

The ECCA School and the IDEASS Programme establish a systematic collaboration agreement to identify and promote innovations



November 2010

In November 2010, on the basis of the positive experiences jointly implemented during the year, Alejandro Benitez, Director of the *Training School for Service Centers for the Entrepreneurial Endeavors of Women and Local Economic Development Agencies* (ECCA) took the initiative to establish an agreement with the IDEASS Programme to strengthen the collaboration already under way.

In particular, the new agreement aims to develop a systematic activity to identify innovations through the contacts, managed by ECCA, with a number of partners in different Central American countries. The agreement also concerns the promotion of innovations for human development in the network of CSEMs and LEDAs of Central America, to generate interest and specific transfer processes of innovative methodologies and technologies.

During 2010, ECCA in the framework of IDEASS:

- established partnerships with the Local Economic Development Agency of the Province of Nampula (ADELNA) in the Republic of Mozambique and the Local Economic Development Agency RUEDA in the Southern Province of Sri Lanka, to transfer the working methodology of *the Service Centers for the Entrepreneurial Endeavors of Women*.
- organized the visit of the authors of the Multi-level Agricultural Towers in El Salvador and is currently defining the project for the transfer of this innovation, in collaboration with the LEDAs operating in the country, as well as the identification of potential donors.
- promoted, by means of periodical newsletters, the IDEASS innovations through the network of LEDAs and CSEMs in the region.



About ECCA and LEDA Morazán

The *Training School for Service Centers for the Entrepreneurial Endeavors of Women and Local Economic Development Agencies* (ECCA) was established in 2009 in the framework of the Economic Development Agency of the Department of Morazan, El Salvador. The school was created to consolidate a role that

LEDA Morazán was already playing, providing technical assistance to multiple national and international actors interested in knowing and replicating its most successful operational methods. Created in 1009, the LEDA Morazán operated with a significant impact on territorial development, on the occupational, social, technological and economic side.

During these years, it was visited by different international, regional and national actors interested in its operational methods and in receiving technical assistance in their territories. To make an example on the results achieved in the last 10 years, LEDA Morazán, with the cooperation of 25 national and international stakeholders, implemented 63 projects for a total of 10 million dollars, creating more than 2,000 new jobs, 250 small enterprises and fostering the development of 2.200 small businesses. In the territory, the LEDA generated 3 associations of enterprises in the dairy, beekeeping and dye sectors, contributing to the stable strengthening of its business partners. The LEDA set up his own financial institution, the *Sociedad Cooperativa de Ahorro y Créditos* (AMC), to manage credit operations in the department and indirectly generating 60% of its sustainability. AMC, with 20 charter and international members, has a current portfolio of 18 million dollars, with 15,000 customers of which 63% are women.



AMC is also providing support to other Central American LEDAs, to carry out credit programs. The LEDA is also a territorial laboratory of human development, allocating part of its income on social initiatives. In particular, it funded, over the past 5 years, the scholarships of 203 young people of the territory, to ensure their technical-vocational and University studies, significantly contributing to build the social capital of the future.

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