









VI WORLD FORUM OF
**LOCAL
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**

SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS



Information Pack
Seville 2025

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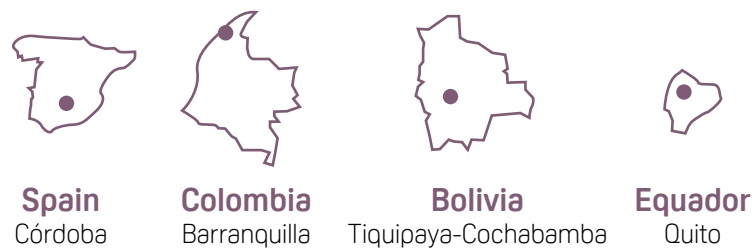
1. Introduction

5 Key partners | UCLG, FANSI, UNDP, ORU FOGAR, ILO

5 Editions



4 Intermediate forums





The World Forum of Local Economic Development (WFLED) is a network of actors seeking to promote the local economic development approach and to advance the political debate and strengthen global partnerships for concrete action at local, national and international levels.

Since its inception, an increasing number of organisations, with widely varying natures, have joined this process, bringing their perspectives, experiences and expertise in the fight against poverty and inequalities and in the promotion of employment and decent work.

The WFLED contributes to the localisation process of the 2030 agenda from a territorial perspective, an alliance of actors and a people-based approach to development.

Vision

The World Forum of Local Economic Development is proposed as a space for reflection to share tools and strategies for the implementation of the territorial approach to Human Development.

The current context of multi-level crisis marks a moment of reflection on the development paradigm and on priorities such as employment and, more generally, on the search for instruments to generate and manage Local Economic Development policies.

Goals

It is an initiative that seeks to bring together local, regional and national governments, multilateral organisations, territorial actors, civil society, universities, experts, etc., to facilitate dialogue and exchange on the effectiveness and impact of local economic development and relevant best practices worldwide.

The forum aims to highlight local experiences that enable the construction, from the territories, of development models that result in a better quality of life for people and the reduction of inequalities, maximising their impact on the global agenda from local spaces.

Local-global agendas

The World Forum of Local Economic Development is part of an open working process that brings together a strong alliance of committed governments and national and international organisations that recognise the potential of the local economic development approach and

work together to advance the debate and to strengthen a global partnership for specific actions.

This process allows for concrete cooperation and joint actions that can help bring the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to the local level.



2. The 6th World Forum of LED

Road map

As a space in continuous construction, the WFLED remains active between the celebration of each of its global editions. Between forums, preliminary work spaces are developed, such as events, seminars and thematic and regional workshops that strengthen alliances with the forum's partner companies, promoting reflection on the dialogues that guide the thematic axes of each edition and generating working documents on the priority lines.

Leading up to the 6th celebration of the global event, an international meeting was held in 2023 in the city of Seville and other thematic working spaces in alliance with international partners, in Spain and the Caribbean, among others.

In the course of 2024, there will also be a series of intermediate preparatory events such as thematic regional seminars in Latin America, Africa, the Mediterranean region and Asia.

MILESTONES ALONG THE WAY

To the 6th edition of the WFLED



Virtual seminars

Virtual thematic meetings online

Regional meetings

In various locations these intermediate spaces will feed the content of the debate



Strategic lines

Sharing priorities and defining strategic lines

Debate, reflection

Spaces for debate that will provoke reflection on priority matters



These exchanges contribute to the implementation of the Forum and constitute a key opportunity to broaden and strengthen the multi-level dialogue in order to move forward, obtaining inputs and proposals to be incorporated that enhance the process of the road to the Forum. As a result of the inter-forum work, the incorporation of new allies has grown.

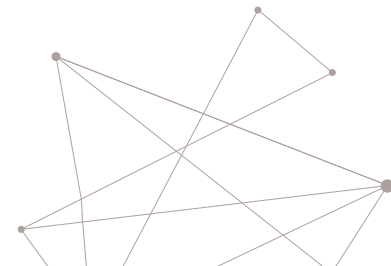
Recently, important partners, such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Global Social Economy Forum (GSEF), the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) and the Global Fund for Cities Development (FMDV), strengthened the network of partners of the World Forum of Local Economic Development by actively participating in the meeting organised in Seville in October 2023.

Preparation: intermediate meeting in Seville

On 18 and 19 October 2023, the International and Territorial Alliances to promote a Just, Inclusive and Sustainable Transition and to promote Social Justice meeting took place.

The meeting was organised by the Andalusian Fund of Municipalities for International Solidarity (FAMSI), the UCLG Committee on Local Economic and Social Development and the International Labour Organisation (ILO), with the co-financing of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) and the Provincial Council of Seville.

The meeting led to reflections on SDG 8: Employment, Local Economic Development and Decentralised Cooperation, which brought together around one hundred people from 15 countries.



Within the issue of employment and local economic development from the perspective of cooperation, the meeting emphasised specific areas such as the technological revolution and the climate emergency, two dynamics that condition the global community and, in particular, local and regional environments. The gaps resulting from these processes threaten the stability, equality and sustainability of people and communities, especially among the most vulnerable.

