

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS PORTFOLIO

“If You Want To Walk Fast, Walk Alone. If You Want  
To Walk Far, Walk Together.” African Proverb

*EC ERLN-TAU*

21 February 2013



**national treasury**

Department:  
National Treasury  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



# ERLN

Economies of Regions

## LEARNING NETWORK



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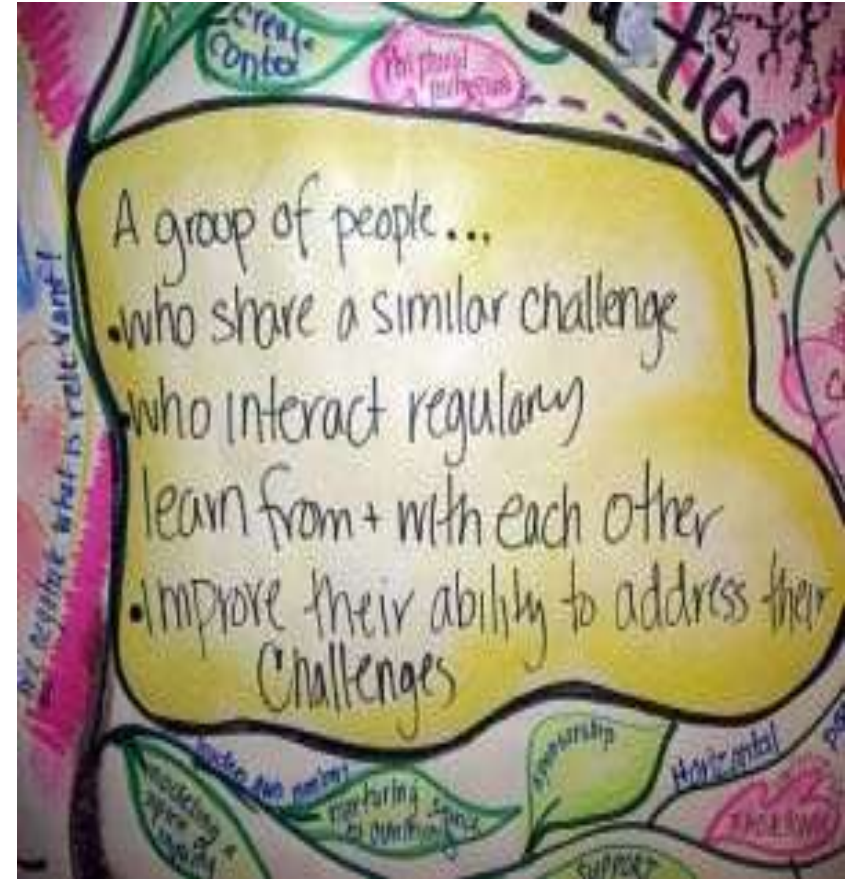
Department:  
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**TAU**  
Technical Assistance Unit

# What is a community of practice?

- A community of practice is "a diverse group of people engaged in real work over a significant period of time during which they build things, solve problems, learn and invent...in short, they evolve a practice that is highly skilled and highly creative."

Robert Bauer, Ph.D. Director of strategic competency development, Customer Inspired Innovation: Creating the Future



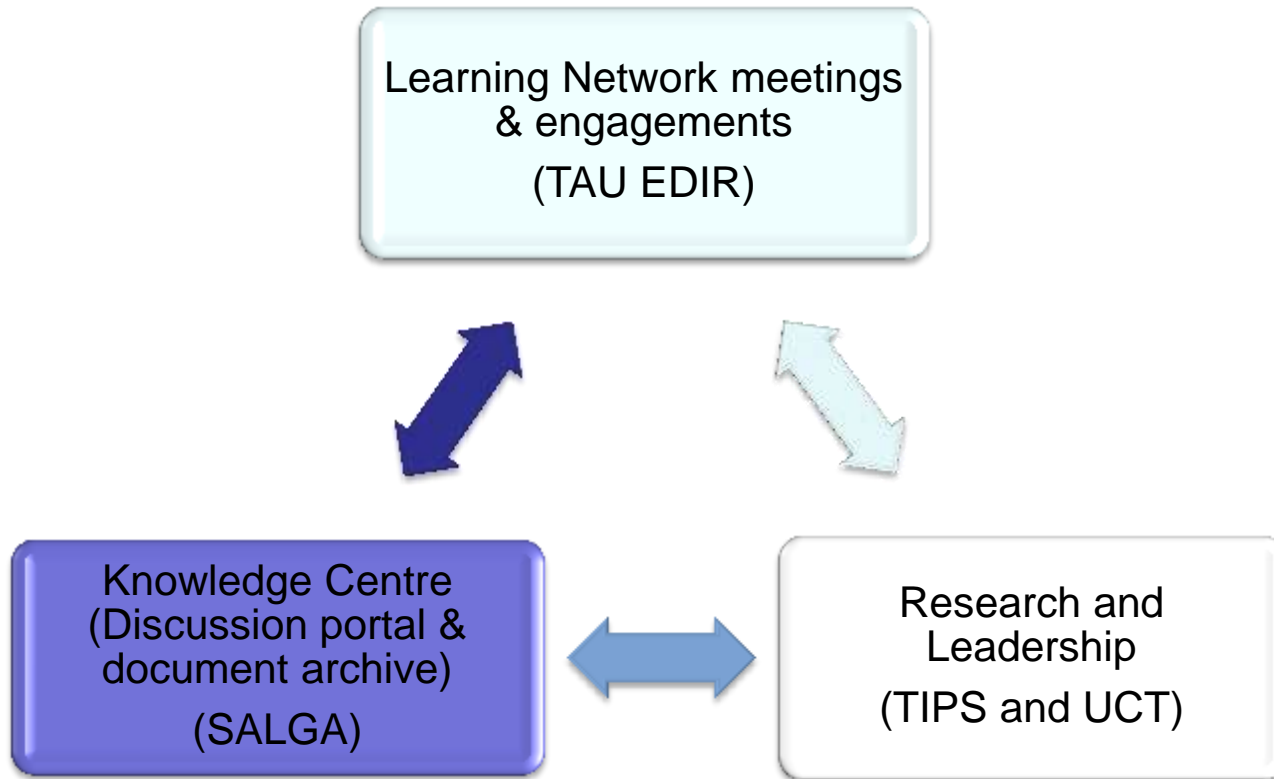
# Communities of practice and learning networks

