

REPORT

3rd World Forum of Local Economic Development

OCTOBER 13 - 16

TORINO 2015

Co-organized by:



International
Labour
Organization

Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

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TORINO 2015

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Serviço Brasileiro de Apoio às
Micro e Pequenas Empresas



Región de Valencia



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The 3rd edition of the World Forum of Local Economic Development (WFLED)¹, held in Turin on 13-16 October 2015, immediately followed the historic approval of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and its set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)². This context, encompassing local and global dimensions, provided the Forum a timely opportunity to bring together different development actors to discuss and highlight the potential contribution of Local Economic Development (LED), as a transversal, multidimensional, strategic, and operational approach, to meet the challenges linked to the SDGs.

The 3rd WFLED was jointly organized by the Andalusian Fund of Municipalities for International Solidarity (FAMSI), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the

“When we unlock local solutions we will advance global progress”

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

Municipality and Province of Turin, the Organization of United Regions (ORU FOGAR), the Brazilian Service of Support for Micro and Small Enterprises (SEBRAE), the global network of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

In a four days' span, the event succeeded in gathering more than 2,000 participants from 130 countries³, representing national, regional, and local governments and their associations, enterprises, foundations, academia, and civil society organizations. Moreover, the Forum witnessed the contribution of the Pope, the presence of the United Nations Secretary-Gen-

eral, the United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the high-level representation from Italy led by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the President of the Senate, the Mayor of Turin, and the President of the Piedmont Region and the active participation of many ministerial high level delegates from Bolivia, Palestine, and Mauritania.

The 3 plenary sessions, 29 panels, and 26 workshops, held in the framework of the event allowed participants to engage in in depth discussions on the various themes addressed by the Forum. An Arena space was also dedicated to practitioners and researchers to present best practices and ongoing initiatives to the Forum audience. Additionally, a parallel series of round

tables, workshops and debates closely related to the 3rd WFLED were conducted as part of the Forum-Off, a

City of Turin-led initiative. Furthermore, the strategic organization of the 3rd WFLED in conjunction with the neighbouring Milan EXPO 2015, held under the theme “Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life”, allowed the Forum to contribute to the ongoing discussion of the EXPO, and highlight the strategic role of the territories as a sustainable resource to improve nutrition of the population. The Forum was also animated by the many cultural events and activities held as part of the EXPO-EXTO 2015 framework, a strategic initiative organized by the City of Turin in parallel to the World Expo in Milan.

1. 3rd WFLED YouTube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6h1OWpuHonE>

2. Annex 1: List of Sustainable Development Goals

3. Annex 2: List of participating organizations and entities in the 3rd WFLED



Introduction



Thematic Focus of the Forum

The recently launched SDGs represent a formidable opportunity to embark on a transformative agenda to achieve sustainable development. However, undertaking such ambitious agenda requires addressing the implementation of the new goals in an integrated manner and exploring modalities that recognize the importance of local actors and the local dimension as indispensable factors in achieving impact.

Prior to the commencement of the Forum and in an effort to frame and stimulate the dialogue on the potential of LED within the 2030 Agenda implementation process the organizers of the Forum have developed the **Concept Note of the 3rd World Forum of Local Economic Development**⁴. The concept note, which encompassed the contribution of a wide range of partners, examined the nature of the LED approach as a comprehensive theoretical and operational framework for inclusive and sustainable development, and highlighted its potential relevance as a strategy and set of instruments to drive the implementation of the SDGs at the local level through pointing at the areas of convergence and connections between the LED and SDG paradigms.

During the Forum, participants further explored - through extensive dialogue and exchange of experiences from a multitude of countries— the key features and potential of LED as a strategy and a set of

instruments to drive the implementation of the SDGs at the local level. Diverse experiences presented during the Forum illustrated the inherent ability of the LED approach in offering a common denominator and a comprehensive strategic and operational framework to address the challenges related to the overall implementation of the SDGs at the local level, as much as its relevance in addressing specific development challenges associated with particular thematic SDGs. The 3rd WFLED was also an opportunity to confirm and enhance the commitment of the development community to localizing the SDGs, and the recognition of LED as an integrated, participatory, and inclusive approach that allows for universality and flexibility, and is therefore suitable to channel the localization of the 2030 Agenda.

Within this overarching focus, the Forum delved into the following three main thematic areas:

Thematic line 1 Regional Competitiveness and Innovation for more Sustainable and Inclusive Development.

Thematic line 2 Localizing Employment Generation. Towards Local Inclusive Growth, Decent work and Green Jobs.

Thematic line 3 Implementing Sustainable Urban Development. LED strategies for creating positive urban-rural linkages.

4. Concept Note of the 3rd WFLED https://issuu.com/artpublications/docs/concept_note_3rd_world_forum_of_loc_8b5ad3314ca531



An ongoing process

The WFLED biennial events are milestones of an open working process that includes many local and global events and coordination activities. Since its commencement in 2011, the inclusive nature of this process has enabled the involvement of a diverse range of development actors, thus enhancing its credibility, the quality of its outcomes, and their subsequent use in the formulation and implementation of LED policies, strategies and activities. The coalition includes local and national governments, national and international organizations, private sector as well as civil society representatives that acknowledge the potential of the LED approach and jointly work together to advance the debate and strengthen a global partnership for concrete actions at local, national and international levels.

1st World Forum of Local Economic Development⁵

5-7 October 2011
Seville, Spain

Thematic Focus:

“Planning, Economy and Local Governance: new perspectives for times of change”

Organizers:

FAMSI, UNDP and Andalusia Employment Service.

5. 1st WFLED Report http://www.ledforumtorino2015.org/wp-content/uploads/1st-World-LED-Forum_Final-Report.pdf

6. 2nd WFLED Report http://www.ledforumtorino2015.org/wp-content/uploads/2nd-World-Forum-of-LED_Final-Report.pdf

The 1st Forum was the culmination of a fruitful collaboration between decentralized cooperation networks and Local Development Agencies. The aim of this Forum was to create an active platform dedicated to the study, reflection, sharing of experiences and the design of local development strategies around the world. It provided the opportunity to present the territorial experiences on how to fill the gap between the contextualization of the economic development and its practical application for sustainable human development and counted on the participation of over 1,300 representatives and delegates from 47 countries, representing different local development actors.

2nd World Forum of Local Economic Development⁶

29 October-1 November 2013
Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil

Thematic Focus:

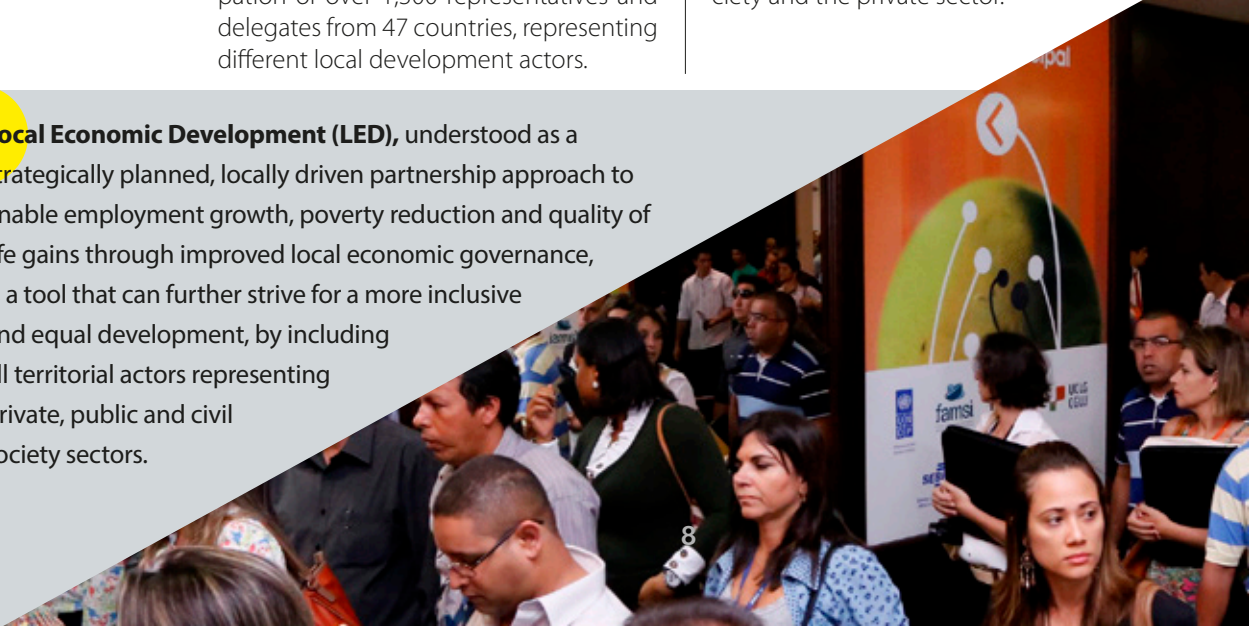
“Dialogue between territories: other views of local economic development”

Organizers:

Itaipu Binacional- PTI, SEBRAE, FAMSI, UCLG, ORU FOGAR and UNDP.

The 2nd Forum brought together 4,000 delegates of local, regional and national governments, representatives of multilateral organizations, academia, and institutions of international cooperation, as well as social and economic actors, including networks of enterprises, representing 67 countries from 4 continents. The conclusions focused, in a context of global economic crisis, on the instruments for creating public-private partnerships at the local level, in particularly by facilitating decentralization policies and the interaction between the public sector, civil society and the private sector.

Local Economic Development (LED), understood as a strategically planned, locally driven partnership approach to enable employment growth, poverty reduction and quality of life gains through improved local economic governance, is a tool that can further strive for a more inclusive and equal development, by including all territorial actors representing private, public and civil society sectors.



