



**IMPROVING THE QUALITY
OF LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES
FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**



I-QUAL

A EURADA-ILS LEDA PROGRAM

BACKGROUND

The I-QUA-L Program is an instrument for helping the Local/Territorial Development agencies (LEDA) in achieving accredited performance in promoting human development.

World is changing. The traditional values, like market as sovereign, economic growth as priority, financial assets as main growth tool are in crisis, because they do not solve problems such the safeguard of the important earth resource -the natural environment and human being resources- but they seem to destroy them.

In Europe the way to approach the crisis is synthesized by the Europe 2020 strategy, focused on an innovative, sustainable, and inclusive development. The United Nations launched the Millennium Development Goals, as target for their action. The new US administration is looking for new advanced socio-economic compatible development path. In many emerging countries, mainly in Latin America, the problem of the relationships between economic growth, social inclusion, equality, and environment are priorities in the political agenda.

New tasks and targets have therefore to be accomplished by the LEDAs. ILS LEDA has identified these targets in the following areas:

- 1) Governance: with focus on participated governance, which includes public, private, and socio-communitarian actors.
- 2) Scope: with explicit focus on human development.
- 3) Services: with focus on comprehensive services for territorial socio-economic development, and special attention to the inclusion of the disadvantaged part of population and entrepreneurs.
- 4) Strategy: with focus on the valorization of the local potentialities, through a continuous research-action on the local resources.
- 5) Sustainability: based on institutional (links with local and national government), social (balanced participation in the management, management board meetings), economic (independence on subsidies or unique sources of income, short-medium-long term forecasting), and technical (autonomous capacities) sustainability.
- 6) Administration, aimed at achieving capacities in administrating a complex multi-purpose and multi-task structure.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE

The **I-QUAL** will:

- 1) Analyze the LEDA performance.
- 2) Deliver a label (Sunflower) to the LEDA, according to these performance, and valid 3 years.
- 3) Assign a profile, according to the quality of the performance, as responding to human development targets

- 4) Share an assistance program at distance, which consists of 16 free hours of support for improving the performance and achieve better labeling.
- 5) Register the labeled LEDAs to the ILSLEDA network, and provide them free assistance at distance.






THE METHODOLOGY FOR ANALYZING THE LEDA PERFORMANCE AND ASSIGNING THE SUNFLOWER QUALITY LABEL

- 1) The Eurada-ILSLEDA program has chosen 24 **variables** to assess the LEDA quality. Each variable is assessed according to one or more **indicators**, and the LEDA **performance** for each indicator is evaluated and a **score** will be assigned.
- 2) The variables are classified in two types: VIV=very important variables (they “weight” more) and LIV= less important variables (they “weight” less), according to the following table 1.

TABLE 1: IMPORTANCE OF THE ASSESSMENT VARIABLES	
VERY IMPORTANT VARIABLES	LESS IMPORTANT VARIABLES
1-LEGAL FRAMEWORK	5-TECHNICAL STRUCTURE
2- MEMBERS	10-RELATIONSHIPS WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT
3-BOARD COMPOSITION	11-RELATIONSHIPS WITH NATIONAL POLICIES
4-LEDA OBJECTIVES	12-BUDGET
6-GENDERIZATION	14-BUDGET TREND
7- BOARD MANAGEMENT	15-SERVICE MANAGEMENT
8-SERVICES	17-NETWORKING
9-IMPACT ON LOCAL PRODUCTION AND SERVICES	20-ADMINISTRATION
13-SOURCES OF INCOMES	21-IMPLEMENTED PROJECTS
16-USERS	22-VALUE OF THE PROJECTS
18-STRATEGY	23-ORIGIN (COHERENCE)OF THE PROJECTS
19-ENVIRONMENTAL APPROACH	
24-FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY	

- 3) The label consists of a **sunflower** (because it always looks for the sun), of a different color from the yellow to the red, according to the achieved performance score, as in the following table 2.

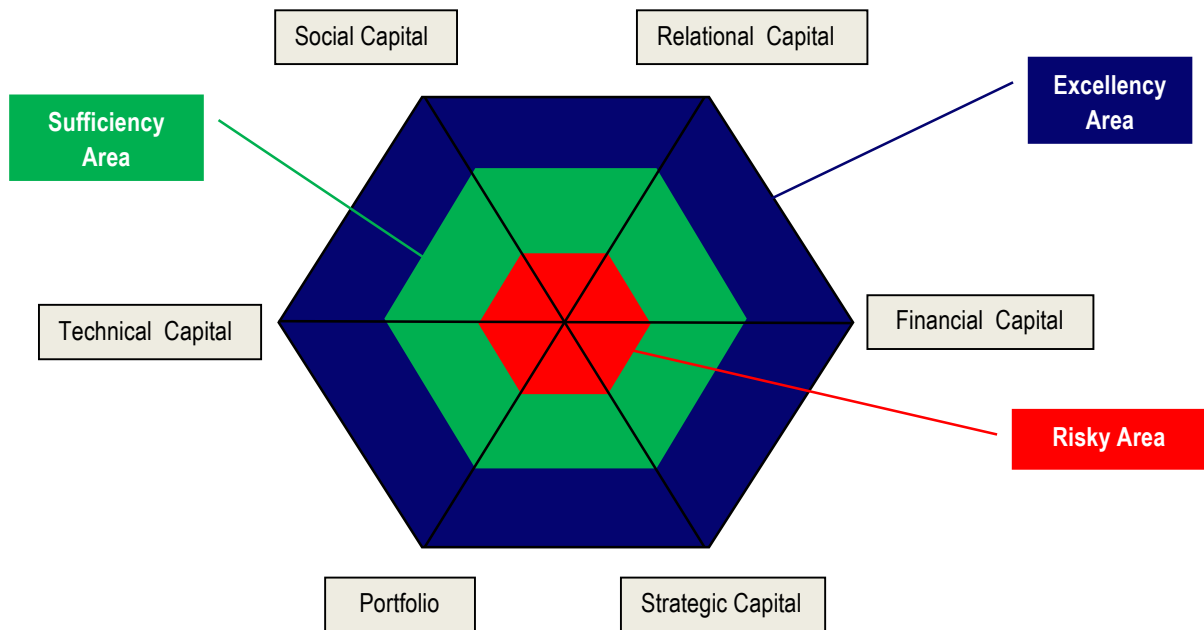
The maximum possible score is **196**. The minimum score for being labeled is **95**.

TABLE 2 –THE IQUAL SUNFLOWERS			
			
<i>YELLOW</i>	<i>ORANGE</i>	<i>PINK</i>	<i>RED</i>
The lowest			The highest

Yellow Sunflower	Score between 100 and 120
Orange Sunflower	Score between 121 and 140
Pink Sunflower	Score between 141 and 170
Red Sunflower	Score > 171

- 4) Eurada assigns as well a **profile**, according to the LEDA “Capital” needed for its human development performance.

The graphic description of the profile will fit into the following picture and represent the LEDA positioning (excellencies and risks)



HOW TO APPLY

The LEDAs that wants to apply to the program shall just solicit it to ilsleda@ilsleda.org, and fill a specific application form, that they will immediately receive as reply.