

Implementing Territorial Services Centers for Economic and Social Development in Senegal

By Marco Riccardi

The Integrated Program of Economic and Social Development (PIDES) with the technical support of the KIP International School, is creating in Senegal the first two Territorial Services Centers for the Economic and Social Development (CIDES) in the Municipality of Pikine and Kaolack Region.



In the framework of the National Strategy of Social Protection, the PIDES programme is promoted by the Ministry of Women, Family and Childhood. The programme aims to create new development paradigms in response to vulnerable group needs, and specifically focusing on propelling economic opportunities and access to basic social services.

The project which aims to implement Territorial Services Centres for the Economic and Social Development (CIDES) in two pilot territories and based on the methodology of research-action was launched in 2013 in the framework of the PIDES Scientific Committee. These Centers, inspired by the experiences of Local Economic Development Agencies (LEDA), are oriented to deliver integrated cut crossing service systems to ensure a reinforced economic development through the sustainable use of human and environmental resources. The CIDES will be managed by public and private local actors organized in a democratic and participatory structure. Through these operational strategies, the CIDES will contribute to a better organization of existing local services on order to meet the local population needs.



Working groups composed by local actors were created in the two territories, in order to promote the CIDES implementation. Within these groups, the main characteristics of CIDES such as the services to be provided, the role of each actor involved and the technical and financial sustainability have been defined.



In July 2014 local actors both in the Municipality of Pikine and in the region of Kaolack, have officially approved the technical and financial tools identified to manage the CIDES. The formal act establishing the CIDES will be in September, when the Centers will become operational in the respective territories.



Taking into account the very positive results of the initiatives carried out in Pikine and Kaoalck, and the interest expressed by many actors at national level, in June 2014 the Coordinators of the *“Cellule de Suivi Opérationnel des Programmes de Lutte contre la Pauvreté (CSO - PLP) du Ministère de la femme de la Famille et de l'Enfance”*, decided to further disseminate CIDES structures in various regions of Senegal.

With the technical support of KIP International School, in July 2014 a concept note for a national strategy was formulated by the CSO-PLP, whereby the CIDES structures represent a fundamental tool to achieve the National Strategy for poverty reduction and enhanced human development. This initiative is currently brought to the attention of the National institutions and will be submitted to the attention of many actors of the international cooperation and potential partners and donors.

