



# ***Final remarks by the Scientific Committee***

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## 3<sup>rd</sup> World Forum of LED



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.