

Sensitizing Package on Local Economic Development

5 Modules

by

Andrés Rodríguez-Pose

and

Sylvia Tijmstra

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For more information about the complete package: led@ilo.org

Department of Geography and Environment
London School of Economics

Correspondence: a.rodriguez-pose@lse.ac.uk



Module 1: The relevance of LED today

This module aims explains why Local Economic Development (LED) has become a necessary, viable, and complementary alternative to traditional development strategies in a globalized world. It argues that, in a world increasingly dominated by flows and economic integration, LED provides the adequate framework both to maximize the socio-economic potential of every territory – regardless of whether rich or poor, developed or underdeveloped, urban or rural, central or remote – and to minimize the risks associated with engaging in development strategies, while generating decent and sustainable employment.

This module specifically aims at:

- a) emphasizing how globalization is changing the context in which traditional development strategies are implemented;
- b) showing how traditional development policies are becoming less effective in this context;
- c) highlighting the potential of Local Economic Development (LED) strategies in a changing world.

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Module 2: What is LED?

This module seeks to clarify what is meant by Local Economic Development (LED). The term ‘local economic development’ has been used to describe a wide variety of initiatives, ranging from industrial policy and regional planning to community development, which, although part of a LED strategy, are not in and of themselves LED. This module will seek to clarify the approach and its key principles in order to focus the discussion in the subsequent modules

Specifically this module will:

- a) Define the key concepts in the approach and contrast it with other development approaches
- b) Present the core values of LED, most importantly the principles of voice and representation, equality and inclusiveness
- c) Stress the importance of key principles within the approach

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Module III: How to plan and implement a LED strategy

This module will examine the phases in the LED process, from analysing the territorial and institutional environment to evaluating and monitoring activities. It will aim to provide some general guidelines from which to proceed and flag key issues that can arise at different points within the process. These issues will be illustrated by an example taken from the LED project in the Manica Province in Mozambique, in which the ILO was involved from a very early stage.

Specifically this module will aim to:

- a) Create an understanding of how the LED strategic planning process works
- b) Identify the key phases in the process
- c) Introduce the main tools that can be used to plan, implement, and monitor the process.

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Module IV: LED and Decent Work

This module examines the link between decent work and poverty reduction and the role LED can play in creating decent employment opportunities. It will clarify the ILO's Decent Work concept and framework. The main factors of this approach will be identified and illustrated using case studies from the Sub-Saharan African context. In general, the module will show that productive and gainful employment contributes to the objective of poverty reduction. Through encouraging pro-poor growth, the LED approach can help to achieve the interrelated goals of decent employment creation and poverty reduction.

Specifically this module will aim to:

- a) present the ILO Decent Work concept and framework
- b) clarify the link between productive and gainful employment and poverty reduction
- c) examine the ability of the LED approach to promote decent employment opportunities

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Module V: An enabling environment for LED

This module examines the impact of the local, regional, and national environment on the LED process. It discusses the importance of local, regional, and national actors within the process, as well as the role played by regulations and policies at the regional and national scale. The main factors constraining and facilitating the application of the LED approach will be identified. In general, the module seeks to convey the message that, even though LED is a locally-owned and implemented project, the national and regional environments within which it evolves have an important influence on the likelihood of its success.

Specifically this module aims to:

- a) Stress the importance of an enabling environment for the success of the LED approach
- b) Define the key elements of an enabling environment
- c) Examine the roles of national and regional actors in the LED process

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