

## The Integrated Economic and Social Development Center is launched in the Kaolack Region of Senegal

On February 27, 2015 the General Assembly for the formal establishment of the Integrated Economic and Social Development Center – CIDES Saloum of Kaolack' Region was held within the premises of Kaolack's Departmental Council.

The event was chaired by the Minister of Women, Family and Child, by the Regional Governor and by the Mayors of the Department of Kaolack, Guinguinéo and Nioro. Amongst the participants were also the local authorities, senior representatives of the administrations and territorial services, representatives of undergoing programs, the Coordinator of the Ministry of Woman Unit for Poverty Reduction and representatives of the Italian Cooperation, plus all members of the CIDES Saloum.

After opening words of the President of the Departmental Council of Kaolack, the Minister of Women on behalf of the President of the Republic recognized the efforts of all participants and the Government of Italy to support Senegal developmental policies. The Minister marked how CIDES represents a strategic tool for the development of territories and how it organically sets in the guidelines of Act III of the national decentralization policies.

The event was led by a series of presentations and discussions on the results of the CIDES Saloum participatory design process, submission and approval of the Statute and the final election of members of its management structure.

This event represents the successful completion of an action-research process developed over a year to design, through the active participation of local actors, the mission, strategic objectives and functions of Kaolack's Integrated Center for Economic and Social Development. The CIDES, which is inspired by the experiences of [Local Economic Development Agencies](#), is adapted, through a participatory approach, to the institutional, economic and social realities of the territory, building an integrated service system capable of improving the use of local resources and give concrete answers to the communities, giving priority to the economic inclusion of women and youth. The consistent dimension of the Region (5557 km<sup>2</sup>) and of its population of 840,639 inhabitants, required an intensive consultation to ensure a wider process of action-research participation.



The General Assembly of CIDES Saloum is composed of 48 members. In particular 17 representatives of youth and women associations, 6 representatives from social associations, 11 representatives of the local productive sector, 9 representatives of Local Authorities and 5 representatives of the territorial economic and financial services. The identification of the CIDES' Assembly representatives, required an intensive decision making process between local stakeholders, who had to organize their participation in the management board according to the extension of the territories where they operate, the specific production chains and the nature and mission of each represented territorial group.

The event collegially appointed CIDES' managing structure composed by: the President, Vice - President, Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General and the Treasurer. This nomination was ruled out through the underlying principle of equally representing the five different groups of actors. The Mayor of Kaolack offered the premises to host CIDES Saloum during its implementation phase.

The CIDES design and implementation is developed within the framework of the National Strategy for Social Protection of vulnerable groups, promoted by the Ministry of Women. The Integrated Programme for Economic and Social Development PIDES, with the technical and financial support from the Government of Italy, supports the Ministry of Women efforts to identify new paradigms of response to poverty challenges of vulnerable groups by facilitating access to services, economic opportunities and reducing inequalities.

In this framework, KIP International School and the [ILSLEDA Program](#) have provided technical support for the design and creation of the CIDES and encourages its future participation in networks of structures that promote inclusive and sustainable territorial development and innovation.

The event celebrated the institutional creation of CIDES Saloum, with the presence of the Minister of Women who framed this achievement in the policies and strategies of the country. In the coming months the newly born structure will fully fledge its services at disposal of the territorial economic development actors.

