



IDEASS

Innovation for Development and South-South Cooperation

executive catalogue



Local Economic Development Agencies, for governance and internationalization of local economies (Albania, Colombia, El Salvador, Mozambique)

The Local Economic Development Agencies LEDAs, are legal, no profit structures, owned by the public and private entities of the territory. The LEDAs integrate governance components like public-private partnership and local-national relations. The LEDAs provide several services to the population and institutions, such as territorial marketing, credit, technical assistance to business and entrepreneurial training. 50 LEDAs with such characteristics are currently operating in many Latin American, African and East European countries. The international organizations that structurally support the establishment and efficacy of the LEDAs are ILO, UNDP, UNIFEM, UNOPS and European Union. The LEDA experience is part of the university curriculum in various academies, through masters or specialised courses.

Brochure available in: [English](#), [Spanish](#)



Service Centers for the Entrepreneurial Endeavors of Women (El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua)

The Service Centres for the Entrepreneurial Endeavors of Women CSEM are territorial entities that provide technical and financial services to support the creation of jobs and incomes for women, aimed at the dynamization of the local economies. In the interested countries, CSEMs are introduced as part of the Local Economic Development Agencies (LEDAs) as specific tools for increasing the impact and quality of the attention paid to the demands of the female population. Many countries expressed interest in the creation of these services and the international organizations supporting the transfer of the needed knowledge are: UNIFEM, UNDP, ILO and UNOPS.

Brochure available in: [English](#), [Spanish](#)



The recovery of historical centres and their integrated development (Cuba)

The methodology, implemented as of 1993 in the City of Havana by the Office of the Historian, takes culture as its guiding principle and places the human being at the centre of the whole process. As the local economy gets reactivated using this perspective, it creates new jobs, improves living conditions and reduces marginality, replacing it with a dynamic of recovery that has a synergetic and multiplying effect on investments, expanding the recovered areas and increasing the resources available for development. The method received a high level of international recognition, in particular from the United Nations (UNDP and UNESCO); it was also bestowed various international prizes, including the Philippe Rotthier European Architecture Prize in 2001 and the Stockholm Partnerships Sustainable Cities 2001 Prize.

Brochure available in: [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Albanian](#)



Participatory budgeting (Brazil)

It's a mechanism for municipal administration based on social justice and the involvement of social classes usually excluded from representation. It was developed in 1989 in the city of Porto Alegre, Brazil. Participatory budgeting ("orçamento participativo") is an innovative form of direct participation by the people in formulating and implementing budget policies in the city. It brought democracy to decisions on how the city's public resources were used. Porto Alegre administrative method has been adopted by more than 100 Brazilian municipalities, and by many others throughout the world. In 1996, Porto Alegre's participatory budgeting process was selected by Habitat II of the United Nations as one of the 40 best innovative practices.

Brochure available in: [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Portuguese](#)



Community stakeholding, for managing local services (Italy)

It is an innovation implemented by the Municipality of Peccioli, Italy, to manage a refuse dump that re-invests its relevant profits in the public interest. The public company, which was established in 1997 to run the plant, is owned by the municipal authorities and local shareholders, the citizens of the Peccioli and Valdera Municipalities themselves. The initiative represents an example of "good governance", a model of bottom-up development guided by a public authority, and has been awarded numerous international recognitions, including the prestigious EMAS (Eco Management and Audit Scheme) certification of the European Union.

Brochure available in: [English](#), [Spanish](#)

Environmental Patrimony



Solaref, refrigerator of autonomous solar ice with cooperative commerce (France)

This is an innovation developed by the Organization Solaref, in collaboration with the Business Innovation Center Thesame Annecy (France). Solaref is 100% ecological, does not emit CO₂, does not contain lead CFC and only consumes energy from the sun. It's simple in its use and maintenance. This innovation offers new perspectives in isolated sites for the safeguard of medicines, vaccines and other perishable goods. The diffusion of the autonomous solar ice refrigerators is based on the co-operative trade whose principle is to give employment for local people. Solaref has received numerous and prestigious international awards.