- 20 percent of the knowledge in an organization is ever captured, leaving 80 percent in the hearts and minds of employees. Botkin and Seeley in 'The Knowledge Management Manifesto'.
- Communities are a key element in a holistic approach to knowledge management.
- Community of Practice is a group of professionals, informally bound to one another through exposure to a common pursuit of solutions, and thereby themselves embodying a store of knowledge. Peter and Trudy Johnson-Lenze, in 'Awakening Technology'
- There are many of these communities of practice, within which people share a common sense of purpose, use one another as sounding boards, and teach each other. Within this community people are enabled to grow and invent, and find new solutions and approaches.

# ERLN Rationale and context

- Economic development centred around the regional economies in SA plays central role in stimulating, supporting and enhancing economic development in South Africa
  - Important connection to rural economies for their development
  - Gateways to global economy
- Government's economic development and job creation agenda requires regional and city-region economic development approaches and strategies to be enhanced and strengthened.
- Using the concept of communities of practice - bringing those involved in stimulating economic development in these regions together offers a cost effective way of sharing ideas, experiences, practices and approaches.
- Learning networks are proven methods to build capacity and stimulate innovation in practice.

# ERLN key elements



# ERLN Goals and objectives

- Space for **policy makers and practitioners** from city-regions to engage and interact.
- Key national role-players invited – but focus is on **regional/provincial level** lessons and approaches with the context of the national economic development agenda.
- The objective to **share ideas and approaches**.
- The ultimate goal to **build and develop the capacity** of the organisations concerned **to implement** and support regional economic development initiatives.

# ERLN Meetings

- Meetings take place three times per year. TAU covers venue costs, helps develop the agenda and handles the logistics.
- TIPS collect the inputs and produce a summary of the proceedings.
- SALGA's LED site handles information sharing and discussion
- Participants cover their own travel and accommodation costs.
- The meetings have a good balance between informal interaction and formal agenda.



# ERLN Meetings format

- Interaction includes informal networking opportunities such as an informal dinner/function and/or personal learning and development/coaching inputs.
- The formal agenda remains focussed on specific topics and also allows plenty of time for discussion and engagement. This includes field trips/site visits when necessary.
- The agenda includes opportunity for reflection and personal engagement with the issues.

# Inaugural Meeting: Cape Town – March 2012

- First meeting held in Cape Town on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2012
- The aim of the first meeting was to explore the idea and get a sense of the level of support. Specifically:
  - To learn how the economic delivery system is being organised in each of the three regions
  - To share the latest regional economic research trends
  - To discuss the value of establishing a permanent Regional Economic Learning Network as a basis for cooperation and knowledge sharing
  - To discuss how National Government Departments and Agencies can support and link to such an initiative
- A report was produced and presentations distributed



# Second Meeting: Johannesburg – June 2012

- The second meeting was held in Johannesburg on 20 & 21 June 2012.
- The second meeting was hosted by the City of Johannesburg and the Johannesburg Development Agency and focused on Transport Led Economic development.
- There were presentations from Jack van der Merwe of Gautrain who discussed the planning and implementation of the Gautrain Project and a presentation by a representative of Ekurhuleni who discussed the ideas and plans relating to the Aerotropolis. Also discussed and visited was the Rea Vaya Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) System.
- This meeting was well attended by the three provinces, the three city regions and representatives from National government including the Presidency, National Treasury and Department of Economic Development.



# 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting – Durban – September 2012

- The 25 and 26 September 2012 ERLN meeting was hosted by the Department of Economic Development in KZN and had as its theme “Partnerships in Economic Development”.
- There were discussions centred around Leadership in Local Economic Development and site-visits to projects where innovative partnerships have resulted in successful business development and job creation.
- There was also a presentation of a “think-piece” by TIPS titled “Partnerships for Pro-poor Local Economic Development”.



# ERLN Portal

- The CoP is a private section within the LED Network, with its own administration (via SALGA). However, the functionality enables open document sharing and access, for example case studies, as appropriate/desired.
- The inputs from each ERLN are posted to the hub, along with any relevant readings and other documents people may wish to share with the ERLN members.
- Any research and benchmarking specifically conducted for the ERLN is also posted here.



# To join the ERLN Community of Practice on SALGA's SA LED Network

- Join the SA LED network first at: <http://led.co.za/>
- Once logged in, access the COP from the MyLED tab on the main page.
- Contact Susanne David there are any difficulties: [sdavid@salga.org.za](mailto:sdavid@salga.org.za)

# Join us for the next meeting: Western Cape – March 2013



Please contact Kirsten Pearson:  
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# Way forward

