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*Dear friends of ILS-LEDA network,
Here is bulletin number four of the CIRCLE/ILS-LEDA Project.*

1.1) Statistics from the past two months show a substantial slow down as regards to the hits in our website and, probably due to the more spread use of the newsticker, a tendency towards the “spot” search. In fact, the number of pages visited has decreased from more than 20 000, in February, to about 13 000 in March and 10 000 in April, establishing monthly hits to approximately 3000. This unequivocally indicates that the users have already acquired good practice at reading the website, and head directly towards the most interesting information to them.

1.2) Another important result obtained by ART at the Maghreb was the re-initiation of the ART GOLD Morocco Program, a program for the provinces of Oujda, Marrakech, Tangeri, Tetouan and Fez. Contacts with the Oujda Local Development Agency for possible Mediterranean partnerships with Italian regions are on their way.

1.3) On April 5 2005, the University Center for International Cooperation was inaugurated, promoted by Prof. Cesare Beghi and the Chancellor of the University of Parma, Prof. Gino Ferretti. The Center can already count with the support of 19 university departments and the expressed intention from the province of Parma, to constitute an organism of coordination between all the agencies and organizations involved in cooperation in the Parmesan territory. In this occasion, Luciano Carrino, member of the Scientific Committee ART, presented to the public his volume, “Pearls and Pirates” edited by Erickson, which constitutes an essay of reference for the world of international cooperation. All participants have confirmed their interest in the ART program, and their intention that the Center collaborates with the programs of Human Development in the world.

2) STRATEGIES – 2.1) CIRCLE’s mission in Guatemala - 2.2) Again in Serbia, to consolidate the Becej experiment with 4 territorial pacts and to open the POI-Campania-Basilicata-Serbia project. - 2.3) Tunisian delegation visits Naples and Caltagirone (Italy).

2.1) Giancarlo Canzanelli, CIRCLE’s CEO, is in Guatemala since April 26. He will remain there until May 20 to collaborate with the Guatemalan government through the UNDP, to define a new policy of local development that opens up to the conquest of human development and to the partnership with European and international territories and networks. The proposed strategy of local development in Guatemala refers to some specific territories, where the intervention will be focused on the valuation of endogenous resources, the employment of women, the support to the small and medium-sized enterprise, the local credit and territorial marketing. The final ring of this path of development will be the opening to sustainable international partnerships promoted with the support of international networks of ART. The European Union will be a preferential partner, which is operating in Guatemala with large structural investments.

2.2) Two missions of CIRCLE in Serbia during the months of February and mid March, have given an incentive to the introduction of partnerships between Italy and Serbia. The first mission confirmed the interest of the Ministry of Economy – DPS Department of development and social cohesion policies – to work with the Serbian government, with the LEDA of Novi Sad and with the “City to City” program, on the definition of an agreement negotiated for the privatization of the kombinat Becej. During a

successive meeting held at the DPS headquarters in Rome, the Italian Min. of Economy confirmed his own contribution to support the project, both economic (220 000 Euros), political and technical, pointing Serbia as an extra-European geographic objective of absolute priority. The second mission, as announced in the previous ILS-LEDA newsletter, has allowed to start the Integrated Operative plan, agreed in accordance to law 84 for the Balkans, Campania and Basilicata, approved and financed by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The delegation of the two regions, constituted by institutional exponents and experts in local and rural development of both regions, accompanied by Maurizio Del Bufalo from CIRCLE, met first with some of the ministers of the Serbian government (Foreign Relations and Agriculture) and then visited the UNOPS headquarters in Belgrade and the “Alma Mons” agency of Novi Sad, as well as several places of rural and productive interest in the territory of Backa and Voivodina. The conclusion meeting confirmed the strategic importance of the project’s technical objectives, but also the role of beneficial mediation that “City to City” can take, on account of both Italian partners. A working group was established in Naples, while Serbian referents discuss the proposed working program. The presence of a Serbian delegation in Italy is expected in mid June, to define the project in detail.



