

NATIONAL WORKSHOP

Support to the implementation of the economic dimension of decentralization in Morocco

Thursday, November 02, 2017, Rabat, Morocco

Hotel Sofitel Rabat Jardin des Roses

1. Background

Since 2010, UCLG Africa is working with the Moroccan High Commissioner's Office for Planning (HCP) and the Ministry of the Interior of Morocco to better take into account the economic dimension in the planning and management of the municipalities and regions of Morocco. On December 09 and 10, 2010, a workshop on the evaluation and foresight of the local economy in Morocco was organized in Rabat in collaboration with the Ministry of the Interior (Directorate General of Local Governments, DGCL) and the High Commissioner's Office for Planning. This Workshop had shown the interest for the municipal and regional elected officials of Morocco to take an interest in economic governance and to have tools to enable them to identify the levers of action to promote economic development and the creation of jobs in their jurisdictions. These tools concern, in particular, the preparation of local economic accounts and the development of dashboards for steering and the foresight approach to the development of the economic activity and employment within the territories.

UCLG Africa has been experimenting with these tools for many years in sub-Saharan African countries, and the communities concerned have significantly improved the understanding of the economy of their territory, established new relationships with the private sector, and made headway in the area of economic governance and local citizens' involvement.

Further to its request to serve as a pilot territory, in collaboration with the Moroccan High Commissioner's Office for Planning (HCP) and the Ministry of the Interior (DGCL), UCLG Africa provided support to the Municipality of Chefchaouen for the preparation of the economic accounts of the community and of the province, as well as for the development of a local economy scorecard. This support has been achieved through the development of the Municipal Development Agency, which has been provided with tools to implement the economic dimension of the Communal Development Plan. Strengthening the capacity of the Municipal Development Agency to steer the local economy requires localized economic information to know the various components of the local economy and their interactions. This is a prerequisite for the development of differentiated and relevant strategies for the various sectors of the local economy.

The elaboration of the economic accounts of the city of Chefchaouen and of its province was based on the methodology for drawing up regional accounts prepared by the Moroccan High Commissioner's Office for Planning (HCP). This elaboration takes particular advantage of the two regional indicators produced by the HCP, namely the regional GDPs broken down by sector of activity (economic activity broken down into 13 industries) and the household final consumption expenditure per region. This methodology respects the principles and results of the 1998 National Accounts, compiled in accordance with the current National Standard of National Accounts, the 1993 System of National Accounts (SCN 1993). The basic principle is that the economy of the Province or of the City corresponds to the added value of all the resident units.

The HCP's methodology is complemented by ongoing discussions at the DGCL concerning the financial and budgetary programming of the implementation of the Communal development Plans (PDCs); and by the tools developed by UCLG Africa in the context of the implementation of the

ECOLOG approach (revitalization of local economies). The ECOLOC approach makes it possible, among other things, to define priority public investments in support of local economic development; the level of expenditure on management and maintenance in order to keep existing investments and equipment in good working order; and the level of levies on the economy and the wealth produced in the territories, enabling the public authorities to have the necessary leeway to face the financing requirements for the new investments and management and maintenance costs. The methodology also gives to local and regional authorities the opportunity to have a structured and informed dialogue on the sharing of public resources between the national level and the local and infranational authorities and on the local investment priorities in support of the attractiveness of territories, economic development and job creation.

On August 31, 2016, a first feedback workshop relating to the pilot project was held in Chefchaouen. This workshop helped to share the experience of preparing the economic accounts of the Commune of Chefchaouen in the presence of the representatives of the local authorities and of the Province, of all the protagonists of the management and economic development of the Commune, of the deconcentrated services of the national governments, the Moroccan Association of Presidents of Communal Councils (AMPCC), the High Commissioner's Office for Planning (HCP), the General Directorate of Local Governments (DGCL), and UCLG Africa. It made it possible to identify the information and the missing elements that still need to be gathered in order to be able to set up a genuine tool for prospective management of the economy at the territorial level. At the end of the Chefchaouen workshop, the participants agreed on the need to continue the experiment and draw lessons for standardizing the method at the regional level.

As a result of the Chefchaouen Workshop, UCLG Africa continued its collaboration with the HCP and the DGCL, but also with the associations of territorial authorities of Morocco (AMPCC and ARM) with a view to achieving results that are fairly robust at the level of the pilot project to allow standardization of the methodology at the national level and of its dissemination at the pan-African level within the framework of South-South cooperation. Hence the organization of the workshop national to be held on **Thursday, November 02, 2017 in Rabat.**

2. The goals of the National Workshop

2. 1. The general goal

The general goal of the national workshop is to present the methodology for the preparation of accounts and dashboards of the economy of the territories as well as the associated tools, in particular, for the construction of a prospective vision of the future of the economy of the territories and the definition of the trajectories to be followed in order to achieve this vision. This involves mobilizing knowledge tools, tools for steering and promoting the economy of the territories, and possibly legal tools for defining the institutional arrangements necessary for the implementation and steering of the economic development of the territories with a view to achieving the desired development vision.

