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ADIL NEWS

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SECOND QUARTER NEWSLETTER OF THE INTEGRATED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT (ADIL) PROGRAMME

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 (MILAT), 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



Contents

- 2 **Tiaret, Tébessa and Biskra: Youth and Women's Participatory Engagement Driving Territorial Development**
- 3 **Strengthening Local Public Finance to Support Local Development**
- 4 **Municipal Focal Points Mobilised on Local Radio Stations to Promote the ADIL Programme**
- 6 **Local Strategic Plans: Pilot Municipalities Share Their Experiences and Contribute to Local Governance Reforms**
- 8 **Interview with Aziza Serbah, MICTL Official and ADIL Programme Focal Point**
- Beneficiary Testimonials**

Tiaret, Tébessa and Biskra: participatory engagement of young people and women at the heart of territorial development

Following an initial series of focus groups held in March 2026 in the wilaya of Mostaganem, the integrated local development support programme continued, between April and May 2026, with additional sessions in the wilayas of Tiaret, Tébessa and Biskra to identify the needs, expectations and priorities of young people and women in the pilot municipalities. These participatory workshops brought together 112 participants, alongside representatives of civil society, academia, entrepreneurs and locally elected officials.

The discussions helped identify the development potential of each territory, capture local priorities and formulate recommendations that will contribute to the preparation of the local strategic plans.

In Tiaret, participants highlighted the potential of the digital economy, ecotourism and local agricultural value chains as drivers of job creation and economic development. Discussions also underscored the importance of promoting natural landscapes, local products



Focus group in Tiaret. © ADIL

and traditional know-how, while strengthening the economic empowerment of women.

In Tébessa, participants identified opportunities related to the circular economy, green technologies and the valorisation of aromatic and medicinal plants. They also stressed the need to strengthen cooperation among local stakeholders, improve access to agricultural land, and support women's entrepreneurship, local crafts and services that facilitate women's participation in economic life.

In Biskra, the focus groups confirmed the territory's potential for sustainable tourism, the promotion of its historical, cultural and natural heritage, and the development of a circular economy based on date palm by-products. Participants also emphasised the importance of preserving traditional architecture, strengthening women's skills, supporting women's handicrafts, and reinforcing the role of associations in assisting children with special needs and promoting social cohesion.

Beyond their consultative role, these focus groups provided a genuine platform for dialogue between citizens, local authorities and territorial stakeholders. Through this participatory approach, the ADIL programme reaffirms its commitment to more inclusive local governance by involving young people, women and all local stakeholders in defining local development priorities.



Focus group in Tébessa. © ADIL

Strengthening local finances to support local development

As part of its first component, dedicated to supporting national central institutions in reform processes, the integrated local development support programme assists the ministry of the interior, local authorities and transport in modernising the local public finance system. The objective is to strengthen the financial autonomy of local authorities, enhance their investment capacity and promote more effective public financial management in support of local development.

To support this reform process, the programme mobilised a team comprising one international expert and two national experts in public finance. An initial scoping mission led to the development, in close cooperation with the ministry, of a roadmap setting out the key priorities for intervention.

The work focuses primarily on the modernisation of local taxation, with particular attention given to the reform of the property tax, whose potential remains largely underutilised.

It also aims to analyse the mechanisms for sharing tax revenues between the state and local authorities in order to strengthen their own-source revenues and enhance their financial autonomy.



Working meeting on local public finance reform. © ADIL



Working meeting on local public finance reform. © ADIL

The programme is also supporting reflections on the evolution of the financial solidarity system among local authorities, notably through improving equalisation mechanisms and strengthening inter-municipal cooperation. These measures are intended to reduce territorial disparities, pool resources and promote more inclusive and effective local governance.

In parallel, a national assessment of the financial situation of Algeria's 1,541 municipalities identified several areas for improvement to enhance the financial sustainability of local authorities, optimise their investment capacity and adapt budgetary frameworks to the principles of results-based management.

