Modelling the ‘secret of LEADER’

Integration and disintegration in rural development

Gusztáv Nemes PhD
Centre for Economic and Regional Studies – Budapest
Balaton-uplands LEADER LAG
Rural development dimensions I.

External intervention
- Financial aid - money
- Rules and regulations
- Institutions
- Strategies
- World of Rural Policies

CENTRAL BUREAUCRATIC SYSTEM
Internal aspiration of local people to create better life:
- Networking
- Kinship relations
- Entrepreneurship
- Communities
- Visitors
- Self-organisation
- World of rural life…

LOCAL HEURISTIC SYSTEM
The two sub-systems of development - a framework for understanding LEADER

Local Heuristic System
*Internal aspiration of local people searching for ‘new futures’*

Central Bureaucratic System
*Rural policies, money, regulations, etc.*
Human actors – *Local heuristic system*

- Local leaders, entrepreneurs, everyday people – responsible
- Their work/actions effects their own lives – they risk their own money
- Insightful local knowledge, but low understanding of central rules and policies
- Very committed and less objective, main concern is better local life
- Long term (20 years) – strategy?
Politicians, high and low level public servants, etc.
Deal with others’ life, deal with public money
Insightful knowledge of rules, policies, procedures, but low information on local
Main concern is accountability, transparency, maintenance of rural values, compliance with the POLITICAL CENTRE
Central-bureaucratic system of rural development

- NEEDED/essential
- Based on top-down intervention of the political centre
- EU and domestic policies, centrally redistributed resources, strategic development plans, bureaucratic knowledge, central rules, high level interest groups, etc.
- Institutionalised character, written procedures, quantifiable results
- Central development logic (modernist paradigm)
- Strategic (short-mid term)
- Main aim is to provide access and a ‘peaceful environment’ for the development for the economic centre, Decisions based on very limited information
Local-heuristic system of rural development

- Based on endogenous bottom-up processes
- Comprises of: local actors and values; local development plans; social networks and kinship relations; local authorities, innovative individuals, development associations and partnerships, etc.
- Low level of institutionalisation
- Deep, insightful knowledge of locality (often tacit)
- Lack procedural and policy knowledge
- Local development logic (part of the new development paradigm)
- Main aim is to improve local life, giving flexible responses to external challenges, keeping benefits for the locality
Disintegration - reason for policy failure

Central Bureaucratic System

Local Heuristic System
Reflexive integration – reflexive agency

- Development capacity
- Strategic + opportunistic action, creative bricolage
- Central Bureaucratic System
- Local Heuristic System
- Integration, linking, networking
- Enthusiasm, energy
- Reflexivity, social learning
- Committed locally but understanding the centre
Integration – ‘the secret of LEADER’

- LEADER translates and mediates between central and local systems, delivers information, protects interests;
- Helps local co-operation, empowering communities and building local capacities;
- Mobilises local resources and achieve structural changes.
- Delivers central money to local communities to develop their own lives and environment;

Integration of central and local dev.
Amazing results
BUT:

Huge differences in implementation
Operational disintegration
Operational disintegration
Stringing pearls
Reflexive integration
Any questions, comments?