

Summer School on Citizens' Participation in Local Development

“Le développement sera local ou ne sera pas”



From the 22nd to the 26th of June 2015 the first national edition of the Summer School **“Le développement sera local ou ne sera pas”** (Development will be local or there won't be any) on citizens' participation in local development was held in Kaolack (Senegal). The activity was part of the CIDEL Programme (Connaissance Innovatrice et Développement Local), funded by the Italian Cooperation, and realized in collaboration with the Universitas Programme of the KIP International School.

The Summer School brought together Italian and Senegalese experts from different regions and professional realities: local councillors, state officials at local and national level, university professors and students, representatives of the private sector. The collaboration with the KIP International School permitted the participation of experts from the Italian regions of Liguria and Emilia-Romagna.



The week was designed as a training program based on the exchange of experiences and "learning-by-doing", providing classroom lessons and visits to significant experiences. Through the activities carried out during the five days, the actors were able to learn, exchange and reflect on practices and experiences in Senegal in the field of local development, decentralization and participation and to deepen relationships with the actors of the two Italian regions.

The Seminar started with an official opening ceremony, headed by the local authorities, Madame SARR,

Minister of Women, Family and Childhood and the mayor of the city of Kaolack, followed by a first introductory day on the main topics of the Seminar. The following days were dedicated to field visits, in particular to a local food processing unit (grain, fruits and vegetables), the megalithic site of Sine Ngayene and the experience of the green revolution made by the town of Keur Madiabel. Each visit was followed by a discussion with the actors involved. The week ended with an official ceremony during which interest in future cooperation was strengthened.



At the end of the Summer School, the actors expressed their willingness to continue the collaboration. In particular, the experts of Liguria region agreed to accompany the Kaolack region in a participatory process to develop an integrated tourism plan for the area.

