

NATIONAL IMPACT OF THE LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES NETWORK IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

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On November 18, 2020, the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development-MEPyD of Dominican Republic hosted at its headquarters the celebration of the Assembly of the Local Economic Development Agencies ADELDOM Network.

Representatives from the seven LEDAs operating in the Provinces of Bahoruco, Dajabón, El Seibo, Valverde, Monte Plata, Santiago Rodríguez and Sánchez Ramírez

participated in the Assembly. The meeting fulfilled its purpose of approving the activity report and the financial report of the ADELDOM Network for the 2019-2020 period, sharing and agreeing on the working strategies for 2021 and electing the new Network's Board of Directors for the 2020-2022 period.

In addition, the meeting has also achieved important results for the articulation between the LEDAs work in their respective territories and the national development policies. The Minister of Economy, Planning and Development, Miguel Ceara Hatton, the Vice Minister of Cooperation and National Authorizing Officer for the European Development Funds, Olaya Dotel, and the Administrative and Financial Vice Minister, Yamel Martín Valera, participated in the works of the meeting, assuming the role of honorary witnesses in the ceremony for the election of the new Board of Directors of ADELDOM Network.

In his speech, Minister Ceara Hatton recognized the important role played by the LEDAs in national economic development processes and highlighted in particular the following aspects related to the action plan for the next two years:

- The MEPyD will support and promote LEDAs as a key territorial instrument to promote local economic development, strengthening the alliance between territories and the National Government. The Minister highlighted that Dominican Republic will continue to be one of the leading countries in designing and implementing the construction of territorial policies and their connection with the territorialization of government policies, with a view to launching a new approach to national planning.
- The LEDAs have great challenges in the short and medium term: multiplying their experiences, strengthening intra-territorial cooperation in order to manage more development processes in the areas, connecting with international cooperation valuing the local endogenous potential, strengthening their own capacities to provide more and better services to the population, thus contributing to the reduction of territorial disparities and the reduction of inequality.

The LEDAs that today operate in seven Provinces of the Dominican Republic, involving more than 300 entities of the respective territories, were gradually created from the 2000's upon the initiative of local actors, with the support of different entities of the Dominican Government and initiatives of United Nations. Each LEDA, as in the ADELVA example, [associates public,](#)



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[social and productive entities of the provincial territory](#) in its governing bodies, agreeing on development plans among all actors to carry out initiatives to strengthen economic development with an inclusive and sustainable approach. Each LEDA identifies, as in the ADETDA example, [the main resources and value chains of the territory](#) to take advantage of the endogenous potential in a sustainable way, generating jobs and creating wealth under the approach of sustainable development.

In 2008 the Dominican LEDAs, with the support of UNDP, created the ADELDOM Network, an inter-institutional entity whose purpose is to generate links and connections between territories, to strengthen the work of each LEDA and to facilitate collaboration with national and international bodies. In fact, one of the key functions of LEDAs in the territories is to ensure an integrated and effective management of the different interventions promoted by the national entities and aimed at specific sectors or actors (farmers, small businesses, youth, women) so that they can produce synergies and impact results.

With this approach and thanks to the support of the Network, the LEDAs have, for example, managed the following initiatives in collaboration with different national bodies:

- In the Province of Monte Plata, with the support of ADELMOPLA and the Ministry of Education, the *Asociación de Ganaderos AGAMPTA* has managed to establish a milk processing plant and to provide more than 300,000 portions of milk for the school breakfast, contributing to a profitable production of more than 3,000 local farmers and to a good diet for the children of the territory.
- ADETDA, the LEDA of the Dajabón Province [has managed to articulate dozens of beekeepers](#) who now have a joint brand and sell in supermarket chains in the capital Santo Domingo, at the time they have developed agritourism through the *Route of Honey*. Along with this initiative, 75 associated women can also sell roasted peanuts with the support of ADETDA. In addition, [the territorial dairy chain](#), made up of 15 associations, has had the support of the Ministry of Agriculture/FEDA to establish a plant to manufacture cheese. More than 300 farmers place the milk in this plant, guaranteeing a market at a better price.
- ADELVA, the LEDA of the Province of Valverde, has managed to serve 1,674 small and medium business owners, who have received microfinance services and training, helping to create and/or maintain an average of 2,400 jobs. Also, through the project [Impulsando la Autonomía Económica y Participación de las Mujeres](#), more than 3,000 people were sensitized on gender equality and 1,824 women participated in training activities to facilitate their incorporation into work and entrepreneurship. From ADELVA the production of handicrafts with bananas was promoted and developed and currently 35 women produce and market these products recognized with a territorial identity.

The meeting held in November 2020 and the important results achieved lay the foundations to strengthen these synergies in the coming years, increasing the technical and financial resources managed by the LEDAs and stimulating other Provinces to create similar structures for managing proximity services for local economic development throughout the country.

The ADELDOM Network collaborates with [ILS LEDA](#), International Services Network that associates 60 local economic development agencies from 25 countries. Since 2016, the ADELDOM Network and ADETDA, the LEDA of Dajabón Province, located on the border with Haiti, provide support to [ADELNEH, the first LEDA created in the country](#) in the Northeast Department of Haiti.

To know more and establish collaboration



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