Climate action and adaptation to new technologies and innovation processes urge the forging of partnerships between actors and territories to foster sustainable economic growth and decent and quality employment that contributes to promoting social justice.

In this context, the main objective of the meeting was to share ideas and experiences to promote a just transition process that promotes and guarantees social justice and the generation of inclusive and sustainable societies, through action by alliances between local governments

and international cooperation. Thus, two main lines of work were highlighted, with the aim of contributing to the following:

- Renewing and boosting alliances between actors and territories to address just transitions where international cooperation, South-South cooperation and decentralised cooperation play a fundamental role.
- Improving the conditions for economic growth and employment in the new productive and consumption dynamics oriented towards more sustainable economic models, in line with SDG 8.

Multi-stakeholder and multi-level alliances; collaboration, cooperation and co-responsibility; decent and quality employment; just transition; sustainable economic growth, financing, among others, were the main concepts reflected upon in a context characterised by the climate emergency and the technological revolution.

2. The 6th World Forum of LED

The World Economic Development Forum is a process that aims to foster political dialogue and cross-cutting partnership on the issue of Local Economic Development, which is understood to be the strategic and operational basis for sustainable development.

As such, the following attended the international meeting in Seville:

- representatives of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)
- the United Regions Organisation (ORU FOGAR)
- the Global Fund for Cities Development (FMDV)
- the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF)
- the Global Social Economy Forum (GSEF)
- the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID)
- the Provincial Council of Seville

Other key actors also participated, such as the European Commission, the Basque Government (co-promoter of the 2030 Local Coalition

Office of Bilbao), the International Development Cooperation Agencies of Andalusia and the Basque Country, the metropolitan area of the city of Bordeaux, UGT Andalusia, the Network of Associations of Local Authorities of Southeast Europe (NALAS), the Latin American Federation of Cities, Municipalities and Associations (FLACMA), and the mayors Mohamed Sefiani (Chefchaouen, Morocco), president of the UCLG Forum of Intermediate Cities and Didier Bikoula Bekono (Olanguina, Cameroon), as well as political and technical representatives of 15 Andalusian municipalities and provincial council members of FAMSÍ.

These events, as part of the process of the sixth edition of the forum, have also been fuelled by various dialogues and debates on partnerships and territorial policies, multi-stakeholder and multi-level international cooperation and decent jobs in a new green economy. In the face of an increasingly uncertain economic system, it has been concluded that, among other issues, that there is an urgent need to

structurally reformulate partnerships and funding models in development cooperation; to improve knowledge management and best practices; and to continue to give a voice to all actors and levels of government.

In the last part of the meeting there was an equally important space for the sharing of territorial experiences for a just, inclusive and sustainable transition focused on the Sustainable Development Goal. Local and regional initiatives in Kyrgyzstan, Egypt, Turkey, Morocco-Andalusia, and municipalities in Bosnia and Cameroon

showcased their local and regional projects to boost economic growth and employment in new, more sustainable production and consumption dynamics.

Logistics

The 6th World Forum of Local Economic Development will take place in the city of Seville 1-4 April 2025.

The event will be held at [FIBES](#), the Seville exhibition and conference centre, located at:



Seville Exhibition and Congress Palace FIBES

The focus of the 6th World Forum of Local Economic Development

The 6th WFLED will have an eminently territorial focus, highlighting the alliance of territorial actors and instruments, such as local and other development agencies and taking up the reflection initiated at the 1st WFLED.

Global priorities will be addressed in the areas of the triple transition (digital, social and economic), social justice, training for employment in the territory, public management, public-private partnerships and the role of the private sector and the social and solidarity economy, employment and decent work and the approach of a new “caring” economy from the territory, as well as multi-level partnerships, and global, national and decentralised (regional-local) policies.

The 6th Forum aims to bring together more than 60 countries at a global level, with political and technical representatives from national, regional and local governments, local development instruments, multilat-

eral agencies, specialised civil society organisations and cooperation NGOs, entities and institutions of the management and knowledge system, companies and entities from the private sector and the social and solidarity economy, experts on the topics of interest. The forum will pay special attention to the incorporation of young people in the process.

The 6th WFLED is integrated into the global agenda, promoting reflection within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals, the New Urban Agenda, the United Nations Summit of the Future, the COP29 Climate Summit and the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) Pact for the Future, among others. It also aligns and coordinates with processes such as the OECD’s Economic Development Forum or the Global Social Economy Forum (GSEF).



3. About us

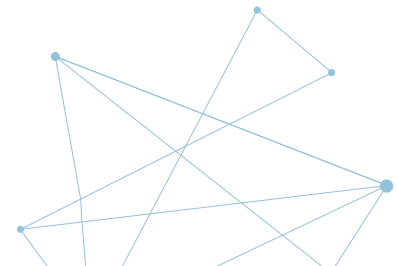
New governance for a renewed process

The forum process is now more than 10 years old. Since its beginning it was strongly promoted by FAMSÍ and UNDP. Along the way, the host cities have played an important role in the organisation of the event, in coordination with an organising committee that has worked with the available staff of each organisation.

