



Rural development in Croatia

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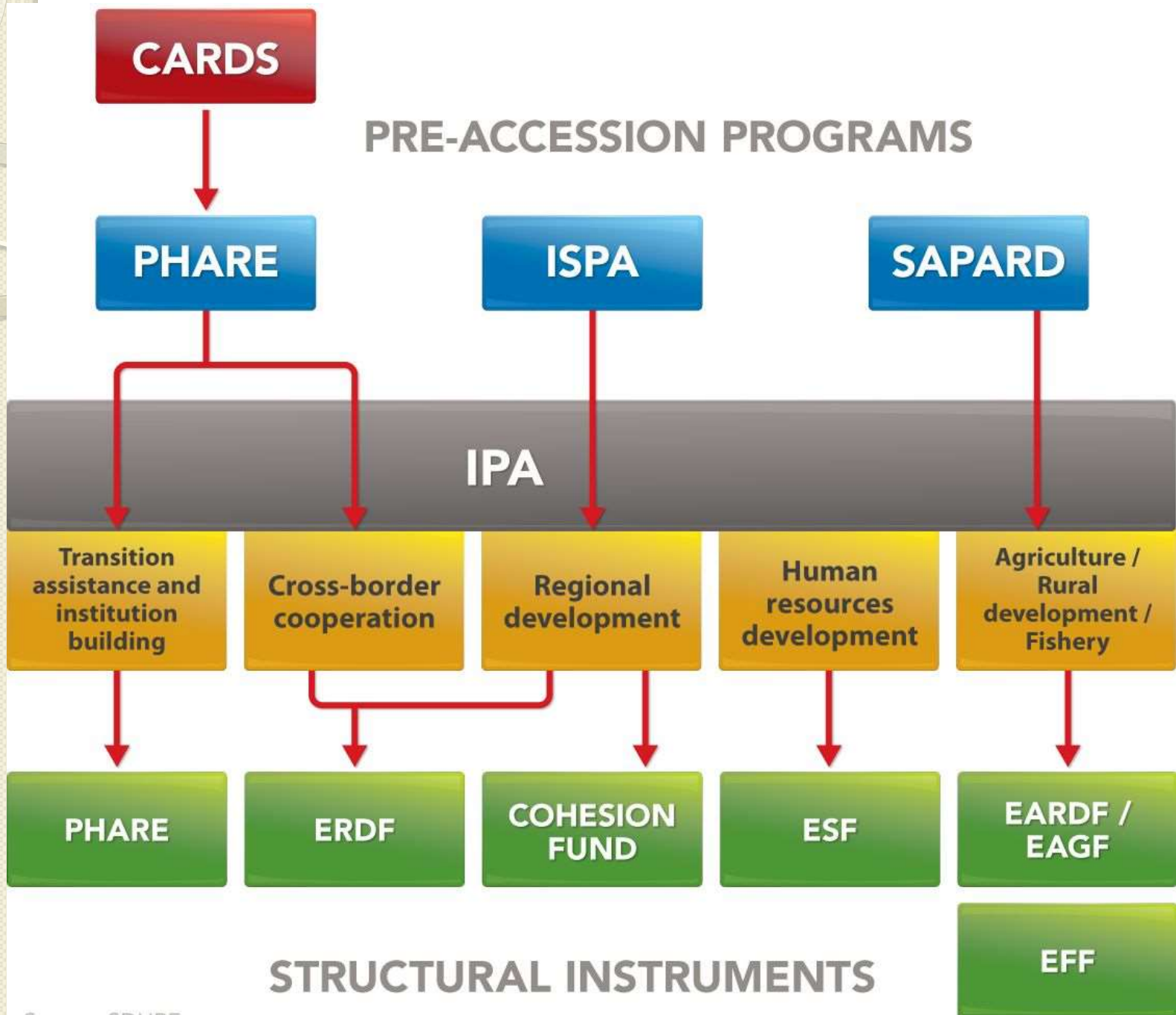
Croatian Rural Development Network - HMRR is a civil sector network:

- **46 members** (14 CSOs + 32 LAGs)
- Making the voice of rural communities **better heard**
- **Encouraging** contribution of civil society to RD
- **Influencing RD policy** making and implementing
- Promoting **implementation of LEADER / CLLD** approach

Main activity fields

- **Promoting**, encouraging and assisting LEADER implementation
- **Representing** civil sector in the processes of development and monitoring of national RD legislation
- **Informing** about RD and LEADER / CLLD
- **Education and trainings**
- **Linking together** member organizations with other stakeholders in RD through networking, partnership and gatherings







Connect with EU

Click on a country flag to connect with rural Europe



Non EU

- EU Member Countries
- Candidate countries
- Potential candidate countries
- Other countries



CROATIA



- Territory: 56.594 km²
- Population: 4.284.889
- Low population density: 75,7
- Total number of settlements: 6.756
- Only 3 settlements > 100.000 inhabitants
- Total number of local self-government units (towns and municipalities): 556

Croatia is a rural country:

2012:

- Croatia's land area - 79,1 % predominantly rural and 19.8% intermediate
- 56.7% of the population lived in predominantly rural regions

