Considering resources at the border of two cycles — LEADER LAGs and their development agencies

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Balaton-uplands LEADER LAG
About the project

The role of the "local" level of territorial cohesion and development

- EU H2020 program - 2016-2020
- 11 European countries, 13 partner, 33 cases
- 3 LEADER analysis
- The role of LEADER spatial / social justice treatment
- Formulation of policy proposals

https://relocal.eu
NEW RURAL PARADIGM:
A shift from subsidising declining sectors, areas, social groups → investment to develop an area’s most productive activity

Effective LEADER management can positively effect social/spatial justice
1200 project ideas → 600 applications → 463 successful projects

9.000.000 EUR rural development resource, 5.000.000 EUR entrepreneurial investment

100 new jobs and 300 jobs retained

1700 cooperation agreements - 1000 economic cooperation

257 stable (paying) network members

Prizes and awards

- PRO-REGIO Prize,
- Rural Development Community of the Year etc.
40,000 people in 60 villages – 3 significantly different sub-regions
1. Balaton Uplands (20 villages)

- **Tourism**, seasonal employment
- **Lakeside villages**: Larger and richer, good infrastructure, Train, road - the richest Hungarian settlements
- Many active small business
- Low co-operation culture and networking tradition
2. Valley of Arts + the surrounding (16 villages)

- Some large industrial villages near cities + former mining villages hit by crisis (but developing rapidly)
- Large companies – employment
- Small, scattered villages, depopulation, aging, etc.)... + Valley of Arts festival
- + co-operation culture (youth, cultural, etc.)
3. The area of Sümeg (21 villages)

- Traditional inner periphery - located on the border of three administrative districts - remote
- **Two small towns** (10,000 inhabitants + 19 tiny villages)
- **Fragmented settlement** structure, ageing, poverty, Roma communities, severe rural development problems
- LEADER+ experience, strong civil sector
Different adsorption capacity – *BUT balanced spending*

15 disadvantaged villages with 8% population

15% support
Positive discrimination for projects

- plus points for the application
- higher subsidy rates – 65%

+ many more efforts, project generation
Main enabling factors beyond the surface
At the peak:
- 3 offices
- 12 employees
- Very strong human, institutional capacity for management and development
- Social engineering
- Lots of work (300 local forum, 4000 participants)
Local democracy, bottom-up, social learning – LEADER method taken seriously

- Carefully balanced partnership (sectoral, spatial, political balance)
- Cooperation, consensus-building, social engineering, consensual decisions
- Democratic, participatory planning – 1200 project ideas
- 257 stable members in the LAG network
- Domestic and international networking
- Relative autonomy (within a centralised context) based on capacities, communication, partnership with authorities
- Capacity building through 'own projects’ – focused strategy
2014-20 – new period, context, challenges

- 1.5 year gap in financing functioning
- One fifth – resources (no 3rd axis)
- Growing local administration
- Reduced local agency (12 → 7 → 5 → 3)
- Weakened central institutional capacity (fluctuation)
- Weakened lobbying power
- Delayed implementation

Balaton Uplands development resources
(Billion HUF)

2007-2013: 2.8
2014-2020: 0.5
Pályázatok térségi szintű megoszlása támogatási igény alapján

Mí, itt a Balaton-felvidéken...!

Balatonfüredi térség 37%
Középső térség 29%
Sümegi térség 34%

189 453 600 Ft
162 028 557 Ft
206 383 240 Ft

Éltető Balaton-felvidékért Egyesület
How to survive?

- Significantly reduced local planning process, reduced expectations
- Very focused strategy (only the three main development directions remain)
- Reduced functioning and costs
- Friendly civil associations managing and developing the strategic development directions
- Membership fees (EUR 18000)
- Other funding sources (Erasmus, H2020, EIP, etc.)
- Own business?
Any questions, comments?