The organising committee has been joined by various companies since the forum took place in Brazil. In some forums, the host city has provided assistance that has made it possible to pool resources to organise the forum.

The committee's own capacity to take on the monitoring of the tasks has become more complex, resulting in a steering committee that is less operational and technical and more strategic and institutional and supported especially by UNDP and FAMSÍ, in addition to the UCLG Committee on Local Economic and Social Development (LESD), which is the greatest operational boost.

The international executive committee (CEX) is consolidated in the process with the continuous participation of UNDP, ILO, UCLG and its LESD Committee, ORU-FOGAR and FAMSÍ, which in turn chairs the UCLG LESD Committee.



2011

- UNDP - FAMSİ
- Strategic and operational - FAMSİ in the dual role of process organiser and animator

Up to 2017

- CEX gradually expanded from Brazil to CV (2013 Sebrae and UCLG; Fogar, Turin, ILO in 2015 and CV in 2017) with partners
- In 2013 increased joint UNDP and FAMSİ operations, support contracts In 2015 more UNDP leadership and expanded committee In 2017 more joint work

Argentina Process

- Expanded CEX with participation difficulties and partner drop-out
- A lack of our own or the specific technical equipment required, difficulties in technical and political dialogue with the national committee

New Governance

- Strengthened role of CEX
- Strengthened role of the partnership (enlarged committee)
- Strengthened process, enhanced true meaning of the Forum, a HUB-PLATFORM of multilevel and multi-stakeholder partnerships, alliances, knowledge and policies on LED
- Permanent Secretariat for operational control, with its own team



Executive Committee (EC)

Composed of the institutions promoting the WFLED, the Executive Committee (EC) is the main body in charge of defining the strategic lines of action of the forum. The committee includes the main organisations and associations that have promoted and organized the World Forum over the years. It is the main decision-making body and is responsible for providing overall and strategic guidance on the WFLED process and related events.

National Organising Committee

In the organisation of each forum/event include all national/local organisations involved

Decide on the national roadmap for holding the event

The National Organising Committee selects an individual representative to join the Expanded Executive Committee

Local Secretariat

Logistical organisation of the forum

The permanent secretariat of the Forum supports the local secretariat in organisational



for International Solidarity (FAMSI), the global network of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), the United Regions Organisation (ORU FOGAR) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO). The addition of a new company to this committee will be raised and discussed within the current committee. These companies that drive the process are tasked with preserving and sharing information, knowledge and recommendations gathered during the forum process and within the resulting concept papers.

In addition, the Executive Committee acts as a coordinating body to support the exchange of practices among stakeholders and the landing of related initiatives according to the national and local context, in coordination with national and local counterparts.

The Executive Committee also collaborates with the Scientific Committee by bringing together experts, academics, universities and international organisations to refine concepts and content in the WFLED process, ensuring that the most relevant and up-to-date information on local and

The executive committee is responsible for ensuring the participation and involvement of relevant international actors. It is the executive committee that is responsible for the mobilisation of international actors and their contribution to the forum process. To this end, each member organisation of the executive committee leads outreach, communication and advocacy efforts through its networks and in its circuits, and ensures their contribution to the process, promotion of events and participation in them.

The Executive Committee is composed of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Andalusian Fund of Municipalities

territorial economic development is used.

Moreover, a growing number of international partners have expressed their interest in playing a more active role in the forum process, by leading thematic focuses, supporting knowledge or supporting the implementation of the forum's recommendations in specific LED initiatives. There are also numerous similar thematic, regional and global institutions and processes with which it is possible to align visions and share strategies. In order to facilitate the contribution from all relevant institutions and ensure a real participatory process, the Executive Committee proposes the creation of the Expanded International Committee (Expanded CEX) and the strengthening of the WFLED partners.

In short, the main functions of the Executive Committee include the following:

- Make strategic decisions in the WFLED process and in related events.

- Provide guidance to the Permanent Technical Secretariat.
- Participate in regular general organisational meetings.
- Represent and participate in the organisational sub-committees of the different forums.
- Oversee and coordinate the technical and logistical organisation of the world or intermediate forum.
- Collaborate with the Scientific Committee, nominating people to sit on same and proposing the definition of concepts and contents.
- Assess and ratify the incorporation of new companies to the expanded committee.
- Assess the candidatures received for holding the intermediate and world forums, as well as other possible associated events.

Scientific Committee (SC)

The Scientific Committee (SC) is a consultative body comprising leading representatives from the main drivers of the forum process, who define the overall direction of the forum. The key role of the SC is to orient and guide the process from an academic perspective towards the holding of the forums and to contribute to the knowledge management of the process. The CC members will support and guide the overall discussion on the LED approach and should also provide input on all potential content-related issues, suggested by the Executive Committee and partners, to be addressed during the LED Forum. The Scientific Committee receives regular feedback from the Executive Committee, partners and its Technical Secretariat.

