

**PECE FORUM MEETING AND NETWORKING EVENT:**  
**27 SEPTEMBER 2005**

**Public Participation**

- There are already many private sector examples on public participation but accepted that these probably generally covered international grant funded projects and more needs to be done to embed the principle of public participation in decision making in all development 'sectors' including national and local government.
- Suggested that ensuring appropriate and effective Public Participation processes should be a required horizontal theme in those projects where relevant, and this should be included in PECE project criteria.
- Public participation has a mixed reputation in the former Soviet Union, including significant experience of drawn out token consultations (plus the word "community" has a different connotation in the Russian language).
- Coherent replicable public participation criteria need to be established.
- NGO's need to get involved as part of an overall approach to promote multi-sectoral engagement in the participation process.
- Development of good practice is essential.