The delegation from Campania received by the Italian ambassador at Belgrade



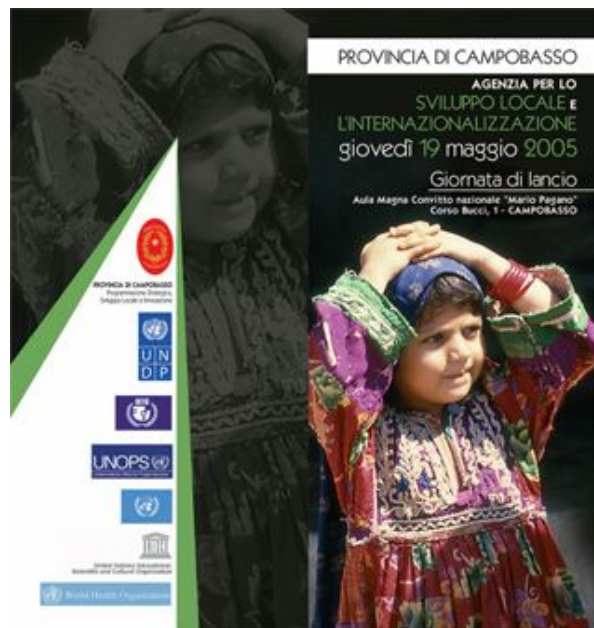
Night view of Novi Sad from the castle

2.3) During April 27 to 30, a Tunisian delegation constituted by two representatives of the management of Gafsa, an official of the National Fund of Solidarity 26/26 and the coordinator of the ART GOLD Tunisia Program, Alain Grimard, visited the territories organized by the development agencies of Pomigliano (Naples, Campania region) and Caltagirone (Catania, Sicilian region), to meet, more closely, the models of Italian territorial organization. Several cooperation opportunities were evaluated and it was particularly positive the impact that followed the acknowledgement by the organization of both agencies and the proposals in the sectors of ceramics and agriculture in arid environments.

3)) “Perle e pirati: critica della cooperazione allo sviluppo e nuovo multilateralismo” (*Pearls and pirates: Review of the cooperation to development and the new multilateralism*), Luciano Carrino’s last book, presented in Parma, Florence and Gorizia (Italy). - 3.2) Presentation of ART and CIRCLE to the mayors of the Campobasso province (Italy).

3.1) Luciano Carrino, a doctor and an expert in international cooperation, inspirer of the multilateral program ART and component of the Program's Scientific Committee, presented his last editorial work "Perle e pirati", published by Erickson, with the introduction of Andrea Canevaro in three important demonstrations that took place in other Italian centers. On April 5, in Parma, during the inauguration of the University Center for International Cooperation; on April 28, in Gorizia, as a guest for the association "Progetto Musica" of master Massimo Gabellone, previously a partner ART in Interreg programs in the Balkans, and finally on May 6, in Florence, as an initiative of the Toscana region in the prestigious Palazzo Vecchio. The demonstrations have obtained much interest for the public and attracted the attention of institutions and experts in nowadays topics, such as the reform of the United Nations and the new multilateralism, to which local institutions and territories are giving a decisive thrust, contributing to design completely new settings in the international political scene.

3.2) On May 9, in the Palace of Campobasso province, a meeting took place between CIRCLE and the province's President, Augusto Massa and 15 mayors of Molise (Italy). The meeting, organized by Nazario Fania, a local development manager in the province, had the objective of getting ahead with the contents and objectives of the event during the inauguration of the local development agency, which will take place on the 19th of this month in the "Mario Pagano" lecture room. Importance was given to the participation and the debate following the presentation of the multilateral programs of human development by Maurizio Del Bufalo.



