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ADIL NEWS

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QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE INTEGRATED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT PROGRAMME (ADIL)

Background

The Integrated Local Development Support Programme (ADIL) was initiated by the Ministry of Interior, Local Authorities and Transport, co-funded by the European Union and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and implemented by VNG International, the international cooperation agency of the Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG).

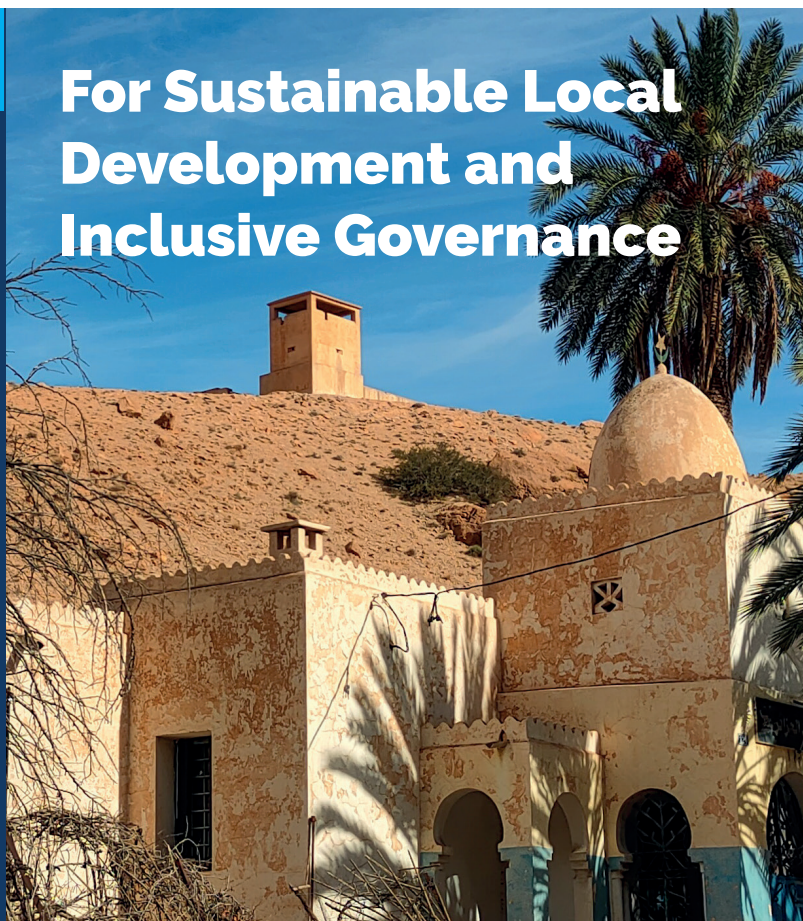
The programme aims to promote integrated, inclusive and sustainable territorial development by strengthening participatory local governance and enhancing the capacities of local authorities within the framework of Algeria's decentralisation process. Implemented over a period of three years, the Programme covers twelve pilot municipalities across seven wilayas: Mostaganem (Sidi Lakhdar, Ouled Boughalem, Khadra), Tébessa (Chéria, Ouenza, Bir El Ater), Tiaret (Tiaret, Medroussa), Ksar El Chellala (Zmalet Emir Abdelkader), Biskra (M'Chouneche, Sidi Okba), El Kantara (El Kantara).

The programme follows an integrated approach combining participatory territorial assessment, Local Strategic Planning (LSP) and the promotion of inclusive governance based on dialogue and stakeholder consultation. It supports national reforms, assists municipalities in developing local development strategies, and strengthens cooperation with civil society and local socio-economic stakeholders.

The programme's expected results include strengthening local governance and sustainable territorial development through support to national institutions, particularly the Ministry of Interior, Local Authorities and Transport, while enhancing the capacities of local authorities and their partners to fully assume their role as drivers of local development.

The programme also promotes local partnerships and innovative forms of collaboration, contributing to inclusive, equitable and resilient territorial development for the benefit of local communities, with particular attention to young people and women.

For Sustainable Local Development and Inclusive Governance



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ADIL Programme Awareness and Information Workshops

A series of ADIL programme awareness and information workshops was held on 14–15 January and 21–22 January in Biskra, Tébessa, Tiaret and Mostaganem, respectively.

