

Eurada and ILS LEDA release quality labels for local economic development agencies aimed at human development



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In 2011, ILS LEDA and EURADA launched the certification of the Local Economic Development Agencies operating for human development, which is issued with a specific label: a sunflower. The following five LEDAs have been already awarded with the quality marks:

- Argentina [Regional Development Agency of Santa Fè](#)
- El Salvador [Local Economic Development Agency of the Department of Morazán](#)
- Albania [AULEDA - Regional Development Agency of Vlora](#)
- Sri Lanka [RUEDA - Local Economic Development Agency of Southern Province of Sri Lanka](#)
- Serbia [REDASP - Regional Development Agency of the Region of Sjumadjia-Pomeravia](#)

The Territorial Development Agencies are generally recognized a sound instrument for promoting and supporting territorial development.

Since 1990 the United Nations have been promoting the establishment of sustainable Local Economic Development Agencies (LEDA) through human development programs in Latin America, Africa, Eastern Europe, Middle East, and Asia. These LEDAs are mainly aimed at fighting against poverty, and resolving conflicts. All of them have been designed.



In 2010 an OECD publication on Local Economic Development Agencies recognized ILS LEDA as one of the most effective international organizations promoting and supporting LEDAs.

As matter of fact more than 60 LEDAs have been established through the ILS LEDA support and they are all still operating (with the exception of only five cases) in a self-sustainable way. These LEDA are linked through the ILS LEDA network that is managed by a joint program with EURADA. Nevertheless their performances are differentiated and can be improved to better respond to their mission. This improvement corresponds, on the other hand, to the need of facing the current global crisis in an effective and efficient way.

World is changing. The traditional values, like market as sovereign, economic growth as priority, financial assets as main growth tool are in crisis, because they do not solve problems such the safeguard of the

important earth resource -the natural environment and human being resources-, but they seem to destroy them. New efforts are needed and LEDAs could be an important instrument, provided they perform for enhancing human development, i.e. promoting competitiveness compatible with social equality and environmental protection; gender equality; participated governance; empowerment of local capacities.

The ILSLEDA-EURADA certification is issued according to the evaluation of the performance of LEDA, which includes 21 variables and 71 indicators, and it refers to the objectives (human development, equitable, sustainable), governance (participation, gender, inter-institutional relations at local, national and international levels, etc.), services (type, organization, users), impact on the territory, sustainability, management, consistency.

EURADA and ILSLEDA provide also a program of assistance to improving their performance to the LEDAs that request it. The initiative is very important because it provides international recognition of the LEDAs as belonging to a system that operates for human development and of their special abilities, which is unique in nature.