

Report on HNVF meeting of LA Dalmatian Islands held in Supetar, on May 11 and 12

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Aim and context of the activity (Objectives and foreseen outputs)

Regional meeting of LA Dalmatian Islands/Croatian HNVF stakeholders was organised in Supetar, island Brač, on May 11 and 12, 2018. It was organised as a stand-alone workshop within the fourth edition of an international conference on rural tourism which attracted about 250 participants from 15 countries.

Some 18 participants attended the workshop among them HNV farmers, AKIS actors (e.g. representatives of universities, EU MP's), small food producers, representatives of LAGs and NGOs.

Two Croatian members of HNVF-Link Advisory Board (Mrs Sonja Karoglan Todorović and Mr Filip Bubalo) were also participating in the workshop. Mrs Sonja Karoglan Todorović was moderating the workshop.

The workshop had four main objectives:

1. To share and exchange at the national/regional level the HNV Vision established through the Baseline Assessment and the set of HNV innovations collected in all LA.
2. To trigger a reflection on innovation process adaptation: pathways, by which to improve the economic viability of HNV farming, failure factors/constraints, and contexts that allow innovation process to take off.
3. To start a larger regional network on HNV farming and innovation brokering.
4. To reach the regional and national AKIS (Agricultural Knowledge and Information Systems) actors.

Activity Description & Main results

Work methodology

Workshop was implemented in three parts, using three different methods. During the first part two presentations were held to introduce Baseline Assessment and the set of HNV innovations in LA Dalmatian Islands. After each presentation there was a short, moderated discussion. In the second part, through moderated joint group work, Agricultural Knowledge and Information System (AKIS) in



Croatia was analysed. In the afternoon, World Café method has been used to support networking and design possible proposals for future HNVF work in LA and Croatia.

The World Café is a method which makes use of an informal cafe for participants to explore an issue by discussing in small table groups. Workshop participants were divided into three groups of four to six participants sitting around tables together with a "table host". Each group discussed different set of questions belonging to a comprehensive HNVF theme, which have been defined by the organisers and moderator in advance. The cafe ambiance allowed for a more relaxed and open conversation to take place. Participants were provided with pens and encouraged to draw and record their conversations on the paper tablecloths to capture free flowing ideas as they emerge.

After approximately 20 minutes participants moved to a next table where another question was discussed. The "table host" welcomed new participants and informed them about the results of the previous discussion at this table. Discussion was held in three rounds and finally, "table hosts" presented ideas and the results of each group. At the end of the process the main ideas were summarised in a plenary session and follow-up possibilities were discussed.

Discussions and conclusions

AKIS

AKIS is a concept to describe the exchange of knowledge and the services which support these exchanges in rural areas. Contrary to other HNV-Link project countries, no analysis and map of AKIS is available in Croatia (e.g. Croatia was not participating in the EU PROAKIS project). Therefore, during this workshop, a brief analysis of AKIS was conducted, with the emphasis on HNVF knowledge users.

AKIS is a system that links people and organisations to promote mutual learning, to generate, share, and utilize agriculture-related technology, knowledge, and information. Figure 1. shows components of Croatian AKIS with diverse actors from the private and public sectors relating to agriculture at national, regional (county) and local (municipalities) level.



