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1) Network - ILS LEDA newsletter and www.ilsleda.org site presentations

Dear friends of the ILS LEDA network,

Welcome aboard the first issue of our ILS LEDA project bulletin! This is the support and communication service dedicated to the Local Economic Development Agencies promoted by the United Nations and International Cooperation in the area of Human Development Programs.

This bulletin is the first instance of an informative periodical service which ILS LEDA will provide to all of its partners through the Internet and which can also be consulted through the www.ilsleda.org site in the “newsletter” section

The ILS LEDA www.ilsleda.org site has been officially ‘live’ since April 1st 2004. We invite you to visit the site and provide us with new ideas, comments, suggestions, and most importantly collaboration to complete it. As a matter of fact, in a few days you will be receiving through your email a request form which contains the modules that must be filled out, so that our web administrator, Adriana Arrieta, (info@ilsleda.org) can obtain the necessary information to be included in the multilingual web pages, in Italian, English, and Spanish.

Along with the agency and territorial profiles, it will be possible to send material which portrays a more accurate picture of the territorial reality in which the Agencies operate: from rules and regulations and technical documents on each project, to pictures and short digital films. With indications provided by each of you, each document will be accessible to everyone or only for UNDP/UNOPS technical staff.

Everyone is invited to collaborate and send useful material to present the Agencies, the territories, and your work. We will be waiting for you. Thank you.

2) Strategies - ILS LEDA's future is called CIRCLE

Once you consult the ‘EVENTS’ section in our ILS LEDA site, you will notice that on March 30th, 2004, the UNDP, UNESCO, UNOPS, the Campania Region and Naples University “Federico II” signed a letter of intent to execute actions of common interest in the field of Human Development. The first effect of this agreement was the creation of an operative unit called **CIRCLE** (Center for International and Regional Cooperation for Local Economies), located in the COINOR Center in Naples University Corso Umberto I, 40.

CIRCLE, related to CO.IN.OR. (Center for Communication and Organizational Innovation in Naples University) finds itself within the scope of international strategy, is supported by the United Nations and is defined as ART (Support for Territorial Networks).

CIRCLE will include ILS LEDA's activities in the field of support for Local Economic Development Agencies and economic cooperation which benefit Human Development programs; at the same time it will include the Universitas network, which until now associates 40 universities in developing countries and which offers information services in the area of local development.

CIRCLE's Chief Executive Officer is **Giancarlo Canzanelli**, supported by Deputy-**Maurizio Del Bufalo**. At the moment, the new headquarters in Naples are under construction; as soon as they become functional, email addresses and telephone numbers will be sent to everyone interested and will be published in the "CONTACTS" section.

3) Meetings –Nicaragua and Colombia delegations

Last may, two delegations from Nicaragua and Colombia arrived in Europe, accompanied by United Nations personnel who are in charge of coordination for active Human Development programs in these countries.

In the Nicaraguan delegation, Horacio Rose, Economic Planning specialist and Juan Sebastián Chamorro, Coordinator for the Public Investments Unit or SNIP –both in the Secretary for Coordination and Strategies for the Government of the Republic of Nicaragua SECEP–arrived in Rome accompanied by Rita Cassisi, Area Manager PDHL/APPI for Central America. Rafael Córdova, entrepreneur, and Gloria Fonseca, representative for Italian Cooperation and part of the Italian Embassy in Nicaragua, were also present.

This delegation has the responsibility of establishing contact with several important experiences in territorial organization. It visited two examples of Integrated development agencies in Sicily (Caltagirone and Canicattini Bagni), and the Development Agency (ASP) for the Roman province with headquarters in Grottaferrata. These three experiences included territorial pacts, local action groups, and other negotiated programming forms in which the public and private sectors have jointly collaborated towards planning and territorial development. Particular emphasis has been given to agro-tourism initiatives as well as agro-feed transformation. The delegation was received by Marche Region in Ancona and visited several productive zones in the region (footwear, mechanics, furniture). Several possible partnerships were discussed between Italian agencies and Nicaraguan LEDAs. This event took place from May 16-23.

