

Tailor-made course with GIZ Morocco: Economic and rural development in remote provinces of Morocco

As the Arab Spring spread across the MENA region, increased political participation and more economic justice were among the key demands that characterized the protests in almost all countries concerned. In response, Morocco has set in motion several reform processes and measures that now need to be implemented in a sustainable way. Until today, Morocco's rural provinces in particular have been marginalized by the countries' economic growth, which is centred in its northern and coastal provinces. Agriculture remains the central economic pillar in these provinces, but it does not provide sufficient employment and income-generating opportunities for the people in these provinces. In the framework of the GIZ project on promoting economic and rural development in disadvantaged provinces of Morocco (PEDEL), structures for an institutionalised public-private dialogue in six pilot provinces were set up in order to find innovative solutions to this challenge and promote the local economic development in these provinces.

Since May 2017, CLI is working together with GIZ/ PEDEL to build capacity for local economic development and innovation in six remote provinces of Morocco: Midelt, Ouarzazate, Tata, Zagora, Tinghir and Er-Rachidia - both with members of these new dialogue structures and other stakeholders engaged in this issue. In several consecutive tailor-made trainings, CLI is supporting representatives from each province respectively to render the new dialogue structures dynamic, innovative and inclusive – in short, sustainable and impact-focused.



Until today, around 80 representatives from Midelt, Ouarzazate, Tata and Zagora have e.g. developed new visions for their provinces, planned investment fairs and strategic events for launching platforms for local development. New concrete activities for key sectors in the Provinces, such as tourism, renewable energy, and agriculture have been developed. With the support of CLI, the

diversity characterizing this group of stakeholders could successfully be leveraged as a strong potential and driver for innovative and sustainable development in Morocco's rural provinces.



In the coming months, CLI will continue its capacity building for stakeholder representatives from the provinces of Tinghir and Er-Rachidia.