



AULEDA (LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF VLORA ALBANIA)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Date of establishment: 1993

Territory: Vlora Region (South West of Albania) has an extension 2706 km², and a population of 343,000 inhabitants. The territory consists of a natural and uncontaminated ecosystem, rich of forests, crystal streams and springs, thermal springs, rivers, beautiful beaches, marine protected areas, historical, archaeological, and cultural heritage

Members: Public sector (regional Councils, Prefecture, Municipality of Vlora, local administrations, centre of research, university), private sector (associations of enterprises, farmers, chamber of commerce, university, cultural foundation), sector social (association of NGOS, micro-finance foundation, women federation, young people movement).

Main objectives: To have a strong impact on territorial development from an employment, social economic, and environmental point of view, through facilitating the definition and implementation of territorial development strategies of the department, with a view to competitive, equitable and sustainable development, based on its potential and using a value chain approach.

IMPACTS

Economic Impact

In the last 5 years, the Leda created more than 220 employers, has created more than 25 new SME-s, 15 of them financially supported, have provided direct technical assistance to 350 SME-s, created 5 value chains (medicinal herbs, wool handcraft, olive oil, dairy, wine and viticulture) and supported 8 value chains that have been prioritised for regional development, has formed professionally 1800 new professional skills in Vlora, Gjirokastra and Berat Region.

Strategic Impact

The LEDA is a territorial leader structure for coordinating and leading strategic plans at the municipal and regional level, executing them partially or totally, and facilitating the coordination of the various actions and projects. THE LEDA have supported and collaborated in development of Strategic Plan of Vlora Region 2010-2020, Strategic Plan of LAG (Local Action Group) Adrion, Ecological management Plan for Vlora, Gjirokastra and Natyral Park of Prespa, Monitoring Plan for Vlora Marine Protected area.

Environmental Impact.

The LEDA improved the biological farming of vegetables, viticulture, fruits, olives, fruits, milk and meat; supported the reforestation process, improving the green areas, creating innovative satellite monitoring systems of environment in Vlora, Gjirokastra and National Park of Prespa and built environmental awareness for 25,000 people of Vlora Region. The LEDA has created the first alarm system for fire protection using ICT tools and software platforms. The LEDA has



developed Ecological Management Plan for fire risk protection, floods, earthquakes and marine protected areas disasters for National Natural Parks of Prespa, LLogara, Vjosa River, Vlora Bay Marine Protected Area. The LEDA is part of ADRIA PAN and MED PAN, Marine Protected Areas Network in Adriatic and Mediterranean Sea.

Social Impact

The LEDA supported the deinstitutionalization and reintegration in the community for 50 mental health patients, 50% of them women, (providing them professional skills in green economy, supporting the marketing strategy, and generating incomes. The LEDA have created 5 social enterprises for medicinal herbs in Lumi Vlores area, social enterprise for wool handcraft production in Hore Vranisht Commune, Social enterprise for olive paste production in Novosela Commune, Social enterprise of roma and Egyptian community for recycling, social enterprise for catering services of mental health patients in Vlora. The LEDA has supported 20 roma and Egyptian young people in professional training skills and business plans implementation creating 20 start up SME-s. The LEDA has trained and include in the labor market based on coach for employment methodology 187 young people from 16-35 years old from roma and Egyptian minorities in Vlora and Berat city. The LEDA has trained 3500 people (1570 of them women) in professional figures and other skills training (prepare the CV, job market analysing, business plan preparation, business management etc.)

Financial Impact

The LEDA established in 2005 a Guarantee Fund, in agreement with a local financial institution, which has a capital of 253,000 USD, and is able to provide credit up 100,000 USD mainly to people who cannot dispose of collaterals. Through the Guarantee Fund the LEDA facilitated the access to credit for 15 micro and small enterprises for an amount of 155,566 USD ad a return rate of 100%, in the sectors of farming, dairy, livestock, fruit trees, and tailoring.

National Impact

The LEDA Established partnerships with the national Government with Ministry of Innovation and Public Administration for implementing the Open Government Partnership National Strategy (OGP) (public and private partnership) as member of National Coalition for Open Government Partnership. The LEDA is part of National Working Group for the new national Strategy of tourism and new Low of tourism taking part and moderate workshops and round tables of discussions with interest groups. The LEDA is actively part of discussions and suggestions for the Minister of State about the Administrative Reform. THE LEDA there is part of National Group established in the Ministry of Education and Sports for the methodology of evaluation based on competences, group that is leding from Deputy Minister Mrs. Nora Malaj.

Institutional Impact

The LEDA created in 2009 the Mental Health Community centre and protected houses for Mental Health Patients; on 2014 the LEDA has created the Centre for Innovation, Research and Transferring the Technology. (SMART INNO Centre, The LEDA is part of Citizens Municipal Council of Vlore and gives the contribution as part of civil society in budgeting process, defining the municipal priorities for investments and social services. The LEDA has installed the WIFI system in the city centre of Vlora, offering services and information for the citizens and tourists. THE LEDA has signed different memorandums of collaboration for strengthening capacities of municipalities, communes and Regional Council of Vlora.

OTHER

Projects

In the last 5 years, thanks to the cooperation of more than 10 national and international organizations (European Union, United Nations Development Program, SWISS Cooperation, Regional Environmental Centre REC, Italian Cooperation, USAID etc.), the LEDA has executed 15 projects, for an amount of 2 millions Euro, for supporting the development of olive oil, beekeeping, medicinal herbs, fruit, milk, and tourism value chains, monitoring the environment, improving reforestation, promoting cooperatives and social enterprises, realizing territorial marketing, creating a innovation transfer



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centre, improving the public services through the use of ICT tools, improving teaching methods education and evaluations, increasing research and innovation for SME-s, marketing and promotion solution for handcraft producers.

Networking

The LEDA is part of the national network OGP (Open Government Partnership), international network of ILSLEDA, ADRIAPAN (network for Marine protected areas in Adriatic), MED PAN (network for Marine protected areas in Mediterranean, ALGARD (The network of Women Gender Equity in Balkan) National LAG (Local Action Group) network.

Awards

The LEDA won the international award LEDA of Month, May 2011 from ILS LEDA network, national award for the second best social initiatives in 2013, Protagonist of the year 2011 or the services to the community, given from Vlora Mayor and got the international ILS LEDA quality label for human development in 2013.

To know more www.auleda.org.al