

8. CONCLUSIONS

1. The process of globalisation which nowadays characterises the world demands different responses for different regions and places. Thus, as well as the uniformity which it eventually leads to, there are reactions based on heterogeneous strategies of resistance and adaptation.

The opportunities and the risks involved in globalisation are not evenly distributed around the world. While many enterprises and regions have managed to adapt with great success, the opening of national economies has also laid bare local structures which have little or no capacity to compete in the new environment.

2. Regions and places that have developed strategies for economic insertion in the new global logic deserve special attention. Sometimes these are passive or functional, and at other times they are based on factors that are typical and individual to regions, societies and the local productive network, which open up opportunities to try out different competitiveness strategies.

3. Apart from a historical review of the globalisation process, for some years now it has been clear that there is renewed academic and political interest in understanding how regions and places construct their strategies for economic insertion in the global market. On the academic level, the process starts by questioning the neo-classical focuses, and with the emergence of a new trend in theories of economic growth followed by theories of endogenous development and more recently in the approaches of local economic development (LED).

At the political level, an evaluation of the effects of economic liberalisation has stimulated a focus on regions that have employed original and individual social and productive strategies and have counteracted the most regressive effects of globalisation with great or relative success.

4. There is no single answer to the question of what kind of options are open to enable people, enterprises and regions to successfully insert in the globalised economy through development processes that are sustainable and that generate quality jobs. People, enterprises and regions are very diverse, and this is reflected

in the wide range of strategies that are possible. This is one of the clear differences between traditional development policies and new development strategies at the local level. While the former were oriented according to fixed guidelines so as to be replicated, the latter are always as original and as distinctive as the regions where they are born.

5. The term 'local development strategies' (LEDs) refers to a variety of instruments which, unlike in the traditional centralised development policies, are aimed at getting specific regions to strengthen the comparative advantages that they have. In so doing, these strategies focus more on what are known as 'endogenous' factors such as the local economic network, the human resources in the area, and the local framework of institutions. In short, rather than imposing a system, the aim is to base economic development on the idea that the socio-economic conditions of the place itself should be the foundation.

6. Thus economic development would be a process of growth and structural change in which the forms of organization, the system of relations and the dynamic of learning play strategically important roles. What is more, it would be characterised by the regional dimension, not only due to the spatial effect of the organisational and technological processes involved, but also because of the fact that each place or region is the result of a process in which its institutional, economic and organisational structure has developed.

7. Therefore, regional economic analysis, regarded as a stimulating basis for local economic development strategies, has to take account not only of the presence and structure of economic activity but also of the individual occupational profile of the region. This profile does not only include the sectoral orientation of the labour market, but also the composition by occupational levels (management, supervisors, technicians, professionals, manual workers, service workers, entrepreneurs) and the levels of training in that market (from the most highly qualified and specialised levels to unskilled labour).

It should also be borne in mind that while investment, industries and enterprises move from place to place seeking greater advantages, the labour market is also dynamic. In addition, people choose work, studies and way of life which, even though they might be related to decisions made by industries and enterprises, are based on their motivation and criteria. Consequently, the task of constructing development strategies becomes more complex but opens up greater possibilities for intervention and for modifying current conditions.

8. One characteristic which is not always brought out explicitly but which is always present in theoretical approaches to local economic development has to do with the important role of knowledge. Just as individuals have better opportunities in the labour market when they are better qualified, and just as enter-

prises achieve higher productivity when they are able to use knowledge effectively, so local regions and societies have greater possibilities the more knowledge they have. The availability and quality of human resources are key factors for development in a place or a region since they are affected by the level of productivity of the business system, on regional competitiveness, and on the cultural model in which change and economic growth take place. Hence qualified human resources become strategic assets for improving the competitiveness of a region.

9. We should consider that training strategies can be either offensive or defensive. When they are defensive the objective is to recycle the workforce so as to counteract the loss of jobs. On the other hand, when the strategies are offensive the aim is to train in order to create jobs in such a way that this will increase the region's competitiveness. Therefore, the training of human resources is connected to the region's development strategy itself. One of the lessons learned from specific concentrations of economic activity is that the most successful examples are powerfully and profoundly influenced by corresponding concentrations of experience and qualified labour, by the availability of specialised education and training, and by the way in which the region produces and develops skills and knowledge.

