

# ILS LEDA supports ADELCO and the Government of Colombia for the national policy on local economic development, in the framework of the European Union Program

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In the framework of the ILS LEDAs partnership with the National Network of Colombian LEDAs (ADELCO) to assist the Government in developing a national policy on local economic development, the European Union Delegation in Colombia has supported an ILS LEDA mission in the country during February-March 2012.

The objective was to support the National Planning Department (DNP) to improve the guidance on local economic development policy, through the socialization of both national and international networks of LEDAs, and the learned lessons on local development in the workshops of peace and development. The activity has been done closely coordinated with the Government of Colombia (Ministry of Industry and Trade, DNP).



The mission has been articulated in visits to the European program areas (Cucuta, Montes de Maria and Meta) - when forums on Local Economic Development have been held – meetings with national government, and the participation to two national events: a workshop with the departmental secretaries, and the National Forum on Local Economic Development. Over 1000 people attended the various activities.

In particular, the National Forum on Local Development provided a relevant contribution to the Colombian Government in its efforts for designing appropriate policies for territorial development, according to the experience in the country and at international level. The Forum was realized in collaboration with ADELCO and the LEDAs of the country.

More than 350 people participated in the Forum, representatives of: the European Union, National Planning Department (DNP), Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Labor, Senate of the Republic of Colombia, Provincial and Departmental Governments, other national institutions such as COLCIENCIAS, Coder, Federation of Colombian Municipalities, Pro-pais, Esap, Sena, Academies (Universities of Santo Tomas, Catholic, National, Sergio Arboleda, Uniminuto, Polytechnic Grancolombiano, Cun, Unillanos and Javeriana), UNDP Country Office, Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECI), USAID, UNDP Country Office of Dominican Republic, National Director of Regional Development and Foreign Trade Sector of Argentina.



The activities confirmed the great steps made in Colombia in local economic development issues, since only 10 years from the first initiative in Nariño, when was established the first LEDA in the country. Today 13 LEDAs operates in the country, ADELCO is a consolidated network of LEDAs at national level, and currently a national policy for territorial development with focus on local economies is relevant part of the political agenda.



The mission was finalized with an agreement on recommendations for the elaboration of a CONPES (National Council for Economic and Social Policy) document on Local Development with focus on economic. These recommendations are focused on:

- the establishment of strong relationships between national and local strategies, through participatory governance mechanisms and objectives including the economic, social, and environmental dimensions,
- the constitution of a National Fund for Territorial Development, based on Departments (the appropriate geographic dimension for territorial development in the country)
- the implementation of Local/Territorial Development Agencies as instruments for the implementation of the strategies and the establishment of minimum conditions for setting up these Agencies,
- the creation of a National School for Local Development, for promoting a new development vision culture.

Either the National Government than the European Union and the ADELCO Network, asked ILSLEDA for accompanying this process. The National Network of Local Economic Development Agencies (ADELCO), including 13 LEDAs of Colombia, will remain a fundamental reference for the Government of Colombia in this task.

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