Final remarks by the Scientific Committee

Rapporteur:

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The harmonious and sustainable development of a territory does not happen by chance, but rather it is – or it should be – pursued by actors and stakeholders of the territory itself. Therefore, it is clear that, in critical times like the ones we are experiencing today, the need of occasions of deep and shared reflection is undeniable, as it is the search for new ideas and instruments to follow and/or to correct the development path which has been consciously or unconsciously undertaken.

→ Richness of the forum debate and its relevance in terms of policy agenda.
Premises

1. ‘Development is lived by people where they are, where they live, learn, work, love, play, – and die. The primary community, whether geographical or organizational, is the immediate space open to most people’ (IFDA, 1980, p. 11).

2. Development is characterized by multidimensional, multilevel and dynamic processes, involving multi-stakeholder and multiple local and extra-local relations.

3. SDGs are universal but there are crucial local features and distinctiveness both in emerging and developed countries.

4. For localizing the post 2015 development agenda the discussion focuses on various aspects connected to potentialities and challenges of a people-centred and place-based perspective.

5. Human flourishing is fundamentally embedded in the local systems where individual and collective agents live and interact.
Key remarks from the debate: Vision

**LED** has an instrumental role for a broader *vision of Sustainable Human Development*, which is implicitly a people-centred and a place-based process.

→ The basic objective of LED should be to create an *enabling environment* for *people and communities* to live long, healthy and creative lives.
Key remarks from the debate: Local level

The local level is where:

- The interaction among authorities, institutions, citizens and society as a whole is most immediate and stronger
- The relationships between “economy-institutions-society” is closer
- Most of social and economic arrangements are determined

→ Importance of territory as an active protagonist of development in contemporary economies
→ Importance of enhancing economic promotion, social inclusion and environmental protection at the local level is undeniable
Key remarks from the debate: Multi-level governance

LED involves **multilevel dynamic processes** with a **horizontal and vertical** dimension

→ “If the mechanisms and instruments are appropriate and applied correctly, it helps to increase joint ownership and implementation” (Committee of the Regions of the EU, 2009)

+ **Global public goods, global partnerships and international agreements** have an impact on LED

→ Processes of multi-level **coordination and alignment**
Key remarks from the debate: LED as an instrument

LED for **peace**, **equality** and **prosperity**:

- LED for **income** and **well-being** increase
- LED for **local producers** and for **decent jobs**
- LED for **environmental protection**
- LED for **conflict** prevention and transformation
- LED for **social** and **solidarity economy**
- LED for **gender** equality and empowerment
- LED for **social inclusion** of vulnerable groups (persons with disabilities, migrants, indigenous, elderly, young adults, etc.) and **social cohesion**
- LED for economic and political **empowerment** and **participation** as active citizens
- ...

...
Key remarks from the debate: Instruments and processes for LED

- Multi-actors multi-stakeholders systems
- Institutional and human **capacity-building**
- LEDAs
- South-South / North-South initiatives on a **peer-to-peer** perspective
- **Environmental protection**
- Community **resilience**
- **ICT** and Green Technologies
- **Social** and people-centred **innovation**
- **Knowledge** diffusion
- **Transparency** and wider access to **data and information** for local government authorities and communities

→ All these processes are instrumental for the common vision of **Sustainable Human Development**
“Everything has been thought of before, the difficulty is to think of it again”

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Thank you!

This presentation is the result of the outstanding debate during the Forum and the discussion within the Scientific Committee.