The vice-Minister for Industry, Commerce and Tourism for Colombia, Carlos Alberto Zarruk Gómez, arrived in Rome accompanied by Osvaldo Castelletti, Coordinator for the APPI/TIPP UNOPS Colombia program. Mr. Zarruk also visited several important Italian local productive initiatives, among them ASP in Grottaferrata and the Agency for the Development of Crema (CR) RE-INDUSTRIA and CREMA RICERCHE. The visit continued throughout the territory to meet the dairy cooperative "Soresina Dairy Farm", the string instruments manufacture zone in Cremona and territorial institutions (Province of Cremona). The local development examples visited will be used as guides as well as partners for Colombian LEDAs in the making. The delegation left on the 26th to other European nations.

4) Work in progress – Balkans INTERREG III A

4.1) ILS LEDA is preparing several trans-frontier cooperation projects in conjunction with various local Italian institutions located on the Adriatic Coast. In 2003, the Coordination for 12 middle and southern Adriatic provinces was formed (Pesaro, Ancona, Macerata, Ascoli Piceno, Teramo, Chieti, Pescara, Campobasso, Foggia, Bari, Brindisi, Lecce) in order to carry out cooperation activities with the Eastern Balkans (PAO), Croatia, Bosnia Herzegovina, Serbia Montenegro and Albania using the INTERREG funds of the European Community through action 3A.

Two drafts for the project were materialized, one called “**OASIS**” for the valuation and defense of Adriatic marine heritage, and the other is “**INTERURAL**”, to exchange experiences in the area of rural development between 10 LEDAs in the PAO countries and GAL (local action groups which operate on the Italian Adriatic coast. The LEDAs participating in “**INTERURAL**” are: Okucani (Croatia), Travnik (Bosnia), Novi Sad y Kragujevac (Serbia Montenegro), Skutari, Valona and Durres (Albania). The participation of two Albanian LEDAs, Durres and Valona, is expected in “**OASIS**”.

After the presentation of the final INTERREG rules, the projects will be discussed with the Balkan partners and a meeting between partners will be carried out in one of the Italian Adriatic regions. The total value of “**OASIS**” is estimated at 4,5 million euros, and for “**INTERURAL**” 2,1 million euros which would include 210.000 euros assigned to the Molise region by law 84/01 in Italy.

4.2) Area research in the Balkans has begun to identify several past experiences in the cultivation of saffron, and will be followed by the preparation of a project financed by INTERREG III A Italy-Adriatic, which is supposed to utilize some of the same partners of “**INTERURAL**”. Suggestions and answers are welcome.

4.3) The Veneto Region will summon possible sponsors to finance local handicraft activities this coming July. ILS LEDA wishes to provide a project in favor of handicraft cooperatives in the Balkans (Serbia, Albania) by inviting several web-known Venetian enterprises, among them the antique bookbinding shop Piazzesi (www.legatoriapiazzesi.it), by decentralizing artistic production (cardboard, wooden boxes, art paper, etc.) in the territory in which a LEDA operates. The project will include the set-up of a cooperative after a training period in a Venetian center. The project is underway and the candidate agency is Novi Sad (Serbia Montenegro).

6) Calendar – Kairouan and La Spezia

- The seminar on promotion of national policies for local development GOLD Maghreb will take place in **Kairouan** (Tunisia) during the month of September.
- The directors of the CGIL Liguria Development project organized on the 29th of June in **La Spezia**, an open seminar for local administrators in the Liguria provinces, dedicated to the topic of territorial agreements and their possible validity in the internationalization processes of local economies. The introductory statement is in the hands of Prof. Alberto Magnaghi of the University of Florence and the experiences of territorial pacts implemented by the ILS LEDA in Cuba

with help from several partners will be used as a case study. CIRCLE will present the case studies.

- *A manifestation for the official signing of the action plan which formalizes the territorial agreement between Granma- Città del Fare has been organized for the first week of July in the city of Naples, thanks to CIRCLE and the “Città del Fare” Local Economic Development Agency. This event will be a new turning point for the partnership project between Cuba and the Campania Region which has been operating for the last two years. The signing parties will be Osvaldo Cammarota, A.D. from Città del Fare and Lazaro Villares, Vice-President of the Granma province (Cuba). A round table will join the manifestation which is expecting the participation of members of the Support Committees of the PDHL Cuba from Italy and a delegation of the Cuban government represented by the MINVEC (Ministry for Cooperation and Foreign Investment).*

- ***Note: the event is yet to be confirmed***