

## **UNIVERSITAS FORUM: Journal of Human Development and International Cooperation**



*Universitas Forum* has just published a special issue on **Social Innovations and local development in Senegal**. The publication constitutes the final activity of the National Competition for Innovative Practices of Local Development, a project of the Programme “*Connaissances Innovantes sur le Développement Local – CIDEL*”. CIDEL was a programme of the Senegalese Ministry of Territorial Governance, Development and Territorial Planning (MTGDAT), realized with a contribution from the Italian Cooperation. The KIP International School provided technical and methodological support to MTGDAT in implementing the CIDEL programme. Specifically, KIP’s *Universitas Programme* supported the design and implementation process of the National Competition (NC).

The National Competition aimed to identify and capitalize innovative experiences concerning local development in Senegal to facilitate their dissemination at national and international levels. It was also a way to establish a strategic partnership between research and public institutions promoting the engagement of universities in the development process of their territories.

Senegal is one of the West African countries most marked by the multiplicity and dynamism of local development interventions led by a variety of actors: the State, local and international civil society (community organizations, NGOs, etc.), local governments, technical and financial international development partners, decentralised cooperation actors, etc. These experiences, however, have not yet led to a critical mass of information that can be capitalized and contribute to defining their structural features, dominant trends, lessons learned or open questions. This explains why so many territorial innovations introduced by communities remain fragmented, rarely studied by researchers, not well known and poorly recognised by public authorities, thus risking their early collapse.

The NC was itself an innovative process of creating knowledge about the territories based on the experiences of their actors, particularly local governments and grassroots community organizations. It provided twenty-eight capitalization reports and eight case studies of local development experiences as well as documentary videos on the six experiences awarded at the national level. As a result, the lack of a critical mass of information about local development practices deployed by territorial actors has been, at least in part, filled by this first edition of the NC.

*Universitas Forum* uses open-source publication software and all articles can be viewed and downloaded free of charge. All abstracts and introductory articles can be viewed in English, French and Italian. Full texts of case studies are available in the original language only. To view the journal issue, click on the link below and choose the language in the language box on the right:

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