Building on this assessment, two major reforms are currently being prepared: the introduction of multi-year budgeting to improve long-term investment planning, and the establishment of performance indicators to assess the efficiency of public expenditure, improve the quality of services delivered to citizens and strengthen the accountability of local authorities.

Through this support, the ADIL programme contributes to laying the foundations for a more modern, transparent and resilient local public finance system, capable of sustainably supporting local public policies and enabling local authorities to fully play their role as drivers of local development.

Les points focaux communaux mobilisés sur les radios locales pour promouvoir le programme ADIL

As part of its awareness-raising and communication activities, the integrated local development support programme organised seven radio broadcasts during the month of June on local radio stations in the wilayas of Tébessa, Tiaret and Biskra. Hosted by municipal focal points, these programmes aimed to raise awareness of the programme, present its approach and inform citizens about participatory local governance and integrated territorial development.

The broadcasts provided an opportunity to present the context of the programme, which supports the ongoing reforms promoting decentralisation, participatory democracy and integrated local development.

The municipal focal points explained that the programme supports twelve pilot municipalities in strengthening local governance, improving strategic planning and integrating citizens' priorities into local decision-making processes.



Radio broadcast at the Biskra local radio station. © ADIL

They also presented the programme's cooperation framework, implemented through a partnership between the ministry of the interior, local authorities and transport and vng international, with financial support from the european union and the kingdom of the netherlands.

The focal points emphasised that funding local initiatives is a means to support development rather than an end in itself.

The programme's primary objective is to assist municipalities in adopting a participatory and collaborative approach by bringing together municipal services, civil society organisations,

economic actors and citizens to identify local priorities and develop initiatives that respond to the real needs of each municipality.

Listeners also learned about the methodology used to prepare the local strategic plans, beginning with evidence-based territorial assessments and followed by an analysis of each municipality's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and constraints. The broadcasts also highlighted the role of the consultative councils as inclusive platforms for dialogue bringing together local authorities, civil society representatives and other territorial stakeholders to identify, analyse and prioritise local development initiatives.

Special attention was given to the role of women and young people, recognised as key drivers of local development.

Their active participation in consultation mechanisms is encouraged to foster innovative, inclusive and locally adapted initiatives, thereby strengthening more participatory and effective local governance. The municipal focal points also stressed that these initiatives emerge from a process of dialogue and consultation and are designed to generate lasting benefits for territories and their communities, well beyond the programme's implementation period.



Radio broadcast at the Tébessa local radio station. © ADIL



Radio broadcast at the Tiaret local radio station. © ADIL

Local strategic plans: pilot municipalities share their experiences and contribute to local governance reforms

On 22 and 23 June 2026, Algiers hosted a learning and experience-sharing workshop on the preparation of local strategic plans, organised under the integrated local development support programme. The event brought together 41 participants, including focal points from the twelve pilot municipalities and the four pilot wilayas, officials from the ministry of the interior, local authorities and transport, the programme team and the technical experts involved.

Designed as a platform for knowledge exchange and capitalisation, the workshop provided an opportunity to review progress in the preparation of the local strategic plans across the pilot municipalities. Over the course of two days, participants shared achievements, discussed challenges encountered in the field and identified practical solutions to strengthen the effectiveness of territorial planning processes. The discussions focused on several key themes, including local governance, citizen participation, inclusion, coordination among

territorial stakeholders and the use of territorial data as a decision-making tool. The exchanges promoted the sharing of good practices, the harmonisation of approaches and the formulation of recommendations to enhance the quality of the local strategic plans. Throughout the workshop, officials from the ministry played an active role by facilitating discussions, providing methodolo-

gical guidance and sharing their expertise. Their contribution helped enrich the reflections of the pilot municipalities and strengthen ownership of the ongoing reforms in local governance and strategic planning. In his opening remarks, the national programme director recalled that this initiative is fully aligned with the reforms undertaken by the public authorities to modernise local governance. He

also highlighted that the forthcoming entry into force of the new municipal code will provide a favourable framework for strengthening the capacities of local authorities and consolidating mechanisms for citizen participation.

