

## Croatia – innovation example 1

### ACTION PLAN FOR SUSTAINABLE USE OF RESOURCES OF THE MURTER REGION

Local action group LAG 5 [www.lag5.hr](http://www.lag5.hr)

<http://www.argonauta.hr/en>

- **Location:** Island of Murter, National park Kornati, Nature park Vransko lake
- **HNV system:** Mosaic agriculture and extensive grazing, mainly sheep on EU Mediterranean grassland
- **Scale of operation:** Natura 2000 sites of Vransko lake, islands of Murter and National park Kornati
- **Timespan:** 18 months (2014/2015)
- **Keys to success:** Partnership of civil and private sector, EU funding, creation of a local multistakeholders platform to promote and implement the concept



Figure 1

#### Problems addressed by this example

This project aimed at reinventing the traditional practices that fostered HNVf in the contemporary times. It aimed at tackling the problem of knowledge transfer of traditional practices that stopped due to intensive land abandonment and aging of population.

#### Story in a nutshell

This was a project “Revival of local traditional practices of sustainable use of resources of the island of Murter and its natural region” funded through the pre-accession funds of the European Union (Supporting CSOs in Development of Partnerships for Sustainable Use of Protected Areas in Croatia, Including Potential NATURA 2000 Sites) as a result of a partnership collaboration of NGOs Argonauta, 4 Grada Dragodid, Feniks Arbor, Modrave Murter-Betina and public institutions National park Kornati and Nature park Vransko lake. One of the outputs of the workshops was the action plan that documented local resources in terms of natural resources and biodiversity friendly practices and innovations linked to it. It underlined the key elements for revitalization and sustainable use of local resources “open eco museum” of the Murter region. Publication was to serve as a document to future generations as it holds the memories of 20 engaged local stakeholders that are holders of the vision of sustainable use of natural resources. Additionally it has 7 concrete project proposals that were developed as a next step in the implementation process: Archaeological- recreational park Colentum - tourist valorisation of the cultural and historical heritage of the island of Murter; Modrave gardens - Fostering ecological olive growing with a combination of tradition and innovation; Not all sheep are black - The revitalization of traditional cattle breeding for the protection of the EU Mediterranean lawns; Dry stone walls as a the bond of social capital and sustainability - A register of local dry stone walls heritage and knowledge holders; Wooden shipbuilding tomorrow- revitalization of traditional knowledge of wooden shipbuilding; Laboratory for innovative and sustainable tourism – development of tourist offer outside of the tourist season of the Murter region; Cooperative for the 21st century- founding of the integral cooperative Murter.



### What does *Oživi održi otok* achieve for HNV farming?

- 20 success stories
- 2 workshops
- 7 project proposals



**Figure 2** As a bond of social capital and sustainability, dry stone walls, and their restoration are a central part of the *Oživi održi otok* Action plan for sustainable use of resources of Murter region.

#### *Achievements*

Revival of local knowledge on nature protection and sustainable use of its resources. Incorporation of nature protection in development of island of Murter through sustainable tourism. Creation of a platform of people from the islands and their Parks for strengthened capacities of stakeholders on the topic ecosystem services; strengthened capacities of stakeholders for development of participative management of Natura 2000 areas; explored practices of participative management policies in protected areas on the model of French eco-museums; revived local traditional practices of sustainable use of natural resources

#### *Economics of HNV farming*

Data is not available on the economic impact of the programme for HNV farms.

#### *Maintaining or improving HNV values*

The programme was not designed to achieve specifically HNV or conservation objectives, but probably had benefits as a result of maintaining extensive grazing systems and reducing scrub encroachment. Potentially the programme could have been adapted to give it a more explicit HNV focus, for example, with greater involvement of the nature-conservation authorities.

How does “Oživi održi otok” respond to the HNV LINK innovation themes?