3rd WFLED Roadmap

The 3rd WFLED and related process were presented and discussed during several regional, national and international events. The dialogues held in the framework of these events aimed at stimulating the discussion on the thematic proposals of the 3rd WFLED, as well as promote active participation and exchange of experiences and views on LED by a wide variety of actors. The list of events includes:



Latin American and Caribbean Forum on Territorial Economic Development

The city of Quito hosted, on the 18th and 19th of May 2015, the Latin American and Caribbean Forum on Territorial Economic Development⁷. The aim of the Forum on Territorial Economic Development was to facilitate the dialogue and the exchange of successful experiences on Territorial Economic Development (TED) between local, national and international actors, tackling in particular the challenges faced by the Latin American and Caribbean region. In addition, the results achieved during the forum allowed unifying and harmonizing the points of view and positioning on the debate and methodological practices and experiences in the region, which were subsequently shared during the 3rd WFLED.

7. Latin American and Caribbean Forum on Territorial Economic Development Report (Spanish) <http://www.ec.undp.org/content/ecuador/es/home/presscenter/articles/2015/04/23/foro-latinoamericano-y-del-caribe-sobre-desarrollo-economico-territorial-quito-ecuador-18-y-19-de-mayo-de-2015.html>

The regional forum was organized by the National Secretariat of Planning and Development of Ecuador (SENPLADES), the Consortium of Provincial Governments of Ecuador (CONGOPE), the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, the Regional Decentralized Government of the Pichincha Province (GADPP), the Central University of Ecuador (UCE), the Union of Universities of Latin America and the Caribbean (UDUAL), together with the UNDP Ecuador and with the support of the UNDP ART Initiative. Moreover, the forum relied on the support of the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

The Forum counted with the attendance of over 350 participants from 23 countries,

representing national and sub-national governments and their associations, social and economic actors of the territories, academia and multilateral agencies. It witnessed the participation of Pabel Muñoz, the Ecuadorian Secretary of Planning and Development (SENPLADES), Gabriela Rosero from the Technical Secretariat for International Cooperation (SETECI), Martin Bazurco Osorio, Vice Minister of Micro and Small Enterprise of Bolivia and Paul Carrasco, Prefect of the Province of Azuay and President of the United Regions.

The success of the event demonstrates the importance of the theme in the region, where the TED is recognized as a useful means to address many of the fundamental challenges faced by Latin America and the Caribbean, such as inequality, the creation of employment opportunities, sustainable development, social inclusion and economic empowerment of traditionally excluded groups. Being held in 2015, a pivotal year for the debate on development commitments at the global level with the definition of the SDGs, the Forum also focused on how the TED can be an effective means for implementing the SDGs in the territories.

Diego Zorrilla, Resident Coordinator of the United Nations and Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Ecuador stressed that local ownership “is indispensable” to achieve the SDGs, and highlighted the necessity to form an articulated system of

multilevel governance in the territories in order to ensure sustainable and inclusive human development.

Thematic focus of the Quito Forum

The plenary sessions and workshops of the Quito's Forum enabled a discussion and a sharing of the richness of approaches, practices and instruments related to TED, developed in the region over recent years, with important lessons learnt on integrated TED strategies, mainly focusing on four cross-cutting themes. Theme I: The role of Territorial Development in the process of changing the productive matrix: Policies and lessons learned; Theme II: Popular and Solidarity Economy: Social inclusion and territorial opportunities; Topic III: Multilevel Governance of Local Economic Development: local-national coordination; Theme IV: Linking the University to local development processes based on research, innovation, entrepreneurship culture and situational analysis of the territory.

During the opening session representatives of the UNDP ART Initiative and the Municipality of Turin highlighted the importance of the Forum of Quito as a preparatory event for the positioning of Latin America and the Caribbean towards the 3rd WFLED. They informed the participants that the Forum of Turin will explore how LED can represent a means for implementing the future SDGs at the local level as it promotes a comprehensive framework for inclusive, well-balanced and sustainable development, providing a framework of articulation between administrative and territorial levels, a platform for multi-actor coordination and dialogue, and for the generation, mobilization and promotion of resources (skills, knowledge, finance, natural and cultural resources).

The Secretary General of UNASUR, Ernesto Samper, affirmed that the region has achieved important sustainable development results but remains one of the most asymmetric regions, with huge gaps between rural and urban areas. Currently, many groups, particularly women, youth, indigenous peoples, peasants, Afro-descendants, the elderly and marginalized minorities, have no access to decent employment opportunities or to public quality goods that ensure their social inclusion. There are also intra-national disparities between territories, with poles of dynamism and development opposed to depressed areas. Participants highlighted how the TED's focus generates dynamics of articulation between different levels of government and sectors, between public, private and social actors of the territories taking into account traditionally excluded groups, as well as between urban and rural areas, establishing bases for a democratic, endogenous and sustainable development that responds more efficiently to the challenges of sustainable human and equitable development.

During the closing session of the Forum, further relevant information was presented to the audience, such as the presentation of the Agreement between IDB FOMIN and UNDP, the presentation of the decentralized cooperation initiative between territories in Europe and Ecuador on 'Innovative Sustainable Territorial Partnerships' (I-STEPS), promoted by UNDP, the constitution of the Latin American and Caribbean Network for Linking Universities and Local Development and the Civil Society platform towards Habitat III. The outcomes and contribution of the various sessions were captured in the Regional Position of the Forum which was presented in detail in the final report of the Regional Forum.



3rd WFLED Organization

8. Annex 3: Third World Forum on LED Agenda

The 3rd WFLED agenda⁸ consisted of a variety of plenary sessions, panels, workshops, roundtables, and debates taking place in the span of 4 days. The proceedings of the event were commenced during the Forum **opening ceremony** with a written contribution from the Pope stressing the potential of LED as an engine of a different perspective on economic development, and the relationship between the land and the people. Interventions by the the Mayor of Turin, the Italian Minister of Agriculture, and high-level representatives from the leading organizing entities noted the Forum's historic opportunity to position LED within the implementation process of the 2030 Agenda . The ceremony was followed by an opening reception held at the Reggia di Venaria Reale, a grandiose UNESCO World Heritage estate just outside Turin.

Three main **plenary sessions** were held as part of the event, where international, national, and local public representatives and development actors addressed broad concepts and considerations on the potential role of LED as a means to implement the 2030 Agenda. Interventions from the United Nations Secretary-General, the Secretary General of the Commonwealth Local Government Forum, and European Commission's representatives offered a global and regional view on the importance of the local level in 2030 Agenda implementation and the need to link global, national and local policies and strategies, and the means for implementing them, as basis for sustainable achievement of the SDGs. This view was further supported by plenary contributions from high political figures including national government

ministers, head of regional governments. Moreover, within the new architecture for international development where partnerships are considered a core principle informing cooperation, speakers paid special focus on their role within a LED framework in addressing the challenges and opportunities of SDGs implementation.

The **29 panels and 26 workshops** held during the Forum offered various insights and reflections on topics relevant to the three main thematic lines of the Forum. The several panels and workshops that were dedicated to each thematic line, aimed at advancing relevant dialogue and capturing diverse geographical and practical experiences and political perspectives.

The sessions brought together relevant decision-makers, legislators, experts, practitioners and allowed for open and constructive exchange between participants and the audience. The animated discussions of each session and their outcomes were later comprehensively conveyed and captured in the final outcome document of the Forum.

During the celebration of the Forum, a dedicated **Arena** accommodating up to 80 participants was offered as a platform for academics, researchers, and experts to share best practices, ongoing initiatives and projects related to LED. The intimate yet open and comfortable setting enabled a direct and dynamic interaction between the speakers and Forum participants.

Forum-OFF, a City of Turin-led initiative conducted in conjunction with the 3rd WFLED, offered a series of events covering a board range of topics closely related to

the discussions of the Forum. Local foundations, enterprises and universities, national ministries, UN agencies, and global networks and organizations were among the partners leading and organizing the Forum-OFF events. The 23 dynamic round tables, workshops and debates addressing LED from various cultural, social, economic, and environmental angles, were hosted in close proximity to the Forum venue, and allowed for the engagement of a wider range of public in the Forum activities.

At the conclusion of the Forum, organizers published through the Forum website the various audio recordings of the plenary sessions and panels, to allow for a broader dissemination of experiences

“LED is at the center of Agenda 2030 and it’s Sustainable Development Goals”

Lenni Montiel, Assistant Secretary General for Economic Development, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs

and sharing of knowledge presented during the event. Moreover, a series of video interviews⁹ conducted with political figures and LED practitioners during the Forum was made available online, in which contributors explained the key features of LED that underscores its potential as a strategy and a set of instruments to drive the implementation of the SDGs at the local level. Speakers also shared information on their affiliations expected role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and the main opportunities and challenges facing the process.

9. 3rd WFLED video interviews
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLAYq0gxFquR6gucfwUiWdACAdkOxGnqmW>





The Host City: Turin

The Forum plenary sessions, panels and workshops took place at the Polo Reale, a renowned World Heritage UNESCO museum complex right in the heart of Turin's historical centre. This strategic positioning of the Forum at the centre of the city increased the event's visibility and allowed the event to be easily accessible to both the residents and visitors of Turin. Furthermore, a large display placed in the Piazzetta Reale, one of the largest public squares in Turin, streamed live the various sessions of the Forum and ensured a continuous and dynamic interaction between the city and the Forum.

The urban and varied nature of the Polo Reale offered a range of diverse spaces to host the different types of sessions held as part of the Forum. Workshops, exhibition stands, the Arena space, and special meetings were hosted in the Palazzo Chiabrese, and Forum panels took place at the Palazzo Reale di Torino. A large temporary structure accommodating up to 2000 participants was erected at the center of the Piazzetta Reale to host the opening and closing ceremonies and the plenary sessions. Additionally, the Madama Felicita's apartments, located in the Royal Palace, hosted the B2B (Business to Business) sessions, as a space dedicated to public, private and civil society actors to meet and develop potential partnerships.