Members of the Scientific Committee will be invited to develop think pieces in order to stimulate critical thinking and the revision of certain paradigms in preparation for events or to stimulate the WFLED process itself.

The composition of the SC will be agreed by the Executive Committee and may include persons of recognised prestige who have previously participated in the WFLED. Their participation will be “ad honorem” and the WFLED will cover the expenses derived from any events requiring their participation, as well as the possibility of commissioning specific documents. At each World or Intermediate Forum, the Scientific Committee will be expanded to include guest experts proposed by the CEX or the NC, who will come and contribute to the specific themes and contexts of the event.

Secretariat of the WFLED

The Secretariat of the WFLED monitors and updates decisions taken by the Executive Committee. It is divided into two main bodies: the WFLED Permanent Secretariat and the Organisational Secretariat.

Permanent Secretariat of the WFLED

The Permanent Secretariat has a physical office with its own team in Andalusia, under the umbrella of FAMSÍ and is bolstered by its status as chair of the UCLG Committee on Local Economic and Social Development.

This secretariat fulfils the functions of dynamisation and technical secretariat of the WFLED Knowledge and Partnerships HUB, favouring the consolidation of the process, the work between forums, global partnerships, technical support tasks for the different events, the development of face-to-face spaces for work, exchange and collective construction and the maintenance and management of the virtual.

Organisation chart

- Coordinator of the WFLED Permanent Secretariat (staff assigned from FAMSÍ)
- Technical Manager of the WFLED Permanent Secretariat
- Technical Assistance for Communication

Other temporary staff

- Staff on scholarships or under agreements with Andalusian or international universities
- Staff under agreement with CEX member organisations that may be temporarily established in Andalusia or develop specific virtual tasks in coordination and as part of the Permanent Secretariat
- Specific service contracts for specific tasks
- Regional offices
- Possible temporary employment contracts for specific tasks, depending on funding

Functions

Among others, and under the strategic coordination of the CEX, the permanent Technical Secretariat would have the following functions, according to the team:

- Serve as the nexus of operational connection for the daily work of the WFLED, unloading the to-date routine task of the CEX, supported by its own team from the different entities
- Maintain and manage the WFLED's virtual platform
- Follow up and strengthen global partnerships
- Propose and develop face-to-face spaces in Andalusia and virtual spaces for the work of the Scientific Committee, coordination committees, experts, seminars, etc.
- Develop the WFLED's communication tasks
- Program knowledge management in alliance with universities

- Encourage the policy-making processes
- Build the roadmap of the process
- Manage the partnership

Organisational Secretariat of the WFLED

This is the operational component for the logistics, technical organisation and communication of each event, with the management of the website and the development of communication material under the guidance of the executive committee. Reflecting the overall guidance of the Executive Committee, the Secretariat will be led by representatives of the authorities of the host territory, including the support and co-ordination of representatives of the member organisations of the Executive Committee (including, depending on the level of commitment of the relevant institutions, one contact person per partner).

Structure

The Forum Secretariat may create internal working groups or sub-committees for better governance, which will be organised according to related tasks, specific topics and work streams, always in coordination with the International Executive Committee. These sub-committees may include:

- Communication sub-committee: to lead the overall communication and outreach strategy of the Forum. The sub-committee will ensure visibility and promote the process and the final event at global, national, regional and local levels through information dissemination. The group will also enable active corporate support and facilitation of key partners at the respective levels and raise awareness of the LED approach.
- Other sub-committees as needed.

Functions

In coordination with the International Committee, the Organisational Secretariat of the forum will be responsible for the following functions:

- Put the organisational decisions regarding the event into operation, taking care of the logistics, technical organisation and communication of the meeting.
- Manage the website of the forum in question.
- Develop and coordinate the communication material under the guidance of the executive committee.
- Designate from among the representatives of the member organisations of the National Committee the contact persons for the partners who will form part of the various sub-committees.

National Organising and Coordinating Committee for Global Forums or Intermediate Spaces

The holding of global or intermediate events will require the creation of a National Coordination and Organising Committee (CNCO) as well as a local-regional secretariat in order to facilitate and ensure the participation and contribution of all stakeholders in the national, regional and local contexts. The CNCO could bring together representatives of the city, the region, the national government and its ministries, national, municipal and regional associations, and other representatives of academia, civil society, workers and/or territorial actors.

The CNCO's main mission is to supervise and coordinate the technical and logistical organisation of the Forum and therefore will play a key role in guiding the Organisational Secretariat. In particular, the CNCO will design the methodology and guidelines for the organisation and implementation of the Forum. To this end, the CNCO will select an individual representative to sit on the Executive Committee. The CNCO is also responsible for elaborating and contributing to the discussion of the agenda and activities of the event and ensuring the local, regional and international character and visibility of the event.

The companies hosting world forum processes or intermediate forums also contribute financially to the WFLED permanent secretariat in its function.