Brochure available in: [English](#), [Spanish](#), [French](#)



A return to natural dyes (Spain)

This innovation makes available a traditional re-engineered technique to apply naturally produced colors on textile fabrics. It gives an effective and natural response to the global need for decreasing pollution within industrial processes related to tissues. It rescues, as well, a traditional knowledge coming from different regions of the world, putting together a system of sub-techniques which can be themselves applied in different contexts. In recent years, several international recognitions have been assigned to natural dyes operators, worth to mention the International Symposium on Natural Dyes (Hyderabad, India, Sept 2006) sponsored by UNESCO. The Royal Botanic Garden of Madrid, a body belonging to the High Council for Scientific Research of Spain, provides scientific endorsement to the recovery of the use of natural dyeing plants.

Brochure available in: [English](#), [Spanish](#)



Ecological forest farms, for the environmental regeneration of river basins (Cuba)

It's a system for the regeneration of river basins based on farms located on the river banks and run by farmers and their families. The farmers produce agricultural products to be sold or for subsistence purposes and carry out reforestation and forest management activities. The system is managed by the Agriculture Ministry through the GEAM (Hill-Farming Management Group), the IIF (Forestry Research Institute), and the SEF (State Forestry Service) and guarantees decent housing and living conditions, as well as access to basic social services, for the farmers and their families. During the *Equator Initiative* of the Johannesburg Summit on Sustainable Development (2002), the ecological forest farms was recognized as one of the 25 most successful sustainable development projects in the world.

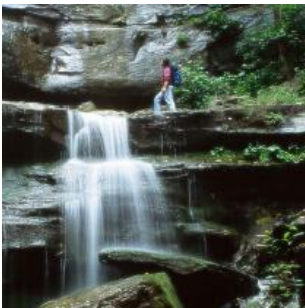
Brochure available in: [English](#), [Spanish](#)



Constructed wetlands, natural water purification systems (Italy)

It's a technique promoted by ARPAT (Regional Agency for the Environmental Protection of Tuscany) to purify waste waters by means of autochthonous plants. The system, which was applied for the first time in Germany in 1952, is particularly indicated for small and medium-sized applications, in case of water purification problems in rural and hilly areas where collecting waters in a centralised system would involve high costs and negative environmental impact. Countries turning toward the use of Constructed Wetlands as part of a policy of greater economic and environmental sustainability include Slovenia, Tunisia and Egypt. In Europe at present there are about 11,370 officially-registered Constructed Wetlands systems monitored by research institutes.

Brochure available in: [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Albanian](#)



Compagnia dei Parchi, for sustainable tourism (Italy)

It's an operating model to support Parks and Protected Areas to generate income by using suitable existing properties as tourist accommodation. Through a bottom-up approach, CDP makes full use of the distinguishing qualities of the protected areas, not only their natural heritage, but also their history, culture, folklore and architecture. This model enables local people and enterprises to achieve financial returns for a small outlay within even a short time. The CDP model was introduced in 1999 by CARSA and Legambiente, in association with some Italian National Parks and formed the basis for the motion Mediterranean Mountains, approved by the "World Conservation Congress" (IUCN) in Bangkok in November 2004.

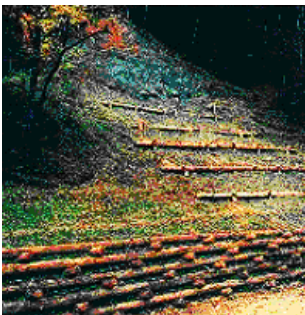
Brochure available in: [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Albanian](#)



BACTIVEC® and GRISELESF®, biolarvicides for mosquito control (Cuba)

They're biological larvicides that make use of specific pathogens, highly effective against mosquito larvae. They're also effective in case of great water accumulations, in which malaria, human filariasis and encephalitis vectors can easily grow. Differently from chemical pesticides, they're totally safe for man, warm-blooded vertebrates, amphibians or others animals living in the water, they're biodegradable, don't contaminate the environment and don't induce resistance. BACTIVEC® and GRISELESF were introduced in Cuba by LABIOFAM, respectively in 1980 and 1990. Abroad these products are recognized by public health and agricultural institutions, private enterprises and United Nations agencies such as PAHO/WHO and UNDP.