Organizers

The organization efforts of the event were led by the Forum Executive Committee (EC), which comprises a balanced representation of the main entities involved in the process, with an objective of overseeing the Forum program and contents development, communication activities, and logistical arrangements. The EC consists of the Andalusian Fund of Municipalities for International Solidarity (FAMSI), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Municipality and Province of Turin, the Organization of United Regions (ORU FOGAR), the Brazilian Service of Support for Micro and Small Enterprises (SEBRAE), the global network of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Moreover, the EC was guided and supported by the Forum Scientific Committee (SC), a consultative body responsible for orienting the Forum preparatory process, as well as synthesizing the key messages presented during the Forum sessions as basis for the elaboration of the Forum outcome document. The process was further facilitated by the involvement of the Organizing Partners, a group of institutions that supported the elaboration of the Forum conceptual framework, promoted the event and undertook the responsibility of organizing some of the panels and workshops with direct relevance to their area of focus.



Municipality and Metropolitan City of Turin

Turin is an important business and cultural center and the capital city in the Northern Italian region of Piedmont. As the first Italian capital city in 1861, it used to be a major European political center: nowadays, it is one of Italy's main industrial centers and Italy's second export area. In the years Turin has been able to renew itself becoming also a center of excellence in the field of research, technology and innovation. The internationalization path of the City of Turin is fostered by the participation in several networks and international associations. Through them it was able to develop many contacts for cooperation and projects, to exchange best practices, to seize many occasions to promote its resources.

United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)

UCLG is an organization with the mission of representing and defending the interests of local governments on the world stage, regardless of the size of the communities they serve. Founded in 2004, their mission is to be the united voice and world advocate of democratic local self-government, promoting its values, objectives and interests, through cooperation between local governments, and within the wider international community. Over 1000 cities across 95 countries are direct members of UCLG. 112 Local Government Associations (LGAs) are members of UCLG, representing almost every existing LGA in the world.



Andalusian Fund of Municipalities for International Solidarity (FAMSI)

FAMSI is a network of local governments and other entities established in 2000 to harmonize and coordinate the interest and technical and financial resources dedicated to international cooperation to achieve local human development. It facilitates the exchange of experiences between Andalusia and other local development actors, participates in the development of regional, national and international strategies for international cooperation for development, and links Andalusian local decentralized cooperation actors with other countries in the south and north.

International Labour Organization (ILO)

ILO is devoted to promoting social justice and internationally recognized human and labour rights, pursuing its founding mission that social justice is essential to universal and lasting peace. Only tripartite U.N. agency, the ILO brings together governments, employers and workers representatives of 187 member States, to set labour standards, develop policies and devise programmes promoting decent work for all women and men. Today, the ILO's Decent Work agenda helps advance the economic and working conditions that give all workers, employers and governments a stake in lasting peace, prosperity and progress.



Organization of United Regions (ORU FOGAR)

ORU FOGAR is an association of regions with the role of bringing together Regions around the world and being their ambassador within international organizations promoting a global policy of balanced development and territorial cohesion. Created in 2007, the objective of ORU FOGAR is to develop local democracy, make new multi-level strategic governance rules including the sub national level and promoting exchanges between the members. Through its seventeen networks of founding Regions from all continents, the organization includes more than 900 Regions. Thus, ORU FOGAR is the unique representative body of Regions seeking their recognition as major players of global governance.

Brazilian Service of Support for Micro and Small Enterprises (SEBRAE)

SEBRAE is a private non-profit organization established in 1972, whose mission is "to promote competitiveness and sustainable development of small business and promote entrepreneurship, to strengthen the national economy." Through partnerships with the private and public sectors, SEBRAE promotes training programs, encouraging associations, territorial development, market access, technological innovation and improving the business environment. SEBRAE is present in all Brazilian states in more than 600 offices and points of service, with more than 5,000 employees and 9,000 consultants.



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) – ART Initiative

UNDP partners with people at all levels of society to help build nations that can withstand crisis, and drive and sustain the kind of growth that improves the quality of life for everyone. On the ground in more than 170 countries and territories, UNDP offer global perspective and local insight to help empower lives and build resilient nations. In its Strategic Plan 2014-2017, UNDP prioritizes the local dimension and calls for effective local governance and improved service delivery, addressing the challenges of LED. UNDP launched the ART Initiative in 2006 as an operational platform bringing together different development actors - local and regional authorities, national governments, civil society organizations, private sector and academia - in support of Sustainable Human Development (SHD) at the local level.





First Thematic Line

Regional Competitiveness and Innovation for more Sustainable and Inclusive Development

The challenging focus of this section of the Forum was on the nexus and **integration between competitiveness and sustainable and inclusive development outcomes**, as a key transversal dimensions through which the new sustainable development paradigm seeks to address the compelling global challenges facing the world today. In particular, the discussion evolved around **territoriality and innovation** as crucial drivers of a positive relation between competitiveness and sustainability.

As a bottom-line, an increasingly influential challenge has questioned the flat equation between income-based economic growth and development, as much as the notion of competitiveness as a mere reformulation of a market-driven framework.

A broader (re)conceptualization of competitiveness as a vehicle for creating and spreading well-being entails linking individual performance with different underlying determinants and enabling contextual factors. Many of these factors embed specific **territorial assets and processes**, including the value of tangible and intangible resources, knowledge accumulation and diffusion through local actors'

networks and cooperation, governance and integrated planning frameworks, innovation as the generation of processes and tools for the efficient and equitable allocation and use of locally available resources and capacities.

From an 'outcome' perspective, the rooting of competitiveness in territorial settings and dynamics enables more **inclusive and sustainable** development through decent jobs creation, energy, food and water security, increased and more equitable access to services and economic opportunities.

The interpretation of innovation as a 'territorial' process and asset, i.e. the reference to **regional innovation systems**, allows to ultimately addressing it as a powerful driver of sustainable competitiveness, particularly in a context of economic crisis and intensified global competition. In turn, this requires the establishment of a governance infrastructure that allows the active engagement and structured cooperation of different territorial stakeholders – government, research and academia, business, civil society – in order to ensure collective learning, organizational and technological spillovers, the alignment and operationalization of policies, strategies, support resources and services.

The LED approach – being comprehensive, inclusive and inherently rooted in the territorial dimension - provides a suitable alternative framework for pursuing sustainable competitiveness, enhancing and valorising the recognized transformational role of innovation as extensively reflected in the 2030 Agenda.

between innovation, competitiveness and sustainable development outcomes, addressing in particular through a number of illustrative experiences and a rich debate the following - mostly transversal and integrated aspects and dimensions.

The different panels and workshops in this thematic line contributed to substantively advancing the reflection on the relation

“In Bolivia, we are working to strengthen regions, municipalities, and indigenous peasant autonomias, by enhancing the quality and reinforcing the role of local governments and subsidiarity of these autonomous territorial entities”

Hugo Siles Nuñez del Prado, Ministro de Autonomias, Bolivia



Paradigms and approaches

The **inclusive innovation** paradigm emerged as a way of democratizing innovation systems thus enhancing their possible contribution to inclusive development through processes, technologies and products specifically aimed at lower-income and excluded groups, in order to meet their consumption needs and/or raise their living standards through income and employment opportunities.

Reiterating the potential of inclusive innovation processes for the SDGs' implementation, the discussions held emphasized their necessary demand-driven, social and community-based nature. As a 'territorial' process, inclusive innovation places a strong focus on processes of technological diffusion and adoption, integrating distributional and equality concerns in relation to contexts characterized by weaker institutions and infrastructure and a high degree of informality, as well as less human and financial resources. It requires therefore the mobilization of local competences and resources, the synergy of different stakeholders - private sector, academic and research community, NGOs -, an holistic vision combining social, cultural, economic values and expectations, as well as robust institutional support frameworks, enabling citizens' empowerment and participation, the promotion of public-private alliances and incentives for conducive business practices.

Further extensive focus through dedicated panels and workshops was set on **Smart Specialization and Regional Innovation Strategies (RIS)**, as effective approaches to harness the potential for sustainable

and inclusive growth of territories. Smart strategies build on the knowledge and innovation basis of localities and link it up with priority economic activities, as well as with environmental and social concerns as combined drivers of sustainable competitiveness outcomes. This requires and combines the strong involvement of different territorial stakeholders, and in particularly a conducive synergy between entrepreneurial knowledge, public research, and policy-making, with an outward-oriented pattern pointing regions towards cross-border and transnational cooperation in order to integrate external knowledge sources and value chains. Moreover, it was emphasized how smart specialization often goes hand in hand with a 'transformative' agenda, as means to address structural change in the production pattern, reduce territorial unbalances and the external dependency and vulnerability of local economies, include marginal groups through a new wealth creation and distribution framework.

“Local is human, local is efficient, local is beautiful”

Pope Francis

A specific session discussed the potential of LED as a strategy for **peacebuilding and conflict transformation** within the framework of achieving SDG 16. Discussions showed how the LED approach can be successfully applied to bring about change in territories long affected by armed conflict, addressing and easing the root causes of conflict through a combination of processes and support measures enabling political participation, livelihoods recovery, human rights promotion, and rehabilitation and restitution policies.

Enabling factors and catalysts

A second crucial block of discussions has concerned the analysis of the framework conditions that enable innovation as a driver of inclusive growth. This has primarily to do with **institutions and policies**. Discussions pointed at some key issues in relation to enabling institutional settings and policies for inclusive innovation. This includes the need to focus on informal, localized settings, building innovation capacities on endogenous assets and networks (as opposite to supply-driven outputs), large stakeholders' participation and partnership alongside enhanced public support and multi-level coordination, the important role of intermediaries to reach out to poor consumers' and match offer to their conditions and needs. Most of all, the core of enabling environments for innovation refers to the identification,

strengthening and integration of the human, intellectual and social capital within the system and its use to generate societal benefits.

Conventional policies focus on a narrow, output-based notion of innovation. It is therefore crucial to seek the right combination of policies, regulations/incentives and institutions to enable the emergence and further consolidation of new modalities and tools as **catalysts of inclusive and sustainable innovation**. This includes in particular the green economy, eco-innovation, the social and solidarity economy, corporate sustainability, integrated knowledge management and the use of knowledge sharing platforms as means to enhance collective learning.