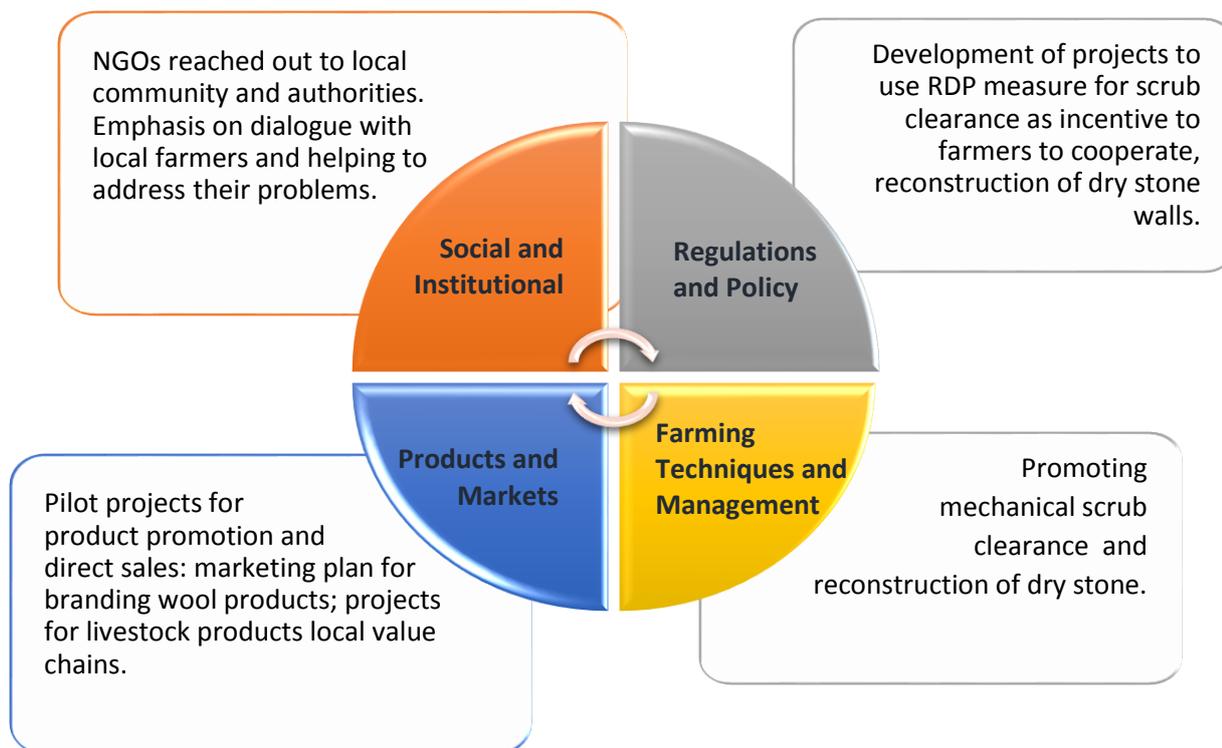


Figure 3 Shows how this innovation addresses the four themes of the HNV-Link innovation framework.

- **Social and institutional:** Action plan is the project that is a creation of a collaborative local platform of stakeholder from civil and public sector and the farmers around the idea of developing a plan for sustainable use and revitalization of the Natura 2000 sites
- **Regulations and Policy:** This action plan holds in itself concrete project proposals that aim at using RDP funds for implementing policies designated for HNV and Natura 2000 sites
- **Farming Techniques and Management:** This action plan promotes traditional agricultural techniques of mechanical scrub clearance to prevent wild fires and reconstruction of dry stone walls for preventing erosion and also as a livestock management system
- **Products and Markets:** Drafts and kick starts pilot projects for promotion and direct sales such as “Not all sheep are black” that aims at branding traditional wool products that are treated as waste and not as a resource.

### The process that made it happen and critical factors for success

- Multistakeholder partnerships
- EU funding
- Youth enthusiasm
- Transgenerational collaboration

**Actors and roles:** The key actors were local NGOs and local highly educated youth that wanted to find a way to connect to their heritage but also to be able to ensure its economic viability in the islander area. Murter NGO Argonauta was founded as an answer to the growing demand for a civil society organisation that would look after the environment and nature of the island of Murter and its surrounding area. (O nama – Udruga Argonauta – Udruga za zaštitu prirode i okoliša te promicanje održivog razvoja. (n.d.). Retrieved August 1, 2017, from <https://www.argonauta.hr/o-nama/>). It was this NGO that opened lines of communication with public institutions and with the “holders of heritage” using formal and informal acquaintances to foster a long term multistakeholders, multi islander platform for sustainable development that is still ongoing.



Figure 4

**Institutional context that made it possible:** The process of acquis harmonization of the Republic of Croatia and access to EU funding for Natura 2000 management plans available to NGO’s and other civil society organisations.

**Resources:** Funding was available through EU funds, specifically IPA - Supporting CSOs in Development of Partnerships for Sustainable Use of Protected Areas in Croatia, Including Potential NATURA 2000 Sites. Knowledge came from the local community and outer EU community.

**Processes:** The project that drafted the action plan lasted for 18 months but the activities related to its implementation kick started in 2015 and are ongoing.

**Critical factors for success:** Major factor was funding availability of EU funds and financial support that came from the Office for NGOs of the Republic of Croatia. Another factor was enthusiasm of all the people involved that created it using solely their own resources and knowledge.

**Limiting factors, actual/potential problems, and how could they be overcome:** Project based funding puts constraints on the number of actions that could be done as they are always unexpected opportunities and constraints for the implementation of the vision proposed.

### Lessons learnt from this innovation example, and its potential replication

- Transgenerational collaboration
- Multistakeholders partnership
- Territorial approach to sustainable development



Figure 5



*Overall lessons from this example, especially from point of view of HNV farming?*

For HNV preservation of traditional landscapes and revitalization of agricultural practices in a way that it answers to the contemporary needs of the locals (incorporation of nature protection, revitalisation of landscapes and sustainable tourism)

*Is the innovation unique to its territory and its characteristics, or is it replicable in other areas?*

It is an innovation that is replicable and that has been in some extent implemented in other areas (such is the Strategic development framework of the National Park of Mljet that functions both as a baseline assessment of the territory and an action plan with a set of project proposals to ensure its implementation)

*Could it be rolled out on a bigger territorial scale?*

Existing examples that have been mapped were focused on small to medium scales such is the territory of National park, Nature park and plans and projects that were developed as part of a wider international programme such was the COAST project (Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in the Dalmatian Coast through Greening Coastal Development – COAST)

*What would be needed to do this successfully?*

For implementation of HNVf as a concept that will secure livelihood for the local stakeholders it is necessary to secure overheads for organizations that are local key holders of the concept in order to have long term education and collaboration in both implementing and promoting HNVf practices as well as branding its products.

**Photo credits:** NGO Agronauta

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