> ### *"LESVOS", our world inside the world - "No man is an island"*
> ### *networX - Inspiring Rural Europe - The EGG - Brussels 11-12.04.2019*

LEADER Networking Lessons. Action Labs

Greetings from Lesvos...

FIRST COMIC FRAME

- My name is Anastasios Perimenis and I am the Manager of the Lesvos LAG/FLAG, responsible for the "Lesvos Local Development Strategy..."

- My name is Nikolaos Ploukos, Civil Engineer, LAG and FLAG team member

---

- Networking is a very important tool to make everything work better and give our **LEADER VISION** a chance to become reality.
- We will showcase our networking experience, how we get the most out of it,
- How we use it to become more relevant, effective, extrovert and results oriented.

- LEADER is an **extrovert** process but requires a lot of effort; Insularity has as a characteristic the difficulty in making people **accept change**.

- Our presentation is a **comic strip**, we use often in our **animation activities**.

- Networking in order to work well must work like **well oiled cogweels**!

INSTITUTIONS - AUTHORITIES

LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS - LOCAL NETWORKS

TRANSNATIONAL-INETRNATIONAL COOPERATIONS

ETAL S.A. - PARTNERSHIP - NETWORK

- In 2004, we set up a **network of local animators**, young people at the time working at the 13 municipalities
- We shared with them a common vision of how we wanted our island to be in the years to come

- We connect and interact with various **micro-local networks**
- The **Geographic associations** we funded years ago such as the **Molyvos** Association and the **Eressos** Association.
- Networks of **local entrepreneurs** initially from the tourism sectors who soon became more than that and incorporated many other sectors of the local socioeconomic life. ,
- W**omen agricultural cooperatives**,
- numerous other **professional**, **educational** and **recreational** **local actors** that proved to produce important added value to our local resources and economy

- This in its turn used what we **literally** call the **"NETWORK of THINGS"**,
- Utilizing local resources such as the **"Network of walking trails"**, creating activities in the LEADER trails in our natural environment as the **LesvosTrail**, the **LavaTrail**, the **DivingTrails**, **Alternative-experiential Tourism groups**, **Gastronomy**, **local products**,

MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD

RURAL DEVELPOMENT PROGRAM OF GREECE

FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM OF GRECE

LEADE/CLLD-COMMUNITY LED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

DEVELPOMENT-EMPLOYMENT-SOLIDARITY

EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL AND INVESTMENT FUNDS

~ 2 ~

SECOND COMIC FRAME

- The structure of our network is as all "self-respecting" networks **complicated**.
- To make it simpler we realized it takes **sharing unified information**
- keeping **open** channels of **communication** with everybody!

- This led us to a quest of **exploration**.
- We see and learn in the process new aspects of our area, new **conditionalities**.

- Everything so far led us to realize that all this work comes up to one natural and simple conclusion. **Building a NETWORK of TRUST**

- It is like when you **seed you plant**; it takes **time**, **painstaking nurturing** without any **guarantee** of **results**, **careful safeguarding**, and **hard work**. But eventually if all the conditions are met, and one manages to built **TRUST** you see the results, and it then becomes a remarkable tool in our work, and it has become so.

- How do we build trust? It takes time, many difficulties, many obstacles that once you overcome them you become stronger.

- A solid and productive networking process needs "**ORAMA**", - a vision, a lot of exhausting **discussions**, being open to any short of ideas, from **sound** ones to even **crazy** ones, open **eyes** and **ears** to the world as it develops.

- We live in a fast evolving era - we need to adapt and **networking is just that**. Information is crucial and must be shared immediately and responsibly.

MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD | RURAL DEVELPOMENT PROGRAM OF GREECE | FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM OF GRECE | LEADE/CLLD-COMMUNITY LED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT | DEVELPOMENT-EMPLOYMENT-SOLIDARITY | EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL AND INVESTMENT FUNDS

~ 3 ~

THIRD COMIC FRAME

- Then it all adds up. To what? **RESULTS**.
- Without networking I am not sure there would be results.

- **And this is the twist in the story**. Without networking we would have lost so much, we would have been as a LAG, just another **mechanism** of delivering implementation of **mainstream** funding; **un-nerved**, bureaucratic program officers.
- BUT we feel more **short of innovators in our areas**, meaning we feel as **catalysts** and **instigators of reactions** often **subtle**, **slow** but in most cases even **life-changing** and **long lasting**.
- Networking is a smart way for introducing: **added value**, **sustainable use of resources**, **quality of life**, **social capital**, **extroversion**
- **PRIDE**. Pride in what has been done,
- Networking made us get "**ownership**" and that **motivates** us, it gives us **strength, visibility, sense of belonging**

MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD

RURAL DEVELPOMENT PROGRAM OF GREECE

FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM OF GRECE

LEADE/CLLD-COMMUNITY LED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

DEVELPOMENT-EMPLOYMENT-SOLIDARITY

EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL AND INVESTMENT FUNDS

~ 4 ~

4th COMIC FRAME - video clip

- Our world is **unpredictable**
- Lesvos suddenly came under the **spotlight** of the entire planet because of the biggest humanitarian crisis since World war II.
- The **refugees** and **migrant** crisis.

NARRATION OF THE USC-ETAL VIDEO-CLIP.

A new partnership with the University of Southern California, VITERBI School of Engineering.

A fast-track, hi-tech institution and environment.

We work together on "**Innovation in Engineering Design for Global Challenges**."

the **effects on local development**.

Two **missions** in Lesvos, September 2018, February 2019.

There is need to **research**, **understand**. It soon became apparent that what they had in mind is far away to what they **experience on the ground**.

Lesvos is **more**, than the **news** present...

We start a well planned, thorough process of **meetings** with local **stakeholders**, **Chambers**, **University** of the Aegean, **associations** i.e. of tourism...

The Local Authorities - the **Mayor** of Lesvos who played a crucial leadership role over the past four years.

We met the **camps officers**, we worked together as volunteers,

to see the realities and understand that Lesvos is a **vibrant insular community**,

A place where local **social capital** exists and its **life changed abruptly**.

We discuss, we learn, we exchange, the "**net worx**".

MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD | RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM OF GREECE | FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM OF GRECE | LEADE/CLLD-COMMUNITY LED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT | DEVELPOMENT-EMPLOYMENT-SOLIDARITY | EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL AND INVESTMENT FUNDS

~ 5 ~

And then the camps, places of **temporary** shelter for displaced people.

We are testing **5 projects**, how **innovative** we can be in providing **solutions**.

We meet again and again with all the **actors** on the **ground**. We organized a **pitching** event at **UNHCR** with many **stakeholders** and **NGOs**, to present the 5 projects.

We analyzed the **feasibility** and **usefulness** of the projects on the ground with refugees, **the end users**.

A great **opportunity** to put **LEADER Methodology** -**bottom up- in action**, to take it a step further... **networking** with the other side of the planet.

We meet with **Local People**, the People of the village of Moria, the forgotten people,

Moria is a **real village**, a community, people whose **lives changed** as well, dramatically

Unfortunately "**locality**" seems to be ignored.

And then **art and culture**...brings people together, healing wounds

and **adventure** in our **rural environment**, the mountains and **walking trails**...

the **sea** and the **fisheries** communities...

and the vast **olive groves** of Lesvos...

This is "LESVOS", **our world** inside the world...

"**No man is an island**", is how we, as a LAG celebrate **networX** today, and share with you why we take **pride** in **NETWORKING**, why we believe the **net works**!

THANK YOU!
Anastasios M. Perimenis
Nikolaos Ploukos