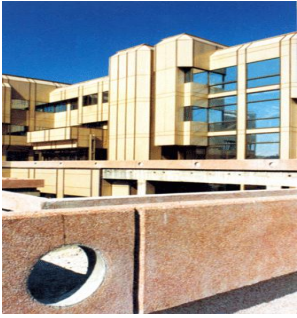
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Soil Bioengineering (Italy)

The Natural Engineering technique consists in the use of organic materials (plants, parts of plants, entire plants associations) as building material, often in combination with inorganic materials such as stone, soil, wood and steel. Its primary function is to protect and recuperate weathering river banks and watersheds; however, it also has an added value represented by the amenity value of the landscape and the respect for the ecosystem. Natural Engineering is particularly suitable for its reduced costs, for the relevant use of local labour force, which brings significant economic benefits to the population, and for the use of natural materials that can be found locally. At the beginning of the XX century, the administrations of the German alpine area started to implement natural engineering techniques in their territories. Natural engineering techniques are widely implemented in all European countries and in the United States, while they are starting to be adopted also in Brazil, Nicaragua and Nepal.

Brochure available in: [English](#), [Spanish](#)



IMS Building Technology (Serbia)

It is a building technology that has been in use since the fifties for the construction of houses and palaces. Thanks to the innovative formula in the production of the prefabricated elements made of cement, it allows a significant cost reduction of supporting structures. Furthermore, it has shown a high capacity of resistance in laboratory and during the natural phenomena such as earthquakes and hurricanes, decreasing the vulnerability of the population by reducing the risk factor. At least 150.000 apartments have been built in more than 20 countries in four continents. It has received certificates and attests from different institutions for research of materials from Hungary, China, Italy, Cuba, Georgia and Russia.

Brochure available in: [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Serbian](#)



SOLWA – Solar still for drinkable water production from polluted or salt waters (Italy)

SOLWA (SOLar WAtEr) is a solar still devised and researched at the University of Padua, Italy, by a pool of professors of the Faculties of Science and Chemistry and in collaboration with the Faculty of Agrarian Sciences and the University of Venice. It consists in a new system of producing drinkable water from the desalination of waters with elevated salt concentration or polluted waters, with the use of solar energy as its only source. It has a very contained cost of installation and maintenance and is constructed from materials that are easily accessible in any country and territory. It was presented in November 2009 at the International Conference held in Dubai, organized by IDA (International Desalination Association), the most qualified international organism in the field of water desalination technologies.

Brochure available in: [English](#), [Spanish](#)



Agricultural Towers for multi-level Cultivation (France)

The Agricultural Towers are developed by the French Company Courtirey with the financial aid of the Rhône-Alpes region and the support of the Business Innovation Centre (BIC) Thésame in Annecy. For the first time, the garden, its operating energy and its water are all in the same place. The towers allow increasing the cultivation surface area and need a minimum of maintenance. Adapted to every need, the agricultural towers are totally independent and provide solution for the lack of cultivable grounds. They recycle the remaining water usually wasted after watering and run entirely on solar energy, also allowing alimentation to other structures, such as preserve farms, health centers, schools. The multilevel agricultural towers have been awarded with many international prizes.

Brochure available in: [French](#), [English](#), [Spanish](#)

Health and Social Services



The mother kangaroo method (Colombia)

It's a method for the treatment and outpatient care of premature and low birth weight children. Warmth, lactation and the kangaroo position are the basic foundations of the method. The loving and close relationship between mother and child improves and guarantees the respiratory and cardiac rhythms and allows the little ones to survive. This method was introduced in September 1979 by doctor Héctor Martínez Gómez and doctor Edgar Rey Sanabria at the Maternal-Infant Institute of Bogotá in Colombia. The Mother Kangaroo treatment, which combines hospital treatment with outpatient and home care, has achieved better results than the more costly alternative of prolonged hospitalisation. During the 44th Plenary Assembly of the World Health Organization, Héctor Martínez and Edgar Rey were awarded the 1991 Sasakawa Health Prize.

