

THE NATIONAL NETWORK OF LEDAs REDADELCO WORKING FOR TERRITORIAL COMPETITIVENESS IN COLOMBIA

In November 2019 the National Network of LEDAs of Colombia (Red Adelco) participated in the launch of the Partnership Strategy for Territorial Competitiveness promoted by the Ministry of Commerce and the European Union.

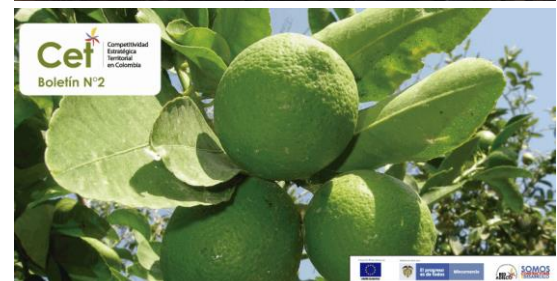
The key to economic development is hidden in the regions. With this evocative slogan Red Adelco renews the collaboration established in 2017 with the CET Territorial Strategic Competitiveness Programme managed by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism with financial support of the European Union. Within this framework, the ten LEDAs members of the Network have been recognized as essential actors of the territories.

The CET Programme articulates national and local efforts to strengthen regional competitiveness through economic development processes that link organizations of small producers, agro-transformers and tour operators of specific production chains, to fair and sustainable business initiatives. Since 2017, with the support of Red Adelco and the LEDAs, 13 Productive Projects have been developed in different Departments, such as Boyacá, Arauca, Cauca and Cesar, with a contribution of more than \$ 5 billion pesos.

In 2019, the CET Programme aims at business generation in 8 production chains. The Programme has a total fund of 2.7 billion pesos to finance local productive projects with contributions of up to 180 million pesos each (57,000 euros). With CET funds, the local projects can be equipped with tools, machinery, administrative and financial skills, to increase production capacity, competitiveness, access to markets that previously could not have been reached for different reasons, even creating new territorial brands.

In 2019 the territories and production chains prioritized by the LEDAs of the Network are: Antioquia, Boyacá, Cauca, Chocó, Huila, Guajira investing in tourism; Arauca and Bolívar investing in Cacao; Magdalena and Nariño investing in Coffee; Cesar investing in fish farming; Meta, Risaralda, Santander and Valle del Cauca investing in fruit products such as pineapple, blackberry, guava and avocado.

The role ensured by the LEDAs in each territory to facilitate alliances between local public, private and associative actors to implement productive chains with a participatory approach has been emphasized both nationally and locally. Through the work of the LEDAs the CET funds can be invested in



[successful local projects](#) and in the development of the region as a whole.

A result of great impact is the decision and the actual process to implement four new LEDAs under the CET Programme. The territories were selected through a call addressed to all the local actors interested in creating a LEDA. After a rigorous evaluation by the CET technical committee, the proposals coming from the four territories of La Guajira, the south of Cesar, Paipa (Boyacá) and the Cauca massif have been approved.

The new Wayuu LEDA, for example, is being established in the Department of La Guajira, with the aim of valuing the endogenous potential and improving the quality of life. In particular the LEDA will operate highlighting the multicultural-pluri-ethnic and natural heritage, taking advantage of renewable energy, enhancing handcrafts and more in general implementing sustainable economies in the region.

The Adelco Network, which in this perspective will soon associate 14 LEDAs, continues to play its important role of reference point, promoting local economic development strategies and methodologies, representing the LEDAs with national and international bodies, supporting local actors in the creation of new LEDAs and strengthening local capacities through training initiatives.

To know more

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