The event was characterized by numerous questions and a good level of attention and satisfaction. The President clarified that the invitation to join ART represents a great opportunity for Campobasso, both for the institutions and for the cultural and economic relations that could rise from this initiative. The debate, necessarily synthetic, was planned for May 19, the day when the presence of local actors and territorial organizations will assure a precious plurality of contributions.

4) WORK IN PROGRESS – 4.1) CIRCLE participates in an ideas competition to choose projects for Italian regions. - 4.2) Selection of experts in local development for Libya.

4.1) An initiative of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs already in course since last year, tries to identify the best projects to finance in order to sustain the action of the Italian regions in some sectors of cooperation and internationalization. After the demonstration that took place in 2004 in Matera, it is Naples' turn (first days of July). This time the focus is on local development, productive cooperation and good management; CIRCLE will contribute to the identification of some projects of structural character, by which Italian regions will be encouraged to cooperate amongst themselves and with some countries of the Maghreb and the Balkan region. CIRCLE voluntarily joined the initiative and identified 4 actions for Serbia, Albania, Libya and Morocco, and has already verified the interest shown by the countries and the connection with the respective ART Paese programs. During the meeting in Naples, the projects will be accompanied by a synthetic documentation; they will be presented in this venue and they will establish a place to meet with the Ministry of Foreign Relations and with the experts of all interested regions. The declared objective of IAI and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs is to converge the funds that come from several financing sources (CIPE INTERREG MEDOCC, MEDA, etc.) over the best project ideas, in order to avoid the dispersion of resources and to improve the coherence of the interventions in the interested areas.

4.2) After the good welcome shown by several local institutions and development agencies towards the Libyan delegation of the three regions of Derna, Misurata and Tobruk, CIRCLE has been in charge, by request of Gianluca Nocera – coordinator of ART GOLD Libya–, of the selection of three experts in local development. They will be sent to the 3 Libyan regions by the Agency of Caltagirone, the Agency of the Rome province and the development Agency of Matera, to start with the preliminary tasks of the territorial cooperation. They will be people with average experience that will be able to perfect their qualifications working for a period of 4 to 6 months in the Libyan territory, coordinated by ART GOLD Libya, with the objective of outlining socioeconomic profiles of the territories and identifying the priorities within the needs and the development objectives, contributing to formulate short action plans to which Italian partners can contribute. The final selection will be on May 23 in Rome.

5) CALENDAR – 5.1) The Agency of Local Development and International Cooperation of Campobasso is born - 5.2) In Rome, the PARKLIFE fair

5.1) On May 19 in Campobasso, the Province will present to the public the newborn Agency of local development and international cooperation, with which the local institutions will accompany the development of the territory and will promote the participation of the social actors in growth processes. This is an important event for the Molise region, which does not have a first plane role in international cooperation, to which is called for its position in the Adriatic and for its hospitality traditions towards the immigrant Balkan ethnic groups. The noticeable presence of Croatian and Albanian communities will make this a particularly interesting encounter with a representative of the Scutari's Development Agency and with the international staff of the ART programs in Albania and Serbia. During the afternoon, after the official presentation, a public debate will be held with the main witnesses of local development (territorial pacts, GAL (Local Action Groups), parks, mountain communities, etc.) to identify common interest-paths that will guide the agency's action, in terms of local and international development. The event on May 19 starts the constituent phase that will conclude within a few months, with the creation of the corporate body and the constitution of a tight social union that is announced as numerous and motivated.

5.2) From May 26 to 29, PARKLIFE will take place in Rome; the fair of the parks and the natural living. Organized by the Italian Federation of Parks and Natural Reserved, Legambiente, Compagnia dei Parchi (Parks Company) – the tour operator of the protected Italian areas- and the Rome Fair, which hosts the event. Park Life will be the international exposition of protected areas, where many experiences of conservation and valuation of nature, as well as territorial and tourist experiences will be promoted. CIRCLE will be present and will participate in the debate on territorial development that will take place on May 27 at 3.00 pm, to present its proposals of cooperation to all workers of the sector interested in the internationalization of this compromise.