

## Implementing an Incubator of innovative enterprises in Kaolack Region, Senegal

On April, 23<sup>rd</sup>, in the Senegalese region of Kaolack, all local stakeholders took part in a workshop for a joint planning of an Incubator of innovative enterprises. This initiative, that follows the orientations of the National Strategy of Economic and Social Development (SNDES), is promoted by the National Directorate of Small and Medium Enterprises, with the support of the Italian Cooperation (Plasepri Programme).



The workshop, organized by the Agency for Regional Development of Kaolack in the framework of the *Regional Platform for Economic and Social Development*, saw the participation of more than 40 representatives of regional and municipal governments, Chamber of Commerce and Trade, Directorate of SMEs, Directorate of Industry, regional technical services, NGOs and organizations working in the region, private sector, national and local Universities, Ministry of Economics and Public Finance.



The workshop brought to the identification of the most relevant characteristics to be considered for the Incubator to be a factor of dynamization of local enterprises focused on innovation. For example, the Incubator should work in close collaboration with all the local stakeholders and the University, promote enterprises that can enhance local value chains, encourage enterprises that integrate disadvantaged people or groups of regional territory. A first list of value chains particularly interesting for the region was also identified, including the ones of solar energy, waste recycling, exploitation of salt, drying techniques, traditional dyes, ecological construction materials, processes for making the water drinkable, organic agriculture, traditional agro-food chain (peanuts, cereals, milla, roselle, morenga, sesame), leathers, and others.



The initiative also foresees the realization of a National Catalogue of innovations, for the Incubator to be able to use the knowledges that already exist and are dispersed in the Country.



The IDEASS programme, together with KIP International School, participated in the workshop, presenting ongoing experiences from other Countries related with the theme of innovation for territorial economic and social development, and the realization of National Catalogues of innovations for human development. In the phase of planning of the Incubator, possible international supports to these interesting initiatives ongoing in Senegal will be identified.