“As we live in a global world, globalization will mainly depend on policies developed within cities, territories and local environments”

Piero Fassino, Mayor of Turin



The role and interaction of different actors

The Forum has widely affirmed and documented that any sustainable and inclusive system derives its effectiveness from the active participation of a multiplicity of stakeholders at different levels, and their capacity to engage with each other through structured interaction processes aligned with conducive policy frameworks. A specific stream of analysis has concerned the role of different 'non-traditional' actors, and modalities of interaction between them, in driving innovation and a most equitable and sustainable development model. The emergence of such actors allowed the introduction of innovative institutional arrangements and solutions, and coincided with a new development paradigm that builds strongly upon partnership principles and dynamics as means to achieving sustainable development outcomes.

Discussions in particular emphasized and reaffirmed the key role of the **private sector**, and SMEs in particular, in engaging with other actors to promote income and employment generation at the local level, strengthening territorial competitiveness while promoting a more balanced access to economic resources and opportunities. SMEs have also the potential to test and introduce value adding and innovative business models, based on open access to data and services and shared functionalities as basis for more sustainable consumption patterns.

Dedicated sessions of the Forum emphasized the increasingly important role of **Foundations** in the development landscape, and their potential in playing a catalytic role for a longer-term, locally-led

and globally supported effort in addressing the SDGs. Moreover, as independent, flexible and directly engaged structures, they have a potential to be on the forefront in exploring and testing innovative practices, new ideas and models, investing in strategic yet under-supported areas, identifying and mobilising alternative means to fund and sustain their implementation.

The key role of **universities**, and in particular their thematic and transnational networks, was also discussed, with particular respect to their crucial role in systematizing and sharing experiences, resources and tools for sustainable local development across a global scale, as means to feed policy making, and to further incorporate the local dimension in the knowledge creation and transmission processes.

Lastly, a prominent focus was set on the role of **territorial partnerships** in promoting innovation within the new universal agenda. This modality of international development cooperation, in its different forms (decentralized, South-South, and triangular cooperation) has the potential of establishing a constructive peer to peer dialogue between local actors, strengthening their role as development partners, and fostering social, cultural and environmental innovation processes. This, in turn, can promote equal relationships among development partners from the North and the South in jointly addressing the universal challenges of the 2030 Agenda. Further specific reference was made to the role of dedicated **LED networks and platforms** as means to address the implementation of the SDGs at the local level.



Second Thematic Line

Localizing Employment Generation. Towards Local Inclusive Growth, Decent work and Green Jobs

Recent economic crises have revealed and often widened inequalities within countries. With the weakening of traditional employment sources and patterns and the expansion of the informal economy, bottom-up interventions responding to local needs emerge as key strategies to create decent jobs where they are most needed.

The second thematic line of the Forum reflected on the role of LED in achieving **Sustainable Development Goal #8: Decent work and economic growth**, and promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all. Discussions were focused on the role of LED in enabling a link between economic growth and decent jobs creation, building on the comparative advantage of localities through inclusive governance processes, where different (public and private, formal and informal) actors play a role in ensuring balanced and sustainable development outcomes.

It is in this context that LED was presented as a relevant operational framework to integrate different dimensions and variables associated with employment creation and labor market policies. Recognizing employment as a predominantly local challenge, participants in the Forum advocated for **'locally sensitive' employment policies**. They stressed the need to

actively incorporate and consider specific local conditions when designing and implementing labour market plans and strategies in order to increase their impact. This was more specifically referred to the matching of labour demand and supply, capacity building requirements, the potential links with strategic productive and market activities, and the inclusion of traditionally marginalized groups such as youth, women, migrants and minorities. Moreover, participants advocated for developing employment services and training systems at the local level that are consistent with and fully embedded in LED and productive development strategies (innovation systems, business development services, value chain promotion).

Lastly, it was highlighted that as part of an integrated LED approach, constructive social dialogue including local governments, businesses, civil society and workers' unions has a vital role in ensuring the recognition of labour rights and **channeling a sustainable impact on employment and income generation**.

Through the different panels and workshops, an extensive dedicated focus was reserved to the following set of policies and tools with a potential to enable and localize sustainable, inclusive economic growth and decent jobs creation:

Social and Solidarity Economy

The Forum witnessed the participation of many Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) actors, who presented the role of SSE in the framework of SDGs implementation at the local level. Discussions highlighted how SSE can constitute a pillar and crucial complement of a comprehensive and integrated LED approach, as both strive for **participatory governance, partnership, social and economic inclusion and empowerment**.

The specific complementarity between SSE and LED as combined means for SDGs localization was illustrated in relation to a number of themes and dimensions, such as the promotion of food security and sustainable urban-rural linkages through support to small agricultural producers and cooperatives; improved access to employment and economic opportunities for the most vulnerable and deprived segments of the local population; the promotion and diffusion of inclusive innovation practices; the sustainable use of the natural resources basis.

SSE organizations play a critical role in seeking to integrate disadvantaged groups and individuals in the local labour market. They foster local identity through trust-building in communities and between local administrators and governance systems, thus increasing 'civic

engagement' (volunteering, participation, networking) and local social capital. As part of a LED approach, the instruments of the SSE can also play an important role in **integrating informal economy sectors**, thus harnessing the potential of informal economy to become an important asset for LED and contribute to the resilience of local inhabitants, particularly in marginalized areas.

However, participants stressed that SSE organizations face many legislative and operational obstacles, and any upgrade in their impact requires the development of an appropriate legal framework and policy measures enabling the **creation of an environment conducive to SSE growth**, and flexible in meeting emerging needs and interests. Furthermore, participants discussed the role of LRGs in supporting the growth of the different types of SSE organizations, in order to expand and diversify their support beyond providing access to finance, to a more comprehensive focus on SSE management practices and governance models as well as targeted capacity building programs.

“The local level is the level where all the elements are integrated with one another and where peer-to-peer collaborations can be developed. Therefore the global partnership is based and created through the local level”

Lodovica Longinotti, Senior Technical Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International, Italy

Private sector engagement and partnership

As the engine of growth in most developing and developed countries, the private sector contributes to poverty reduction indirectly by creating aggregate income and wealth, and directly by generating employment and providing affordable goods and services. The Forum discussions highlighted the overlap between public and private interests in sustainable development at the local level and stressed that the implementation of the ambitious 2030 Agenda will require an unprecedented level of partnership between the two. Participants indicated the unique role that the private sector can play in the next 15 years in the development landscape through the introduction of innovative methods and mechanisms in **leveraging funding, creating decent employment, and promoting technology, innovation and research.**

Participants recognized, in particular, the key **role of small businesses** in enabling and boosting income and employment generation opportunities at the local level, strengthening at once the competitiveness of territories and promoting a more equal access to economic opportunities.

It is therefore essential to support the constant involvement and direct engagement of the private sector's representative bodies and organizations into LED processes. This can take several forms, including active participation in **multi-stakeholder dialogue** and consultation settings; **financing strategic LED projects** and initiatives; enhancing **responsive services** (public utilities,

social and SMEs development services) and **vocational training** systems through joint provision schemes; and establishment of on-the-job **synergies with research and innovation centres.**

As part of an effort to promote strong and innovative forms of public-private partnership for inclusive and sustainable economic development, it is therefore crucial to expand the participation of the private sector as well as the emergency and recognition of 'new' (or newly visible and recognized) economic actors such as foundations, social entrepreneurs, low-income and informal economy groups and associations.

A further specific attention was given to **approaches taken by LRGs to support private sector development as part of LED processes.** This includes facilitating measures for cluster development, encouraging and supporting inter-business collaboration, institutional and organization development in targeted business sectors, improving delivery of municipal services to businesses, enabling a conducive business environment in areas related to regulations, taxation and licensing.



Migration and Development

The potentially positive contribution of migrants to inclusive growth and sustainable development has been further recognized in the new SDGs with the inclusion of various targets directly related to migration, pursuing the promoting of **migrant workers' rights**, and **improving migration governance**. Due to the increasing urbanization worldwide and the tendency for displaced populations to resettle in poor urban areas, LRGs will be at the forefront of managing the integration of migrant populations.

The Forum discussions highlighted the potential crucial role of inclusive LED strategies in enabling migrants to **leverage resources**, markets and networks for enhancing **durable and effective 'win-win' socio-economic relations** between their respective origin and host communities. These strategies also reinforce the process of integration by bringing together the key actors in migration: local, regional and national authorities, social partners, civil society organizations, business and microfinance institutions, international organizations and representatives of the migrant population.

"LED raises living standards. It enforces social inclusion and thus contributing to stability, peace, and prosperity."

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

Youth employment policies

The focus on employment policies – and the key issue of youth employability and entrepreneurship, has been a major recurrent and transversal dimension in the Forum discussions under this thematic line.

In particular, participants recognized and emphasized the importance of integrating the different determinants of decent and inclusive employment creation, anchoring them to comprehensive LED strategies. This entails in turn ensuring that education and vocational training match business and employers' needs in the different sectors, so that employment opportunities absorb young people strengthened skills and talents, whilst

protecting their right to a safe and healthy workplace. Employment mobility across local labour markets was also discussed as a relevant option and strategy to boost sustainable employment creation in accordance with the specific needs and potential of different territories.

Participants further emphasized that LED strategies should actively be pro-employment, bringing together all relevant actors, local authorities, social partners and other stakeholders involved at the territorial level. Specific contingent measures such as labour intensive public investments and large scale infrastructure programs were also discussed.

Green Jobs Policies

Several discussions took place during the Forum on the challenges and opportunities to boost and gear local economic activity, employment and skills development in response to climate change. While at the macro level the implications of climate change are widely acknowledged and acted upon, it is at the local level that impacts and actions need to be considered in detail, and where the barriers to a transition to a green economy are most acutely experienced.

Effective and adaptive employment policies, including and resulting from a **direct dialogue and engagement of labour market institutions** and workers' unions, can contribute to smooth and optimize the transition to a sustainable and inclusive green economy. It is also key that local measures and initiatives are aligned with national and global policies as part of a multi-level governance system aimed at channelling consistent green growth and green jobs strategies. The public sector has a key role to play in ensuring this national-local coordination and in removing policy barriers that hamper green growth.