Brochure available in: [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Albanian](#), [Serbian](#)



Integrating the practice of traditional and natural medicine into the health system (Cuba)

It's a methodology, introduced in 2002 by the National MTR Development Centre, to integrate scientifically proven alternative medicines and traditional therapies into the Cuban national health system. MTR is a broad-spectrum specialization, which includes health promotion, prevention of disease, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of patients utilising traditional and natural medicine techniques and improving medical assistance at reduced cost to people at the margins of national social security programmes, as recommended by the WHO. MTR has been awarded many national and international prizes, including recognitions from the Latin-American Society of Natural Medicine (SOLAMENAT) in 1991.

Brochure available in: [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Serbian](#)



Moxibustion, to correct a breech presentation of the foetus (China)

It's a safe technique based on the heat stimulation of acupuncture points that may be a useful alternative to a caesarean section in case of breech presentation. Heat is generated by burning an herb, *artemisia vulgaris*, pressed, dried and then rolled in mulberry paper which smoulders once lit. Moxibustion is an integral part of the Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) and is promoted by the Centre of Chinese Traditional Medicine "Fior di Prugna" (Florence, Italy). The World Health Organisation supports the use of moxibustion as it considers breech presentation as a condition for which the effectiveness of acupuncture has been proven by controlled clinical trials.

Brochure available in: [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Albanian](#), [Serbian](#)



Filtrón, ceramic filter for drinking water (Nicaragua)

It's a low cost household filter which treats contaminated water in order to render it safe to drink. Filtrón, which has been produced on a large scale by the international NGO "Pottery for Peace" since 1998, basically consists of a filtering element that can be made by local potters using local materials, with no need for electricity or advanced technology. The consumption of clean drinking water reduces illnesses, protects the household economy and guarantees a motivated workforce for the production of Filtrón, thus generating local employment. Filtrón has been recognised by important international institutions, such as the International Federation of the Red Cross, and UNICEF and has been awarded the "Marketplace 2004" Prize by the World Bank in Cambodia.

Brochure available in: [English](#), [Spanish](#)



Serodiagnosis KIT of human leptospirosis and chagas disease (Nicaragua)

The CNDR/MINSA ELISA KIT is a laboratory technique for the prompt diagnosis of human leptospirosis using samples of serum, plasma and blood from suspected patients. The KIT gives rapid laboratory results (2½ hours), is cheap and provides high diagnostic resolutions (100% sensitivity and 99.6% specificity). The CNDR/MINSA CHAGAS KIT is another laboratory technique that provides prompt diagnosis of Chagas disease in suspected patients and can be used to screen serum, plasma and blood samples. The kit gives quick laboratory results (2½ hours), is cheap and provides high diagnosis resolutions (100% sensitivity and 98.4% specificity). In 2004, the KITS, which were developed by the Nicaraguan Ministry of Health in 2001, won a human development innovation prize promoted by the CONYCIT-Nicaragua in collaboration with UNDP.

Brochure available in: [English](#), [Spanish](#)

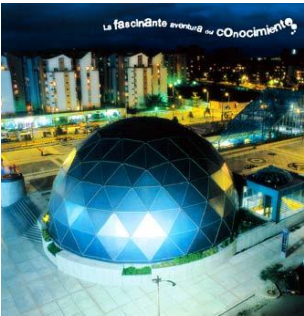
Education and Culture



The University of Crafts and Trades, promoting know-how and cultural identity (Latin America)

The University of Crafts and Trades, implemented by the Municipality of Quito (Ecuador), is a centre of knowledge and know-how, whose aim is to promote the preservation of cultural heritage, techniques, crafts and historical memory, by networking with the country's universities and offering bachelor's and master's degree courses. The University is based on models such as PRATEC, in Peru, the 'Fundación para el Pensamiento Americano' of Medellín, Colombia, the Courses at the San Gerónimo University College of Havana, coordinated by the Office of the Historian of the City of Havana (Cuba). The Andean Community of Nations views the possibility of setting up vocational universities in other countries with great interest. The University of Crafts and Trades is supported by the United Nations and UNESCO.