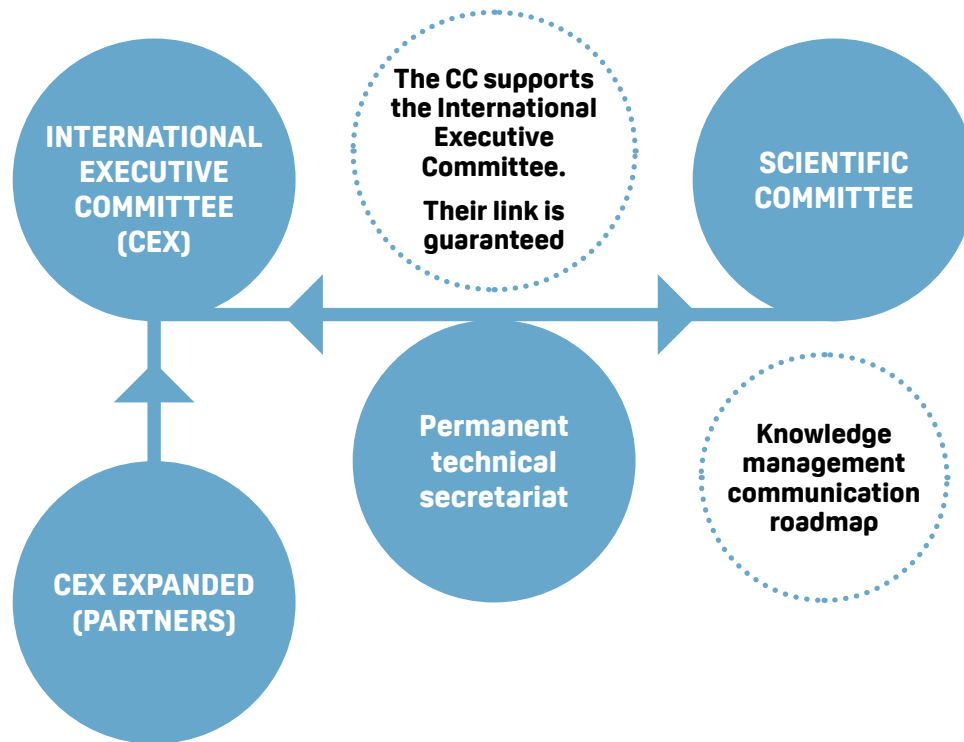
National Coordinating and Organising Committee (CNCO)

- Design and define the methodology and guidelines for the organisation and implementation of the Forum.
- Direct and coordinate the execution of the plan of activities.
- Follow up and monitor the activities for the development of the Forum.
- Elaborate and contribute to the discussion of the agenda, contents, methodology and activities of the 6th World Forum.
- Ensure the regional/international character and visibility of the Forum.
- Establish, whenever deemed appropriate, the constitution of sub-committees responsible for the execution of specific aspects.
- Establish communication and coordination partnerships between all public and private, national and international companies linked to the Forum.

- Guarantee the participation of universities, civil society and the private sector.
- Manage the coordination with the International Executive Committee and the Permanent Secretariat, enabling the latter to obtain resources to strengthen and support the LED Forum.
- The members of the CNCO ensure the link between the services, institutions and organisations they represent.

The CNCO will appoint a person to represent it on the International Executive Committee. This person will be in charge of maintaining communication and participating in the different relevant spaces with the International Committee.

Graphic reflecting the organisation
of the Committees



4. A look back



In the process of the Forums of Local Economic Development, the following municipal and intermediate meetings have taken place:

Preparatory seminar for I World Forum on Local Economic Development where the working groups and the scientific committee were formed

2010

Spain
Córdoba

Number of participants:

150

Number of countries:

15



I World Forum: “Planning, economy and local governance: new perspectives for times of change”

1st World Forum of Local Economic Development Seville, Spain

Number of participants:

1.300

Number of countries:

47

2011

Spain
Sevilla





**2nd World Forum of Local
Economic Development, Foz do
Iguaçu, Brazil**

Number of participants:

4.232

Number of countries:

70

**2nd World Forum: "Dialogue
between territories: new
insights on Local Economic"**

2013

Brazil

Foz do Iguaçu





1st Regional Forum of Local Economic Development, Quito, Ecuador

Number of participants:

350

Number of countries:

23

1st Regional Forum: “Latin American and Caribbean Forum on Territorial Development: Its strategic dimension in the social, economic and environmental spheres and its connection to the university”.

2015

Ecuador

Quito





**3rd World Forum: Year 2015/
Title: “Local Economic
Development: A means to
address post-2015 development
agenda challenges”**

**3rd World Forum of Local Economic
Development Turin, Italy**

Number of participants:

2.000

Number of countries:

130

2015

Italy
Turin





**2nd Regional Forum:
“Productive development to
transform territorial inequalities
in Latin American and the
Caribbean”**

**2nd Regional Forum of Local
Economic Development,
Tiquipaya - Cochabamba, Bolivia**

Number of participants:

1.470

Number of countries:

35

2017

Bolivia
Tiquipaya -
Cochabamba





4th World Forum: “Local Economic Development as a framework to localize Sustainable Development Goals. Addressing rising inequalities”

4th World Forum of Local Economic Development, Praia, Cabo Verde

Number of participants:

2.729

Number of countries:

85

2017

Cabo Verde
Praia





3rd Regional Forum: “Local Economic Development in the fragile territories affected by conflicts and violence”

3rd Regional Forum of Local Economic Development, for Latin America and the Caribbean

Number of participants:

650

Number of countries:

20

2019

Colombia
Barranquilla





5th World Forum: “Transition to a sustainable future: The role of territories in times of uncertainty”

5th World Forum of Local Economic Development, Córdoba, Argentina

2021
Argentina
Córdoba



Number of participants:

12.084
in hybrid attendance

Number of countries:

46

5. Our achievements



The World Forum of Local Economic Development is an open process that promotes international dialogue and the exchange of experiences in local economic development. It is a space that provides the opportunity to transform a global partnership of committed actors into concrete partnerships at national and local levels.

Over the years, the process of this forum has achieved impressive results:

- 1. It consolidated Local Economic Development (LED) as an important conceptual framework to stimulate policies for sustainable local development and their implementation in the territories.
- 2. It has established a strong partnership among its main partners, members of the Forum's Executive Committee, as well as with partners who have participated as hosts, associate members and/or organisers of specific sessions during events.
- 3. It linked LED to the SDGs and local implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
- 4. It integrated key issues of alternative economies, such as the social and solidarity economy, among others.
- 5. Along the way, it has been able to integrate different visions, specificities and contributions of the organising territories, such as the uniqueness of economic development in island territories, as in the case of Cape Verde.

Since 2022, the WFLED promotes a greater institutionalisation of the process as a way to ensure the continuation of a political dialogue and a cross-cutting partnership on LED, beyond the preparation, celebration and follow-up of the periodic face-to-face and virtual events. Thus, the strong need to present proposals to help structure the process in a better way is discussed, with the objective of creating a continuous space of synergies and opportunities to facilitate dialogue and promote exchanges.

Also, and no less important, the aim is to achieve greater global impact in the area of local economic development and the promotion of multi-level policies in this area.

The sixth edition of the forum will be the relaunch of the initiative, and the re-encounter, in a face-to-face format, with institutions, governments and agents of various kinds that have been joining this international dialogue since its first edition, more than two decades ago.

This forum will also be a key moment for the generation of ideas, the formulation of critical questions and the search for proposals to address global challenges. It will also serve to foster concrete cooperation and promote joint actions that can help to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the local level.

6. Political statements

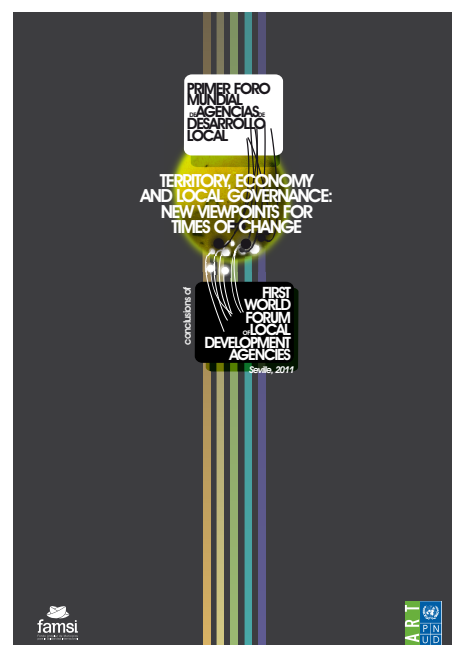


In the framework of the process of the World Forum of Local Economic Development, the successive forums held and their statements, experiences and lessons learned are of reference.

The Statement of the Forum in Seville, Spain (2011)

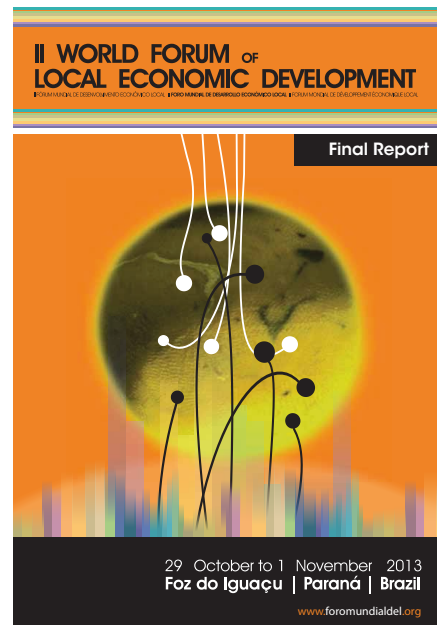
The Seville Forum highlighted the importance of the territorial approach in Local Economic Development, and the multiple alternatives for action that it offers in all its complexity. It urges institutions, governments, public-private actors and society to do the following:

- Place value on the strategic potential of the territories, ensuring the participation of institutions and people in the development processes, and articulating these with the different levels of government.



- Reflect, debate and act to generate open and plural alternatives for new forms of development and to influence the global agenda. To this end, share experiences and generate networks that strengthen the role of territories in the face of future challenges.
- States to strengthen decentralisation policies, with contents and competencies (HR, taxation, green economy, employment, equity, internationalisation, etc.) whose contents make local development a sustainable national policy, based on the management and programming capacities of the territories.