10. The mission of training centres is always defined by the community which they serve. While training centres cannot by themselves create local economic development, they always have a role to play in such processes. Centres can take responsibility for filling gaps in the work market in the regions where they operate.

11. One of the main preoccupations in local economic development strategies has to do with strategies for young people's training and employment. There is no consensus about what the most suitable tools to meet this challenge are. This is partly because the notion of what youth is varies from one region to another depending on social, cultural and economic conditions. However, any local economic development perspective has to take account of characteristics like the average age at which people are incorporated into active life, the average age at which people are inserted into initial educational and training systems, and the age at which young people are expected to begin playing adult roles in the community.

12. In Latin America and the Caribbean, public training and employment policies for young people have gone along with the changes and debates between the different paradigms of social policy. During the development stage, for example through learning programmes, both the content and the methodology of training were determined by the kind of work there was in productive sectors, and specifically in some particular occupations and trades. Up to a point training

could be thought of as a specialised offer, but its framework of reference was universal, the young people were trained as mechanics, carpenters or shoemakers in accordance with the characteristics of those trades and occupations. The specific social and productive context where these young people would apply their knowledge was secondary, and this was reflected in the fact that training programmes were uniform across the country.

13. Subsequent youth training and employment policies differed in that they were not directed in a generic way at any young person. They were designed to cater to the problems of those sectors of the population that had the greatest difficulty in labour insertion, that is to say young people from low income homes, with low levels of schooling, without technical training and with little or no work experience. They were and are programmes which attempted to give specialised and intensive training on courses that lasted for three or four months and which would facilitate labour insertion through work experience and practice in enterprises. Despite trying to focalise on specific groups of young people they continued offering a standardised product even though the providers of education were diversified. The specifications which the programmes could have had individual characteristics in specific regions and their productive network were not incorporated into the design or put into practice.

14. The current trend in employment policies is to change from a benefactor State which implements undifferentiated action to a State which recognises differences and specific characteristics. It is through this kind of grounding of national policies in the local space that it is possible to develop other kinds of alternatives that are constructed in a 'down-up' focus, and which integrate help for groups of young people into more global regional and local development strategies.

15. The local development focus enhances a new configuration in the relationship between the public sector and the private sector, new systems of coordination between the public services themselves, and opportunities for participation and social dialogue.

Thus, for example, training centres are not being thought of exclusively as the local expression of a national vocational training institution, and more as a resource that belongs to the community and to the local productive network. Moreover, places which gave courses that were all designed from the same central point can be gradually transformed into centres for training and other kinds of activities which can respond pertinently and efficaciously to the training and technological development needs of the productive network in a particular region.

16. The experiences presented in this book do not only reflect the current diversity in strategies (which is also a reflection of the diverse configurations

found in the areas they deal with), but also their high degree of complexity. It is no coincidence that we now speak of a 'focus' instead of a 'model'. Before establishing uniform criteria for designing and implementing young people's training and employment strategies that have a local or regional base, what emerges are elements which regardless of their differences allow the diverse experiences to be grouped in a new focus. These elements include (a) that a specific region with its individual social, cultural and economic characteristics is taken as the framework, (b) that a high level of participation and social dialogue is usually involved, (c) that the orientation is towards mobilising local resources and comparative advantages, specially in the field of knowledge, and (d) that the initiatives are framed in more general strategies aimed at enabling local societies to raise their capacity to manage their own development processes.

Local Economic Development (LED) in the world

The Programme of Strategic Alliances for Local Development in Latin America

www.desarrollolocal.org

This is a regional undertaking from the Latin American Association of Promotion Organisations (ALOP), which is financed by the Inter-American Foundation (IAF). Its objective is to improve the capacities of civil society organisations in the area of local development.

The Programme is coordinated by the Latin American Centre for Human Economics (CLAEH), and is run by a coordinating committee made up of representatives from ALOP, CLAEH (Uruguay), SUR (Chile) and FUNDE (El Salvador).

What are the objectives of the Programme?

- To make it possible for local development experiences to be put into a system and distributed through a fund that organisations, local governments and NGOs can apply to.
- To create an electronic information system about the resources available for local development and also for actors in the region to share information electronically. The web site has been set up for this purpose and three electronic conferences about local development will be held.
- To implement training with a wide range of activities such as national, border area and regional courses, work experience and counselling.
- To help regional non-governmental organisations to participate in the regional forum for strengthening NGOs institutionally.

