

Croatia – innovation example 2

MULTISTAKEHOLDER ORGANIZATIONS (LOCAL ACTION GROUPS, SLOW FOOD) FOSTERING HNV PRODUCTS AND PRACTICES

Local action group LAG 5 www.lag5.hr

- **Location:** Dalmatian islands
- **HNV system:** mosaic agriculture and extensive grazing, mainly sheep on EU Mediterranean grassland
- **Scale of operation:** LAG Brač, LAG Škoji, LAG 5
- **Timespan:** From 2012 ongoing
- **Keys to success:** EU funding, multistakeholder platform, continuous communication and collaboration with local stakeholders



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

Problems addressed by this example

Institutional support and promotion of HNVf practices and products.

Story in a nutshell

In the area of Dalmatian islands there are several LEADER organizations and other multistakeholder organizations that indirectly promote HNV friendly practices and its products. They represent partnership of public, private and civil sector established in order to get EU funding for local projects that foster rural development and benefit their agro-eco system. These multistakeholder organizations comprising representatives from public, private and civil sector serve as knowledge brokers and catalysts for the implementation of HNV values in local communities. Movements such as Slow Food Convivium also contribute to international promotion and branding of such products. Slow Food Pelješac Convivium aims to encourage and promote local food production and consumption on principles of being good, clean and fair. Its main activities are encouraging nutrition based and seasonal produce, protection of biodiversity in their focused territory, documenting and reviving local recipes and foods that are endangered or forgotten, bringing the producers and consumers closely together, promoting organic farming that doesn't involve harmful herbicides and pesticides

What do multistakeholder organizations as LEADER and Slow Food achieve for HNV farming?



Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7



Figure 8

Achievements

LEADER organizations play an important role in educating the farmers on available subsidies and helping them receive and administer those subsidies by implementing HNVf friendly projects such as buying livestock, building shelters for livestock, restoring extensive oil grove, restoring one-year crops on mosaic farmland and opening landscapes and planting local medicinal herbs. Slow Food Pelješac Convivium has organized several workshops and gatherings with the aim of promoting and educating the local stakeholders on the importance of local cuisine, on what we eat and how it's linked to biodiversity.

Economics of HNV farming

Administrative support for 20 HNVf friendly projects. Several workshops and manifestations regarding the promotion of HNVf products and the Slow Food Concept.

Maintaining or improving HNV values

The organizations and its projects and work programmes weren't 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 their work could have been more adapted to give it a more explicit HNV focus, for example, with greater involvement of the nature-conservation authorities.

How do multistakeholder organizations respond to the HNV LINK innovation themes?

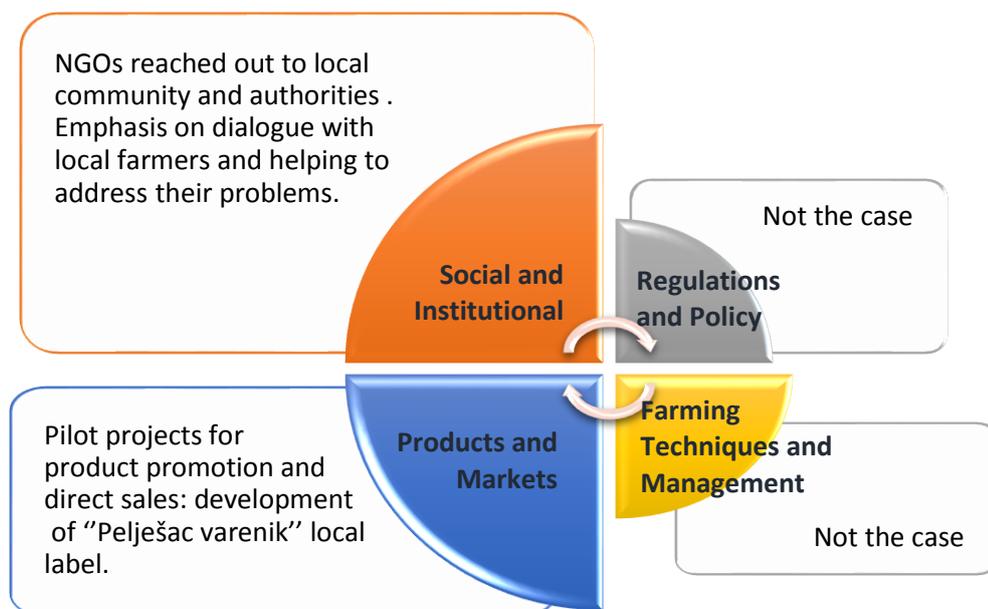


Figure 9 The framework HNV-Link used for evaluating innovations for high nature value farming.

- **Social and institutional:** Multistakeholder organizations of different forms represent an important social innovation as they are a first step in creating institutional structures and avoiding a short-term project culture. These social innovations that are part of either international movements or rural development programmes are grounded in the social processes of the community and can best help create social value for that community.
- **Products and Markets:** Multistakeholder organisations, both LEADER organizations work on developing new projects that will brand the territory (such as Active Adriatic South project of LAG 5 that connects local cuisine to cyclo tourism) and the products such is the initiative of the Slow Food Presidium "Pelješki varenik".

The process that made it happen and critical factors for success

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



Figure 10

Actors and roles: As a process of harmonization with the EU norms LEADER project was implemented in Croatia and as a process of implementing this EU rural development programme regional authorities have drafted the outlines and gathered local stakeholders into LAGs. The role of the stakeholders and organizations themselves was defined by their local members from the private, public and the civil sector.

The establishment of the Slow Food Pelješac came as part of a LAG 5 project (LAG 5 Green Agenda) where the local stakeholders met and exchanged practices with the civil sector activists from Slow Food Liburna.

Institutional context that made it possible: The process of acquis harmonization of the Republic of Croatia and access to EU funding that fostered more field trips, exchange of best practices and networking.

Resources: Funding was available through EU funds.

Processes: The funding came from EU funds and the major factor was the process of harmonization with the EU acquis that put an emphasis on nature protection and bottom-up development.

Critical factors for success: Major factor was funding availability of EU funds and enthusiasm of all the people involved that they will be able to kick-start projects that will truly improve the life of their rural communities and their own businesses.

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

- Territorial approach to local development as a policy framework to promote HNV
- Education and communication as a prerequisite for extensive farming

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) key is territorial approach to development that foster multistakeholder integrated engagement towards the realization of a unified vision.

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.

Could it be rolled out on a bigger territorial scale?

Existing examples that have been mapped were focused on small to medium scales, in those terms the innovation is replicable on various scales.

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.



Figure 11



Figure 12

Photo credits: Slow Food Pelješac, LAG Brač, LAG Škoji, LAG 5

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