

# OECD STRESSING THE IMPACT OF LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES

In 2010, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development OECD published the interesting document *Organizing Local Economic Development. The role of Development Agencies and Companies*. In this document, written by Greg Clark, Joe Huxley and Debra Mountford, the Local Economic Development Agencies are presented as a flexible, innovative and pragmatic tool for local development.



OECD registers about 15,000 local economic development agencies (LEDA) in the world, and it envisages local economic development processes should have at disposal tools for:

- realising a concrete partnership activity between public private and institutional sectors, with substantial vertical and horizontal collaboration;
- improving alignment of goals and strategies between different public sector players and civic/private partners, through combining necessary long term plans and short term actions;
- assuring risks and costs of LED investment are shared between public and private entities;
- realizing structures adequate to deliver actions for implementing the above-mentioned efforts, such the LEDAs, and so capturing value and shaping benefits of investment and development, through substantial coordination for the optimal resource mobilization.

The document analyses the case of 16 LEDAs in all the continents, and its first chapter is a very interesting introduction on the nature of local development, the local economic development in practice, a review of the LEDA literature, and main references.

In this framework the document emphasises the important role played by ILS LEDA (among few other organisations) in these processes at international level, and in particular its effort for combining economic and social goals, and human development in its action of promoting and sustaining the LEDAs. Furthermore it is of special interest the fact that OECD identifies the definition of LEDA provided by ILS LEDA, as the one that *captures the essence of what development agencies are, as well as their broad purpose, and also introduces a series of significant messages*. ILS LEDA, in fact, defines the LEDAs as legal, none profit structures, generally owned by the public and private entities of the territory which act as a mechanism through which local actors plan and activate, in a shared way, initiatives for territorial economic development; identify the most convenient instruments for their realization; and enhance a coherent system for their technical and financial support (ILSLEDA 2007).

## To know more

[Extract from the OECD publication](#)

[OECD publication](#)

[www.oecd.org](http://www.oecd.org)

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