

LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES MEETING

100 GOOD PRACTICES FROM THE TERRITORIES FOR A BETTER WORLD

The workshop *Local Economic Development Agencies: 100 good practices from the territories for a better world* has been carried out by the KIP International School Pavilion at EXPO Milan 2015 from 21 to 23 September 2015.

More than 100 people coming from Albania, Argentina, Belgium, China, Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Germany, Haiti, India, Italy, Lebanon, Mali, Poland, Senegal, Serbia, Spain, and Switzerland participated to the event. They represented mainly national governments and institutions, local administrations, United Nations agencies, international organizations, networks of European territorial economic development agencies and similar structures, entrepreneurs and farmers associations, financial institutions, universities, NGOs, and enterprises.

Local Economic Development Agencies (LEDA) are non-profit public-private structures providing financial and non-financial services to the population, business and public administration to promote and sustain human and sustainable development. They have achieved very significant results in job creation, small business development, promotion of local (mainly healthy) food products, safeguarding of the environment, sustainable economy, social equity, gender equality, and preservation of cultural heritage, channelling national and international funds to the territories, and as an instrument to facilitate the development and implementation of local and national policies and plans.

The ILS LEDA network gathers 61 LEDAs or similar structures of 19 countries, and they include more than 2,000,000 institutions (municipal and regional administrations, associations of small businesses and farmers, cooperatives, women's associations, local social and environmental networks, universities, financial institutions), with more than 60 million people served by them.

The workshop was the occasion of introducing the LEDAs best practices for a more sustainable world and for facilitating partnerships with potential international institutions, and programs. It was introduced by Giancarlo Canzanelli, ILS LEDA President, who told the LEDAs'



stories, role, and results, and by Luciano Carrino, President of the KIP International School, who exposed the proposal of a new initiative for international territorial cooperation, that will be launched at the final KIP event on 24th of October.

32 LEDAS coming from Albania, Argentina, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Haiti, India, Italy, Lebanon, Senegal, Serbia introduced themselves and their results. They met, during 10 special sessions, the World Heritage Agriculture Foundation WAHF, linked to FAO, the UNESCO Mab (Men and Biosphere) program, ILO, EURADA (European Association of Regional Development Agencies), EBN (European Business Centers Network), the Bocconi Impact Investing Laboratory, the International Network of the Eco-Regions and Bio-districts INNER, the Spanish Association of the Local Action Groups, the Universities of Florence and Parma, and some innovative enterprises presenting new technologies for safeguarding the environment.

A panel with the governments of Italy (Italian cooperation Technical Unit in Dakar), Senegal (Ministry of women, family and childhood), Mali (Ministry of Commerce), and Serbia (Ministry of Tourism) highlighted the importance of the LEDAS for implementing national policies and programs at decentralised level.

100 good practices were presented to the participants coming from 31 LEDAs, regarding topics such as governance (18), food (30), environment (20), social inclusion and job creation (10), gender (7), finance (7), and innovative technologies (7). At the end of the workshop 8 LEDAs for their best practices were awarded: Alma Mons (Serbia), Auleda (Albania) Casa del Agua Colombia), Cordoba (Argentina), Morazan (El Salvador), South Lebanon (Lebanon), and Zapatos (Colombia).

The workshop represented a very important opportunity for the LEDAs for reinforcing the network relationships among them, establishing links for future concrete partnerships with many present institutions and organizations, and for all the participants to know about the LEDAs and their role in territorial development.

To know more

www.ilsleda.org

[100 LEDAs Best Practices](#)