RDP 2014-2020:

- The whole territory of Croatia with the exclusion of the administrative centers of four cities
- 75.08% of total population
- 99.24% of total territory

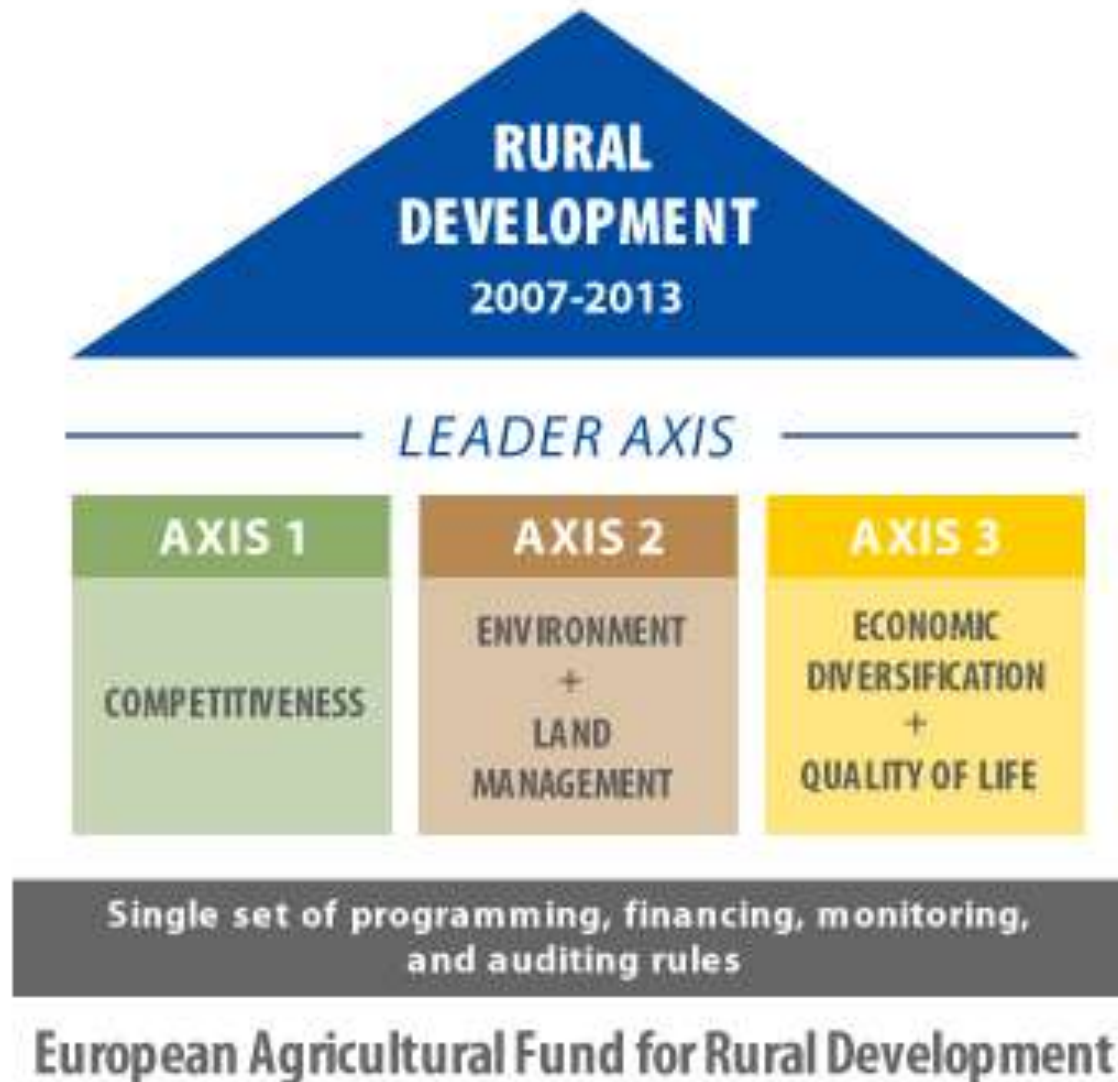
Rural development policy - Croatia

- Our experiences both theoretical and practical are humble, we started developing them within the accession process and we are still learning
- Priority problems in Croatian rural areas: negative demographic trends, low employment rate and growing development lag when compared with urban regions

IPARD programme 2007 - 2013

- Technical and financial aid to Croatia in the process of harmonisation with the European *acquis*
- Three priorities and six measures + Technical assistance
- One of six measures was not implemented in Croatia (Agro-environment)
- Original version in 2007, eight changes on annual basis
- Implementation monitored by the Monitoring committee encompassing representatives of all society sectors (public, civil and business)

Four axis of the RD policy



Four axis of the RD policy

- **Axis 1:** to improve the competitiveness of the **agricultural and forestry** sector
- **Axis 2:** to improve **the environment** and the countryside
- **Axis 3:** to enhance the **quality of life** in rural areas and **diversification of the rural economy**
- **Axis 4:** to introduce possibilities for innovative governance through locally based, bottom-up approaches based on the **LEADER** experience

LEADER - what is that?