“The coalition between local governments, civil society, and local entrepreneurs needs to be supported with the tools, capacity, and financing to be able to implement the SDGs.”

Josep Roig, Secretary General of UCLG

South-South and Triangular Cooperation

As part of the framework of the Forum, practitioners and local government representatives showcased several case studies that illustrate the benefit and contribution of south-south and triangular cooperation between cities and territories in promoting quality employment and more inclusive local development strategies. The discussions highlighted their potential as a **cost-effective, bottom-up approach** complementing the traditional North-South cooperation pattern as means to localize the 2030 Agenda whilst ensuring its universality.

In this context, cities and towns have a growing role to play as drivers of change in addressing global challenges related among others to migration flows, increasing urbanization, climate change and rising inequalities.





Implementing Sustainable Urban Development.

LED strategies for creating positive urban-rural linkages

Globally, over 50 per cent of the world population lives in cities and large towns; this share is projected to reach 70% by 2050. Urbanization and demographic growth have contributed to the growing inter-connection between cities and their rural surroundings, in terms of spatial as well as functional integration across economic, social and environmental dimensions.

The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda confirms the need to depart from a perspective of political, social and geographical dichotomy between urban and rural areas. To this effect, the discussion of the third thematic line of the Forum re-confirmed the role of LED in establishing sustainable urban-rural linkages, enabling complementary functions and flows of people, capital, goods, employment, and technology between rural and urban territories of various sizes.

interests and perspectives of urban and rural dwellers.

Throughout the rich and diversified sessions of this thematic line, experts and practitioners presented LED as a means to better understand and value the nexus between rural and urban areas, thus leveraging its potential for enabling sustainable and inclusive development processes.

The Forum discussions addressed several aspects associated to rural-urban integration of flows and functions, including goods and services' supply and distribution chains, transport systems, food production and marketing systems connecting producers to consumers through

“Today, the vast majority of people live their lives in a geographical space with a radius of not more than 500 kilometers and while we focus on global agreements, we have to recognize that local environments are central to our success.”

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

Indeed, LED promotes and builds on economic and social flows and connections beyond administrative urban and rural boundaries, and entails a comprehensive and inclusive governance architecture that attempts to address and combine the different

formal and informal channels, and governance and decision-making systems.

Most participants highlighted the contribution of integrated urban and rural development systems to the objective of equitable spatial distribution of resources,

showing its potential in achieving inclusive, environmentally friendly, resource-saving and resilient development paths embedding the needs and demand of both urban and rural areas. A holistic perspective on urban and rural territorial development promotes integrated planning instruments and cross-sectorial solutions for resource efficiency focusing primarily on water, energy and food security, as well as transport and waste management, with inherent gains for human and environmental health.

In sum, the different contributions to the discussion confirmed that LED offers a framework for matching and reconciling

competing demands for space, natural resources and investments as part of a shared strategic vision for territorial development inspired by the principles of social cohesion, economic prosperity and environmental protection. This requires in turn that inclusive and transparent local governance and decision-making systems be aligned with national policies and coordinated involving actors from different levels of governments and sectors, in order to reduce conflicts around resources and facilitate the balancing of interests for viable solutions.

Agro-food systems, food and nutrition security across urban and rural spaces

A main transversal focus relevant to different panels and workshops was related to **agro-food systems and food and nutrition security across urban and rural spaces**, where integrated flows and linkages become key enablers of sustainable development strategies. These sessions aimed at complementing and feeding into the ongoing parallel dialogues held as part of the Milan EXPO 2015 “Feeding the planet; Energy for life”, where discussions on how to guarantee healthy, safe and sufficient food for everyone, while respecting the planet and its equilibrium were taking place.

The LED approach addresses among other the organization of existing and new local production and consumption systems, an area where the interconnections and

mutually feeding linkages (inputs supply, production and marketing) between urban and rural spaces are crucial. In this respect, rural areas are not simply considered as agricultural spaces but as potential drivers of diverse development paths. In particular, local food production and marketing systems constitute a key area where LED processes, particularly through the proactive initiative of local authorities at the intermediary level of cities, can play a vital role, enabling partnerships between rural and urban actors and promoting strategic investments in rural infrastructure and services (processing and storage centers, transport, food markets).

Agro-food systems refer to a combination of institutions, activities and enterprises that collectively develop and deliver ma-

terial inputs to the farming sector, produce primary commodities, and subsequently handle, process, transport, market and distribute food and other agro-based products to consumers. These systems have become increasingly important as tools for farmers, LRGs, businesses and consumers to meet market challenges and satisfy the rising demand.

Discussions have highlighted the potential of agricultural and agro-industrial sectors as part of an integrated LED framework, and in particular the potential of agro-food systems in increasing the added value of local products and fostering linkages arising from agribusiness concentration and clustering.

Increasing urbanization, particularly in Asia and Africa is producing major demographic and spatial transformations in human settlement patterns, while existing land use practices in Europe, the Americas, and other highly urbanized places put pressure on the land/water/energy nexus. These trends have dramatic effects on the global food system. Moreover, urbanization is not going hand-in-hand with widespread economic growth. In fact, many cities are experiencing a proliferation of urban poverty.

Food insecurity and undernutrition is therefore also increasingly an urban issue and closely related to livelihoods, as urban people are even more dependent than rural populations on the food

they can afford to buy. **Promoting urban food security** is therefore a critical twenty-first century concern, requiring new approaches to understanding global and local food systems and ensuring the production, distribution, and delivery of food to the growing number of urban centres. Strategies must focus on the measurement of urban food security issues and ways to increase food availability, access, and nutritional quality in cities of both the developing and developed world.

Innovative and sustainable solutions are needed in allowing cities to address critical food and nutrition security challenges. Urban and periurban horticulture constitute a relevant option, as it boosts the physical supply of fresh, nutritious produce, available year round whilst improving the urban poor's economic access to food when their household production reduces their food bills, and when growers earn a living from sales. Yes, as cities grow, production of fresh food is further pushed into rural areas, which adds to the costs and hazards of transport and conservation. This makes it crucial for cities to consistently integrate food production chains into their urban development strategies and plans.



Discussions in the Forum also highlighted the potential role of **social farming** as a practice that combines the sustainable use of natural resources in rural areas with the provision of social or educational care services for vulnerable groups of people. Social farming is a valuable mean to achieve social cohesion in communities at risk of disruption and marginalization – due to migration, unemployment, environmental degradation – and represents an opportunity for farmers to broaden and diversify the scope of their activities and their role in society. This integration between agricultural and social activities can also provide farmers with new and diverse sources of income.

Further specific sessions in this area were dedicated to the **territorial development with cultural identity** approach, mainly associated to Latin American experiences in enhancing urban-rural linkages through creativity and innovation and exploring the nexus between market systems and public policies aimed at valorising agricultural, food and cultural assets and heritages; and the experience of ‘bio-cities’, an Italian network of municipalities and territorial entities with a shared objective of promotion **organic agriculture**.

A key focus under this thematic line was placed on **rights-based approaches to local development and Food Security**. Agricultural communities are faced with mounting challenges such as shrinking natural resources, food insecurity, and climate change, all of which are compounded by insecure tenure. During the Forum, experts and practitioners advocated for rural development policies that contribute to food security and poverty eradication, based on secure individual, communal and collective rights, and equal access to public assets and resources. These policies should be implemented in a context that fully respects the rights and aspirations of local people, especially marginalized and vulnerable groups, in alignment with national legal frameworks and through effective dialogue.

“The importance of LED as a comprehensive process for supporting implementation and monitoring of the SDGs has been further acknowledged and confirmed in the Turin Forum”

Patrick Keuleers, Chief of Profession of Governance and Peacebuilding, UNDP& International, Italy



A rich diversity of enablers of sustainable urban-rural integration

Specific consideration was given to the key function of **public space as a catalyst for LED**. Public space plays a fundamental role in structuring territories, providing opportunities for social development, acting as a catalyst for social cohesion, and promoting greener cities. Within a LED framework, public space can be an essential tool to generate employment and revenue, integrating formal and informal economic activities, and providing income for local governments.

A number of sessions further explored the **key role and potential of international and territorial cooperation in channeling sustainable local development systems**, an issue that had already been addressed from different angles and perspectives in the other thematic lines of the Forum. In particular, the focus was set on the role of international cooperation in promoting and diffusing innovative local development patterns and models; decentralized cooperation for sustainable development of agri-food systems; territorial decentralized and city to city cooperation and its implications for localizing the decent work agenda and improving local governance of water provision systems.

Emphasis was also put on the importance of open, inclusive and transparent **governance systems** as basis for feasible and sustainable LED policies, enabling in turn long-term social cohesion and effective public service systems. Particularly in ur-

ban contexts, this entails a paradigm shift from mere public administration to democratic and participatory governance, with a focus on inclusion, transparency and accountability, rule of law, subsidiarity and equity.

Additional analysis and discussions were carried out in relation to a number of topics of cross-cutting relevance under this thematic line, including alternative and innovative ventures and practices in the **energy sector** as basis for sustainable resources management and economic development; **re-localizing economy and finance for sustainable local development; network of cities** to promote LED approaches and communities of practice in alternative to trade agreement frameworks and related policies; the role of **education as a tool for sustainable LED strategies**. A specific geographical focus was placed on the specific dynamics and potential of applying **LED approaches particularly in Africa**.



The Forum process and specifically the celebration of the 3rd WFLED offered the opportunity to clearly present how LED can strongly contribute to addressing key issues such as poverty eradication, inequalities, employment and decent work, sustainable entrepreneurship, and to stimulating policies towards the implementation of the SDGs at the local level.

