Hidden impacts of LEADER in Slovenian rural areas

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**Fig. 1: THE PLACEMENT OF LEADER IN THE WIDER RURAL DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lags EU CONTEXT</th>
<th>LEADER I (initiative)</th>
<th>LEADER II</th>
<th>LEADER +</th>
<th>LEADER Axis mainstream, multifunds</th>
<th>LEADER/ CLLD</th>
<th>LEADER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>217</td>
<td>821</td>
<td>893</td>
<td>2200</td>
<td>+250- 6 MS</td>
<td>3318*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lags SLOVENIA</th>
<th>INTEGRATIVE RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND VILLAGE RENEWAL</th>
<th>RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES</th>
<th>LEADER Axis</th>
<th>LEADER/ CLLD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&gt; local communities</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>32 programmes</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: Servillo, 2019; MAFF, various years, Potočnik Slavič, 2018.
Fig. 2: Number of projects/LAG (2007-2013).

Source: Medved-Cvikl et al., 2015, p. 113.
LEADER – „... what is this?”

HIDDEN IMPACT OF LEADER
1st year Geography students (5 years ago):
negative response.
1st year Geography students (responses 2017, 2018):
2 positive responses.
»...because my mother is working in the local action group«, and
»... I saw a short notice on the project in local newspaper«.

PROPOSED ACTION: include LEADER topics more actively in curriculum.

VISIBLE IMPACT: young people have been appointed to LEADER tasks in various parts of Slovenia.
LEADER – “where is it .... on the map”?

Fig. 3: LAGs territories - evidences from maps in Slovenia.


Fig. 4: Constructing and tailoring LAGs territories.

**HIDDEN IMPACT OF LEADER**
LEADER territories not present in the daily lives and minds of the people.

**PROPOSED ACTION**: visualisation and communication of LEADER (territory, structures, results, method).

**VISIBLE IMPACT**: 2014–2020 – inclusion of schools, using contemporary media, etc.

Photo: IPS, 2018.
Fig. 5: Thematic focus of LEADER projects (2007-2013) – number of implemented projects.

- tourism
- education
- village renewal
- cultural heritage
- society and social affairs
- studies and analysis
- agriculture, forestry, food
- entrepreneurship
- digitalisation
- environmental protection
- renewable resources of energy and climate change

LEADER – „where is it in .... daily lives of rural”?

HIDDEN IMPACT OF LEADER
Relationships among these three variables – territorial synergies or territorial battlefields?

PROPOSED ACTION: collaborative learning.

VISIBLE IMPACT: the structure and sustainability of partnerships, adherence, cooperation.

Photo: IPS, 2018, TELI2 project (http://teli2.eu/).
LAG Dolenjska and Bela Krajina region (DBK):
- est. 2015,
- 68 members,
- territory: 1,252 km²,
- (108,847 →) 92,000 inhabitants,
- (14→) 12 municipalities,

Source: MAFF, 2016.

**Fig. 6:** Where did you hear of LAG DBK?

- Media
- Never heard

**Fig. 7:** Why are you unfamiliar with LAG DBK?

- No answer
- Poor information flow

Source: Fortun, 2017-2018 (N=100).
Fig. 8–9: Projects in LAG DBK (2007-2013).

LAG between Snežnik and Nanos.
Est. 2006.
Territory: 972 km².
Inhabitants: 35,092.

Fig. 10: Mapping the LEADER partnership (2007-2013): the number of linkages.
**Fig. 11–12: Evaluating the LEADER impacts.**

**IMPACTS – DECISION-MAKERS**

**IMPACTS – BENEFICIARIES**

**ECONOMIC IMPACTS**

**SOCIAL IMPACTS**

**ORGANIZATORIAL IMPACTS**

**minimal-visible**

**visible**


**HOW TO MAKE HIDDEN LEADER IMPACTS MORE VISIBLE?**

**P: PEOPLE**

**P: PLACE**

**P: PERMANENT**

**PROCESS**

**P: PHYSICAL EVIDENCE**

**P: PERCEPTION**

**P: PARTNERSHIP**