

The project “Building of Rural Development Resources in Balkan region - No BoRDeR” is supported by:



Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Republic of Korea

Local action groups as territorial development partnerships in rural areas

Zuzana Guthova, Ireneusz Kamiński

Building of Rural Resources in Balkan Region project
Niksic, 19–21.05.2015



Zuzana Guthova

M.A. in Ecology, Charles University, Prague

PhD. At Ins. Landscape Ecology, Academy of Sciences

Biology Faculty, South Bohemian University

E.I.A. Expert

Living for 7 years in tiny village at the border with Austria shifted my attention to rural problematic

NGO Rosa, Ceske Budejovice– Environmental counsellor

Community and regional development [working on local and regional strategies]

*2004 founded LAG Rose association

*2007 manager, international cooperation: Austria, Wales

2012 – 2015 Coordinator of international projects of NN RCS [Sweden, Estonia, Latvia, Ireland, Poland, CZ]

*2015 Head of South Bohemian LAG network

*2012 Member of working group for international cooperation

*2015 Representative in PREPARE initiative

Ireneusz Kamiński



- M.A. in Economic Geography (University of Warsaw)
- Since 1982 dealing with various aspects of local development and international cooperation
- Since 2005 involved in implementation of Leader approach
- Animator, expert and member of Local Action Groups (LAG) and Fishery Local Action Groups (FLAG)
- Author of Local Strategies of Sustainable Development of municipalities, counties, LAGs and FLAGs, as well as other publications
- Organizer and moderator of study visits for municipalities, Regional Authorities of Mazovia, LAGs and FLAGs: Greece (2008), Ireland (2009), Finland (2010, 2012, 2013, 2014), Netherlands (2011), Denmark (2012)
- Author and Coordinator of international cooperation projects
- In the past: Director of Office of Business Promotion of Płock Region, Director of the EU Euro Info Programme in Poland, Technical Assessor in PHARE, TEMPUS & INTERREG, owner of EUKON consultancy, CEO of CIFAL Płock (part of UN training network)
- Balkan experience, familiarity with Serbian language

Concept of the training

- ▶ Consolidation of basic principles of LAGs/Leader
- ▶ New experience/know-how (Zuzana's LAG)
- ▶ Practical knowledge (case study of application to Civil Society Facility Montenegro Programme)
- ▶ Networking and Montenegrin hospitality

Seven Principles of the Leader Approach

1. We act locally – we define an action plan (strategy) related to situation of a specific local area – its resources, potential, weaknesses, problems.

Seven Principles of the Leader Approach

2. We act using a bottom-up approach – we elaborate action plans with involvement of people, who will be implementing them (opposite to a concept assuming implementation of centrally conceived ideas)

Seven Principles of the Leader Approach

3. We act together (principle of partnership) – we create public–private partnership at local level for the purpose of elaboration development strategies, action plans and implementation of specific projects

Seven Principles of the Leader Approach

4. We act in innovative manner – we look for new, more effective in our area, methods of solving problems.

Seven Principles of the Leader Approach

5. We act in a complex way – we combine actions taking place in various sectors (i.e. economy, culture, environment)

Seven Principles of the Leader Approach

6. We learn from each other – we create a network of relations and cooperation between various pro-development entities, to exchange experience and learn mutually.

Seven Principles of the Leader Approach

7. We accept the responsibility – we are responsible for implementation of our actions, including provision of co-financing and proper financial management

Two meanings of „partnership” in Leader

1.

Partnership as cooperation between various entities representing various sectors (= double partnership: of entities and of sectors)

Two meanings of „partnership” in Leader

2.
Partnership as an institution – being a local action group.

Values/principles of Partnership

- ▶ Partnership in order to function must be based on values/principles:

which ?

