

EXCHANGE

LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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Message from the Director



Sébastien Hamel
Director, FCM International

After a long Canadian winter, we at FCM are very happy to present the summer edition of LED Exchange. We hope you enjoy this issue, filled with innovative LED practices and resources emerging from our MLED, MPED and CARILED programs.

FCM International and its local government partners are often considered to be at the forefront of emerging trends in development cooperation. We were among the first organizations to consider local government's role in economic development as an essential component of our international programming. It has since

become a pillar of our development cooperation work. Whether it's an integrated video conferencing facility in the Caribbean, an economic corridor facilitating trade in West Africa or a hub for new entrepreneurs in LVIV, none of these projects would have been possible without all stakeholders willing to explore new ideas.

Our participation in global organizations, such as United Cities and Local Governments, gives us an opportunity to showcase these innovations through the work of our municipal experts. As a founding member of this organization,

FCM works with its counterparts from over 130 countries to find innovative ways to meet the needs of citizens.

We hope to continue to innovate as we work with communities around the world and within global organizations, to address emerging challenges and make the most of opportunities to grow local economies in a sustainable way.

What about you? Tell us how you're innovating to meet your community's needs on the LED Exchange Facebook page or on Twitter using the hashtag #fcmled. We look forward to hearing from you.

IF YOU'VE BEEN A REGULAR VISITOR TO FCM'S WEBSITE, YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED SOME CHANGES TO OUR INTERNATIONAL WEB PAGES ([HTTP://WWW.FCM.CA/HOME/PROGRAMS/INTERNATIONAL.HTM](http://www.fcm.ca/home/programs/international.htm)).

We've added some new content, for example on our work with global municipal networks, as well as knowledge-sharing features such as a resources section where you'll find case studies, reports, toolkits and videos on a series of topics.

We hope you enjoy this edition of LED Exchange. As always, we welcome your contributions and comments. Simply drop us a line at international@fcm.ca.

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MPED · PMDE

CARILED

UKRAINE MUNICIPAL LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

INNOVATION IN LED PRACTICES

The ICT Bridge Project

Kizzann Lee Sam, Regional Program Manager, CARILED



The Caribbean Local Economic Development Project (CARILED) is supporting an ICT Bridge for the communities of Carriacou and Petite Martinique (C-PM) in Grenada. Launched in 2014, the Bridge is an integrated videoconferencing facility connecting the islands of Carriacou, Petite Martinique and Grenada. The facility can reduce accommodation costs for facilitators from Grenada and business people in C-PM seeking capacity building and networking support.

At the Carriacou launch, Lisa Moreau of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada (DFATD) said the Bridge “offers a set of complementary tools for achieving shared development objectives and provides a great opportunity to marry support for local private sector development.”

Since its launch, the Bridge has hosted meetings and training from Grenada:

- An Entrepreneurship Forum from the Grenada Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC)
- Facilitated workshops on resource mobilization for SMEs
- Community consultations and reviews of a LED strategic plan for C-PM

The project team is now focused on completing a management plan and marketing strategy for the Bridge.

The ICT Bridge is a partnership between the C-PM Local Economic Development Planning and Advisory Committee (LED-PAC), Ministry of Carriacou and Petite Martinique Affairs & Local Government, and CARILED.

LOULOUNI MARKET AN ASSET FOR WEST AFRICAN ECONOMIC CORRIDOR

The economic corridor linking border communities in Mali and Burkina Faso, West Africa, continues to take shape. A renewed transborder market, which houses more than 80 boutiques, hangars and food processing stations, will provide a point for processing and selling goods from 228 agricultural producers, of which approximately 100 are women.

The Loulouni market contributes to the corridor’s purpose of strengthening and facilitating economic exchanges between more than 20 communities in both countries. Its renewal was made possible by contributions from the Government of Canada through FCM’s Municipal Partners for Economic Development (MPED) program and the Swiss government’s international development agency.



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INNOVATION IN LED PRACTICES

Start-Up Depot



Turning technological project ideas into business ventures is the goal of a Start-Up Depot business incubator that has begun operating in the City of Lviv, Ukraine.



At the end of last year, Lviv City Council appropriated premises for the business incubator on a cost-free basis, and necessary repairs and equipment were funded by MLED. The business incubator is now fully equipped and ready to accommodate several start-up teams.

The Start-Up Depot has launched its first annual information technologies (IT) competition called "Lviv Deal Generator" to not only help bring out the best ideas and projects, but demonstrate them to potential investors, helping future IT entrepreneurs.

More news is available on the [Start-Up Depot website](#).

This business incubator was created as part of the second stage of a demonstration project to develop an innovative environment and improve the investment image of Lviv. The project aims to reach the goals of the *Lviv Strategic Investment Attraction Plan through 2020*.

Learn more about business incubators by accessing the FCM International case study *Technology Parks and Incubation in Local Economic Development*.



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Community Economic Development in the Context of Mining Operations



In May, FCM International joined a Devonshire Initiative (DI) workshop to discuss mining, development and local government capacity.

The DI brings leading international development NGOs and industry players together to respond to an emerging social agenda surrounding mining and community development issues. It seeks to improve social and community development outcomes wherever Canadian mining companies operate overseas. In this community of practice, members exchange ideas in a safe environment.

Mining and local government capacity was selected as a topic

for the workshop because of the growing recognition by INGOs and mining companies that local governments are important stakeholders and enablers of community development.

FCM International made the case that “municipalities matter” using selected LED projects from MPED. Local governments are critical to social cohesion, sustainable development and fostering the rule of law. A key workshop lesson? Bureaucratic red tape can be irritating, but working with local government provides leverage by aligning resources with development efforts in the community.

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LOOKING FOR MORE RESOURCES?

This LED Exchange newsletter is one of many resources at your fingertips that offer examples of best practices, historical insight, innovative ideas and links to more in-depth information.

Here are other resources to check out:



E-news from the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) offers brief news articles on issues and events related to local government and LED throughout Commonwealth countries.



LEDNA Knowledge Brief of June 2014, published by the Local Economic Development Network of Africa (LEDNA), discusses LED in Tanzania and specifically mentions The Association of Local Authorities of Tanzania (ALAT) LED training initiative, done in collaboration with FCM, to address “the LED knowledge and capacity gap” in that country.



For the most recent news from our program, check out CARILED's June newsletter.

And don't forget to join the conversation happening on the LED Exchange Network on Facebook in French, English and Spanish. Email [Carilynn Siemens](mailto:Carilynn.Siemens@fcm.ca) (cziemens@fcm.ca) for your invitation today.