

CELEBRATING THE 30 YEARS OF THE LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES

[The International Network ILS LEDA celebrates in 2022 the 30 years of the Local Economic Development Agencies](#) established with specific purposes of sustainable and inclusive territorial development. A LEDA is a non-profit legal structure made up of public and private territorial bodies.

The first LEDAs of this Network were established in the first decade of the nineties in Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua and El Salvador with the support of United Nations Agencies as UNOPS, UNDP and ILO. During the following years more LEDAs have been created in the framework of international cooperation initiatives or implemented by local and national actors. In some countries such as Colombia, Argentina, and the Dominican Republic, other LEDAs have been promoted by their National Networks.

Thanks to their own self-sustainability models, these LEDAs operate supporting territorial economies in their competitive, resilient, inclusive, sustainable and fair development. They are part of ILS LEDA, global network of structures working for the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 United Nations Agenda.

In 2022, the 55 LEDAs associated in the ILS LEDA Network operate in Argentina, Uruguay, Colombia, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Mozambique, India, Lebanon, Serbia and Albania.

Each LEDA provides technical and financial assistance, training and other services to the local economic actors and small businesses, with the aim of supporting job creation and competitive, sustainable and inclusive enterprises. At the same times each LEDA provides support to the local governments and institutions for the implementation of public strategies and plans for territorial sustainable and inclusive development.

The LEDA structure has its own legal and operational autonomy, providing the participation of public actors (local administrations, decentralized state services, etc.), private business actors (producer associations, cooperatives, chambers of commerce, trade unions), service providers (private companies, academies, educational and research institutions, professional schools, financial institutions, etc.), and civil society organisations. Its autonomous nature allows it to independently access to financial sources and to execute projects, provide services and credits in the local area.

For 30 years, the LEDAs have been working through a broad membership of local actors to solve problems in the territories, such as reducing poverty and inequalities, unemployment, environmental protection (with a green and circular economy), climate change



mitigation. Emphasizing social cohesion and the value of endogenous resources, the LEDAs contribute to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and have become important references for the execution of local and national government's programs and plans, as well as initiatives of international entities interested in investing in their territories.

On the occasion of this anniversary the ILS LEDA Network has decided to dedicate 2022 to celebrate the history and the experiences of the LEDAs, and explore how to face their future challenges. The objectives established by the LEDAs for this celebration are: Increase their visibility; Promote more alliances at the local, national and international levels; Help to face the new challenges and the achievement of the SDGs; Improve the exchange of innovative good practices and promote the socialization of skills.

The following main activities are planned for the year to reach these objectives:

- Interviews with pioneers and allies of the LEDAs and edition of the notebook "Lessons learned and challenges for LEDAs' future" based on the interviews; Discussion in sub-regional webinars, with direct invitation (February-September).
- Organization of "The Windows of Good Practices", webinar where 3 or more LEDAs or their networks present practices of common utility, with open participation (February-November).
- Organization of "The Festival of Tools" webinar where tools useful to the work of LEDAs are presented, with open participation (February-November).
- Publication of the "LEDA Manifesto" proposal, as a result of all the previous initiatives (October).
- Conclusion of the celebrations in thematic webinar "Towards a solid future" (with direct invitation) that: summarize the results of the entire process; Ratify the "LEDA Manifesto for competitive, inclusive, and sustainable development" and set up mechanisms for the exchange of good practices and solidarity aid (November-December).

More initiatives planned during the year will be presented in the ILS LEDA website, and its social media (Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn). The organizers invite all interested actors to participate by contacting the following email address: ilsleda@ilsleda.org.

To know more

[30 Years of LEDAs in ILSLEDA website](#)

[Agenda in ILSLEDA website](#)

[Information Leaflet: The Local Economic Development Agencies for the SDGs](#)

[The LEDAs of ILSLEDA Network](#)

[LEDAs brochure 2004 in IDEASS website](#)