After the national workshop, it should be possible to launch a National Program for a new reading of the Communal development Plans (PDCs) and of the RDPs in order to better take into account the economic dimension of their implementation, in support of Advanced Regionalization in Morocco.

2.2. The specific goals

The specific goals of the national workshop are:

- To present the methodology and results of the preparation of the economic accounts of the City and of its Chefchaouen Province, as well as their scope for local and infranational authorities in Morocco;

- to define the implications of preparing local economic accounts for the establishment of a system for collecting localized statistical data;
- To develop a program of new economic reading of municipal and infranational development plans in line with the economic development of the territories;
- Discuss to discuss the organization of local and national political dialogues concerning territorial economic development and of the tools needed for their usefulness and effectiveness efficiency.
- To discuss the financing modalities and the possible timetable for implementing such a program for making economic information available to Moroccan local and infranational governments.
- To consider South-South cooperation that can be developed in these areas.

3. The participants

Participants at the national workshop will come from various backgrounds and will include:

- The Presidents of the Regional Councils and Communal Councils of Morocco; and their National Associations;
- The Senior Executives of Regional and Municipal Administrations,
- the Directors and Senior Executives of the Agencies established by the national government to boost development within the North Region, within the Southern Regions, and the Oriental Region;
- The Directors and Executives of the Regional Development Agencies;
- The Directors and Executives of the Municipal Development Agencies;
- The Directors and Executives of the Regional Investment Centers;
- The Senior Executives of ministerial departments (Finance, Industrial Development, Trade, Crafts, Tourism);
- The Director and Executives of INDH (National Human development Initiative)
- The Representatives of the CGEM (Moroccan Employers' association);
- **The Directors and Executives of the HCP (Regional Directions, Direction of National Accounts, Direction of Planning and the Direction of Statistics)**
- The General Manager and senior executives of the Communal Equipment Fund (F.E.C.);
- The officers in charge of economic affairs in the diplomatic missions of Africa accredited in Morocco;
- The Economic and Statistical Observatory of Sub-Saharan Africa,
- The National Statistical Institutes of African countries.
- And the representatives of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UN ECA).

4. Draft Program

Schedule	Themes	Moderation
09: 00-09 :30	Reception and registration of participants	
09: 30 -10: 00	<p>Opening ceremony</p> <p>Speeches:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. President of ARM 2. President of AMPCC 3. UCLG Africa 4. Word of the High Commissioner for Planning 5. Opening speech of the Interior Minister 	UCLG Africa
10: 00 - 10:30	Coffee break	
10:30 - 10: 50	Methodology for the preparation of the Regional Economic Accounts	Ms. Yattou AIT KHELLOU, Head of the Methodology and Studies Division, National Accounts Directorate, HCP
10: 50-11: 10	The economic accounts of the Commune and of the Province of Chefchaouen: Methodology and results	M. Mostapha AFKIR, M. Miloud ERRATI Experts
11: 10-11: 30	Statistical system at the regional level and shortcomings in the development of local economic accounts	High Commissioner's Office for Planning (HCP)
11: 30-12: 10	Exchange of views and debate.	
12: 10-12: 30	Review of the Chefchaouen communal development plan from the economic perspective	<p>M. Mohammed SEFIANI, Mayor of Chefchaouen</p> <p>Mrs. Dalila EL HARRAS, Director of the Municipal Development Agency of the city of Chefchaouen.</p>
12: 30-13: 00	The review of the budget and accounting nomenclature of local governments in Morocco: What is the contribution of Chefchaouen's pilot experience? Exchange of views and debate.	Interior Ministry
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch break	
14 :00-15: 00	Development of sub-national economic accounts: the African experience	<p>Economic and Statistical Observatory of Sub-Saharan Africa (AFRISTAT)</p> <p>National Institutes of Statistics (INS)</p>

15: 00-15:20	Presentation of the initiative of the Economic Commission for Africa on the calculation of the GDP of Cities.	Ms. Semia TAPIA, UNECA
15: 20-16: 20	Round table: Is the launch of a National South / South Cooperation program around the development of economy dashboards and of prospective economic achievements within the territories desirable? If so, how to implement it and with whom?	Panelists: High Commissioner's Office for Planning; Interior Ministry; Oriental Agency; Mayor of Chefchaouen; President of ARM; President of CGEM; Representative of AFRISTAT; Representative of U.N.E.C.A.; Moroccan Association of National Accounts. Moderation : Secretary General, UCLG Africa.
16:20-16:30	Closing ceremony	