

Road to Seville: The Local Way

Local Workshop towards the
Fourth Financing for Development Conference (FFD4)

Curitiba/PR - Brazil

Workshop Report Template

March 20th - 9a.m - 12p.m

1. Workshop Details

- **Title:** Workshop on financing for sustainable territorial development
- **Date & Time:** March 20th - from 9a.m until 12p.m
- **Location:** Curitiba/PR - Brazil
- **Organizing Entity:** Paraná Hub
- **Facilitators:** Leandre Dal Ponte (Secretary of SEMIPI), Vinícius Rocha (President of Fomento PR), Luis Marcio Spinosa (Director of Science, Technology, and Innovation at FA), André Alves (Manager of Cooperative Development at Sicredi), Lisiane Maldaner (Manager of Planning and New Business at BRDE), Sebastien Vauzelle (Chief of Secretariat at Local2030).
- **Participants:** Local government officials, Academia, Private sector representatives and Development agencies.

2. Workshop Background & Objectives

Background

This workshop is part of the broader "Road to Seville: The Local Way" initiative, a process leading to the Fourth Financing for Development Conference (FFD4) in June 2025. The initiative emphasizes the localization of development finance, aligning with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda's tenth anniversary and the push for reforms in the international financial system.

Within Brazil, the state of Paraná has emerged as a key economic player, with thriving agribusiness, manufacturing, and renewable energy sectors, alongside innovative local

financing initiatives. However, despite its potential, challenges remain in effectively communicating and presenting these successes on international platforms.

The workshop provided a platform for local actors to discuss financing solutions, share best practices, and contribute to a global synthesis of case studies and tools demonstrating the transformative impact of localized development finance.

Objectives

- Highlight local efforts in sustainable financing, emphasizing multi-actor and multi-level approaches.
- Showcase innovative financing mechanisms and successful case studies.
- Develop key messages and policy recommendations for localizing finance to contribute to the Road to Seville synthesis report.

3. Summary of Discussions

Key Themes and Challenges Identified

The main objective of the event was to discuss successful initiatives in the state, whether from the private sector, the public sector or academia. The key points of discussion were undoubtedly the millionaire funding and partnerships that have emerged over the years to respond to regional demands. The representatives of the Local 2030 Coalition emphasized in their speeches that many of the challenges they face are related to identifying a project that is not only fundable, but also focuses on sustainable development.

The state of Paraná has been implementing important initiatives in research, economic development and social assistance through different institutions. In each speech, the speaker was asked to address a successful initiative and its main challenges. The common wisdom is that implementation is difficult, either because of issues in communication and the difficulty to access international funds, or because of the huge bureaucracy and processes that surround large projects.

During the discussions, efforts were made to align projects with the stakeholders and actors holding relevant expertise. However, resolving these dynamics remains a key challenge, highlighting the need for stronger collaboration across sectors to amplify the

impact of initiatives and ensure local voices influence funding decisions. Most challenges revolved around funding gaps, indicating that despite existing investments, further resources are required to meet the proposed objectives.

Each speaker gave an insight into new and promising approaches to financing, such as the State Fund for Women's Right (FEDIM), created by the Secretariat of Women, Racial Equality and Elderly (SEMIPI) which transfers resources between federated entities with the aim of making the management of public resources more efficient and effective. Current challenges include 2 million women living in poverty and a 61% increase in elderly population over the past decade.

The Araucária Foundation is a public institution linked to the government of the State of Paraná, whose main purpose is to promote research, innovation, scientific and technological development within the state. It leads scientific research support, funding projects in clean energy, environmental protection, and food security through partnerships with universities and private companies. Currently, 21 research groups called new approaches of research and innovation (NAPI) are developing solutions for the state's real-world challenges. They are strategic tools which were developed in order to align science and innovation with the real-world needs of Paraná, ensuring that investments in PD&I (Research, Development, and Innovation) yield social, environmental, and economic benefits. Their success depends on sustained collaboration between research, the private sector, and public policies.

