

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
between
the UNITED NATION OFFICE FOR PROJECT SERVICES
and
the EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES

This “Memorandum of Understanding” is signed by the parties concerned, namely:

- The United Nations Office for Projects Services (hereafter “UNOPS”), based in Copenhagen, here represented by Mr Bernhard Schlachter, as Director of the Switzerland Operations Centre in Geneva (hereafter UNOPS/Geneva);
- And the European Association of the Development Agencies (hereafter EURADA), based in Bruxelles, Belgium, represented by its Director Christian Saublens.

Hereinafter, UNOPS and EURADA shall be collectively referred to as “Signatories”.

WHEREAS

- UNOPS/Geneva has established and manage the ILS LEDA Program that supports about 60 Local Economic Development Agencies (LEDAs), with the aim of catalyzing projects and business opportunities as well as opportunities for the internationalization of the local economies. The 60 local economic development agencies are present in the Balkans (Serbia, Albania, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina), Sub-Saharan Africa (South Africa, Mozambique and Angola), Southern and Central America (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Uruguay, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, and Nicaragua), the Caribbean (Dominican Republic), and Asia (Sri Lanka, Lebanon)
- ILS LEDA provides also several kinds of services, such as support to national policies for local economic development, training for LED operators, establishment of LEDAs, implementation of territorial strategies for LED, promotion of international partnerships. to various UN agencies, such UNDP, ILO, UNIFEM, and particularly to the UNDP ART (Support to Territorial Network) Programs, operating in Latin America, Africa, Eastern Europe, and Asia.
- LEDAs are self-sustained, non-profit structures with legal personality and functional autonomy. They have participation from local stakeholders from both the public sector (local administrations, decentralized arms of the national Government) and the private sphere (associations, chambers of commerce, trade unions, producers’ organizations, banks), which agree on strategies, instruments and initiatives aimed at developing the economy of the territory. They have access to links with national and international partners and networks, allowing the local economy to make the best use of the globalization opportunities. They offer services to entrepreneurs and institutions in areas such as information, entrepreneurship promotion, technical assistance for the creation of micro, small and medium enterprises, for start-up and development, special credit for investment, project financing, economic development planning and monitoring, territorial marketing. In this way, they function as a weapon against poverty: they facilitate the inclusion of the poor into the economic circuit by providing the resources they lack, combating in such a way a traditional model of economic

development that assigns the task and privilege of producing wealth to only a segment of the population.

- UNOPS, during 2008, launched the KIP (Knowledge, Innovation and Policies for Human Development) initiative that utilises the knowledge accumulated by programs of various United Nations agencies during the last twenty years. The KIP initiative associates several U.N. Agencies, such as ILO, UNIFEM, UNEP, WHO and UNV, and operates also through Strategic Projects in collaboration with National Governments, local actors and development entities of the interested countries. The aim of these projects is promoting and consolidating human development knowledge and the methodologies based on a territorial comprehensive, and participatory approach, and open to international network opportunities.
- In the framework of the KIP Initiative, a Scientific Committee for human development cooperation, chaired by Edgar Morin, coordinates the establishment of a International School for Human Development and International Cooperation . The Scientific Committee is in contact with the United Nations and national research and training centers, and it is linked to an international network of high personalities in the field of science, culture, and international cooperation.
- UNOPS established a specific *Trust Fund for Knowledge, Innovation and Policies for Territorial Development*, which allows receiving contributions directly from donors in order to realize the activities of the KIP Initiative, in collaboration with the UN Agencies and donors involved.
- UNOPS works in close collaboration with UNDP to realize in different countries the framework-programs ART GOLD (Governance and Local Development), aimed at promoting democratic governance, human development, and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. In this framework, UNOPS is providing international support with particular reference to local economic development, through the ILS LEDA Program, the promotion of a greater use of innovations for human development through south-south and south-north cooperation projects, through the IDEASS Program; the university partnership, through the UNIVERSITAS Program, and the decentralized cooperation with local administrations, through the SPI Program.
- EURADA's activity programme encompasses the following: the exchange of information on the regional development strategies, the assistance to enterprises and the training of development agency executives; the analysis of Community Policy impact; the development of cooperation projects between different development agencies; the promotion of innovative and transferable techniques in the field of local and regional economic development; the dissemination of relevant information insofar as that concerns Community policies as much as best practice; a relevant form open to new forms of know-how exchange between development agencies.
- ILS LEDA and EURADA have been collaborating since ten years in the promotion of local economic development, and Local Economic Development Agencies, as instruments of fair, inclusive, and ecologic development, and in the implementation of strategies for fighting against poverty.
- European Union, as well as other donors, promotes partnerships among the “Southern” and “Northern” territorial economic actors for the formulation and execution of projects of mutual interest, which may involve the European LEDAs associated to Eurada, and LEDAs associated to ILS LEDA, thanks to their specific missions.

