Implementing LEADER measures in Slovenia

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PART 1
Characteristics of rural areas in Slovenia

PART 2
Experiences from rural development programmes before LEADER approach

PART 3
Implementation of LEADER approach
RURAL AREAS IN SLOVENIA

• Rural areas in Slovenia cover 89% of the territory (forest cover 60% and agricultural land cover 29% of the territory).
• Home for more then 57% of all inhabitants (total 1.9 mio).
• From over 6000 settlements in Slovenia only 16 have more than 10,000 inhabitants.
• 80% of all settlements are in hilly, mountainous and karstic areas (LFA), with only 40% of the total population living there.
• More than 77,000 agricultural holdings, comparable to European agricultural holdings.
• Average farm size with forest is 9.9 ha.
• Average utilized agricultural area on farm amounts to 6.3 ha.
DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL STRATEGIES IN SLOVENIA

- Integrated Rural Development and Village Renewal (CRPOV); 1990-2002

- Wine and tourist roads of Slovenia (VTC); 1992–

- Heritage trails and other programmes; 1995–

- Development programmes for rural areas (RPP); 1996–2006

- Local development strategies for LEADER 2007–2013
CRPOV 1990 - 2002

- a systematic approach in addressing development problems of rural areas.
- methodological approach based on the self-initiative of local communities ("bottom – up" approach)
- Projects started as development of single villages, in the following years they turned into development of village clusters or even municipalities.
- In 12 years 290 projects throughout Slovenia were implemented.
WINE AND TOURIST ROADS

- Wine and tourist roads of Slovenia started in 1992
- to connect wine producers and tourist products, natural and cultural heritage, natural sites, walking paths, etc.
- “Top-down” approach was a good starting point for the self-initiative development of those areas
- 20 projects in 76 municipalities in wine regions.
CRPOV, WINE ROADS AND OTHER PROJECTS
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES FOR RURAL AREAS

- 31 – covered more then 75% of Slovenia.
- Upgrading of the CRPOV projects.
- **Implementation of the rural development approach comparable to EU (LEADER).**
- Strategies connect development goals of at least 3 municipalities (extended local level).
- Connecting single CRPOV projects and wine roads in more comprehensive programmes with higher added value.
- “Bottom up” approach and activation of all development potentials of a development area.
- **RPP is a starting point for today LEADER programme.**
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES FOR RURAL AREAS (RPP)

SITUATION IN 2006
The objective of LEADER is to encourage and facilitate sustainable, integrated rural development by supporting local action groups (LAGs).

- Implementation of local development strategies
- Promoting interregional and cross-border cooperation
- Running the local action groups, skills acquisition and animating the territory
IMPLEMENTATION OF LEADER APPROACH IN SLOVENIA

LEADER is implemented through Local Action Groups.

MAFF
programming
call for public tender for the selection of LAGs
administration and supervision

LOCAL ACTION GROUP
informing and encouraging
selection of projects
supervision and reporting

PAYING AGENCY
execution of payments
accountancy and reporting to the EC
CRITERIA FOR LAG SELECTION

The main criteria for the selection of a LAG by the MAFF were:

- LAG is officially established,
- appropriate context and form of the application,
- local development strategy and quality of partnership obtain at least the minimum points in the evaluation.
PARTNERSHIP QUALITY

- Officially formulated partnership and clear division of responsibilities among partners,
- All LAG members have the possibility to participate (preparation, implementation and management of the strategy),
- Transparency of the LAG’s activity,
- LAG is established in a coherent area,
- Previous experience in the bottom up approach,
- Participation of women and youth in the partnership,
- Financial self-sufficiency.
CONTEXT OF LOCAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

- characteristics of LAG area (geographical, economical, demographical, sociological, description of already implemented development activities),
- SWOT analysis,
- vision,
- implementation strategy,
- compatibility with other programmes and strategies.
LOCAL ACTION GROUPS

LAGs IN SLOVENIA TODAY
Organisation types

- Treaty obligation – 16
- Assosiation: 8
- Consortium: 4
- Cooperative: 3
- social contract: 1
- unite inside institute 1
LOCAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

PRIORITIES BY SECTORS

Development priorities by economy sectors (%)

- Kmetijstvo
- Turizem
- Drobno gospodarstvo, podjetništvo
- Arhitektura, urejanje podeželja
- Infrastruktura
- Kultura
- Dopolnilne dejavnosti
- Informacijske tehnologije
- Energetika
- Gozdarstvo

[Bar chart showing distribution of development priorities by sectors]
LEADER SITUATION

- Started in 2007 – first applications submitted in March 2008;
- 33 approved;
- LAG areas cover 97% Slovenian countryside without city areas with over 10,000 inhabitants (19,349,6 km²);
- LAGs includes 94% Slovenian countryside area without cities with over 10,000 inhabitants (1,269,308 inhabitants);
- LAGs includes 199 municipalities (210 total);
LEADER SITUATION

- average LAG area – **586.4 km²**
- average number of inhabitant per LAG – **38,464**
- average number of municipalities per LAG – **6**
- Population density per LAG – **65,6 preb./km² (Slovenija 99,6)**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEASURE</th>
<th>EAFRD (RDP 2007–2013)</th>
<th>FORESEEN ANNUAL EXPENDITURE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>41 (411, 412, 413) Implementing local development strategies</td>
<td>€ 23,632,002</td>
<td>€ 3,376,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>421 Implementing cooperation projects</td>
<td>€ 3,376,002</td>
<td>€ 482,286</td>
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<tr>
<td>431 Running the LAG, acquiring skills and animating the territory</td>
<td>€ 6,752,001</td>
<td>€ 964,571</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>€ 33,760,006</td>
<td>€ 4,822,858</td>
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FINANCIAL FLOWS

Conclusion of a project

Execution of payment

Reimbursement based on a contract

100% funding

Flow of funds

Payments

Reimbursement claim

Financing Contract
Project holder: LAG

Co-financing contract LAG: MAFF

Assets/funds provided by:
Public sector
Private sector
Social sector

Project 1
Project 2
Project n

CONTRACT 1
CONTRACT 2
CONTRACT n

Project holder: LAG

Co-financing contract LAG: MAFF

MAFF
PAYING AGENCY

LAG
LEADER IMPLEMENTATION

In years 2008 and 2009 there were dedicated 7,863,600 EUR for 404 approved projects (average 238,290 EUR/LAG)

IMPLEMENTATION TILL JUNE 2010:

• Measure 431: Running the local action group, acquiring skills and animating the territory
  100 reimbursement claims for running costs: 96 reimbursed
  Total refunding: 919,900 EUR

• Measure 41: Implementing local development strategies
  408 reimbursement claims for implementing LDS: 245 already reimbursed
  Total refunding: 2,212,150 EUR

→ 40 % of all dedicated funds for the years 2008 and 2009
REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!
HVALA ZA POZORNOST!

Leader Office is there to help!

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