Organised by the Ministry of Interior, Local Authorities and Transport, the workshops aimed to foster a shared understanding among local public authorities of the principles underpinning integrated, participatory and inclusive local development. They provided an opportunity to introduce the ADIL programme, promote the principles of local governance, and present innovative approaches to municipal development for the benefit of civil society organisations and associations operating in the pilot municipalities.

The workshops brought together more than 250 participants, including local authorities, senior officials from the Ministry of Interior, Local Authorities and Transport, elected representatives from the pilot municipalities, members of municipal consultative committees, and representatives of civil society organisations and community-based associations from the pilot municipalities across the wilayas of Mostaganem, Tébessa, Bir El Ater, Tiaret, Ksar El Chellala, Biskra and El Kantara.

The events were officially opened by the Governors (Walis) of the participating wilayas, who highlighted the strategic importance of the ADIL programme in supporting Algeria's decentralisation reforms and strengthening participatory democracy at the local level. They underscored the need to promote governance based on citizen participation, transparency, the inclusion of women and young people, and greater effectiveness in the management of public affairs.



ADIL Programme Awareness Workshop in Biskra. © ADIL

The National Programme Director then presented the overall framework of the programme, outlining its objectives, intervention areas and expected results. He explained that ADIL supports municipalities in adopting modern planning methodologies based on the active engagement of local stakeholders and on aligning development interventions with the actual needs and priorities of each territory. The programme team leader complemented this presentation by emphasising that financing under the ADIL programme should be regarded as a catalyst for sustainable local development rather than an objective in itself. Wilaya coordinators then presented the role of Municipal Consultative Committees in the preparation of Local Strategic Plans (LSPs). They highlighted the participatory and inclusive nature of the planning process, from the participatory territorial

assessment through to the final adoption of the Local Strategic Plans, ensuring the involvement of public institutions, citizens, civil society organisations and local associations. This collaborative approach is intended to foster broad ownership of local development initiatives. The Ministry of Interior, Local Authorities and Transport

officials also presented the Ministry's sectoral strategy for strengthening participatory governance at the local level. Particular emphasis was placed on territorial dialogue and the effective participation of citizens in decision-making processes as key drivers of improved public governance and stronger ownership of development initiatives. The technical dimension of the approach was also highlighted through the importance of foresight studies, territorial analyses and statistical data in municipal planning. Reliable and up-to-date data were presented as essential tools for informing decision-making, assessing the impact of public policies and ensuring evidence-based, objective and inclusive planning.

Finally, discussions addressed project financing—particularly for civil society initiatives—from the perspective of partnership building and the transition from an assistance-based approach to a local economic development approach that promotes transformative, sustainable and high-impact territorial investments. Particular attention was given to the mobilisation of municipalities' own financial resources as a key driver of greater local fiscal autonomy. The workshops concluded with remarks from the Governors (Walis) and representatives of the Ministry of Interior, Local Authorities and Transport, who welcomed the quality of the discussions and reaffirmed their commitment to supporting the pilot municipalities in implementing these new approaches to participatory, inclusive and sustainable local development, placing citizens at the centre of public action.



ADIL Programme Awareness Workshop in Mostaganem. © ADIL



ADIL Programme Awareness Workshop in Tiaret. © ADIL



ADIL Programme Awareness Workshop in Tébessa. © ADIL

Steering Committee Meeting: Reviewing Progress and Setting Priorities

On 26 January, the Steering Committee of the ADIL Programme met at the headquarters of the Ministry of Interior, Local Authorities and Transport. The meeting provided an important platform for dialogue and consultation among the Programme's implementation partners.

Participants included representatives of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, VNG International, and the European Union, together with the National Programme Director, senior officials from the Ministry of Interior, Local Authorities and Transport, and a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Community Abroad.

The broad participation reflected the strength of the institutional and technical partnership underpinning the ADIL programme, as well as the shared commitment of all partners to advancing local development in Algeria. A comprehensive review of the programme's activities was presented to assess the progress achieved to date, identify implementation challenges, and determine the adjustments required to ensure the successful delivery of the Programme. The review also provided an opportunity to take stock of the results achieved since the Programme's launch while identifying areas for improve-



Steering Committee Meeting. © ADIL

ment to guide the next phases of implementation. Participants examined in detail the activities set out in the 2026 operational plan, ensuring their alignment with the Programme's strategic objectives. The year 2026 was identified as a critical milestone for the ADIL programme, marking the transition from a phase focused on institutional set-up and technical support to a more operational phase aimed at delivering tangible results on the ground.