- A **bottom-up approach** based on local characteristics and resources
- Local actors can develop an area by using its development potential
- Initiative - pilot-approach - RD policy method
- Supported from the EAFRD

(“*Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l'Économie Rurale*” = “Links between the rural economy and development actions”)



LEADER implementation - IPARD

- implementation started only in May 2013 - EC approved its accreditation
- Financial support to LAGs = annual support of 450.000 HRK (59.200 EUR), 80% EU + 20% RoC
- 42 selected LAGs (66% of actual number)

IPARD / 2 sub-measures:

- Acquiring skills and animating inhabitants in LAG area
- LDS implementation - LAG running expenses (up to 120.000 € per LAG)

Shadow Report on IPARD implementation 2010 - 2012



Prepared by CSOs - a survey encompassing 128 beneficiaries and consultants

Objectives:

- To inform public on IPARD
- To encourage more applications thus increasing the IPARD absorption rate
- To enlighten major obstacles, propose solutions, improve conditions and criteria, upgrade procedures and practices
- To use comments in preparing the new RDP 2014-2020

More: <http://www.hmrr.hr/en/ruraldevelopment/ipard/>

Europe 2020 strategy

Common Strategic Framework (CSF)

Covering the EAFRD, ERDF, ESF, Cohesion Fund and EMFF, and reflecting EU2020 through common thematic objectives to be addressed by key actions for each of the funds

Partnership Agreement

National document outlining the intended use of the funds in the pursuit of EU2020 objectives

Rural development policy: EAFRD

Other ESI funds (ERDF, ESF, CF, EMFF)

Innovation, Environment and Climate Change as cross-cutting objectives

6 Priorities

1. **Fostering knowledge transfer and innovation** in agriculture, forestry and rural areas
2. **Enhancing competitiveness** of all types of agriculture and farm viability
3. **Promoting food chain organisation and risk management** in agriculture
4. **Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems** dependent on agriculture and forestry
5. **Promoting resource efficiency** and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors
6. **Promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development** in rural areas

Rural Development Programme(s)

New RDP 2014-2020

approved 26/05/2015 >>> 16 measures + TA

CLLD is only formally addressed in the RDP through a mono-fund approach

- EAFRD >>> LAGs (3% of total available funding)
- EMFF >>> FLAGs (FLAG establishment will be taking over IPARD / LEADER implementation experience)

LEADER / CLLD measure

4 sub-measures:

19.1 Preparatory support (max 100.000 € per LAG)

19.2 Implementation of operation under the CLLD development strategy (max 3,000.000 € per LAG)

19.3 Preparation and implementation of cooperation activities of local actions (max 100.000 € per LAG)

19.4 Running costs and animation (max 25% allocated public expenses of LAG strategy)

LEADER in Croatia



- 2009: first LAG Gorski kotar (NGO)
- CSOs had the initial role in encouraging LAGs' creation

Basic data (57 LAGs):

- 536 or 96,40% of local self-government units
- 53.223 km² or 94,13% of total territory
- 2.462.078 inhabitants or 57,46% of total population

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1-Adrion | 32-Posavina |
| 2-Baranja | 33-Prigorje |
| 3-Barun Trenk | 34-Prizag |
| 4-Bilogora-Papuk | 35-Sava |
| 5-Bosutski niz | 36-Sjeverna Bilogora |
| 6-Brač | 37-Sjeverna Istra |
| 7-Bura | 38-Sjeverozapad |
| 8-Cetinska krajina | 39-Slavonska ravnica |
| 9-Dinara 1831 | 40-Središnja Istra |
| 10-Frankopan | 41-Srijem |
| 11-Gorski kotar | 42-Strossmayer |
| 12-Istočna Istra | 43-Škoji |
| 13-Izvor | 44-Šumanovci |
| 14-Južna Istra | 45-Terra Liburna |
| 15-Kamen i more | 46-Una |
| 16-Karašica | 47-Vallis Colapis |
| 17-Krka | 48-Vinodol |
| 18-Kvarnerski otoci | 49-Virovitički prsten |
| 19-Laura | 50-Vuka-Dunav |
| 20-Lika | 51-Zagora |
| 21-Mareta | 52-Zagorje-Sutla |
| 22-Marinianis | 53-Zapadna Slavonija |
| 23-Međimurski doli i bregi | 54-Zeleni bregi |
| 24-Mentorides | 55-Zeleni trokut |
| 25-More 249 | 56-Zrinska gora-Turopolje |
| 26-Moslavina | 57-LAG 5 |
| 27-Mura-Drava | |
| 28-Neretva | |
| 29-Papuk | |
| 30-Petrova gora | |
| 31-Podravina | |






The First Croatian Rural Parliament

First Croatian Rural Parliament (HRP) brought together 230 stakeholders of rural development from all sectors and levels. It was organised by civil sector network and organisation. A strong message was sent to the Government:

Development of rural areas is of utmost importance for the overall development of Croatia.



The First Croatian Rural Parliament

- A declaration has been passed outlining the way ahead.



Thank you!

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