPO Paris, which are oriented more towards Africa and Latin America.

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Internet penetrates "Bwindi Impenetrable National Park" Uganda



tourists online at the Bwindi ICT Kiosk

[more photos available here](#)

[a map showing the Bwindi National park available here](#)

The village of Buhoma in Uganda, some 630 kilometers from the capital, Kampala, is the eco-tourist's gateway to the "[Bwindi Impenetrable National Park](#)". The first 415 kilometers from Kampala is bitumen, the last 120 kilometers, gravel (4x4 recommended during the rains). Electricity has not yet reached the region and, needless to say, communication with the outside world is limited. A partnership between UNIDO; a local NGO by the name of [Conservation Through Public Health](#); the [Uganda Wildlife Authority](#); [Uganda Telecom](#), [Makerere University](#), [Caltex \(U\) Ltd](#), [Multichoice](#) has changed that. And more is to come.

In October 2005, the patron of Conservation Through Public Health, the Queen of [Buganda](#), [Sylvia Nagginda](#), formally inaugurated the [solar-powered](#) Bwindi National Park Telecentre /

Community Development Centre. With high speed wireless internet access via satellite bringing TV facilities and internet telephony, not only can the eco-tourists broadcast the joy of seeing mountain gorillas, the local people now have access to computer training, can market both ecotourism and handicrafts on the internet, and experience all the other delights of being online. Makerere University's Department of Gender run computer lessons and the first 30 students have already graduated.

The telecentre is the first stage of the energy component of phase II of the UNIDO Integrated Programme for Uganda. The second stage of the phase II energy component will see the installation and commissioning of a 50 kW micro-hydropower facility to provide electricity to the Bwindi National Park office, the park's tourist bungalows and other facilities. The micro-hydro installation will also enable the upgrading of the educational facilities, increase handicrafts production and provide power to micro industries.

The hydro-power installation is a model project bringing together UNIDO's special initiatives on *Rural Energy for Productive Use* and *Sustainable Eco-Tourism based on Renewable Energy*. The following project-related documents are available here for viewing or downloading: [Bwindi small hydropower site and drawings](#) and the [Design Report](#).

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Local Entrepreneurial Systems in the Global Economy - Training programme for professionals from Latin America

Venice-Ferrara-Parma-Prato, Italy, 6 - 17 February, 2006



the mayors of three Nicaraguan cities present their strategies

Participants at a two-week UNIDO training programme in Italy on *Local Entrepreneurial Systems in the Global Economy* left the course reassured that Latin American companies operating in local entrepreneurial systems do indeed still have good prospects for a global role. They have seen at first hand how local entrepreneurial systems in Italy are dealing with the challenges and opportunities and have taken the message home. The training programme was attended by 32 professionals from Latin America, including university professors and deans, mayors from three cities from Nicaragua, representatives of small and medium enterprise (SME) support institutions and associations, and a representative of the Inter American Development Bank.

The programme (6 - 17 February, 2006) was coordinated by [TeDIS](#) (Center for Studies on Technologies in Distributed Intelligence Systems) of [Venice International University](#). Since its establishment in 1999, TeDIS has been carrying out applied research on innovation and competitiveness of enterprises and SMEs in industrial districts. It has a lot of experience with industrial districts, clusters and local development and is part of a rich network of institutions and companies from a range of industrial districts. An impressive number of universities and institutions contributed to the programme: [Università di Ferrara](#); [Università degli Studi di Parma](#); [Polo Universitario, Città di Prato](#); Duke University; Università di Bari; Università di Padova; Università di Udine; Observatorio de Prospectiva Industrial del Departamento de Trabajo e Industria de la Generalitat de Catalunya; and Parco del Taro. The agenda and other information on the programme are at www.unido.org/clustertraining.

Learning opportunities were presented in lectures, presentations and group meetings, study tours to industrial districts and interactive working sessions with local institutions and enterprises. The group moved from Venice to Ferrara, to Parma and finally Prato to witness the variety of ways in which these different localities are promoting cluster development and SME competitiveness. They saw how districts organize and change, how support institutions foster their development, how local governments promote SMEs, and how global value chain analysis can help in assessing the competitive position of clusters and regions. Most importantly they were exposed to the experience of Italian industrial districts that remain successful and those currently undergoing crisis and transformation. Much discussion centered around how these lessons can be applied to their own countries.

In addition to the formal agenda of the programme, many learning opportunities, both present and future, were made available through direct contact with professionals attending the programme from Italy, Spain and USA. One of the objectives of the training course was to encourage collaboration and joint work after the course. Specific activities discussed for future cooperation that will be followed up with the assistance of the UNIDO team covered: student and staff exchange between Universities in Italy and Latin America on the theme of development of local entrepreneurial system and global value chain analysis; development of training curricula for cluster practitioners and for personnel from local governments (especially municipalities); and the development of training curricula on creativity and design for entrepreneurs and young professionals.

Cluster-to-cluster cooperation between Parma (Italy) and Chontales (Nicaragua) will take place in the following areas: establishment of "Escuela Lactea", a specialized school or curriculum to train personnel

for the dairy industry; product quality and branding for cheese and other dairy products; and the organization of production cooperatives and consortia. New cluster development projects were identified for Bolivia, Mexico, Peru and discussions took place on possible collaboration between UNIDO and Inter American Development Bank on project implementation and development of training packages for cluster practitioners.

Further collaboration between UNIDO and [Venice International University](#) is more than a possibility. The February 2006 edition of *Local Entrepreneurial Systems in the Global Economy* will not be the last. Further programmes will take place for Latin America and in other regions.

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[coming events](#)

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