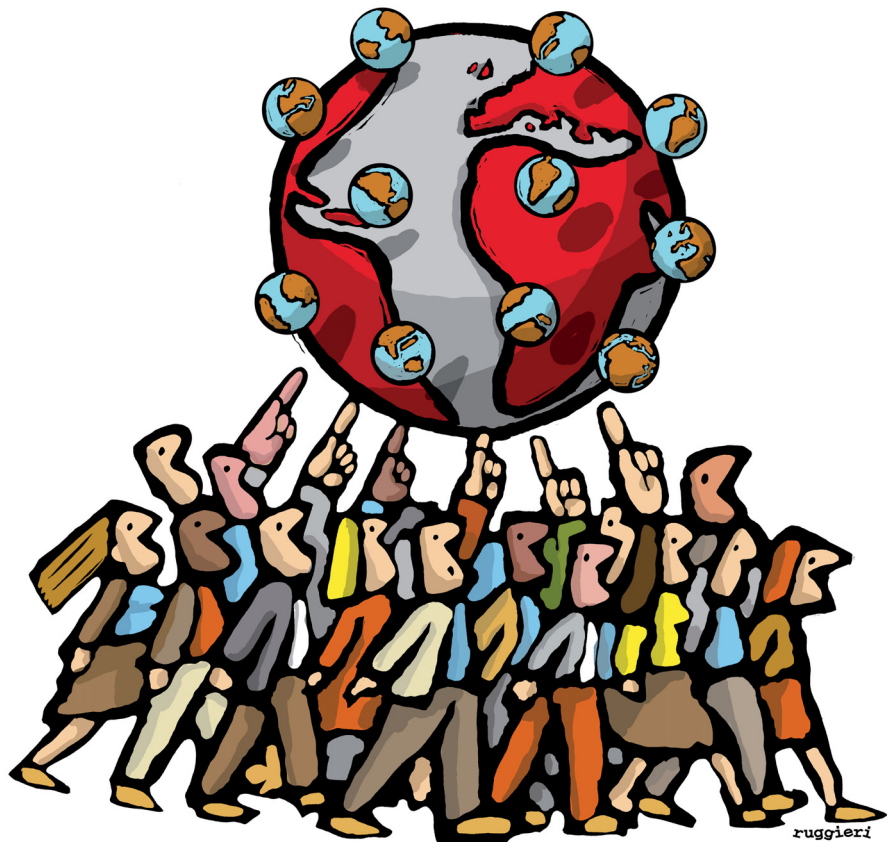


Turin (Italy), 22-24 October 2008



INTER-AGENCY CONFERENCE ON **LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Maybe not your first
international conference, but certainly
your most appetizing one...



International
Labour
Organization



In conjunction with the Terra Madre festival 2008 in Turin, Italy (www.terramadre2008.org) the International Training Centre of the ILO (ITCILO) is hosting a major inter-agency gathering about **Local Economic Development**, 22-24 Oct, 2008.

LED means more than just economic growth.

It is promoting participation and local dialogue, connecting people and their resources achieving **decent work** and a higher quality of life for both women and men.

To get to know just how international agencies and national organizations put **LED into practice**, the conference will bring together a wide range of partners. They will discuss how LED can be made relevant within different contexts. Decentralization, cluster promotion, public-private dialogue, sustainable local development and "green jobs" are some of the core topics.

The conference will be highly interactive and include working group sessions as well as plenary debates. A dedicated



LED Bazaar will be the show-ground for best practices and innovative products. All together, participants will gain more insights into LED and will discuss ways to keep in touch for building and better **sharing knowledge**.

A special event will be held jointly with Terra Madre, giving participants an insight into innovative ways of promoting local development by the Slow Food movement and its food communities all over the world.

Look up ITC ILO Turin (www.itcilo.org/led) or ILO Geneva (www.ilo.org/led) to learn about ILO's work on Local Economic Development. Shortly a special **LED platform** will be launched with extensive information about the Conference.

Inter-Agency Conference on Local Economic Development (LED) Turin (Italy), 22-24 Oct. 2008

Better Knowledge Sharing and Partnership Building to boost local economies, create employment and reduce poverty

Background

Local economic development is increasingly becoming part and parcel of international technical cooperation. Among agencies, the concern for economic and social development driven by local actors has grown considerably over the past decade. In support of these efforts, networks and knowledge platforms have been created by agencies like GTZ, OECD, ILO, SDC and the World Bank, often with a regional focus. This has led to growing communities of LED practitioners.

The linking of these platforms could facilitate a more structured sharing of the tools, guidelines and good practices, which would greatly improve the effectiveness of LED support around the world. Against this context the ILO (with the active participation of OECD/LEED, UNHABITAT, UNIDO, UNCDF, IADB, SDC, GTZ and others) is organizing the first inter-agency LED conference, meant to take stock of LED practices around the world and develop a joint strategy for knowledge development and networking.

Conference objectives

- To expand the knowledge base of strategies and tools among Agencies and organisations active in supporting Local Economic Development
- To initiate and strengthen existing partnerships among Agencies to improve coordination, undertake joint research, capacity building and technical cooperation.

Contents

Plenary discussions will be held to review different approaches to LED. Topical issues will be introduced by expert panels, such as Investment-led local development, National frameworks and local institutional change, LED and social inclusion, Sustainable local development, etc.

Working group sessions will be organized on specific themes, based on case studies and practice reviews. A market place will be set up for presentations and side discussions by participating organizations. The programme will also contain sessions on existing Knowledge Sharing networks and training facilities.

Who will participate

Staff of International Organisations; donor organizations; national/regional/local governments; Employers and Workers organizations; Cooperative Organizations, practitioners, non-governmental organizations and the private sector (expected total: 100-150).

Language: English, possibly with translation facilities for Spanish-speaking participants (tbc).

SPECIAL EVENT on Slow Food movement and LED. Introduction and discussion, followed by a slow food "tasting" (cocktail and dinner).

Conference documentation

The next issue of @local.glob published by DELNET will be devoted to the event.

Costs of participation

EUR. 1'100 (inclusive of conference fee, lodging and half-board at the International Training Centre of the ILO; exclusive of travel).

Registration deadline: 12 September 2008.

For conference programme and contents, contact **Martin Gasser** in Turin (m.gasser@itcilo.org) or **Kees van der Ree** in Geneva (vanderree@ilo.org)

For registration and logistics, contact **Cristiana Actis** (c.actis@itcilo.org)