Particular emphasis was placed on the need to accelerate implementation and enhance the effectiveness of Programme interventions.

Discussions confirmed that the first results are already becoming visible across the twelve pilot municipalities. These early achievements reflect the commitment of local teams and the gradual adoption of the tools and approaches promoted by the programme.

They also demonstrate the relevance of the technical support provided and the strong commitment of local authorities to advancing local development.

The meeting further highlighted the quality of cooperation among all stakeholders. This close collaboration, built on dialogue and the exchange of expertise, represents a key factor in the Programme's success.

Participants reaffirmed their shared commitment to promoting participatory and inclusive local development, ensuring that the needs and priorities of citizens are effectively reflected in local development processes. Looking ahead, the Programme will enter the implementation phase of local development projects. This stage will begin once the Local Strategic Plans have been finalised and development projects aligned with the Programme's priorities have been identified and approved.

Particular attention will be given to integrating the principles of equity, inclusion, and the participation of women and young people throughout project selection and implementation.

The meeting concluded with participants reaffirming their commitment to strengthening coordination among all stakeholders and maintaining strong momentum towards achieving the Programme's objectives. This collective commitment will be essential to ensuring sustainable results and delivering a tangible, lasting impact for local communities.



Steering Committee Meeting. © ADIL



Steering Committee Meeting. © ADIL

In Mostaganem, Young People and Women Driving Inclusive and Sustainable Local Development

As part of the ADIL Programme, which supports reforms promoting sustainable territorial development and participatory local governance, particular emphasis is placed on the inclusion of young people and women.

In this context, a series of focus group discussions was organised in Mostaganem Wilaya. Two focus groups for young people were held on 15 February 2026 in Mostaganem, bringing together participants from the municipalities of Ouled Boughalem and Khadra, followed by a second session on 26 March 2026 in Sidi Lakhdar, with a total of 20 young participants. In addition, a focus group dedicated to women was organised on 25 March 2026 in Mostaganem, bringing together 16 participants from the municipalities of Sidi Lakhdar, Khadra and Ouled Boughalem. The session was facilitated by the ADIL Programme's Gender and Youth Expert.

These participatory consultations provided the basis for a Participatory Territorial Assessment firmly rooted in local realities, generating practical insights to guide the Programme's future interventions. The discussions highlighted significant opportunities for local economic development, supported by agricultural, marine, forestry and tourism resources that remain largely underutilised. The focus groups involving young people revealed a strong willingness to engage in productive and innovative initiatives. Whether active in agriculture, the digital economy or tourism, participants demonstrated their ability to propose practical solutions ranging from agri-food

processing and the sustainable use of natural resources to digital innovations aimed at improving local governance. The women's focus group also made a valuable contribution to identifying local development opportunities. Drawing on their in-depth knowledge of the territory, participants highlighted several economic sectors with significant growth potential. In the agricultural sector, discussions focused on opportunities related to farming, livestock production and cereal cultivation, while highlighting the lack of local value addition and processing chains. Participants proposed several practical initiatives, including the establishment of community mills to process wheat into flour, the production of livestock feed and the development of higher value-added agricultural products.

The discussions also highlighted the untapped potential of forest and rural resources, with participants proposing initiatives related to sustainable forestry and innovative agricultural activities, including mushroom cultivation. Furthermore, participants emphasised the tourism, cultural and heritage potential of the area through the promotion of local know-how, intangible cultural heritage and the unique characteristics of each municipality, thereby creating new opportunities for economic diversification and income-generating activities.

Within this perspective, several high-impact opportunities were identified, including the establishment of small-scale processing units, the development of local value chains and the promotion of

niche economic activities with higher added value. Tourism was also identified as a key driver of economic diversification through the promotion of cultural heritage, natural assets and local gastronomy.