CLAEH

Latin American Centre for Human Economics

www.claeh.org.uy

(This organisation is a member of ALOP)

This non-governmental organisation is an expert in the measurement and assessment of interests and initiatives in Uruguayan civil society.

It does consultancy work mainly in the social area, in the Uruguayan parliament, and in the evaluation and monitoring of public policies and social projects.

It runs six programmes: the local development programme, the bridge programme of training and technical support from small and middle-sized enterprises, the social policy programme, the State and political system programme, and the Integration Programme of Mercosur and the Northeast Region.

DESCO

Centre for Studies and Promotion of Development

www.desco.org.pe

(This organisation is a member of ALOP)

Desco is a non-governmental development institution which has been operating in Peruvian civil society for more than 33 years. It works to foster social development and to strengthen capacities in excluded sectors in Peru.

Desco is defined as a private civil association with public objectives, and it has established connections with people's organisations, the main social and political actors and State bodies so as to help to make civil society more able to create development projects.

MERCOCIUDADES

Mercociudades Network

<http://www.mercociudades.org>

The Mercociudades (Merco-cities) Network operates in the Mercosur and associated countries. Since it was set up eight years ago it has been working to make the Mercosur more just and more accessible to the citizens of those countries.

Mercociudades is a horizontal cooperation network that links up 91 cities and is working to promote their insertion into the regional integration process of the Mercosur. It has been growing in importance, both in number of members and exchanging experiences.

SUR

Corporation for Social Studies and Education

www.sitiosur.cl

(This organisation is a member of ALOP)

Sur is a private institution which focuses on public concerns. It has ten years of experience working as a consultant to State bodies, and providing studies, assessment, technical support or implementing programmes and social projects to foster production.

The professionals and technicians who work in Sur are specialists in the following areas: citizenship and social development, communications, urban development, local economic development, employment and labour relations, governability and public policies, gender and equal opportunities, public space and citizenship, the environment and participation, identity and local history, social movements, councils and planning, social participation, poverty and social policies, and sexuality and the family.

CECADE

Centre of Training and Promotion for Democracy

www.cecade.org

(This organisation is a member of ALOP)

The Centre of Training and Promotion for Democracy (CECADE) is a civil institution whose function is to strengthen civil society and the democratic process in El Salvador. It is a non-profit, academic, scientific institution.

Its mission is to help in the sustainable and integral development of local unions, leaders and communities in areas of institutional influence and interest, and to strengthen the democratic process through education.

CESAP

www.cesap.org

(This organisation is a member of ALOP)

CESAP is a private organisation with popular support that is made up of 27 organisations at the national level which carry out social programmes and projects in settlements, towns, communities and cities. For 25 years it has been working to foster the participation of sectors of the population in the management of their own development and their struggle for welfare.

This organisation is a social and political actor that is profoundly committed to people's action, and it fosters change towards constructing 'a society of all men and all women'.

FUNDE

National Development Foundation

www.nicarao.apc.org/funde

(This organisation is a member of ALOP)

FUNDE's objectives include promoting a strategy of alternative economic and social development by fostering the participation of civil society, generating mechanisms to coordinate different social sectors to debate economic and social policies and their impact on local council management, and also to foster programmes and projects in the area of sustainable human development.

Its main aims are to make a contribution to research, reflection and debate about regional and local development in El Salvador, and its core is a focus on proposals, participative methodology, and a multi-disciplinary and integral approach that is modern and has nation-wide impact.

IAF (Funding organisation)

Inter-American Foundation – Local Development Programme
www.iaf.gov/index/index_en.asp

The Inter-American Foundation (IAF) is an independent American government body that was set up in 1969 as an experimental alternative for foreign aid from the United States to Latin America and the Caribbean. It works with bodies in the public and private sectors to increase aid and mobilise local, national and international resources for grassroots development. The budget of the Foundation consists of funds that are allocated by Congress and by the Fiduciary Fund for Social Progress.

The Inter-American Foundation acts on the principle that local development is a participative process. It tackles and solves various socio-economic problems in a particular region through forging alliances between civil society, local government and the private sector which will lead to sustainable development, improved quality of life for low income groups, and a strengthening of the movement towards democracy throughout the region.

