



INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF LOCAL ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES – ILS LEDA

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Local Economic Development Agencies (LEDAs) are public-private no profit associations which provide comprehensive financial and non-financial services to population, entrepreneurs, NGO's, and public administrations for promoting and enhancing human and sustainable development. LEDAs embrace around 1700 institutions (municipal and regional administrations, associations of small business and farmers, cooperatives, associations of women, social and environmental local networks, universities, financial institutions, etc.), with about 60 million inhabitants served by them.

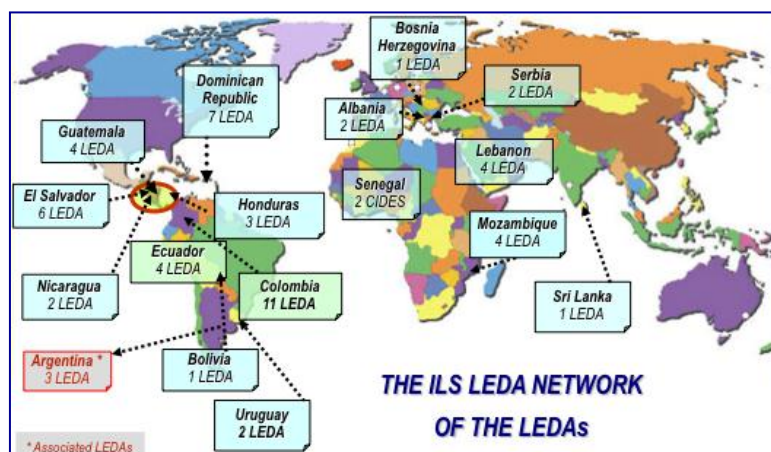
The LEDAs achieved very important results in terms of job creation, small business development, valorisation of local products -mainly healthy food-, environmental safeguard, green economy, social equity, gender equality, and preservation of the cultural heritage; moreover, they are able to channel national and international funds to the territories and act as instrument for implementing local and national policies and plans

The ILS LEDA (International Links and Services for LEDAs) network includes 59 LEDAs of 16 countries, established during the last 25 years, which are financially self-sustainable.

THE LEDAS PARTICIPATING IN THE NETWORK

The following LEDAs are actively participating in the Network:

- Albania: Teuleda, Auleda
- Argentina: Santa Fé (2), Rafaela
- Bosnia-Herzegovina: Cebeda
- Bolivia: Metropolitana La Paz
- Colombia: Velez, Urabá, Abrut Valle Cauca, Nariño, Arodel, Los Dinosaurios, Zapatosa, Gal Valletenzano, Adepas Tumaco, Casa del Agua, Oriente
- Dominican Republic: Monte Plata, Batoruco, Valverde, El Seibo, Dajabon, Duarte
- Ecuador: Conquito, Acudir, Loja, Corpodet
- El Salvador: Morazán, Sonsonate, Chalatenango, La Unión, Ademiss, Usulután, La Libertad
- Guatemala: Ixcán, Ixíl, Huehuetenango, Chiquimula
- Honduras: Adevas, Valle, Intibucá
- Lebanon: Aleda, North Lebanon, Bekaa, South Lebanon
- Mozambique: Sofala, Manica, Inhabane, Nampula
- Nicaragua: Granada, Jinotega
- Senegal: Pikine, Saloum
- Serbia: Alma Mons, Redasp
- Sri Lanka: North-West Province



THE ILS LEDA APPROACH AND RECOGNITIONS

The ILS LEDA approach is mainly based on the *participation* of all the most relevant economic, social, and administrative actors of the territory to the decision making process and the implementation of territorial strategies; on the *holistic intervention* that combines national and local policies, economic and socio-cultural development, economic competitiveness and socio-environmental sustainability; and on the creation of *LEDAs*, as the more suitable structures for supporting the above mentioned processes.

OECD recognised ILS LEDA as one of the most effective international organizations in dealing with Local Economic Development Agencies, stated in *Organizing Local Economic Development* by LEED Program.



Furthermore, the LEED Program of OECD recognises ILS LEDA as the organization that has formulated the most appropriate definition of Local Economic Development Agencies: "legal, non-profit structures, generally owned by the public and private entities of the territory", that act as a mechanism through which "local actors plan and activate, in a shared way, initiatives for territorial economic development; identify the most convenient instruments for their realisation; and enhance a coherent system for their technical and financial support". According to OECD this definition captures the essence of what development agencies are as well as their broad purpose.

THE ILS LEDA ACTIVITIES

ILS LEDA has been providing support to the LEDAs of the network, through:

- Disseminating information and best practices with the aim of increasing awareness and interest towards the LEDA model
- Providing customized assistance and training
- Providing a LEDA quality label (IQUAL), for those with best performance for fair, human and sustainable development
- Promoting and supporting international north-south and south-south partnerships
- Favoring exchanges of information and best practices among the LEDAs of the network

ILS LEDA has also been supporting international, national and local actors for:

- Enhancing public policies for local economic development *in Albania, Dominican Republic, Colombia, El Salvador, Ecuador, Guatemala, and Senegal.*
- Establishing new local economic development agencies *in 16 countries (as above mentioned).*
- Elaborating territorial strategies and plans that valorize the endogenous potential and address competitive, inclusive and sustainable development *in Colombia, Lebanon, Albania, Kosovo, El Salvador, Dominican Republic, Afghanistan, and Tunisia.*



- Carrying on territorial marketing strategies, based on the definition of the territorial personality and image in *El Salvador and Colombia*.
- Providing capacity building through courses on the field and tools at distance (webinars, on-line courses, etc.), for Albania, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and South Africa.

MAIN PARTNERS

ILS LEDA is partner of the KIP International School. ILS LEDA has been working in collaboration with European Union, UNDP, UNOPS, ILO, UN-Women, UN-Habitat, Governments of Colombia, El Salvador, Senegal, Botswana, the Italian Cooperation, the National LEDAs Network of Colombia, EURADA, the London School of Economics in England, the Concordia and York Universities in Canada, the Bocconi-Milan, Florence, and Naples Universities in Italy.

ILS LEDA AT KIP PAVILION

ILS LEDA will participate at the EXPO event inside the KIP Pavilion. In particular, ILS LEDA carries on, at the KIP Pavilion from 14 to 27 September 2015, the following activities:

- The LEDAs World Conference on *Best practices for healthy food, more attractive and sustainable territories*, with the participation of the LEDAs of the ILS LEDA network, national governments, and international organizations (21-23 September);
- The Colombian LEDAs exposition: practices, experience and typical products (21-26 September);
- Other LEDAs expositions: practices, experience and typical products (14-20 September);
- Daily presentations of the ILS LEDA recipes for more attractive and sustainable territories (14-26 September).



TO KNOW MORE

www.ilsleda.org



CONTACTS

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