The discussions further highlighted several enabling conditions required to maximise the impact of these initiatives. The digitalisation of local public services was identified as a strategic priority for improving access to information, simplifying administrative procedures and enhancing transparency. At the same time, expanding training opportunities and providing tailored support to entrepreneurs and project promoters were recognised as essential to transforming local potential into concrete and sustainable development initiatives. Beyond the assessment itself, the focus groups demonstrated a strong commitment from participants, reflecting their willingness to actively engage in local development processes and contribute to the implementation of community-based development initiatives.

These workshops therefore represent an important milestone in advancing Integrated Local Development, based on the sustainable use of local resources, capacity development and the co-creation of solutions tailored to local needs. The findings will inform the next phases of the ADIL programme by guiding interventions towards high-impact actions in socio-economic inclusion, the development of local value chains and the strengthening of territorial development dynamics.

Building on this participatory approach, the ADIL programme reaffirms its commitment to supporting local authorities in driving sustainable, inclusive, and value-generating development that creates opportunities for women and young people.



Focus Group Discussion in Mostaganem. © ADIL



Focus Group Discussion in Mostaganem. © ADIL



Focus Group Discussion in Mostaganem. © ADIL



Focus Group Discussion in Mostaganem. © ADIL

Consultative Committees at the Heart of Local Strategic Planning

Within the pilot municipalities of the ADIL programme, a significant transformation has taken place by strengthening the role of municipal consultative committees and placing them at the centre of local planning processes. Through the ADIL programme, municipalities are piloting a new approach based on citizen participation, collaborative strategic planning and a shared commitment to promoting development that reflects the specific needs and potential of each territory.

As a first step, municipal consultative committees were established in each pilot municipality. Bringing together elected officials, municipal staff and representatives of civil society organisations, these committees laid the foundation for the preparation of the local strategic plans.

Implemented in three successive phases between the end of 2025 and February 2026, this process ensured a structured and consistent approach across all pilot municipalities participating in the ADIL Programme. The first phase focused on a participatory territorial assessment, supported by analytical tools such as the SWOT analysis. This exercise provided a comprehensive assessment of each municipality by examining human resources, infrastructure, municipal finances and the local civil society landscape, thereby establishing an objective understanding of local strengths, challenges and development opportunities. The second phase centred on developing a shared strategic vision. Through participatory workshops, local stakeholders agreed on strategic objectives organised around four key priorities: local governance, local economic development, social development, the inclusion of women and young people, and environmental sustainability.

The third phase translated this vision into action through the identification and prioritisation of concrete development projects, leading to the preparation of the local strategic plans. This process was further supported by targeted training sessions and the establishment of local strategic plan technical committees, which have become key drivers of local planning and coordination. Although the same methodology was applied across all twelve pilot municipalities, its implementation reflected the distinct characteristics and development dynamics of each territory. In Mostaganem Wilaya, the municipalities of Sidi Lakhdar, Ouled Boughalem and Khadra implemented the process through three successive sessions held between 28 December 2025 and 18 February 2026.

Across the three sessions, participation reached 98 participants in Ouled Boughalem, 94 partici-



Municipal Consultative Committee Meeting in Mostaganem. © ADIL

pants in Khadra and 84 participants in Sidi Lakhdar. In the Wilayas of Tiaret and Ksar El Chellala, covering the municipalities of Tiaret, Medroussa and Zmalet Emir Abdelkader, the process was implemented between 4 January and 22 February 2026 through three successive phases. On average, the three sessions organised in each municipality brought together approximately 75 participants, including 16 women. The workshops enabled local stakeholders to collectively identify territorial priorities and launch a strategic planning process fully



Municipal Consultative Committee Meeting in Zmalet Emir Abdelkader. © ADIL



Municipal Consultative Committee Meeting in Bir El Ater. © ADIL

aligned with the objectives of the ADIL Programme. In the Wilayas of Tébessa and Bir El Ater, covering the municipalities of Chéria, Bir El Ater and Ouenza, the process was characterised by particularly strong stakeholder engagement. The workshops brought together 93 participants, including 24 women, in Bir El Ater; 90 participants, including 12 women, in Chéria; and 87 participants, including 39 women, in Ouenza.

