The Municipalities Counter-Attack sub-program

"The Municipalities Counter-Attack" (in French: Les Communes Contre-Attaquent and in Spanish : El Contraataque de los Municipios) is a key sub-program of the broader EL4DEV initiative developed by Paul Elvere DELSART, a French social engineer and visionary. This sub-program represents an innovative form of intermunicipal cooperation aimed at creating a new paradigm of local governance, regional development, and community empowerment.

At its core, *The Municipalities Counter-Attack* is about forming national Societal Economic Interest Groups (EIG) composed of small municipalities, typically with populations under 5,000 inhabitants, that collaborate to co-finance and co-own large-scale infrastructure projects. These projects include agroclimatic and ecotouristic structures known as *LE PAPILLON SOURCE*, as well as vertical ecological structures called *Vegetal Calderas*. These infrastructures serve educational, environmental, agricultural, touristic, and social purposes.

This sub-program addresses key challenges faced by small municipalities, including financial dependency, limited visibility, and underutilized local resources. By joining forces in a legally structured and contractually managed collective, municipalities can pool their financial and human resources to invest in large experimental eco-infrastructures that would be impossible to fund independently. These infrastructures are not only designed for sustainability and environmental regeneration, but also aim to attract tourism, research, and innovation, thereby generating sustainable revenue.

The operation of *The Municipalities Counter-Attack* is underpinned by formal agreements between the municipal collectives (EIGs) and the international Think and Do Tank *LE PAPILLON SOURCE EL4DEV*, which serves as the program's central coordinator and intellectual nucleus. Municipalities provide funding via their investment budgets or interterritorial partnerships, and the EL4DEV team manages the conceptualization, planning, and coordination of projects. In certain cases, municipalities are also allowed to allocate funds to infrastructure projects located outside their immediate administrative boundaries, provided the projects serve a broader public interest.

One of the unique aspects of this initiative is its socio-economic inclusivity. Financial benefits, particularly from tourism, are distributed equally among participating municipalities, regardless of their individual contribution or size. This ensures that all partners gain from the joint venture and fosters a spirit of equitable collaboration. Moreover, as the EIGs expand, they acquire the capacity to initiate new projects across their territories, leading to a growing network of infrastructures that promote self-financing and territorial autonomy.

Another integral component is the use of online participatory tools, such as crowdfunding platforms with non-financial rewards and the *Big Smart Data EL4DEV* information system, which allows for real-time monitoring and modeling of territorial dynamics. These digital tools enhance transparency, citizen engagement, and knowledge sharing among regions with similar social, cultural, and environmental contexts.

The Vegetal Calderas themselves are central to the success of the sub-program. These are vertical, plant-covered structures that serve multiple roles: improving local microclimates, producing humidity, enhancing biodiversity, offering therapeutic environments, and serving as educational and tourist attractions. Every project launched under *The Municipalities Counter-Attack* begins with the installation of one or more *Vegetal Calderas*, which act as catalysts for broader regional development.

The program is explicitly non-commercial in nature. It is not designed to generate profits for private shareholders but to return all economic benefits to the municipalities involved. It aligns with the larger vision of the EL4DEV program, which emphasizes societal diplomacy over economic transactions and proposes new politico-societal unions based on shared values rather than economic power.

In sum, *The Municipalities Counter-Attack* is a strategic, participatory, and deeply transformative initiative that empowers local governments to reclaim agency in their development trajectories. It provides the tools, structures, and networks necessary for municipalities to become key drivers of societal progress, environmental resilience, and intellectual cooperation - laying the foundation for a more equitable, sustainable, and interconnected global society.

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