Values/principles of Partnership

- ▶ Trust (it means that Partners have to know one another)
- ▶ Common objective(s), at least the long term ones, being aware of it or not
- ▶ Willingness to cooperate (= respect and tolerance)
- ▶ Shared contribution/resources/tasks
- ▶ Shared responsibilities
- ▶ Shared risk
- ▶ Shared benefits
- ▶ Shared recognition that Partners together can achieve more

Values/principles of Partnership

- ▶ Trust (it means that Partners have to know one another)
- ▶ Common objective(s), at least the long term ones, being aware of it or not
- ▶ Willingness to cooperate (= respect and tolerance)
- ▶ Shared contribution/resources/tasks
- ▶ Shared responsibilities
- ▶ Shared risk
- ▶ Shared benefits
- ▶ Shared recognition that Partners together can achieve more

How to initiate local action group – theory and practical work

- ▶ Presentation of LAG Rose Association experience, Ms. Zuzana Guthova, Manager

Bulding a Local Action Group – theory

How to ensure all three sectors in LAG?

Identify potential stakeholders in each sector in concerned area:

- ▶ active inhabitants of the area
- ▶ • institutions including local authorities
- ▶ • entrepreneurs and companies with social interest
- ▶ • local personalities
- ▶ • NGOs

Contact them directly if possible

Bulding a Local Action Group – theory

How to ensure all three sectors in LAG?

Provide good communication of your initiative to the community of the area:

- ▶ use the media
- ▶ make a long list of stakeholders and send them a letter describing the initiative and inviting them to join it
- ▶ organize an information meeting(-s)

Bulding a Local Action Group – theory

How to ensure all three sectors in LAG?

- ▶ Stress the short and long term benefits for each organisation deriving from their involvement, but also indicate and underline the contribution it can provide to the initiative/local community
- ▶ Repeat these activities throughout the period of LAG functioning

Bulding a Local Action Group – theory

Competencies important for the LAG

- ▶ Knowledge of their area
- ▶ Understanding of local development process
- ▶ Strategic planning skills
- ▶ Communication skills
- ▶ Teamwork skills
- ▶ Negotiation skills
- ▶ Learning skills

Bulding a Local Action Group – theory

Financing the LAG activities

- ▶ Rural Development Programme funds (in EU member states)
- ▶ EU Preaccession Programmes (Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance – IPA)
- ▶ Relevant EU programmes (i.e. Erasmus)
- ▶ Foreign national and international funds: U.S., Norway, Sweden, Korea, Visegrad Fund etc.
- ▶ National/regional funds (i.e. Voivodina)
- ▶ Partners' contribution

Steps between the start and the established LAG

Presentation of Zuzana Guthova, Manager of
the LAG Rose Association, Borovany, Czech
Republic

LAG work

Presentation of Zuzana Guthova, Manager of the LAG Rose Association, Borovany, Czech Republic

Main challenges in LAG development – experience of Visegrad and Western Balkan countries

Visegrad experience

- ▶ Assuring a quality of the LAG:
 - composition
 - motivation
 - skills

Main challenges in LAG development – experience of Visegrad and Western Balkan countries

Visegrad experience

- ▶ Assuring a quality of the Local Development Strategy/Plan
 - Developed in participative manner
 - Proper identification of problems
 - Proper identification of relevant resources
 - Innovative and relevant activities proposed

Main challenges in LAG development – experience of Visegrad and Western Balkan countries

Visegrad experience

- ▶ Efficient and effective LAG organs (Board, Council, Office)
- ▶ Effective communication with the local community
- ▶ Effective communication and cooperation with Managing and Implementing Authorities
- ▶ Effective overcoming the bureaucratic barrier

Main challenges in LAG development – experience of Visegrad and Western Balkan countries

Western Balkan experience

- ▶ Serbian experience
 - ▶ B&H experience
 - ▶ Montenegrin experience
 - ▶ FYR Macedonia experience
-
- ▶ Discussion: what can we learn from one another's experience ?

Main challenges in LAG development – experience of Visegrad and Western Balkan countries

- ▶ Discussion: what can we learn from one another's experience ?
- ▶ Discussion: how can we cooperate in present situation ?