Brochure available in: [English](#), [Spanish](#), [French](#)



Maloka, a Center to meet science and technology (Colombia)

It is a Center for social improvement which operates through a variety of strategies involving democratized and permanent education, the attainment of knowledge and the recovery of ethical values. The Center was the result of an initiative started in 1998 by the Colombian Association for the Advancement of Science (ACAC). It aims to bring technology into people's daily lives. The Center has received many awards and public recognitions, which include the Latin-American prize for the Popularization of Science and Technology and the Gonzalo Jiménez de Quesada Prize awarded by the Sociedad de Mejoras y Ornato de Santafé de Bogotá.

Brochure available in: [English](#), [Spanish](#)



Código de Acceso, young people and information (Colombia)

It is a communicative and innovative method that involves young people (15 to 20 years old) in the daily realization process of a national newspaper, making them participate to the design of the medium structure, learning the tricks of the trade and taking an effective and active part in all the sections of the newspaper. It was realized in 1999 by the *El Tiempo* newspaper, Colombia's widest selling national newspaper, with the contribution of national and international organizations concerned with children and teenagers education.

Brochure available in: [English](#), [Spanish](#)



The Petnica Science Center (PSC) (Serbia)

The Petnica Science Center (PSC) is an educational institution, founded in 1982 to help and support the most promising high school students who are highly interested in science. The PSC has gained recognition for its innovative methods in science education and it is highly respected in Yugoslavia and abroad. The centre covers about 500 schools, with more than 800 professional scientists and university teachers who spend many days as volunteers giving lectures or conducting discussions and experiments with about 3,000 students every year. The majority of PSC programs and services are free of charge for the participants, student or teacher. The programs cover also the neighbouring countries: Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Macedonia, Bulgaria, Slovenia and others.

Brochure available in: [English](#), [Spanish](#)

Local Economic Development



Albergo Diffuso, developing tourism through innovation and tradition (Italy)

An *Albergo Diffuso* is an hotel conceived to provide to the guests the experience of living in a historical centre, providing all the services of traditional hotels (welcoming, assistance, common spaces, meals). *Albergo Diffuso* originated in Friuli Venezia Giulia Region and, currently, more than 50% of Italian Regions have adopted this innovative way of lodging within their own laws for touristic development. This innovation has won the first prize in the 2008 UNDP-EBN (European Business Innovation Centers Network) competition. The Italian Association of *Alberghi Diffusi* has entered a registered trademark for *Albergo Diffuso*, validated at European level.

Brochure available in: [English](#), [Spanish](#)



Stabilak, for the natural preservation of milk (Cuba)

It's a biological product, which activates a system of natural defences present in the milk of all mammals. The product allows raw milk for human consumption to be stored without souring for between 8 and 24 hours after milking, in temperatures ranging from 20°C to 34°C. It represents a natural, simple and effective solution to solve problems created by the lack or instability of electricity, inadequate means of transportation. This innovative method was invented in Cuba in 1988 by the engineer P. P. Ceballo of the National Centre for Agricultural Sanitation (CENSA). Stabilak has received extensive international recognition, including the FAO's support for validation and distribution of the product, and various international awards, including a Gold Medal from the World Organization for Intellectual Property (OMPI) in 2002, a Gold Medal at the 24th International Inventions Congress in 1996 and the Ecological Prize from the Office for Commercial Promotion on Behalf of Developing Countries (OSEC) in 1996.

Brochure available in: [English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#), [Albanian](#), [Serbian](#)



The raincoat package for soil, plant, animal and human health (India)

It's a kit developed between 1994 and 1997 by the Herbal Folklore Research Centre (HFRC), Tirupati, India, for treating soil, plants, animals and human beings with parts of the Neem plant (*Azadirachta indica* A Juss). All parts of the tree possess powerful properties for pest control, grain storage, mosquito repellent, fertilizers and animal feed, primary health care, therapeutic purposes. The Raincoat Package is multipurpose and environmentally friendly. It plays a key role in ensuring food security, improving human health and safeguarding the wellbeing of humans over the long term. UNIDO, UNEP, GTZ, the Friedrich-Naumann Foundation, CARE, USAID and AFGRO are implementing projects for the Neem cultivation, in recognition of its usefulness at both the ecological and economical levels.