The Forum success came as a result of the accretion of efforts and support from a rich and diverse coalition of development actors that was enlarged and consolidated during the event itself. The outstanding commitment and the accommodation provided by the host city, led by the Municipality and Province of Turin, has produced an affable environment that inspired productive debates, constructive encounters, and encouraging outcomes. Furthermore, territorial actors represented by regional governments, mayors, subnational governments associations, and other local development agents such as civil society groups, foundations, and academic institutions have brought to the Forum an array of contextual experiences that enriched the Forum dialogues. Moreover, the private sector active presence and engagement during the sessions of the Forum as well as support through sponsorships and logistical contributions to facilitate the organization of the Forum had tremendously enhanced its inclusivity and outreach.

During the different sessions in the Forum, practitioners and experts have identified specific and crosscutting challenges ahead of the 2030 Agenda's implementation, and outlined the potential of LED in addressing them in a consistent and

integrated manner through a consolidated set of diverse innovative practices and tools, rooted in the specificity of territorial contexts and dynamics. These outcomes were further supported and corroborated by the presence and contribution of high-level political and international figures such as the United Nations Secretary General, the Pope, and the various national ministerial and parliamentary delegates.

Subsequently, the results and recommendations of each session were captured and conveyed in the Forum Outcome Document¹⁰, which was presented during the closing ceremony. The Document provides an overall synthesis of the various Forum sessions, and sets to consolidate the key issues and messages as basis for orienting a shared way forward for the Forum process.

In particular, and in response to the specific issues discussed in the three thematic areas, the Forum emphasized the role of innovation as means to enhance local-global integration, and called for the establishment of comprehensive frameworks for innovation aligned with the implementation of the SDGs. It highlighted the relation between innovation systems and inclusive development outcomes, and the potential of inclusive innovation patterns, related tools and modalities, and the role of the various parties involved, in addressing the key issues of creation, access, diffusion, adoption, and distribution of innovation, with specific view at the institutionalization of inclusive innovation and its integration with national and regional innovation systems.

10. Annex 4: Final Declaration of 3rd WFLED



Conclusions

The Forum reflected on and emphasized the following key 'transversal' dimensions, which in turn show the relevance and consistency of LED with the key thrusts for the localization of the 2030 agenda:

- the potential of LED in bringing an inclusive and integrated perspective on **small business development and employment generation**, contributing to environmental sustainability and the economic empowerment of youth, women, and vulnerable groups as basis for more **cohesive, stable and resilient societies**.
- the prominent, vital **role of local and regional governments** and their associations in promoting and enabling LED and sustainable **urban-rural linkages** through **inclusive and transparent local governance systems**, and their consistent integration with responsive **policy frameworks** at national and different sub-national levels.
- the importance of a **new global partnership**, engaging a diversity of actors – supranational organizations, national and subnational governments, global networks and associations, and the private sector – in a joint, coordinated effort aimed at mobilizing **alternative funding sources and territorial cooperation platforms**, in order to align and harmonize global policies with strategies and plans at national and local levels.
- the crucial need for localized and networked **capacity building, knowledge management and monitoring systems**, as basis for effective, accountable and inclusive LED processes.

Recognizing and building on the crucial importance of above dimensions, the outcome document of the Forum calls supranational and international organizations, global networks and associations, national and subnational governments, the scientific community, the private sector and foundations to advocate and join forces to promote and enable their implementation.

Lastly, the Forum has constituted a vital occasion to renew and orient the commitment of the international community to work together and contribute to the implementation of the SDGs. Participants agreed that the comprehensive, integrated, inclusive, and participatory nature of LED makes it a suitable approach for matching the universality of the SDGs, allowing at once the necessary flexibility to adjust to context specificities.



Way Forward

The conclusion of the 3rd WFLED resulted in several commitments and recommendations to shape consensus and define forthcoming collaborative actions to strengthen the potential of LED as a strategic approach for SDGs localization. Organizers and participants expressed their strong adherence to install concrete operational measures, such to allow landing the global alliance supporting the WFLED process, extending synergies from policy dialogue to joint coordinated actions on the ground and enabling linkages with territorial partnership building.

Support the WFLED Process

In order to achieve the above, the organizers of the WFLED process expressed their specific commitment towards the following:

- Establish synergies with other international, regional, and national LED relevant initiatives and processes;
- Harmonise and align country directed LED initiatives through the establishment of territorial/thematic cooperation platforms and dedicated knowledge management instruments;
- Promote dedicated capacity building initiatives in support of LRGs (and their networks and associations) engagement in LED, coupled with the facilitation of their direct involvement in global policy dialogue;
- Strengthen knowledge management and sharing of experience on LED, promote inclusive research, and enable the formation of an alliance of universities and research institutes focusing on LED as a means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda;
- Identify and systematise innovation in LED and allow them to inform national and local policies;
- Engage and inform the international policy dialogue;
- Build upon the different organizations capacities and added value to assure the most tangible outputs of this partnership.

At the same time, above measures would constitute an opportunity to pilot joint coordinated action in the framework of a dedicated country-level or regional programme, where different WFLED partners could intervene and test their capacity to provide support complementing each other on the basis of their respective competence and value added.



Strengthening the WFLED Governance and partners' engagement

The Forum's process started in 2011 with a limited number of engaged organizations. Since then, it has grown and an ever-increasing number of organizations, often of very different nature, have joined the process bringing their perspectives, experiences and knowledge to advance the dialogue on the role of LED in fighting poverty and inequality and creating economic opportunities and prosperity for all.

WFLED organizers have expressed their commitment to consolidating and institutionalizing the Forum as a more permanent and inclusive platform for continued dialogue and cooperation between LED stakeholders. Furthermore, an increasing number of partners have expressed the intention to play a more active role in the Forum's process, leading one or more sessions or thematic lines and/or supporting the translation of the Forum's conclusions into concrete LED initiatives. To facilitate the contribution of all relevant institutions, new WFLED governance mechanisms will be introduced with a view to the celebration of the 4th edition of the Forum, to strengthen the inclusive nature of the process and its responsiveness to the various inputs and contributions of interested international and territorial actors.

In particular, the main WFLED **Executive Committee** comprised of FAMSI, ILO, the Municipality and Province of Turin, ORU FOGAR, SEBRAE, UCLG, and the UNDP will be supported by a wider alliance of interested partners. These partners will be invited to share proposals on the Forum's technical contents and conceptual frameworks, and to take part in the organi-

zation of the preparatory meetings of the 4th WFLED. Moreover, beyond the specific context of the 4th WFLED, Forum partners will be encouraged to build on their capacities and partners' network to identify, promote and facilitate the landing of the Forum's process and recommendations into regional, national and local LED initiatives and joint projects.

Furthermore, and in line with the custom of engaging academic and research institutions in the WFLED process, a **Scientific Committee** will be reinstated to orient and guide contents assuring academic excellence in the process towards the next edition of the Forum, and consolidate and systematize its outcomes. The Scientific Committee will encourage discussion, debate and consideration of a wide variety of views and opinions in relation to the LED approach, and oversee the involvement of the academic sector within the Forum, steering a debate on the role of Universities in promoting LED. Moreover, the Scientific Committee will support the forming of an alliance of universities and research institutes focusing on LED as a means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to further the debate and provide a real role and concrete opportunities within development initiatives in selected countries.

Toward the 4th WFLED

The government of Cape Verde has expressed its keen interest in hosting the 4th edition of the WFLED, which will take place in 2017. The proposal was welcome by the various partners who praised the strong participation and engagement of African countries, regions and territories during the 3rd WFLED.

To lead the process and ensure a smooth journey towards the 4th edition of the WFLED, organizing partners and the host country agreed on key joint priorities and collaborative initiatives in the form of a concrete roadmap. The aim of the roadmap is to stimulate dialogues on LED as means to implement the new SDGs and publicize the Forum, through regional preparatory events as well as thematic side events, as a platform that can present further the relevance of LED in the context of the 2030 Agenda. A provisional list of the several preparatory events includes: the VII Summit of Regional Governments (14-15 April 2016, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil); the CLGF Regional Conference, presenting LED as a framework to localize the SDGs (28-29 June 2016, Johannesburg, South Africa); the 5th UCLG Congress World summit of local and regional leaders (12-15 October 2016, Bogota, Colombia); and Habitat III (17-20 October 2016, Quito, Ecuador).

Additionally, the Regional Forum on Local Economic Development for Latin America and the Caribbean is planned to take place on March 2017, in Cochabamba, Bolivia. Such regional Forum will aim to present and discuss the regional experience and perspective on the role of LED in the SDGs implementation, with a specific the-

matic focus that will be further defined in the preparatory phase of the event based on the priorities expressed by the host country and shared by the organizing partners. Such a regional perspective will subsequently be consolidated and shared later in 2017 during the 4th WFLED.