The Statement of the Forum in Foz, Brazil (2013)



The Foz Forum highlighted the following:

- The call to national governments to promote de-centralised national public policies on Local Economic Development, which means improving the conditions and quality of life in the territories, guaranteeing the provision of public services to the population.

- The fundamental role of local and regional governments in the implementation of development strategies that integrate economic opportunities, the generation of decent work, sustainable human development and democratic governance and, therefore, the commitment to institutional and organisational capacity building.
- There is an urgent need to foster a local entrepreneurial culture, in order to strengthen production chains and lay solid foundations for the social and cultural innovation processes required in the development strategy, with the active participation of an active citizenry, valuing the territory's own resources and taking advantage of the resources offered by the environment.

The Foz Forum also posed the following challenges:

- The need to generate specific alternatives to the concerns of young people, especially at a time of high youth unemployment;
- Taking into account the key role of women in LED policy development processes, the necessary and full participation of women in economic decision-making and access to local economic opportunities.
- The key role of civil society, in conjunction with other actors in the territory, to ensure that economic development is people-centred.
- The responsibility and opportunity of the private sector to contribute through ethical investments to the different challenges of local economic development.

The Statement of the Forum in Turin, Italy (2015)



The Turin Forum urged supranational and inter-national organisations, global networks and associations, national and sub-national governments, civil society, as well as the scientific community, the private sector and foundations, to join forces to continue and intensify their policy dialogue and enhance the positioning of Local Economic Development as a valuable paradigm in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

The Forum also encouraged its participants to do the following:

- 1. Harmonise and unite their actions and initiatives in support of LED capacities and processes at sub-national, national and regional levels.
- 2. Support sustainable business development at the local level, improve the business environment, strengthen and empower civil society and business networks.
- 3. Promote urban-rural integration, by reinforcing the crucial role of cities in driving sustainable production, marketing and consumption patterns in synergy with rural areas.

- 4. Explore and seek alternative and sustainable resource mobilisation mechanisms, through innovative and inclusive financial mechanisms, knowledge sharing and technology transfer platforms.
- 5. Promote peer-to-peer learning systems that best reflect the needs, vocations and values of local communities and territories.
- 6. Promote public-private partnerships for inclusive and environmentally sound economic development. This implies “new” actors such as foundations, social entrepreneurs, the informal economy and the social and solidarity economy (SSE).
- 7. Introduce and implement comprehensive data collection and monitoring systems at sub-national level, including specific sets of LED targets and indicators, as a way to foster more agile and accountable management systems.

The Statement of the Forum in Praia, Cabo Verde (2017)

The Praia Forum reaffirmed the mission of the World Forum as a process to enhance policy dialogue and cross-cutting partnership on Local Economic Development (LED) as a strategic and operational framework for sustainable development.



In particular, it “reaffirms the distinctive role of Local Economic Development in turning global dialogue into concrete development opportunities at the local level, promoting an alternative: a more equitable, inclusive and sustainable economic development model from and through territories as a means to reach universal goals”. This statement consolidates the idea of the link between global action and Local Economic Development and constitutes a fundamental factor for political action.

**To this end,
the following are proposed:**

- Establish solid and well-tested frameworks to enable universal as well as local implementation of the SDGs, ‘grounding’ global partnerships through dialogue and synergies with and between territorial actors, and in the respect of social, cultural, economic and environmental rights.

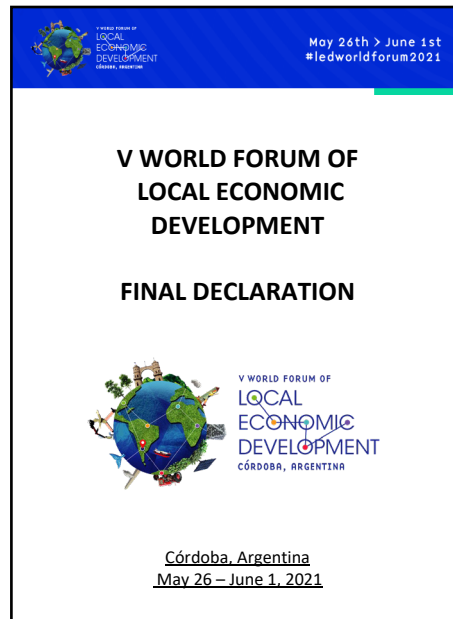
- Rethink our current development paradigm.
- The urgent need for integrated modes of resilience to cope with growing uncertainty.
- Patterns of economic integration and cooperation between territories and regions to balance the effects of unequal competition.

This development model necessarily requires multilevel dialogue and capacity building as a strategy for actors to be able to make decisions with a local impact and at the same time with a global consideration. In short, the aim is to build spaces for multilevel dialogue with the leadership of local actors, relying on capacity building as a strategy for local actors to make decisions, understanding territorial development as a contextual process.