For financing, the state has the Banco Regional de Desenvolvimento do Extremo Sul (BRDE), which operates in the southern region of Brazil (Paraná, Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul) supporting government and private initiatives with technical, institutional and long-term credit support. With a growing focus on sustainability, BRDE has created a Green Fund and is a signatory to the UN Principles for Responsible Banking. Another institution is Fomento Paraná, which also supports economic and social development focused on the state, including special credit programs for women entrepreneurs. One of its initiatives is reduced interest rates for municipalities with lower municipal performance rates (IPDM). Although both focus on promoting growth through credit lines and investments, they operate with different scopes and face unique challenges.

Sicredi is a cooperative financial institution present in more than 3,000 Brazilian municipalities, promoting inclusive and regional development. With over R\$100 billion

invested in agribusiness, 83% of which supports family farming, Sicredi plays a key role in strengthening local economies. The institution also prioritizes sustainability, with over R\$5.5 billion allocated to energy transition projects and the creation of its own Green Climate Fund (GCF).

Paraná stands out through effective collaboration between government, businesses and academia. For example, the Araucária Foundation and BRDE cooperate on environmental projects, while SEMIPI transfers funds directly to municipalities.

Despite progress, two key improvements are needed: securing more research funding and better promoting these initiatives nationally and internationally.

Best Practices & Successful Approaches

1. Sicredi (private sector)

- R\$396 billion in total assets distributed among the 103 cooperatives throughout the country, with 44 billion of this amount in net equity;
- +R\$100 billion invested in the agribusiness sector - which ranks Sicredi as the sector's first partner as a private institution, spread over more than 3,000 municipalities in Brazil;
- In this total of municipalities, there are more than 777,000 members, of which more than 83% are family farmers, and the rest are medium-sized (12%) and large-sized (5%) producers;
- R\$5.5 billion (2024) dedicated to financing energy transition projects;
- R\$435 million in social investment, and more than R\$92 million in humanitarian aid for the Rio Grande do Sul climate catastrophe in 2024;

2. BRDE

- BRDE manages R\$ 21. 5 billion portfolio and created a Green Fund that has already invested R\$ 18 million in environmental protection;
- Impact actions such as becoming a member of the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP-FI1) and a signatory to the Principles for Responsible Banking (2023) and Member of LIFE Coalition for Business & Biodiversity (2024).

3. Araucária Foundation (Academia)

- Alongside the NAPIs initiative, there is "iAraucária". This program supports the engagement of science, technology and innovation actors, offering territorial intelligence services, using Big Data and Artificial Intelligence, as well as providing support for all partners. The program has generated 22,000 academic masters, 20,000 academic doctors and around 3,500 research groups in Paraná alone. This investment has generated more than R\$ 450 million invested in the 9 macro-regions (2024) for projects focused on science, technology and innovation and 27,000 scholarships awarded.

4. Fomento Paraná

- Fomento Paraná provides low-interest loans, with special programs for women entrepreneurs and small businesses - including R\$229 million in credit for women since 2019 for more than 17 thousand clients;
- Credit programs for companies located in municipalities with emergency situations or public calamities approved by the state's civil defense (Paraná Recupera);

5. SEMIPI (Government structure)

- For seniors, the "Elderly-Friendly Paraná" initiative has allocated around R\$26 million to improve quality of life, indicating an increase in investment of around 136%, jumping from 10.9 million reais in 2023 to 25.8 million reais in 2024;
- Implementation of the State Fund for Women's Rights: from 2023 to 2024, there was a 250% increase in budget investment, from 6 to 21 (million reais);
- Transfer of more than R\$ 19 million from the fund-to-fund program to municipalities to strengthen the protection network and combat violence against women and programs including violence prevention and financial support.

Tour-de-table

The tour-de-table was a dynamic adapted to recognize actors and facilitators, both as individuals and as project representatives. This dynamic was used to present ideas and interests to each other, with two rounds of around 20 minutes each, consisting of participants swapping positions and having the opportunity not only to get to know other actors and projects, but also to allow other actors to get to know each other. In these rounds, not only was there a proper recognition of interests, but also the identification of

possibilities for collaboration between the actors present. This occurred as a result of the workshop's tangible impact, which was made clear almost immediately, only further proving its positive impact.