AECI (Funding organisation)

Spanish International Co-operation Agency
www.aeci.es

The Spanish International Co-operation Agency (AECI) was set up in November 1988 as the executive arm of the Spanish policy of cooperation for development. It comes under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the Secretary of State for International Cooperation for Latin America (SECIPI). It is the technical body responsible for the design, execution and management of cooperative projects and programmes. It either does this directly with its own resources or through collaboration (conventions, agreements) with other national and international bodies and non-governmental organisations.

ALIDE (Funding organisation)

Latin American Association of Financial Institutions for Development
www.alide.org.pe

This is an international non-governmental organisation which represents institutions that finance development in Latin America and the Caribbean. It works to bring cohesion and strength to the role that financial institutions play in economic and social development in the region.

IDB (Funding organisation)
Inter-American Development Bank
www.iadb.org

The main functions of this institution are to allocate its own capital, the resources it obtains from financial markets and other available funds to finance development in countries that have joined the system. When private capital is not available it complements private investment on reasonable terms, and it provides technical assistance for preparing, financing and implementing development programmes. The Bank's operations cover the whole spectrum of economic and social development. In the past, the Bank put the emphasis on productive sectors like agriculture and industry, physical infrastructure like energy and transport, and social sectors including public health, the environment, education and urban development. Nowadays its priorities include social equity and reducing poverty, modernisation, integration and the environment.

FOMIN (Funding organisation)
Multilateral Investment Fund – Inter-American Development Bank
www.iadb.org/fomin

This special Fund, which is administered by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), was set up in 1993 to foster the increasingly important role of the private sector in Latin America and the Caribbean. In association with governments, business organisations and non-governmental organisations, FOMIN provides subsidies and technical assistance to contribute to market reforms, to supply special aptitudes and knowledge for the workforce, and to widen financial participation of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises. FOMIN also acts as a catalyst to attract capital to the small enterprise sector, and micro financing with special capital funds in community development, venture capital, technology and business associations, and the promotion of new focuses in environmentalism.

IDRC (Funding organisation)

International Development Research Centre
www.idrc.ca

The International Development Research Centre is a public corporation set up by the Canadian government to help developing communities in the world to find solutions – through research – to social, economic and environmental problems.

IULA/CELCADEL (Funding organisation)

International Union of Local Authorities – Latin American Chapter
www.iula.net

CELCADEL, which was set up in 1983, is the technical executive instrument of the Latin American chapter of IULA (the International Union of Local Authorities). It offers training and technical support, and it does research in local development areas and produces training material oriented to improving the quality of human resources at the municipal level.

ALOP

Latin American Association of Promotion Organisations
www.alop.or.cr

ALOP promotes the sharing of experiences among its associated NGOs focusing on preparing alternative development proposals and working to get them implemented.

DELNET

www.itcilo.it/delnet

This is a programme from the international training centre of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), a specialised agency in the United Nations system. The aim of Delnet is to support local development and de-centralisation processes which are under way in different parts of the world, and to strengthen capacity at the local level through training, information, technical support and networking.

FISDL

Social Investment Fund for Local Development - El Salvador
www.fisdل.gob.sv

The objective of FISDL is to finance and foster sustainable local development, to strengthen the capacity of local governments and their communities, to implement processes which will allow (in an equitable, participative, co-responsible and transparent way) the effective and efficient use of limited resources to improve opportunities and the quality of life for Salvadorans, specially in the poorest strata.

(LED) Local Economic Development

ILO - International Labour Organisation
www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/intro/led

This is a programme of the ILO employment sector in Geneva. Its strategy is oriented to creating decent employment at the local level through social dialogue. It uses local resources and capacities and takes the social and environmental ambit very much into account. Its focus centres on public-private cooperation between local economic actors, workers' and business associations, economic support institutions and NGOs. These associations are usually local economic development agencies.

Latin American Forum for Best Practices

www.habitat-lac.org/habitat-lac

This organisation, which is sponsored by the Spanish government, was set up in 1997. Its mission is to promote the transfer of knowledge about best practices in Latin America. The general objectives of the Forum for the period 1999-2000 were to improve the quality of best practices on the best practices data base, and facilitate their distribution throughout Latin America. The Forum identifies and analyses innovative experiences, and promotes the distribution of this information throughout the region. The Forum is a network of more than sixty organisations including local government agencies, non-governmental organisations, universities, grassroots groups and the private sector, all of which are working to improve the conditions of life.