The Signatories recognize that each have the mandate to sign this act and

DECLARE THAT:

- I. EURADA intends to work with UNOPS and other UN agencies, in the framework of a KIP strategic project, to promote and strengthen partnerships between the Development Agencies (DA) associated to Eurada and the Local Economic Development agencies (LEDA) associated into ILS LEDA as an important element in policies to reduce poverty and .
- II. EURADA and UNOPS recognize a mutual interest in shaping long-term cooperation towards human development, the importance of international partnerships between local development actors to strengthen the internationalization of territorial development, increasing and enhancing opportunities for different social and economic actors to establish economic, scientific, technological, and commercial relations, training and solidarity.
- III. The Signatories pursue the same objectives and intend to cooperate in areas of common interest, to increase the effectiveness of their efforts to promote sustainable development.
- IV. The Signatories to this "Memorandum of Understanding" wish to establish stable forms of cooperation.

**BY SIGNING THIS DOCUMENT,
the signatories agree to cooperate in accordance with the following conditions:**

**Article I
Object**

1. To constitute a special section of EURADA, dedicated to the promotion of partnerships between the Development Agencies (DA) associated to Eurada and the Local Economic Development agencies (LEDA) associated into ILS LEDA, and to provide quality services to the partners.
2. Provide technical assistance in identifying and elaborating joint DA-LEDA Projects that can use different source of finance: European Union, National Programs, United Nations, World Bank and regional banks, etc.
3. Design and implement a certifying label for DA's and LEDA's, which comply with specific characteristics and targets, allowing them a better international recognizability, and improving the possibility to access to European and other funds, through partnership with other important international organizations, such as OECD, European Union, etc.
4. Realize a joint effort for diffusing concepts and methodologies for territorial economic development, also through the International School for Human Development.

5. To carry out a joint activity for raising funds aimed at the sustainability of the 'Operational Office EURADA-ILS LEDA, and at providing the technical assistance needed for the establishment of the above mentioned partnerships to the LEDAs and the DAs.
6. To pursue the aforementioned objectives through:
 - i. installing the special EURADA-ILS LEDA desk at the EURADA office in Bruxelles, with a joint technical staff.
 - ii. sensitizing the EURADA DAs and the ILS LEDA LEDAs to realize partnerships and twinning;
 - iii. promoting links between the aforementioned Agencies, finalized to establish joint initiatives and projects, or technological or commercial relationships, and to scout the financial opportunities for realizing them;
 - iv. providing technical assistance to DAs and LEDAs for the certifying label, particularly to the ones which do not qualify at the first step. This assistance will be carried out through a distant support and, when possible, direct aid.
 - v. organizing awards for the best Das and LEDAs initiatives in the field of human development, to be given during the annual EURADA assembly;
 - vi. stimulating the aforementioned DAs and LEDAs to enhance innovations for human development, to be included in the IDEASS Program;
 - vii. facilitating the Agencies associated to EURADA in supporting the UN international cooperation program, where ILS LEDA participates, through technical assistance and training, also through promoting decentralized cooperation projects.
7. EURADA will participate in the Scientific Committee initiatives with the aim of contributing to the diffusion of the human development and the United Nations MDG objectives;
8. ILS LEDA will participate in the EURADA working groups, such as Agorada organized in Spring and Fall of each year, the CEEC Congress targeting any interested organizations acting in the field of economic development in Central and Eastern Europe. EURADA will inform ILS LEDA of relevant events to be organized by strategic partners.

Management

The Program will be carried out through a joint responsibility of EURADA and ILS LEDA, which will designate a responsible and a Joint Program Team (JPT).

The Operational Office will be based at the EURADA facilities in Brussels, and the operational activities will be carried out through the JPT.

Its activities will be realized according to annual working plan, jointly approved by the partners.

The funds for supporting the annual plans will come from joint fund raising.

Contributions

EURADA will provide:

- office facilities
- the expertise to design and implement projects of common interest
- the proper staff for the JPT
- the relationships with the associated RDA

- the relationships with the potential financial sponsors for the RDA-LEDA twinning and projects jointly defined

UNOPS will contribute with:

- The official relationships with the UN Headquarters' and the country's offices
- The relationships with the international donors, which UNOPS currently cooperates with
- the expertise of the ILS-LEDA network experts
- the relationships with the LEDAs
- the proper staff for the JPT
- the organic relationships with the International School for Human Development.

Article VIII Entry into force

This "Memorandum of Understanding" shall be signed in multiple copies, each of which shall be regarded as original and shall all together constitute a single document taking effect from the date on which it is signed by the Signatories.

AS TESTIMONY OF THE CONFORMITY OF THE FOREGOING, the duly authorized representatives of the signatories sign:

November 2009

For EURADA:

CHRISTIAN SAUBLENS
Director of EURADA



RENATO GALLIANO
President of EURADA

For UNOPS:



BERNHARD SCHLACHTER
Director, Switzerland Operations Centre, Geneva