The Forum also expressly recognised the following:

- The importance of integrated LED systems as a means to localise the SDGs through coherent policies, accountable institutions, effective social dialogue, inclusive governance, integrated planning, effective service delivery and transparent management and evaluation.
- The potential of LED as a vector of socio-economic and territorial cohesion.
- The key leadership role of local and regional governments and their associations.
- The key transformative role of the private sector, and specifically of SMEs and their networks.
- The need for stronger coalitions with civil society actors and associations to enable participatory and co-responsible governance processes.
- The potential of LED to convey an integrated development perspective.
- The potential of integrated LED models and strategies, the Social and Solidarity Economy and the value of other emerging practices such as collaborative, community and circular economies in promoting fairer, more sustainable and inclusive economic activities, while empowering communities to participate and enhance the value of their assets.
- The key value of accessible, evidence-based research and knowledge systems in channeling innovation, and in fostering and showcasing LED's contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- The central role of LED in building local resilience to climate change and renewing patterns of sustainable local resource use and service provision.

The Statement of the Forum in Córdoba, Argentina (2021)



The 5th World Forum of Local Economic Development was held in the city of Córdoba, Argentina, from 26 May to 1 June 2021, in an unforeseen and dramatic global context resulting from the effects of the global health crisis caused by COVID-19.

A global crisis that highlighted how fragile our territories can be, and has had an impact on all social spheres, all actors and the institutions themselves at different levels of government, aggravating situations of vulnerability and inequality.

In this context, the World Forum of Local Economic Development is consolidating itself as a process of global political influence, initiated over a decade ago, aimed at improving the political and institutional dialogue between actors involved in local and regional life. The 5th Forum paid special attention to the new opportunities for promoting territorial policies based on criteria of economic efficiency, equity and ecological balance, which fundamentally involve reconsidering and promoting new production methods and new forms of consumption, always with the aim of achieving a standard of living that is respectful of human dignity for all inhabitants.

The 5th Forum also showed that territories are spaces for knowledge generation and social empowerment, capable of creating social and economic value, where local and regional governments and their basic public services play a fundamental role as guarantors of access to health, water, sanitation, education, employment and housing for citizens.

The companies organising the 5th Global Forum, following the process of reflection and exchange in search of ways for a sustainable and inclusive recovery, and based on the contributions made, commit themselves to continue working to strengthen local economic development, particularly in the following areas:

- (i) Share response and resilience mechanisms to address risk, crisis or emergency situations that minimise impacts on people, quality jobs, economies and institutions and contribute to sustainable recovery.
- (ii) Prioritise and promote innovation, technological solutions and the reorientation of production and consumption patterns towards sustainability, equity and cohesion, strengthening the capacity to generate wealth and employment while responding to unresolved situations of social inequality, job insecurity, exclusion, forced migrations, gender discrimination and other factors that hinder the formation of free citizenship.
- (iii) Increase social dialogue between business organisations, trade union organisations and local governments and to co-responsibilise all development actors, promoting partnerships, improving co-operation, orienting policies reasonably and gradually towards green, efficient and sustainable economic models, in order to face new challenges in a world that is both global and local.

- (iv) Maintain the process of reflection and debate, promoting networking and political advocacy in multilevel spaces and international forums, deepening the axes present in the 5th World Forum such as territorial innovation, new models of sustainable production and decent, stable and quality work, and encourages all participating companies to join these initiatives.

The International Committee of the 5th Forum considered the WFLED process and the management of knowledge, policies, action and partnerships that it entails more important than ever. It called for a review of the governance and partnership system to amplify the potential of the WFLED, and create a permanent secretariat supported by a digital platform (<http://ledworldforum.org>) to guarantee the inter-forum process.

7. How to participate



The World Forum of Local Economic Development offers a unique exchange platform for policy makers and decision makers from all over the world with an interest in stimulating cooperation and developing effective local economic development policies into real initiatives that improve people's lives.

To participate, subscribe to the platform and receive all the information:

<https://ledworldforum.org/colaboracion/registro/>



7. How to participate



Register on the website: <https://ledworldforum.org/colaboracion/registro/>



If you are interested in registering your event as part of the roadmap towards the 6th WFLED, please contact the Secretariat at:

secretariat@ledworldforum.org



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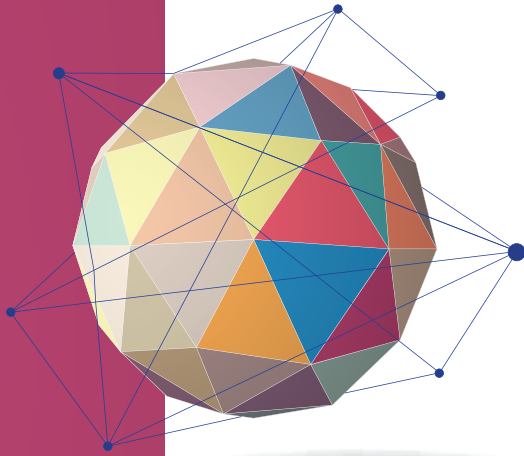


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VI WORLD FORUM OF LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS



Permanent Secretariat of the WFLED:



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