MAGNET

Governability and Development Management Division. United Nations Development Programme – UNDP
www.magnet.undp.org

This Division supports UNDP efforts to promote good governability in the three areas that are crucial to achieving sustainable human development: the State, the private sector and civil society.

Public-Private Partnerships for the Urban Environment

United Nations Development Programme - UNDP
www.undp.org/pppue

This facility supports the construction of partnerships between governments, private enterprises and civil society so as to unite resources and capacities to confront challenges in the urban environment in the 21st century. It supports cities, councils and communities in developing countries in their efforts to improve the quality of life of their citizens through involving the private sector in key environmental services.

SISCO

Information Centre
www.sisco.or.cr

The training area of the Resource Centre for Sustainable Development in Human Settlements in Central America (CERCA) decided to make available the addresses (URL and e-mail) of web sites of a number of study centres, grassroots organisations, documentation centres, etc., that work in the field of local development. The emphasis is on those institutions which have documentation centres or which periodically put useful information on the net.

UIM

Latin American Union of City Councils

www.eurosur.org/CEMCI

The Latin American Union of City Councils (UIM) is an international non-governmental development organisation that is recognised by UNESCO. It is a non-profit organisation with legal status and full powers to act, constituted through an initiative by responsible politicians and technicians in Spanish and Latin American city councils. Its technical office is in the Centre for Municipal Studies and International Cooperation (Cemci).

UT - LANIC

University of Texas - Latin American Network Information Service

www.lanic.utexas.edu

The objective of LANIC is to provide Latin American users with access to academic data banks and information services available on the internet, and at the same time to offer information from and about Latin America to people all over the world who are interested in this region.

LANIC is the official site of the virtual library's Latin American studies discipline, and it is one of the most visited academic spaces in this World Wide Web Consortium project. It is also a key part of the International Information Systems project that was initiated by the University of Texas.

Centro Emprende

www.centroemprende.com

A distance training centre for Spanish-speaking entrepreneurs all over the world.

CESEM

Municipal Services Centre

www.serpiente.dgsca.unam.mx/cesem

Municipal information network. It has listings and links that can be very useful.

INFODEL

Local Development Information System
www.siscom.or.cr/infodel

INFODEL is taking shape as a strategic and operational alliance that aims to unite technical and human efforts to develop a specialised information system for local development (INFODEL).

This is an agreement between the Resource Centre for Human Settlements in Central America (CERCA), the Central American Urban Environment Network (RAU-CA), the Arias Foundation for Peace and Human Progress, and the Sustainable Development Network (SDN-UNDP). It has made the interconnection of complementary initiatives possible.

ACCESO

www.acceso.or.cr

Acceso is a non-governmental development organisation that has its headquarters in Costa Rica, and active programmes in Latin America. It offers technical support, training and help in institutional development to local, national and international organisations which share its commitment to equitable, participative and sustainable development.

CEBEM

Bolivian Centre of Multi-Disciplinary Studies
www.cebem.com

CEBEM is a non-profit association which conducts multi-disciplinary research in the social science area. It is a private and autonomous social research centre, and it is concerned with reflection and discussion of questions that are important for Bolivian society. It employs multi-disciplinary perspectives and consistent methodological focuses that are spread through publications, seminars and workshops. It works on local development, and it has a virtual information network.

HUMBOLDT CENTRE

www.ibw.com.ni/%7Ehumboldt

The Alexander Von Humboldt Centre is a Nicaraguan non-profit civil association. Its mission is to promote regional development and environmental management, and its main lines of activity are local development and management of the environment.

CEPRODEL

Centre for the Promotion of Local Development

www.nicarao.apc.ni/ceprodel

CEPRODEL's aim is to establish itself over the next few years as a leading institution in the promotion of local development based on the population's potential, capacity and initiative, so as to influence structural changes in society.

Its objectives are to foster the development of city councils, to contribute to making family survival strategies into self-run productive economies, to help poor communities and families to improve their conditions of housing, employment, services and income, and to foster a sense of self-respect and dignity in poor families.

DEMUCA

Foundation for Local Development and Municipal and Institutional Strengthening in Central America and the Caribbean

www.demuca.or.cr

The objective of DEMUCA is to help strengthen the management capacities of local governments as well as political, democratic public management organisations, so as to promote human development.