The workshop also marked an important step in the revision of the practical guide for the preparation and implementation of local strategic plans. Feedback and lessons learned from the pilot municipalities and wilayas will be incorporated into this reference document before its validation by the ministry of the interior, local authorities and transport and its nationwide dissemination. In the spirit of openness and participatory governance, a forthcoming workshop will bring together civil society organisations, which will be invited to share their recommendations and contributions to further enrich the local strategic plans and strengthen citizen participation in territorial development processes.

Guided by this vision, the Integrated Local Development Support Programme (ADIL) advances its commitment to effective and inclusive local governance by driving national reforms and creating sustainable spaces for dialogue between local authorities, public institutions, and civil society.



Learning and experience-sharing workshop on local strategic plans.



Learning and experience-sharing workshop on local strategic plans.



Learning and experience-sharing workshop on local strategic plans. © ADIL



Interview with Aziza Serbah, official at the ministry of the interior, local authorities and transport and focal point for the ADIL programme

Through this interview, I would like to share a few reflections on the integrated local development support programme, which represents a valuable experience in the fields of local governance and international cooperation.

The programme is an important initiative for local authorities. It is fully aligned with the efforts undertaken by the government and our ministry as part of the reforms aimed at promoting decentralisation, local governance and participatory democracy, while strengthening the role of local authorities in driving territorial development. The partnership with vng international, drawing on its extensive expertise in strengthening local governance and implementing international cooperation programmes, brings significant added value to the programme. It reflects a shared commitment to promoting more effective, participatory and citizen-centred local governance. Based on knowledge sharing, capacity development and the transfer of expertise, this cooperation supports the adoption of innovative approaches tailored to the realities of Algerian local authorities. Looking ahead, the momentum created within the twelve pilot municipalities offers promising prospects for the continuation of the programme. Consolidating the achievements, capitalising on lessons learned and progressively scaling up successful practices will contribute to strengthening local governance, improving local public services and promoting more inclusive and resilient territorial development for the benefit of both local authorities and citizens.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasise that the integrated local development support programme is more than an international cooperation project. It represents a genuine investment in capacity development, the promotion of a culture of participatory planning and the strengthening of trust between public administration and citizens. Continuing to build on its achievements and expanding their benefits therefore constitutes a strategic choice for supporting the ongoing modernisation of local authorities in Algeria.

Beneficiary Testimonials



Ms Wahiba Mostefai, ADIL programme focal point for the municipality of Tiaret

«As the focal point for the integrated local development support programme in the municipality of Tiaret, I would like to emphasise that this has been a highly enriching and rewarding experience. It has enabled me to strengthen my skills in coordination, participatory approaches and local planning involving the various stakeholders across the territory. The programme has also provided valuable lessons, both from its achievements and from the challenges encountered, which will help me further improve my professional practice and performance in the future.

The launch and implementation of this programme have been made possible thanks to the support of the officials of the ministry of the interior, local authorities and transport, who have provided the institutional framework and the technical assistance needed to strengthen the capacities of municipalities and promote modern approaches to local development.»



Ms Djamila Hanane Benhafid, First Vice-President of the Association for Cultural and Educational Authenticity, municipality of El Kantara

«My participation in the workshops and meetings organised within the consultative council of the municipality of El Kantara began in September 2025, during an initial meeting held at the headquarters of the wilaya of Biskra as part of the integrated local development support programme. For me, the programme represents a real opportunity and a catalyst that places civil society actors, particularly young people and women, at the heart of sustainable local development, empowering them to become active contributors to shaping the future of their communities through a participatory, inclusive and transparent approach based on dialogue and consultation.

Its objective is to raise citizens' awareness and encourage their active participation, through their civil society representatives, in promoting the principles of good governance and the financial autonomy of local authorities.»



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