

A delegation of the Integrated Programme for Economic and Social Development ongoing in Senegal visits the experiences of the Local Economic Development Agencies in Italy

In the framework of the collaboration ongoing in Senegal between the Integrated Program of Economic and Social Development (PIDES) and the [ILSLEDA](#) and IDEASS programmes, one of the main identified focuses of work is the creation of the Territorial Services Centres for the Economic and Social Development (CIDES).

These Centres, which are inspired by the experiences of Local Economic Development Agencies, will be implemented with methods of research-action and will be oriented to provide effective responses to the population based on the enhancement and coordination of local resources and giving priority to women and youth.

The PIDES programme, that is part of the National Strategy of Social Protection of vulnerable groups, is promoted by the Ministry of Women, childhood and women's entrepreneurship, in the framework of the National Strategy of Social Protection. The programme aims at contributing to the identification of new paradigms for responding to poverty of vulnerable groups, with a special focus on their access to basic social services and economic opportunities.

In view of the implementation of CIDES in Kaolack Region and in the Municipality of Dakar, from the 1st to 10th of October 2013 was made the visit of a delegation from Senegal to Economic Development Agencies operating in the Liguria, Abruzzo and Lazio Regions in Italy. The Delegation of Senegal, coordinated by the responsible for PIDES Programme, was composed by representatives of the Ministry of Women, Economy and Finance, Territorial Management and Interior, by the President of the Kaolack Regional Council and Vice Mayor of Dakar City, by an official of the Dakar Regional Development Agency and by the representative of NGO's national council. The visit, funded by the PIDES Programme has been organized and accompanied by experts of the ILSLEDA and IDEASS Programmes.

During the mission, the Senegal delegation visited the [Finance Company for the Economic Development of Liguria Region](#) and its Business Incubator; the [Territorial Pact Sangroaventino](#) and the [Local Action Group Maiella Verde](#) in the Abruzzo Region; the [Development Agency Colline Romane](#) of the province of Rome. In all visits, in addition to meetings with the heads of the structures, the delegation had the opportunity to meet some ongoing impact projects in the territories.



In the course of the mission, the delegation of Senegal has also conducted meetings with national organizations interested to participate in the implementation of the CIDES in Senegal, as the National League of Cooperatives Legacoop and the National Association for Biological Agriculture AIAB ([Territorial Bio-districts](#)). Meetings were also held with representatives of the Regions interested in establishing decentralized cooperation initiatives such as the Liguria Region and Lazio Region.

The visit allowed an important exchange of experiences in view of the design and implementation of the Territorial Service Centres for the Economic and Social Development CIDES in the Kaolack Region and Dakar Municipality. By agreement of all the participants, the activities of research-action will be realized with the participation of the structures visited in Italy, which will contribute their technical assistance based on the cumulated methodological knowledge.