EQUIPO PUEBLO

www.equipopueblo.org.mx

DECA Equipo Pueblo is a civil association whose mission is to promote alternative social development programmes, integrate public policies and promote good relations in citizens' interaction initiatives to help to construct civil power and foster the culture of citizenship. Its platform includes a commitment to the most excluded social sectors, to play a part in global policy action, to participate in processes and to promote national and local projects, etc.

FIADELSO

International Foundation to Support Local and Social Development
www.xarxaneta.org/fiadelso

The International Foundation to Support Local and Social Development (FIADELSO) is a private non-profit body which has been set up as a non-governmental development organisation.

Impulsa Local Development Foundation

www.desarrollolocal.cl

This foundation aims at offering a service, which is to create a context for information and debate about what is going on in the world of local development. It also aims to facilitate the sharing of experiences, the creation of networks, the search for information and meetings between people involved in the development field.

It has good links to Chilean organizations which can provide inputs that are useful when it comes to undertaking local development projects.

IGLOM

www.web.iteso.mx/iglom

IGLOM's main objective is to bring together researchers and specialists who, from their various disciplines and analysis perspectives, work to generate knowledge and practices aimed at modernising local governments and at making their relations with local society more democratic.

PREVAL

Programme for Strengthening Regional Capacity to Evaluate Rural Poverty Reduction Projects in Latin America and the Caribbean
www.fidamerica.cl

PREVAL was born of the need to remedy the problem of the region's limited capacity to evaluate projects. It was recognised that, despite a growing demand for technical support in evaluation, there are few opportunities for training in this field. The organisation has three components: applied research (case studies of interesting evaluation experiences, and the production of methodological manuals and training materials), training (the design and implementation of regional and sub-regional events for specialists in project evaluation and for personnel responsible for the follow-up and evaluation of projects supported by FIDA and by other bodies), and diffusion (production, reproduction, distribution and diffusion by printed or electronic means of material collected or generated by PREVAL). The organisation is also working to consolidate an electronic network that was set up in June 1997 as a space for sharing information and experiences about evaluation.

The REDES Programme

Regional Programme for Social Undertakings
www.redes.gov.ar

The REDES programme (Regional Programme for Social Undertakings, of the Ministry of Social Development and the Environment of the Republic of Argentina) provides technical and financial support to foster economic and social development in different local communities. The social interest and technological innovation of the productive undertakings make them a key factor in this process because they are a means to promote regional economic development and help to generate employment and raise family incomes.

REDADEL

Central American Network of Economic and Social Development Agencies

www.oit.or.cr

Fourteen agencies have united to set up a Central American ADEL network. Its headquarters is in El Salvador. The aim is to support regional integration and bring about economies of scale in the field of information, human resources training and financial management. These fourteen ADELs in Central America promote local economic development in different modalities, and this has laid bare the need for structures like the Central American Network that are able to transcend the individual characteristics of each agency. In fact, the aim of the Network is to bring added value to ADEL system, implementing general initiatives for improvement that would be out of reach for one single agency.

REDEL

Local Economic Development Network

www.redel.cl

The Local Economic Development Network belongs to the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Chile. Its mission is to help bring dynamism to local economies in different parts of the country in a framework of social equity, involving small enterprises in development, working towards gender equity and consideration of an environment that yields a good quality of life. To this end it is cooperating with other institutions in constructing a regional network that is able to make strategic agreements aimed at integral development, to produce and distribute methodological tools to bring local actors into the management of development, and to set up spaces for reflection and dialogue that will enable public and private actors to learn.

REDES

Salvadorian Foundation for Reconstruction and Development

www.redes.org

This is a private, non-profit organisation that provides technical and financial services, and promotes participation from the citizenry and environmental protection so as to contribute to the integral and equitable development of sectors that are socially and economically marginalized.

RIADEL

Network of Research and Action in Local Development

www.cebem.com

The main objective of RIADEL is to foster the sharing of information about local development. It is available to researchers, trainers, politicians, local authorities and those who implement public policies and programmes in the area of local development. RIADEL sprang from an initiative by a group of Latin American study centres, NGOs, universities and government bodies, in response to the need to coordinate and systematize work being done in the sphere of local development. This work includes research on decentralisation and local government, poverty and equity, social movements and participation, and the training of social leaders and public employees in subjects like education, the formulation and evaluation of projects, planning, and also intervention in local development projects that range from community workshops to municipal participative planning.