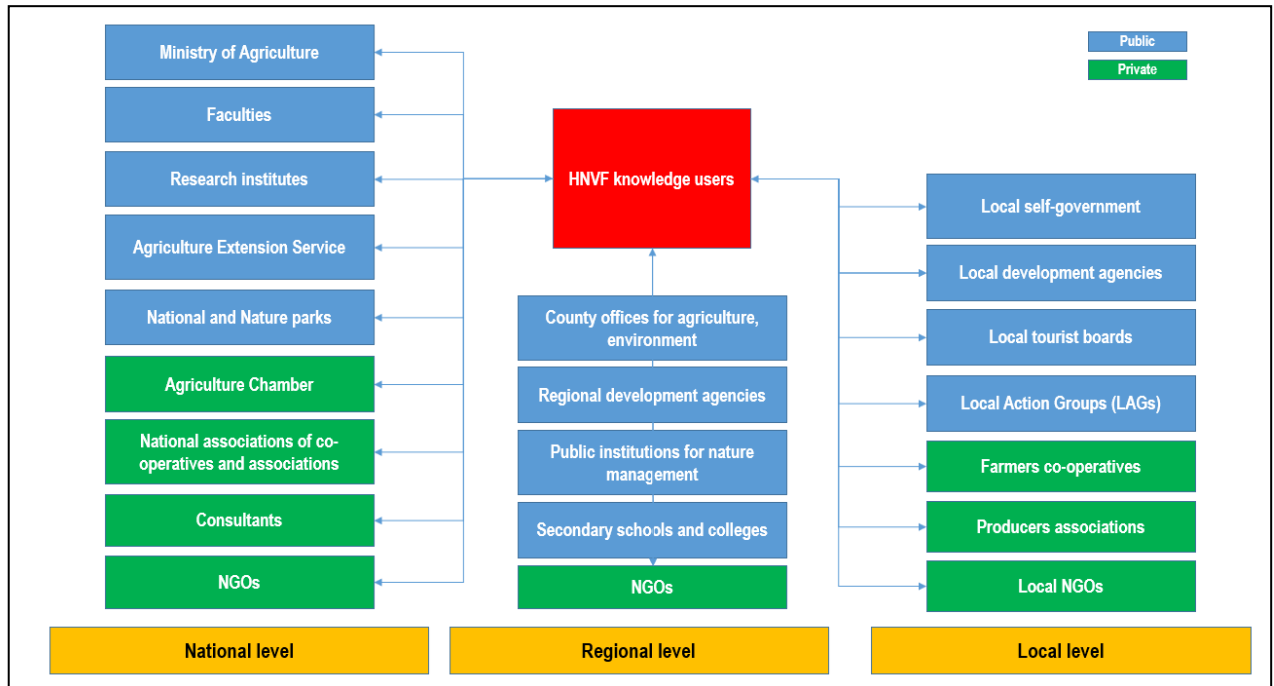
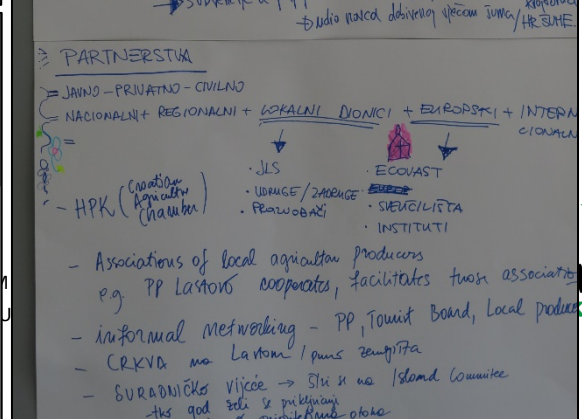
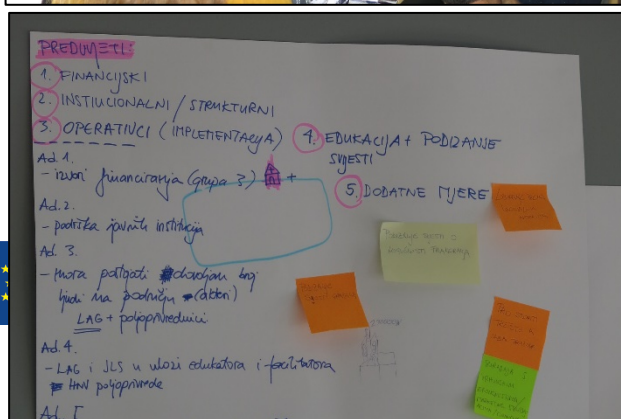
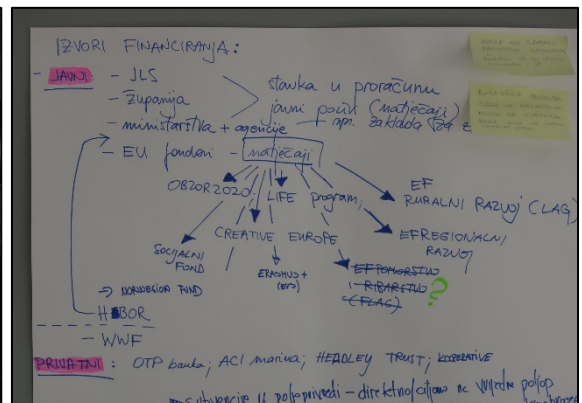


Figure 1. AKIS in Croatia relevant for HNVF subject

Word Café discussions

Three HNVF relevant topics were discussed: innovative products and services, conditions for HNVF innovation and possible HNVF network partnerships and funding opportunities.

Starting with the set of HNV innovations already collected in LA Dalmatian Islands, workshop participants further discussed and proposed a number of products and services.



In order to further develop innovative products and services a number of preconditions should be met, such as operational, institutional and financial ones. One of the most important obstacles detected is unresolved agriculture land property issue. For this reason, lot of agricultural land is abandoned and no EU rural and national funding for further development of agriculture can be attracted. Workshop participants proposed some innovative solutions of this problem, including introduction of tax on unutilised agricultural land or establishment of fund in which money from leasing such a land would be collected and paid to real owners once the ownership is clear.

Workshop participants are well aware that changes do not happen overnight and that broad coalitions with existing institutions and networks is needed. Strategies for further actions and opportunities for further cooperation of participants and other potential partners were identified. Different sources of funding, both for innovative products and services and further establishment of wider Croatian HNVF network were discussed. Various rural development measures under the Croatian Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 are potentially very interesting, but also other EU funding opportunities such as LIFE and HORIZON programmes were explored.

One of the important conclusions was that while tourism brings potential for economic prosperity of farming, the existing development of mass tourism is a big threat to natural and cultural values created through traditional mosaic HNV farming systems. Therefore, co-operation with tourism stakeholders is very important and much effort should be put in encouragement of the development of sustainable and green tourism which could, on a long term contribute to preservation of HNV farmland and advancement of island life.

Workshop participants concluded that typical HNV mosaic landscape should be preserved as a result of low-intensity agriculture and rural tourism based on local resources and top-quality products.

How the workshop reached the targeted objectives

Participants of the workshop were key stakeholders involved in HNVF at local/regional and partly national level. During the workshop, through presentations and discussions, they shared and exchanged the HNV Vision established through the Baseline Assessment and the set of HNV innovations collected in LA Dalmatian Islands. (objective 1).

Conditions allowing innovation process to take off were examined during the workshop and a number of legislative, financial and other prerequisites were detected (objective 2).

One of the workshop conclusions was that larger regional, preferably national network on HNV farming should be initiated. Relevant network institutions and partners were discussed, further steps were planned and possible funding sources for such a network were detected (objective 3).

Workshop involved Croatian AKIS actors, including the regional and national ones. An effort was made to analyse HNVF relevant actors and strategies for further involving them and building the partnerships with them were discussed. (objective 4).

