

PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT SERVICES IN THE FRAMEWORK OF LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

WORKSHOP: DECENTRALISED PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT SERVICES AND THEIR CONNECTION WITH THE WORLD OF BUSINESS

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EMPLOYMENT POLICIES WITH A TERRITORIAL FOCUS

The Argentinean Ministry for Labour, Employment and Social Security (MTEySS) is promoting the implementation of active employment policies with an obviously territorial focus, such as the municipally-based public employment services, as an aspect of local development.

Between the years 2003 and 2005, the MTEySS altered the approach of its policies which had until then been designed to tackle the most immediate effects of the crisis of 2000-01. Based on the strong recovery of the economy and employment, it redirected its policies towards reducing structural unemployment, in particular with a view to reversing the process of the disqualification of the work force, placing the municipalities at the heart of its actions.



EMPLOYMENT POLICIES WITH A TERRITORIAL FOCUS

It organised the implementation of active employment policy strategies and in 2003 launched the Integrated Employment Plan for More and Better Work, which proposed an innovative strategy aimed at articulating active employment policies by developing Sector-based Qualification Agreements, and Sector-based Territorial Promotion Agreements focusing on the municipality.

The Sector-based Qualification Agreements were created as an articulated raft of actions which the company players in a given productive sector themselves would run with the support of the MTEySS and other State offices, to upgrade their productivity, competitiveness and ability to generate employment from the specific angle of the creation of qualifications.

EMPLOYMENT POLICIES WITH A TERRITORIAL FOCUS

The Territorial Agreements express the need to recover the active role of the State in the implementation of public policy in general, and in the case of the MTEySS, of employment policy in particular.

These agreements represent strategies initiated by the municipalities and local players, with the support of the MTEySS, to provide a response to employment problems and people's needs for qualifications, in the framework of the development processes and opportunities of a specific territory.

Means are being sought through this channel to do better than an action style based on the development of isolated programmes, avoiding overlap and generating new spaces for technical or financial assistance.



EMPLOYMENT POLICIES WITH A TERRITORIAL FOCUS

The Territorial Agreements also presuppose the need to set up local institutions in service of the employment policies capable of providing an adequate response to the needs of jobseekers or those wishing to upgrade their occupational qualifications, and employers needs.

EMPLOYMENT POLICIES WITH A TERRITORIAL

FOCUS



The promotion of local development (LD) implies the recognition to the territory as the organisational basis of social, economic, cultural and institutional activity of each locality, with the acceptance of the leading role of local agents (including social players) in building their own development.

LD arises from the municipalities, since they are the State political organisation which is closest to the citizens, and act as their main “engine”.



LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT and the PES

Local development (LD) consists basically of the three following aspects:

- **Efforts to ensure the general wellbeing of the local people.**
- **Analyses of methods of achieving development.**
- **A raft of tools to achieve development.**



LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT and the PES

In more specific terms, the LD approach is characterised by:

- a. An acknowledgement of the territory as the organisational basis of the social, economic, cultural and institutional life of the localities;**
- b. The implication that development is (also) built from the bottom up, and is necessarily participatory given that it places responsibility for it on the shoulders of the beneficiaries themselves.**
- c. An acceptance of a holistic view of reality in order to grasp its limits and potential in an integrated way and with a long-term view, preserving the resource base which makes development possible.**



LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT and the PES

Local economic development (LED) seeks to generate condition and opportunities to improve local economies via the implementation of strategies designed to strengthen and expand the local productive base (the basic sector) and to improve levels of local accumulation, optimising the use of existing local resources with a view to the effective and balanced development of the localities.



LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT and the PES

Municipios	OE	Población	Base productiva	Objetivos y funciones de OE	Observaciones
Grandes	101	Más de 50 mil personas	Amplia y consolidada	<ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) Intermediación laboral.(2) Operación de programas de mejora de la empleabilidad.(3) Administración de programas de empleo y sociales.	Mayor o menor intensidad de funciones depende del tamaño y nivel de desarrollo de la base productiva.
Intermedios	104	50 a 20 mil personas	Medianamente desarrollada	<ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) Operación de programas de mejora de la empleabilidad.(2) Administración de programas de empleo y sociales.(3) Promoción del empleo.(4) Intermediación laboral.	Los requerimientos de promoción del empleo son crecientes según sea reducida la base productiva. Desarrolla importantes acciones en el marco del DEL.
Pequeños	140	Menos de 20 mil personas	Pequeña o muy limitada; principalmente rural	<ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) Administración de programas de empleo y sociales.(2) Promoción del empleo.(3) Operación de programas de mejora de la empleabilidad.(4) Intermediación laboral.	IL está limitada a acciones de información y orientación. Esencialmente desarrolla acciones en el marco del DEL.



LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT and the PES

These EOs, developed for the most part with a territorial or LD focus, have the great virtue of tackling the employment problem scenario from an overall picture of the territory, and as a consequence factor in the essential connection between employment and the needs of local productive development.



LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT and the PES

Various limitations which the Eos are meeting and attempting to overcome:

- **Institutional unreliability and weakness of the players.**
- **Lack of technical frameworks.**
- **Want of basic information.**
- **Public and private actions spread out in favour of development.**
- **Shortage of local projects.**
- **Local responses conditioned by the supply of resources.**

***Nothing of value exists at global level if
nothing works at the local level.***

**Carlos Fuentes. Speech to the Iberian-American Forum,
Toledo, Spain. November 10 2002.**





THANK YOU!!