This high level of participation supported a comprehensive planning process combining the analysis of urban planning documents, the use of advanced

strategic planning tools and the multi-criteria prioritisation of development projects. The strategic priorities identified reflected the specific characteristics of each territory, with particular emphasis on economic diversification, improving access to healthcare services and strengthening the municipalities' role as local development hubs. In the Wilayas of Biskra and El Kantara, the municipalities of Sidi Okba, M'Chouneche and El Kantara also recorded strong participation throughout the workshops held between January and February 2026. The sessions brought together 84 participants, including 25 women, in Sidi Okba; 63 participants, including 15 women, in M'Chouneche; and 90 participants, including 35 women, in El Kantara. The strong level of participation, particularly by women, enriched the quality of discussions and contributed to the development of a shared vision for local development. The local strategic plan technical committees played a central role by facilitating dialogue, structuring discussions and helping identify initiatives tailored to local realities.

Beyond the specific characteristics of each municipality, one conclusion clearly emerges: the ADIL Programme has introduced a new approach to local development by combining a structured methodology with the flexibility required to respond to diverse territorial contexts. This balance between a common methodological framework and locally driven solutions represents one of the programme's most significant achievements. By laying the foundations for participatory strategic planning, stronger citizen engagement and results-oriented local governance, these pilot initiatives are shaping a renewed model of local governance with strong potential for replication across municipalities throughout Algeria.



Municipal Consultative Committee Meeting in Biskra. © ADIL



Mirjam Andriessen, © ADIL

Interview with Mirjam Andriessen, Programme Manager at VNG International

It is a pleasure to share a few reflections on the ADIL Programme, to which we are proud to contribute, particularly by drawing on our experience in local governance. Our collaboration with the Ministry of Interior, Local Authorities and Transport and the pilot municipalities reflects the strong commitment and close cooperation of all stakeholders involved. The ADIL Programme represents an important initiative for Algeria, a country with highly qualified human resources, strong local expertise and an active civil society. Algeria also has considerable potential for economic and territorial development. The challenge now is to better structure and harness these assets through an integrated and sustainable local development approach.

In this context, the ADIL Programme works closely with the Ministry of Interior, Local Authorities and Transport to strengthen local governance and support municipalities in leading local development processes. The objective is to improve public service delivery, stimulate local development and reduce territorial disparities, while encouraging greater citizen participation.

Over the past six months, the ADIL team in Algeria has supported twelve pilot municipalities in preparing their local strategic plans, which will be submitted for approval by the Municipal People's Assemblies. These plans have identified priority development projects tailored to the needs of local communities and the specific characteristics of each territory. Some of these projects will be eligible for financial support under the Programme. The ADIL Programme also seeks to strengthen the financial autonomy of municipalities by improving municipal budget management and supporting the mobilisation of additional sources of funding. Several of the proposed projects already demonstrate the innovation potential of local territories when municipalities are equipped with the right tools and receive appropriate technical support.

With the support of the Ministry of Interior, Local Authorities and Transport, the Programme's achievements and approaches will gradually be replicated in other municipalities, with the aim of scaling up good practices and contributing to the development of a more effective model of local governance across Algeria.

Beneficiary Testimonials



Ms El Sabaa Imene
President of the Wilaya
Office of the National
Organisation of Early
Childhood Care Centres,
Tiaret Wilaya

«I recently had the opportunity to attend, as an observer, a meeting of the Municipal Consultative Committee organised under the ADIL Programme in Tiaret, in the presence of local authorities. I particularly appreciated the Programme's approach, which promotes the active participation of civil society organisations and fosters a collaborative dynamic in support of local development.»



Mr Thabet Mourad
President of the Sporting
Challenge Association,
Medroussa Municipality,
Tiaret Wilaya

«Through our participation in several workshops and Municipal Consultative Committee meetings organised in the municipality of Medroussa under the ADIL Programme, we gained valuable experience in developing projects based on the principles of transparency and participatory decision-making. This approach has enabled us to formulate practical proposals that contribute to local development.

As an active sports association in the municipality of Medroussa, we have integrated this participatory approach into the way we operate by organising participatory workshops, encouraging broader community engagement and promoting greater participation of women in our activities.

The ADIL Programme is a truly inspiring initiative that promotes the principles of effective local governance among all civil society stakeholders.»



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