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Table of contents

1. *Network – Welcome and new content in the www.ilsleda.org site*
2. *Strategies - Natural resources in Central America, national policies in the area of technical assistance for local development, alliance in the euro-Adriatic region.*
3. *Meetings – Meetings in La Spezia, Mosciano S. Angelo (TE) and Pesaro, Naples*
4. *Work in progress – SE.VE.N project, MAE/Algeria project*
5. *Calendar – Matera and Mahdija, a visit from the Cuban delegation to Naples, Colombian technical delegation back in Italy.*

1) Network - Welcome and new content in the www.ilsleda.org site
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Dear friends of the ILS LEDA network,

Welcome aboard the first issue of the CIRCLE/ILS LEDA project informational bulletin. This bulletin is a periodic informational service provided by the CIRCLE/ILS LEDA to its partners through email. This bulletin can also be accessed through the www.ilsleda.org site, in the “newsletter” section of the menu.

The last two sections of the www.ilsleda.org site will be live and active in few days. These last two sections are our “Partners” and “Case studies” sections, which contain the profiles of some of the partners who have collaborated with cooperation research and projects. These projects are particularly important due to the impact they have had or will have in the future. This first edition will include the Città del Fare, Soprip agency, and Pragma partners, as well as some of the projects carried out in Cuba (Granma-Naples partnership), Dominican Republic (Haitises National Park) and the Balkans (Cooperation Protocol between 12 Adriatic Italian provinces).

2) Strategies – 2.1) Natural Resources in Central America, 2.2) National policies for technical assistance to local development, 2.3) alliance in the Euro-Adriatic region

2.1) After an interesting reference coming from LEDA Morazán (El Salvador), CIRCLE/ILS LEDA has contacted several experts and organizations in charge of water management, in order to obtain a participative management and defense strategy of natural resources. Two of them are the INEA (National Institute for Agricultural Economics) and CIRF (Italian Consortium for River Specialization). They have produced two interesting hypotheses that can be applied to Morazán. The INEA has identified to European community finance lines (INCODEV and GLOBAL 3), which it plans to obtain in order to finance the costs of a feasibility and executive project. The project will be presented as part of a candidacy to the LEDA Morazán (El Salvador) and León (Nicaragua), supported by the respective universities. CIRCLE/ILS LEDA hopes this to be the first step in the construction of a particular area of specialization for the LEDAs around the world, in defense of natural resources and water. At the same time, we hope to construct an international expertise as well as a team of specialists capable of responding to the training and technical assistance needs of our diverse network.

2.2) CIRCLE is taking measures to expand its technical assistance for Agencies in its network to countries which promote Human Development Programs; in fact CIRCLE will commit itself during the next two months to missions in Colombia, Honduras, Nicaragua, Cuba and Serbia. Based on a solid cooperation report, particularly the UNDP Gold Colombia program and the Programs for Human Development in Honduras and Nicaragua, CIRCLE will develop training modules in the topic of “Development, territorial competitiveness and social inclusion” in the universities of Bogotá, Tegucigalpa and León. The missions in Serbia and Cuba focus on the achievements of the technical cooperation agreements, through meetings with governments, local administrations, local development structures and local UNDP programs for human development. The objectives of these agreements refer to several highly-technical courses for development operators in the area of ‘Internationalized local development’ and to technical assistance on policies and strategies for territorial economic development.

2.3) Thanks to the collaboration with the Pragma of Bologna (Italy) study, and to the effort in promotion of development from a network of associations in the Italian-Balkan Adriatic region, CIRCLE/ILS LEDA is carrying out an active role in the creation of a stable alliance between the local Italian administrations on the coast of the Adriatic (21 provinces, 7 regions and several universities) for the promotion of cooperation between frontiers with the 4 PAO countries (Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia, and Albania) which already boast 10 LEDAs promoted by the United Nations. Besides the “OASIS” and “INTERURAL” projects (see Newsletter n. 0) proposed by the 12 provinces in the center-south, the network will be able to count on the Adriatic cities united in the Adriatic Forum, as well as the Campobasso, Urbino and Teramo Universities, which for the first time have accepted the invitation. Two meetings have already taken place in Mosciano S. Angelo and in Pesaro (see Meetings section). The signing of a common program and convocation for an assembly of possible stakeholders to begin a planning phase will take place in October. The temporary secretary is coordinated by Pesaro-Urbino province.

3) Meetings – Meetings in La Spezia, Mosciano S. Angelo (TE) and Pesaro, Naples

3.1) An international cooperation and education seminar, targeting local administrators and development operators, took place on June 29th in La Spezia. It was organized by the Municipality and by Dr. Roberto Caristi, coordinator in Liguria for the Progetto Sviluppo (Development Project), the NGO for CGIL. Among the panellists were Prof. Alberto Magnaghi, teacher of urban development at the University of Florence, and renowned international expert of local development; and Maurizio Del Bufalo, deputy executive officer for CIRCLE. The debate which came after the presentation of the panelists experiences in the theme of local development for cooperation, gave participation opportunities to those attending and allowed for the identification of possible synergies between professor Magnaghi's activities in the area of territorial and natural resource management and the work carried out by CIRCLE/ILS LEDA in the LEDAs around the world to sustain local development projects. Magnaghi promised to participate in the training and communication initiatives promoted by CIRCLE in order to provide technical assistance for institutions, and for participative management of water resources. This will illustrate the different faces agreement can take on in the “Olona River Pact”.