Organizing partners have also launched an inclusive process to define the strategic and thematic lines of the Forum, and facilitate its organization. Accordingly, all interested organizations and individuals keen on knowing more and actively contributing to the organization of the 4th WFLED are invited to join the process to reach out to the organizers using the following options:

Website: www.ledworldforum.org

Facebook: facebook.com/worldforumonLED

Twitter: [@WorldLEDForum](https://twitter.com/WorldLEDForum)

Annexes

Annex 1

List of The Sustainable Development Goals

Goal 1

Poverty End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Goal 2

Hunger and Food Security End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Goal 3

Good Health and Well-Being Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Goal 4

Education Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Goal 5

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Goal 6

Water and Sanitation Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Goal 7

Energy Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and clean energy for all

Goal 8

Economic Growth Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Goal 9**Infrastructure,
Industrialization**

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Goal 10**Inequality**

Reduce inequality within and among countries

Goal 11**Cities**

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Goal 12**Sustainable
Consumption
and Production**

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Goal 13**Climate Change**

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Goal 14**Oceans**

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Goal 15**Biodiversity,
Forests,
Deforestation**

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Goal 16**Peace and Justice**

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Goal 17**Partnerships**

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Annex 2

The 3rd WFLED list of actively contributing institutions and entities

International Organizations and Development Agencies

European Commission, European Union

Inter-American Development Bank (IADB)

Multilateral Investment Fund (FOMIN)

Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMDI)

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

The World Bank

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

French Agency for Development (AFD)

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme UN-Habitat

Africa Union-Economic, Social and Cultural Council (AU-ECOSOCC)

UN Capital Development Fund

International Economic Development Council (IEDC)

Association for International Development Cooperation (Coopermondo), Italy

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

European Association for Local Democracy (ALDA)

National Development Agency, Uruguay

The Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF)

INTERREG IV - Interregional Cooperation, European Union

The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA)

The Global Fund for Cities Development (FMDV)

National Governments

Ministry of Local Government, Uganda

Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, Botswana

Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, Ghana

Ministry of Development, Turkey

Ministry of Land, Environment and Rural Development, Mozambique

Ministry of Development, Male

Ministry of Local Development, Palestine

Ministry of State administration and Public Service, Mozambique

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Italy

Delegate for External Action of Local Authorities, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, France

Ministry of Economy and Planning, Cuba

Ministry of Economy and Trade, Lebanon

Ministry of Interior and Decentralization (MIDEC), Mauritania

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Francophonie, Equatorial Guinea

Ministry of Social Development, Uruguay

Ministry of Agriculture, Italy

National Secretary for Planning and Development (SENPLADES), Ecuador

Government of the British Virgin Islands

Ministère de la Décentralisation et Affaires Coutumières, Nepal

Department for Social Prosperity (DPS), Colombia

Private Sector & Foundations, NGO's, and other

ITAIPU Binacional, Paraguay

ASSIFERO- Associazione Italiana Fondazioni ed Enti di Erogazione

Arcobaleno Cooperativa Sociale, Italy

European Confederation of Junior Enterprises (JADE)

Fondo Provinciale Milanese per la Cooperazione Internazionale

Dutch Association of Foundations

European Venture Philanthropy Association (EVPA)

Global Fund of Community Foundations (GFCF)

Compagnia di San Paolo, Italy

CARIPOLO Foundation, Italy

Jordan Enterprise Development Corporation (JEDCO), Jordan

Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production, Germany

Orkestra, Basque Institute of Competitiveness

European Training Foundation (ETF)

Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio Torino (CRT), Italy.

Fédération Ivoirienne des PME (FIPME), Ivory Coast

International Centre for Telework Development (CIDTT), Ecuador

Young Foundation, United Kingdom

Local and Regional Governments & their associations

Prefeitura Municipal de Campo Grande, Brazil

Association des Municipalités du Burkina Faso (CADEL), Burkina Faso

Asialink Municipality, China

Uasin Gishu County, Kenya

Regionale Caritas Piemonte-Valle d'Aosta, Italy

Municipality of Seoul, South Korea

Municipality of Turin, Italy

Regional Council of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, France

Union of Brazilian Municipalities (CNM), Brazil.

Regional Government of Piedmont, Italy

Governor of Meta, Colombia

Provincial Prefect of Carchi, Ecuador

Botswana Association of Local Authorities (BALA), Botswana

Aude Department, France

Regional Government of Valencia, Spain

Iberoamerican Union of Municipal Leaders (UIM)

Emilia Romagna Valorizzazione Economica Territorio (ERVET), Italy

Mayor, Cebu, Philippines

Mayor, Huelva, Spain

Matola Municipality, Mozambique

Joal-Fadiouth Municipality, Senegal

Municipal de Campo Grande, Brazil

Gestión Municipal, Perú

Municipalidad de Mocoreta, Argentina

Nyamira County, Kenya

Municipio de Daule, Ecuador

La Municipalidad de Morón, Argentina

Commune de Louga, Senegal

Gobierno Autonomo Descentralizado de Ibarra, Ecuador

Pokhara Sub-Metropolitan, Nepal

Douala 5 Municipality, Cameroun

Ogun State, Nigeria

Orhionmwon Local Government Council, Nigeria

Regional Council of Champagne-Ardenne, France

Nyeri Country, Kenya

Province of Antioquia, Colombia

City of Jo'burg, South Africa

City of Sao Paulo - Brazil

Municipality of Chefchaouen, Morocco

Prefeitura Municipal de Campo Grande, Brazil

Municipality of Vinces, Ecuador

Strasbourg Municipality, France

Nilufer Municipality, Turkey

Federation of Canadian Municipalities delegation (FCM)

Maputo City Municipality, Mozambique

Municipality of Gjakova, Kosovo

Municipality of Maricá, Brazil

Volgograd municipality, Russia

Hefei Municipality, China

Tbilisi Municipality, Georgia

City of Pisa, Italy

Local government of La Paz, Bolivia

Surabaya city council, Indonesia

Lipjan Municipality, Albania

Basque Government, Spain

The community of municipalities of the Urola Kosta, Spain

Beit Sahour, Palestine

Beit Jala Municipality, Palestine

Bucharest Municipality, Romania

City of Kragujevac delegation, Serbia

Bethlehem Municipality, Palestine

Gobierno Provincial del Azuay, Ecuador

Council of Governors, Kenya

Consejo de Gobernadores, Paraguay

Congreso de Intendentes, Uruguay

Association des Regions de France

Gobierno de la Provincia de Santa Fe, Argentina

Generalitat de Catalunya, Spain

Gobernacion Departamento de Amambay, Paraguay

Gobernacion Departamento Central, Paraguay

Departamento de Rivera, Uruguay

Universities & Research centers

Higher Institute on Territorial Systems of Innovation (SiTI), Italy

Unión de Universidades de América Latina y el Caribe (UDUAL)

Latin American Center for Rural Development (RIMISP)

Universidad Nacional de Quilmes, Argentina

Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Nicaragua, Managua (UNAN-Managua)

Universidad de la República del Uruguay

Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Argentina

Universidad de La Habana, Cuba

Universidad Nacional de Villarrica del Espíritu Santo (UNVES), Paraguay

Universidad Nacional de Colombia, sede Medellín, Colombia

University of Turin, Italy

European Research Institute on Cooperative and Social Enterprises (EURICSE)

Università di Torino Scienze Internazionali dello Sviluppo e la Cooperazione, Italy

University of Pinar del Rio, Cuba

Center for Biotechnology Policy, Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey (TEPAV), Turkey

ISGlobal Barcelona Institute for Global Health, Spain

Technological Laboratory of Uruguay (LATU), Uruguay

University of Pretoria, South Africa

University of Florence, Italy

Politecnico di Torino, Italy

University of Milan, Italy

Local Economic Development Agencies, network, and cooperatives

European Association of Regional Development Agencies (EURADA)

Agency for Economic Development of the City of Córdoba (ADEC), Argentina

Basque Association of Development Agencies (GARAPEN), Spain

Serhat Development Agency, Turkey

Middle Black Sea Development Agency, Turkey

Corporación de Desarrollo Económico y Competitivo de la Provincia de Bolívar (CODECOB), Ecuador

UGGASA Local development agency, Spain

AULEDA Local Economic Development Agency, Albania

ILS LEDA Programme (International Links and Services for Local Economic Development Agencies)

Le Fonds Spécial d'Équipement et d'Intervention Intercommunale (FEICOM), Cameroon

Red de Desarrollo Territorial A. Latina y Caribe (red DETE-ALC)

Conselho de Desenvolvimento Econômico e Social de Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil

Annex 3

The 3rd World Forum on Local Economic Development Agenda

Thematic line 1	Regional Competitiveness and Innovation for more Sustainable and Inclusive Development
Thematic line 2	Localizing Employment Generation. Towards Local Inclusive Growth, Decent work and Green Jobs
Thematic line 3	Implementing Sustainable Urban Development. LED strategies for creating positive urban-rural linkages

Time	Tuesday, 13th October
13h00 16h00	Registration of participants
16h30 18h30	Opening ceremony

Time	Wednesday, 14th October	Thursday, 15th October	Friday, 16th October
Morning sessions			
09h00 10h45	Plenary session: Local Economic Development - an effective approach to reduce inequality? Can LED strategies promote a more equitable distribution of income, wealth and access to opportunities and resources?	Plenary session: A new universal agenda for development. How can LED become the means to implement Post-2015 Development Agenda at the local level?	Plenary session: Cooperating to advance the new post-2015 development agenda: challenges and opportunities for local economic development
11h15 13h00	<p>Panel: Possible catalysts of innovation and competitiveness in territories</p> <p>Panel: South-south and triangular cooperation, including city to city and other territorial approaches to reinforce local governments capacities to localize decent work</p> <p>Panel: Covenant of Bio Cities Mayors: Towards achieving cities sustainable goals</p> <p>Panel: Sustainable development strategies for promoting urban-rural linkages in agro-food systems</p>	<p>Panel: The role of Social and Solidarity Economy in employment generation</p> <p>Panel: Key policies to encourage innovation. How the institutional setting has to be formulated to encourage innovation?</p> <p>Panel: Food and nutrition security and sovereignty for cities and regions</p> <p>Panel: Social Innovation and creative answers to urban challenges</p>	<p>Panel: Employment generation for youth</p> <p>Panel: LED strategies as basis for transformation. Economy of solidarity</p> <p>Panel: How to promote innovation ensuring environmental sustainability (eco-innovation)</p> <p>Panel: Governance for feasible and sustainable LED policies</p>