Successful approaches presented:

- From Sicredi, the partnership and licensing of Smurfs products to promote the SDGs, being ambassadors for the action in Brazil and having the right to use the brand. Additionally, they have a Green Climate Fund (GFC), which is considered a great innovation, especially in comparison to other national banks.
- From Paranacidade, it was clearly established that there is a clear focus on the financing of investments directed towards public infrastructures in municipalities, such as public lighting. It is important to point out that the order of priorities of investment in infrastructures follows the needs and urgencies of each municipality.
- From CIETEC, a sanitary landfill company, which received the “Mecenas da Inovação” Award due to its continuous work in many cities of Paraná, such as Paranaguá.
- From ECO FILTRO, an industry who has been supplying suitable equipment for the treatment of effluents, separating solid particles in different areas. It is present in agribusiness, industry and recycling, guaranteeing the filtration and reuse of water, as well as the transformation of effluents into secondary products.

This dynamic exchange revealed both the existing ecosystem of sustainable development initiatives and the untapped potential for deeper institutional collaboration, particularly in education and environmental sustainability.

4. Key Messages & Recommendations

- **Policy Recommendations:** Firstly, cut bureaucracy by speeding up approvals and funding for local projects. Use digital systems for permits and a single online platform for SDG projects. Second, create partnerships between government, businesses, NGOs, and universities to share ideas and funding strategies. This helps connect Paraná's efforts to global finance reforms.

Also, make budgets clearer and involve communities in spending decisions, especially marginalized groups. This ensures fair and effective use of funds for the SDGs.

- **Call to Action:** As for the next steps, participants should commit to strengthening collaboration with key partners, such as the United Nations, the Local2030 Coalition, and development banks, to advocate for policies that simplify financing for SDG projects. This includes pushing for reforms in the international financial architecture to better support local initiatives, while ensuring Paraná's strategies align with global sustainability frameworks. Governments, businesses, and civil society must also engage in regular dialogues to identify funding gaps, share best practices, and co-create solutions that attract investment. By formalizing these partnerships, Paraná can position itself as a leader in sustainable development, leveraging networks like the Local2030 Coalition to access technical support and innovative financing tools.

In modern times, securing financing, commercial partnerships, or even market access increasingly depends on sustainability commitments. Invest Paraná plays a crucial role in this strategy by acting as a bridge between the public and private sectors, facilitating green investments and fostering partnerships that drive inclusive growth. By integrating sustainability into economic planning, Paraná not only advances in terms of SDGs but also creates new opportunities for businesses and investors looking to support long-term and responsible development.

5. Next Steps & Follow-Up Actions

- **Proposed Actions:**
 1. Better dissemination of funding initiatives, since the information is not clear and accessible;
 2. Debureaucratization of processes with the aim of benefiting the final beneficiary, in this case the localization of resources;
 3. Establish feedback loops to continuously refine processes based on beneficiary needs;
 4. Explore partnerships with key organizations to expand reach and improve resource localization.

- **Responsible Parties:**

SGDES will develop a booklet with all the financing tools and initiatives presented during the workshop to make it available to participants, disseminate among the private sector and make it accessible on the institution's official website. Also, the institution will maintain regular feedback with the key stakeholders and speakers in order to keep the booklet updated and properly disseminated information.

The Parana Hub, through SGDES team will bring together the connections made in the workshop to ensure that the contacts and linkages made are not lost and can bear good results.

- **Monitoring & Reporting:**

1. Request a report from each hub/region that held the workshop;
2. Disseminate the results of FfD4 among stakeholders, especially the final document;
3. Schedule periodic progress reviews and to track implementation and encourage stakeholder feedback on reporting formats to improve clarity and usefulness.

6. Annexes

- **Workshop Agenda**
- **List of Participants**
- **Presentations & Supporting Documents**
- **Relevant Position Papers from the Road to Seville Process**

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