



Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.

## CONFERENCE TOWARDS THE 3<sup>RD</sup> WORLD FORUM ON LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

*Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014*

*Kindly hosted by the Representation of the Free State of Bavaria to the EU*

*Rue Wiertz 77, 1000 Brussels*

*14h00 to 17h00*

### **Background**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> World Forum on Local Economic Development will be celebrated in Turin (Italy) in October 2015. The event is organized by an Executive Committee, which includes the Municipality and Province of Turin, the global network of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and its Committee on Local Economic Development, through the Andalusian Fund of Municipalities for International Solidarity (FAMSI), the Organization of United Regions (ORU FOGAR), the Brazilian Service of Support for Micro and Small Enterprises (SEBRAE) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The 1<sup>st</sup> World Forum on Local Economic Development, entitled "**Planning, Economy and Local Governance: new perspectives for times of change**", held in Seville (Spain) in October 2011, provided the opportunity to present the territorial experiences of 47 countries on how to fill the gap between the contextualization of the economic development and its practical application for sustainable human development. On this occasion, it was produced an Action Plan in order to start a harmonization process of LED related initiatives; its results were presented during the second edition of the Forum, which was held in Foz do Iguaçu (Brazil) in October 2013.

The second Forum brought together representatives of local, regional and national authorities, representatives of multilateral organizations, academia, and institutions of international cooperation, as well as actors of social and economic networks from 67 countries from diverse regions of the world. The conclusions drawn from the second Forum: "**Dialogue between territories: other views of local economic development**" focused, in a context of a global economic crisis, on the instruments for creating public-private partnerships at the local level, in particularly by facilitating decentralization policies and by promoting the interaction with the private sector. During the final plenary session of the second Forum, Turin's nomination to host the 3<sup>rd</sup> Forum was confirmed, to be held in October 2015, in conjunction with Milan EXPO 2015. In preparation for 2015 Turin, the Forum will be presented in other regional, national and international events, in order to stimulate discussion on the thematic proposals and contribute to the third Forum on the basis of a jointly established roadmap. In this regard, the Bavarian Representation in Brussels, in collaboration with Città del Bio and the United Nations Development Programme, as representative of the Executive Committee of the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Forum of Local Economic Development, will host this Conference towards the Forum.



Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.

## *Scope of Conference*

The overall context is building upon the approach of promoting local economic development (LED) for the primary purpose of strengthening territories' ability to generate employment opportunities and improve local wellbeing, in accordance with a socially and environmentally sustainable development approach, providing space for dialogue and relations between local, national and international actors.

As the 3rd World Forum of LED will be held in fall 2015, it coincides with the finalization and approval of the post 2015 agenda by the United Nations General Assembly. LED conceptualized as participatory approach comprised by a set of concrete tools has a huge potential to further the implementation of the post 2015 agenda at the local level; hopefully being reflected within the process leading up to the forum, as well as the forum itself. Furthermore, the 2015 EXPO will be held from May to October 2015 in Milan. The 3rd Forum of Local Economic Development, hence, will be held under a context in which the relationship between local and global dimensions will provide a starting point of reflection and dialogue on the importance and potential of local economic development.

While taking into account the upcoming 2015 EXPO and the adoption of the future development framework, the Brussels' conference will be the first step to emphasize the strategic role of the territories as a resource to improve nutrition of the population, and protect the environment, while giving particular attention to youth and women as key actors in local economic development. The event will be an opportunity to start the discussion towards the celebration of the 3rd World Forum on LED and delve some thematic areas to be considered for its celebration. Besides the general thematic orientations such as: "regional competitiveness and innovation", "LED as a mean to address post 2015 Sustainable Development Challenges", "Localizing Employment Generation towards Local Inclusive Growth and Jobs" and "Towards Sustainable Urbanization", it will also be discussed the adoption of organic farming as agricultural model of production and consumption, which can be a driver of local rural development, while taking also into account how public food service could give a strong signal of change and innovation. It will be considered how urban and rural development and policies cannot be kept as two separate agendas, but should be linked. Initiatives like Città del Bio and Km0 of Slow Food indicate a new value of the immediate hinterland, but also how the services of intermediary cities to rural areas are critical for rural economies and living.

## *Objective of the Conference*

The Conference will aim to initiate the debate and prepare the thematic lines to be addressed during the 3rd World Forum of LED. In view of a wider participation of actors and in order to facilitate a reflection and share of experiences and practices from the territories from all the continents, the event will bring together all European and international stakeholders keen on promoting the dialogues on LED initiative through exchanging their respective knowledge, experiences and visions in the context of local economic development tools and strategies. Within the tradition of the Forum's process, the event will also be an opportunity to foster concrete partnerships and enhanced coordination of LED related initiatives and agendas.