Time	Wednesday, 14th October	Thursday, 15th October	Friday, 16th October
11h15 12h15	<p>Workshop: Innovation as an economic driver. Energy-driven entrepreneurial activities based upon risk and revenue sharing: RENEP and HITEC Projects</p> <p>Workshop: Social and environmental sustainability: an indivisible binomial. The value of International standards and certifications for the development of enterprises</p>	<p>Workshop: Social Innovation: The case of "Cartoneros"</p>	<p>Workshop: Entrepreneurial communities: leading change through skills development and job creation</p> <p>Workshop: Financial education and remittances for local development</p>
Afternoon sessions			
12h30 13h30	<p>Workshop: Food smart cities: How can the right to food influence the local urban food policies?</p>	<p>Workshop: DEAR: Cities for education: education for development as a tool for sustainable strategies in Local Economic Development</p>	
12h30 14h30	<p>Workshop: INNO-Futures: What possible futures for territorial development and innovation policy?</p>	<p>Workshop: Local Governments as Drivers for Change – Localizing the SDGs implementation through the LED approach – The Eastern Partnership (EaP) experience</p>	
13h00 14h30	<p>Panel: Migration and development</p> <p>Workshop: Innovative policies to promote regional competitiveness</p> <p>Workshop: The role of international cooperation within the new models of local development. The challenges of the Territories.</p>	<p>Workshop: Local economic development as a strategy for peacebuilding and conflict transformation</p> <p>Workshop: Localizing the decent work agenda through city to city and development cooperation</p>	
14h30 16h15	<p>Panel: Private sector action for local economic development: opportunities and challenges</p> <p>Panel: Creating and Mobilizing Wealth, Producing Sense, Building Future: Re-localizing economy and finance for local sustainable development</p> <p>Panel: Creativity, innovation and sustainability: understanding and enhancing urban-rural linkages through a territorial development with cultural identity</p>	<p>Panel: Systems of Innovation: regional and national Systems of Innovation</p> <p>Panel: The role of foundations as drivers for generating innovation</p> <p>Panel: Public space as a catalyst for LED</p>	

Time	Wednesday, 14th October	Thursday, 15th October	Friday, 16th October
	<p>Panel: Territorial Partnerships: promoting innovation within the new universal agenda</p> <p>Workshop: Urban Metabolism and Local Economic Development</p> <p>Workshop: Regional Innovation Strategies (RIS). Based on the current experiences, debate on the regional strategies that can promote innovation among regional development experts</p>	<p>Panel: Is migration an opportunity of development? Enabling employment mobility between local labor markets: networking capacities and enhancing opportunities</p> <p>Workshop: Linking universities to local development processes. Evaluate the role of universities in advancing and promoting LED processes</p> <p>Workshop: The role of micro and small enterprises in the generation and distribution of income</p>	
15h45 16h45	<p>Workshop: Decentralized Cooperation and Local Governance of Water</p> <p>Workshop: Gender equality and economic empowerment of women in the territories</p>	<p>Workshop: LED Network of Cities as the Alternative to policies based on Trade Agreements like TTIP</p> <p>Workshop: Opportunities and Challenges for the construction of networks for LED in Latin America</p>	
16h30 18h15	<p>Panel: From food as a good to food as a right: the role of Cities, Metropolis and local Authorities for a new Ethic of local development. New possible scenarios and proposal to Public Institutions</p> <p>Panel: Economic actors and their adding value to the local economy</p> <p>Panel: Sustainable competitiveness and territorial policies</p> <p>Panel: Inclusive Innovation. What types of innovation are inclusive and how does inclusiveness work?</p>	<p>Panel: Comprehensive territorial cooperation: an opportunity for local development</p> <p>Panel: Smart strategies for regional long-term and sustainable entrepreneurial activities</p> <p>Panel: Making green jobs a reality: working in partnership for green economy strategies</p> <p>Panel: Available food, reliable energy, livable homelands.</p>	
17h00 18h15	<p>Workshop: The francophone experience in supporting local economic development</p> <p>Workshop: Social farming, Bio-agriculture and LED</p>	<p>Workshop: Decentralised cooperation for sustainable development of local agrifood systems</p>	
18h30 20h00	<p>Workshop: LED in Africa: Status, Challenges and Prospects</p>	<p>Workshop: Development challenges for African cities: populations, economies, cultures</p>	

Annex 4

The final declaration of the 3rd World Forum of Local Economic Development

The World Forum of Local Economic Development (LED) is part of a long-standing process that has been consolidating a global alliance for enhancing the policy debate and a shared vision on LED, deploying synergies and instruments to operationalize it as effective means to achieve sustainable development.

This 3rd edition of the Forum came at a very crucial moment – as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including a set of new global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - has been officially launched in September 2015.

The new agenda stresses the importance of 'building strong economic foundations for all countries,' through 'sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth [...], 'dynamic innovative and people-centred economies, promoting equal access to income, 'full and productive employment and decent work for all'.

LED has gone a long way through a path of experiencing and testing approaches and practices in a multiplicity of contexts. LED constitutes today a consolidated set of diverse and widely applied practices and tools, directed at enlarging equal opportunities for income and decent work through improved economic governance based on strategically planned and locally driven partnership processes.

Local economic systems are more and more

interconnected and globally integrated.

There is an urgent need to develop and adopt comprehensive approaches and tools to address the conditions upon which they thrive or decline. This entails dealing with increasingly complex, multidimensional and transversal dynamics, and alternative models for the sustainable mobilization and use of scarce resources on a 'more with less' basis.

The Forum has discussed and reaffirmed the strong relevance of LED as a people-centred and territorial response to major global trends and challenges, including growing inequalities, widespread unemployment, and increasing pressure on natural resources.

In order to address such challenges, the SDGs are designed as integrated and indivisible, and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social, and environmental). Moreover, the SDGs are universally applicable, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities.



A key challenge associated to the SDGs is the definition of effective means for their implementation. This requires a renewed global partnership bringing together development partners, governments, the private sector, civil society, and the mobilization of adequate resources and capacities.

The local level is where people live and express their needs and aspirations. The SDGs become 'real' and have an impact on people's life when they are 'embodied' in territorial settings. The localization of the SDGs constitutes therefore a recognized priority for their effective implementation. This requires in turn conducive, well-coordinated policy frameworks and open, inclusive governance systems. Local and regional governments (LRGs) can play a crucial catalytic role as initiators and drivers of effective LED processes, building ownership and consensus on the development potential of the territory, promoting wide partnership arrangements and facilitating coordinated action and synergies.

LED is fully rooted in the specificity of territorial contexts, and driven by the joint vision and interaction of a diversity of local actors. As such, it offers a comprehensive framework for 'integrating' and 'localizing' the SDGs, leveraging and materializing the new global partnership in the form of organized communities joining

forces to find local solutions for global challenges and achieve related universal goals.

The Forum therefore recognizes and values the LED approach as a valid means for the effective and sustainable implementation of the SDGs at the local level.

LED sets to achieve more inclusive, equitable and environmentally sustainable development outcomes, through dialogue and direct engagement of local stakeholders, horizontal and vertical policy coherence, integrated planning frameworks. Small businesses in particular do play a fundamental role in income and employment generation at the local level thus strengthening territorial competitiveness while promoting a more equal access to economic opportunities.

Moreover, fostering participation, decent jobs creation and the economic empowerment of women, youth, and vulnerable groups, LED contributes to social trust and cohesion, building societies that are more stable and resilient to growingly complex and widespread crisis scenarios, contributing to conflict prevention and bridging transition from humanitarian response to peacebuilding and sustainable development.

For further enhancing and enforcing the potential of LED in the implementation of the SDGs at the local level, the Forum calls and urges supranational and international organizations, global networks and associations, national and subnational governments, civil society as well as the scientific community, the private sector and foundations to join forces in their respective functions and capacities, in order to:



1. *Continue and intensify their policy dialogue and global partnership building efforts in order to further positioning LED as a valuable paradigm for the successful implementation of the 2030 agenda.*
2. *Further harmonize and join their actions and initiatives in support to LED capacities and processes at sub-national, national and regional level, aligning them with national and subnational policy and planning frameworks.*
3. *Promote LED as a specific approach for enabling the localization of the SDGs through strengthened regional and territorial cooperation frameworks.*
4. *Introduce conducive policy frameworks for effective LED systems at national and subnational levels, including multi-level governance and planning frameworks integrating LED competencies and functions at different levels.*
5. *Further recognize and enhance the pivotal role of Local and Regional Governments (LRG) and their associations in promoting and driving effective LED processes, strengthening their mandate and ensuring that they dispose of the adequate capacities and resources to fulfil it.*
6. *Support sustainable entrepreneurship development at the local level, improving the business environment, strengthening and empowering civil society and business networks, providing policy support and incentives to formalization and access to quality financial and non-financial services.*
7. *Foster urban-rural integration, specifically acknowledging and reinforcing the crucial role of cities and in particular intermediate cities in driving sustainable production, marketing and consumption patterns in synergy with rural areas.*
8. *Explore and pursue alternative and more sustainable resources mobilization mechanisms, through innovative and inclusive financial mechanisms, knowledge sharing and technology transfer platforms.*
9. *Promote effective and responsive capacity building systems, strengthening peer-to-peer learning mechanisms and better reflecting the specific needs, vocations and values of local communities and territories.*
10. *Promote stronger and innovative public-private partnerships as basis for an inclusive and environmentally sound economic development. This entails engaging 'new' economic actors like foundations, social entrepreneurs, informal economy actors, and tools such as the social and solidarity economy (SSE), corporate social responsibility (CSR), migration and development schemes.*
11. *Introduce and implement comprehensive data collection and monitoring systems at the subnational level, including LED-specific sets of targets and indicators, as a way of fostering more responsive and accountable management systems.*

Moreover, in order to ensure the appropriate follow-up to the Forum conclusions and achievements, and translate them into concrete measures for joint action, the participants to the Forum renew their commitment and collectively pledge to carry forward their cooperation, with a view at:

- Continuing dialogue and joint advocacy for LED as effective means to implement the SDGs, fostering the direct and active engagement of different relevant actors, in cooperation with international organisations and national governments.*
- Exploring options to consolidate and institutionalize the Forum as a permanent tool for continued dialogue and cooperation between LED stakeholders.*
- Promoting and developing further agreements for concrete synergies and cooperation in the territories - and between territories including South-South and triangular cooperation frameworks, facilitating and coordinating efforts ensuing from the Forum, and facilitating the continuation of dialogue among interested parties and its translation into concrete options for joint initiatives.*
- Support and combine capacity building sources and initiatives for LED, including the possible establishment of ad-hoc mechanisms for global knowledge management and brokering as global/ regional and/or thematic platforms for knowledge sharing and dissemination.*



Torino, 16 October 2015





3rd World Forum of
Local Economic Development

OCTOBER 13 - 16
TORINO 2015