3.2) A meeting for the promotion of an alliance between Adriatic provinces and regions for Cooperation with the countries of the Eastern Adriatic (PAO) took place on July 19th in Mosciano S. Angelo, in the province of Teramo. The meeting has confirmed CIRCLE's

intention to sustain the initiative which could offer the European Community an instrument for implementation and agreement, granting the ability to truly integrate the territory in the euro Adriatic region. It would also provide the United Nations a place for dialogue in which synergy is created between Human Development Programs currently active in Balkans (Serbia and Albania). At the Mosciano meeting the hypothesis of addressing these efforts in a Human Development Program –as that one in Maghreb, or a Balkans GOLD (GOLD BALCANI) geared towards governance and local development. Therefore, the Balkans GOLD proposal was retaken and was discussed in the next meeting on September 6th in Pesaro. This meeting saw the formalization of the commitment between the promoting institutions, CIRCLE, and the Ministry of Foreign Relations. The signing of an agreement for the constitution of a Promoting Committee can be expected soon. The agreement will most likely take place at the end of October in Pesaro.



3.3) An agreement on decentralized cooperation for Maghreb took place on July 22nd and 23rd in Naples. It was organized by the Campania Region and by the OICS (Italian Observatory for Development Cooperation). The goal was to establish communication between the UNDP's GOLD program, the Italian regions system and the European Union, and in this way establish a common path for intervention. CIRCLE also participated in the meeting, G. Canzanelli –CIRCLE's CEO- underlined the importance of local partnerships as an instrument for competitive development in the Mediterranean area. He also asked for an effort to identify industrial sectors as a strong point for the basin regions and to improve local capital and their "knowledge pooling". He launched the proposal of focusing attention on Mediterranean unification factors, represented from his point of view, by the colors, flavors and smells, and by geographic proximity (touch).

4) Work in progress – SE.VE.N project, MAE/Algeria project

4.1)The Se.Ve.N (Serbian-Venetian Network) project, introduced in the last issue of this bulletin, has overcome its initial phase and is now in its feasibility phase. The Veneto Region, as planned, published on August 13th a project finance announcement for international cooperation projects. CIRCLE/ILS LEDA has written a first draft for the

project. The first meeting between potential partners (Municipality of Venice, UNDP/UNOPS “City to City” program in Serbia, Botteghe della Solidarietà, Legatoria, Piazzesi, CIRCLE) was held on September 8th in Venice. The possibility of continuing the search for co-financing has been considered, in order to reach 30.000 euro; the project has a total value of 50.000 euro, out of which 15.000 are financed by the Veneto Region and the rest by the other partners. The results of this search will be analyzed on September 16th and in case the requested sum is reached, the project will be presented on September 27th. The common goal of all the partners is to propose the same intervention formula with Venetian artisans with support from the Municipality of Venice and the United Nations.



4.2) CIRCLE signed an agreement with CREAD Algeria (Research Center for Economics Applied to Development), the most prestigious research center in this country of Maghreb. This has allowed the presentation of a training and intervention project to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The project has two main objectives:

- 1. Identify, experiment, and consolidate training paths in the University to create expert leader groups in human and local development, starting from the specialization of the expert groups within the area of Maghreb integration.*
- 2. In CREAD, promote the creation of a flexible research and training unit in the area of human development, with the ability to provide technical assistance, training and monitoring of policies and practices emerging in the country, supporting the debate of this theme in the Maghreb region.*

5) Calendar – Matera and Mahdija, visit of the Cuban delegation to Naples, Colombian technical delegation back in Italy.

5.1) The seminar for the promotion of national policies for local development, pertaining to GOLD Maghreb, planned for Tunisia, has been delayed due to electoral consultations accorded in the country. The meeting will therefore take place on the 22nd and 23rd of November in Mahdia, and will be titled “La Planification Strategique Du Developpement Local”; a provisional program is available in the ‘Events’ section of www.ilsleda.org site.

5.2) A manifest for the constitution of a Promoting Committee for the Local Economic Development Agency will be held on September 14th in the Mater Chamber of Commerce Headquarters. The Local Economic Development Agency was created to provide aid to human development and international cooperation projects, organized by the “Acito and Partners” of Matera. CIRCLE has been invited as the main sponsor to guarantee support for the Promoting Committee, but also to guarantee the internationalization perspectives offered by the ILS LEDA.



5.3) During the first weeks of October, an institutional delegation from Cuba, specifically from the province of Granma will visit Città del Fare in Naples, a local economic development agency which has united the territories for three years. On this occasion, the signing of the long-term cooperation agreement proposed by the Action Plan, is expected. This agreement was developed by Osvaldo Cammarota, the administrator for Città del Fare. This pact was developed in total agreement with the Cuban partners. CIRCLE will sponsor the event and a round table in the University of Naples has also been organized, to discuss the arguments being presented.

5.4) As proof of the validity of the meetings organized last May by the Colombian delegation, headed by the Vice-minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism of Colombia, Carlos Alberto Zarruk Gómez, a new Colombian Technical delegation will visit Italy to develop the hypotheses of agreement analyzed during the first meeting. The visit is expected at the end of October and will allow the Colombian government to take advantage of the knowledge in the area of territorial associations, which they were able to see during their first visit to Italy.