



SLOVENSKI SLOVENIAN
PODEŽELSKI RURAL
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Goran Šoster

Communities, NGO's, small enterprises and farms as partners in

LOCAL ECONOMIES

Haloze, 8. October 2019



REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA
MINISTRSTVO ZA KMETIJSTVO,
GOZDARSTVO IN PREHRANO



PROGRAM
RAZVOJA
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Evropski kmetijski sklad za razvoj podeželja: Evropa investira v podeželje

Overview of the presentation



- Rural stakeholders and their needs
- Local partnerships responding to the needs
- Manifestations of the local economies
- Survey (ROAD – Civitas Romania)
- Conclusions

Rural stakeholders and their needs

Rural stakeholders

- Full-time farmers
- Part time farmers
- Land owners
- Residents
- Youth
- Elderly people
- Municipalities
- NGOs
- Small enterprises
- Incomers
- Other?

Needs in rural areas

- Access to land, expansion
- Improved technologies
- Value of land, subsidies?
- Healthy environment
- Activities, events
- Services
- Infrastruct., business zones?
- Rooms
- Expansion space
- Houses, land access
- (financial sources... for all)

Local partnerships responding to the needs

- **LOCAL COMMUNITIES (territorial aspect)**
 - MUNICIPALITIES (growth of social needs, infrastructure, financial gaps)
 - VILLAGES (decay of collective identities; revising historical practices?)
- **LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS (functional aspect)**
 - „BOTTOM-UP“ APPROACHES, SUPPORTED BY THE STATE
 - LEADER/CLLD
 - ITI – INTEGRATED TERRITORIAL INVESTMENTS
 - SHORT SUPPLY CHAINS
 - CIRCULAR ECONOMY
 - ENERGY SELF SUFFICIENT VILLAGES/TOWNS



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Aleš Zidar

CLLD AND SOCIAL CONTENTS IN RURAL AREAS

Local development in rural areas (LEADER / CLLD approach)

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For the beginning - basic claim:

The LEADER / CLLD measure is a tool in promoting collaborative local development following a bottom-up approach. The bottom-up approach enables local people to actively decide on the priorities and development goals of the local area, including funding sources, to achieve the local area's goals, through the formation of local partnerships - LAGs.



Local initiatives are formulated and defined in the Local Development Strategy and should not be limited to achieving one Common Agricultural Policy post-2020 objective - C2 Strengthening local initiatives and inter-branch cooperation and strengthening the linkage of tourism to quality food from the local environment.

The LEADER / CLLD program should be provided with strategic documents the opportunity to influence at least the following objectives through its local initiatives:



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This are:

- A6. Promoting the production and consumption of higher value-added food,
- A7. Strengthening market orientation and entrepreneurship,
- B4. Preserving the cultural landscape
- C1. Encouragement of supplementary activities on farms
- C3. Development of bio economy
- C4. Social inclusion, women in rural areas and care for vulnerable groups



In preparation of the draft Strategic Framework for the Development of Slovenian Agriculture, Food Processing and Rural Development, the SNRD even suggested that the LEADER / CLLD program be included in the 5th Horizontal Objective: Strengthening the Design and Transfer of Knowledge, with a new specific objective:

D.4. Strengthening local development

Why is this important?



Leader / CLLD addresses all areas of the countryside and directly addresses the challenges covered by **all four EU funds**.

From the LAG's point of view, it is important that all funds be **included in the financing of the program**, as this will only ensure the full coverage of the countryside and the possibility for the local population to directly decide on the priorities and development goals of the local area.



We did an Assessment of the implementation of the LEADER / CLLD program and the operation of the SNRD in the 2014-2020 programming period in order to obtain data for preparation for the new programming period.

One of the issues was related to the implementation of social content, which is directly financed by the Social Fund and is also financed through the CLLD program.

The analysis confirmed that the inclusion of the Social Fund in the CLLD was necessary.



Facts:

- 81 approved operations have social content (out of 323), which is about 25% of all approved operations.
- On average, 3 operations with social content were approved at the LAG level.
- 62% of the LAGs replied that more than 50% of the approved operations achieved the maximum score in the social criterion - inclusion of vulnerable groups when assessing the application.



For CLLD to implement well, there are a one thing to do: **Simplify of the program.**

The SNRD strongly argues that the following objectives must be achieved:

- Participation of all four EU funds
- Combine CLLD management into one governing body
- Establish one joint paying authority
- Uniform rules for all funds included in the CLLD
- Simplify the implementation of the CLLD program



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Manifestations of the local economies

○ ALTERNATIVES IN SATISFACTION OF THE LOCAL NEEDS

- ECONOMIES FOR COMMON GOOD
- SOLIDARITY ECONOMY
- COMMONS (Elinor Ostrom)
- ECONOMIC DEMOCRACY
- GIFT ECONOMY
- DEGROWTH MOVEMENT

○ „BOTTOM-UP“ BESIDE THE STATE SUPPORT

- LOCAL CURRENCIES
- ECO VILLAGES
- COOPERATIVES
- HOUSING COMMUNITIES
- COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE
- TIME BANKS

Conclusions (ROAD survey Civitas)

- Local action groups are the ones, who are most frequently implementing co-operation projects in local area.
- The most frequent motives for co-operation in socio economic initiatives are linked to the easy access to the financial sources.
- Frequent motive for co-operation are investments into local infrastructure with the aim to improve the access to the public services.
- The search for knowledge is frequent motive for co-operation in the rural areas.
- Deficiency of skilled human resources is a huge obstacle in partnership building.
- Key obstacles in rural co-operation are: lack of financial assests, weak strategic planning, shortage in communication, insufficient co-operation mind-set.

Conclusions (general)

- Rural stakeholders are responsible to find the consensus/equilibrium while sharing the rural space with different groups of interest
- State supported programmes and alternative movements should build more intensive (Top-down : Bottom-up) exchange and cooperation
- Areas where different stakeholders, state, local communities and civil society co-operate, are in prosperity trends, rising the life-quality of majority



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Thanks for your attention!

Goran Šoster

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