Brochure available in: [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Albanian](#)



Natural dehydration of lemons (Guatemala)

This process was developed in Guatemala in 1993 by the “Cooperativa Integral de Producción El Limón R.L.” (COELMON); it involves the complete drying of lemons in direct sunlight, without adding any artificial or chemical substances, and using only the best agricultural practices, careful handling, and hygienic preparation and packing systems. This ensures pure and simple quality products, great with soups, meat dishes, salads, tea and iced tea, and that can be commercialised in numerous countries. This innovation represents a sustainable environmental answer to the problem of generating income and work in semiarid and marginal zones, where it is hard to find other productive agricultural options. Between 2001 and 2003, the innovation was awarded important international prizes and recognitions, including a prize for rural productivity awarded by the World Bank.

Brochure available in: [English](#), [Spanish](#)



The Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Package (Albania)

The Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Package is a strategy for olive pest control developed in Albania by the Plant Protection Institute (PPI), the leading institution of a wide research consortium. It is an effective treatment against the olive fruit fly, the key pest of this crop that causes serious damage to the fruits and reduces the quality of the olive oil. The use of the IPM package brings relevant benefits to the environment, since it allows a reduction in the use of pesticides and in the amount of pesticides residues on olive products, thus increasing the beneficial fauna in the olive ecosystem. The relevant economic benefit is represented by the opportunity for farmers to produce organic olive oil and to introduce it into the national and international markets at very advantageous prices. The implementation of the IPM package in Albania is supported by the Pennsylvania State University, the University of California and Virginia Tech. All Mediterranean countries are showing a great interest in the implementation of the IPM package. The organic olives obtained are certified by the BIOSWISSE international certification.

Brochure available in: [English](#), [Spanish](#)



Grazing dairy cows, a model of sustainable agriculture (Azores, Portugal)

The grazing dairy cows management is a model of sustainable agriculture developed in the Azores Region, in Portugal, by the Regional agricultural and forestry secretariat. This system is an advanced production model that can provide excellent milk at highly competitive prices. Milking is carried out directly in the meadows thanks to the use of mobile milking machines, an innovation of the Azores. Since it is easy to set up and replicate, and requires little economic investment, this cattle grazing model can be easily applied, completely or in part. The Regional Secretariat, the S. Miguel Agricultural Association, the S. Miguel Association of young agriculturists and the University of the Azores can provide support and technical assistance in any country interested.

Brochure available in: [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Portuguese](#)

The IDEASS Programme — Innovation for Development and South-South Cooperation — is part of the international cooperation Initiative ART. IDEASS grew out of the major world summits in the 1990s and the Millennium General Assembly and it gives priority to cooperation between protagonists in the South, with the support of the industrialised countries.

The aim of IDEASS is to strengthen the effectiveness of local development processes through the increased use of innovations for human development. By means of south-south cooperation projects, it acts as a catalyst for the spread of social, economic and technological innovations that favour economic and social development at the local level. The innovations promoted may be products, technologies, or social, economic or cultural practices. For more information about the IDEASS Programme, please consult the website: www.ideassonline.org.



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Innovation for Development and South-South Cooperation



ART - Support for territorial and thematic networks of co-operation for human development - is an international co-operation initiative that brings together programmes and activities of several United Nations Agencies. ART promotes a new type of multilateralism in which the United Nations system works with governments to promote the active participation of local communities and social actors from the South and the North. ART shares the objectives of the Millennium Development Goals.

In the interested countries, ART promotes and supports national co-operation framework programmes for Governance and Local Development - ART GOLD. These Programs create an organized institutional context that allows the various national and international actors to contribute to a country's human development in co-ordinated and complementary ways. Participants include donor countries, United Nations agencies, regional governments, city and local governments, associations, universities, private sector organizations and non-governmental organizations.

It is in the framework of ART GOLD Programmes where IDEASS innovations are promoted and where cooperation projects are implemented for their transfer, whenever required by local actors.