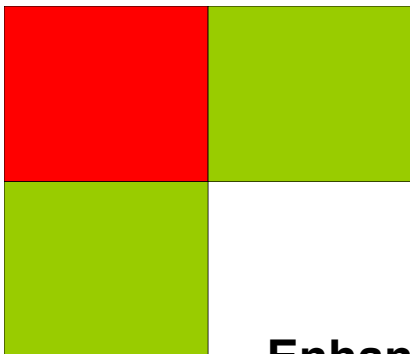




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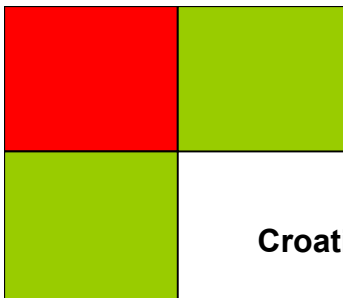
**Enhancing Sustainable Local and Rural Development in the SAP**

**Countries by Introducing the LEADER Experience /**

# ***LEADER*** ***in Republic of Croatia***

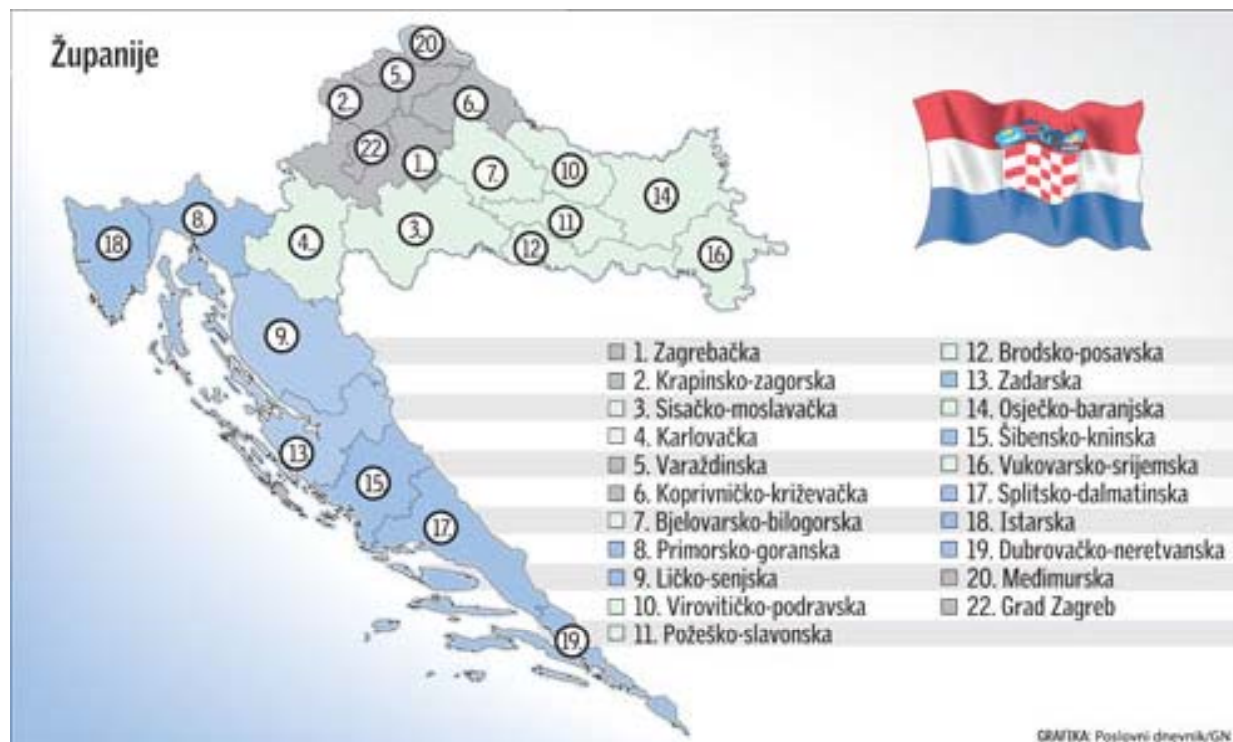
**JELENA KRALJEVIĆ, MAFRD**

**Budapest, Hungary 19-20 May 2008**

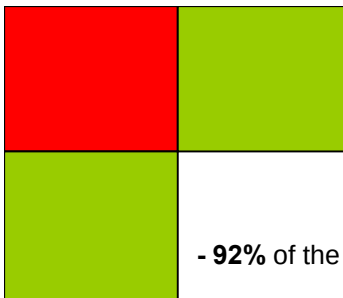


- Croatia - 21 counties (Županija, including the City of Zagreb having a special status)**  
- **556 administrative divisions (124 towns and 426 municipalities)**  
- **total of 6.751 communities**

**Distribution of counties at NUTS 2 level :**



- The majority (14 out of 21) of counties are classified as predominantly rural regions (over 50% of population lives in rural areas);
- Five counties have an extremely high degree of rurality (i.e. as much as 90 - 100% of counties' total population lives in rural communities);
- In 6 counties the share of total population living in rural communities varies between 15 - 50% (significantly rural regions);
- City of Zagreb can be described as predominantly urban (i.e. share of county's population living in rural areas is in this case lower than 10%).



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- **92%** of the total area of Croatia can be considered as **rural area**

- **48%** of the Croatian **population** living there

-**Agricultural land accounts for 2,695,000 ha**, 41% of which is arable land and 54% permanent grassland.

-The **average farm size** is **2.4 ha**

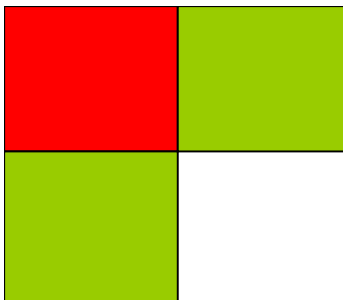
**The divergence of living standards between rural and urban areas is significant in terms of: income, education, physical, social and cultural infrastructure, unemployment.**

**There is still a high number of (semi)-subsistence agriculture, insufficient diversification of agricultural and non-agricultural income generating activities, and aging of rural population in the Croatian rural areas.**

***Rural and urban areas, population and settlements according to OECD criterion:***

| Classification<br>(2001) | OECD criteria |      |                   |      |                   |      |
|--------------------------|---------------|------|-------------------|------|-------------------|------|
|                          | km2           | %    | No of settlements | %    | No of inhabitants | %    |
| Rural areas              | 51.872        | 91,6 | 6.001             | 88,7 | 2.110.988         | 47,6 |
| Urban areas              | 4.731         | 8,4  | 763               | 11,3 | 2.326.472         | 52,4 |
| Total                    | 56.603        | 100  | 6.751             | 100  | 4.437.460         | 100  |

Source: CBS, Statistical yearbook, 2005

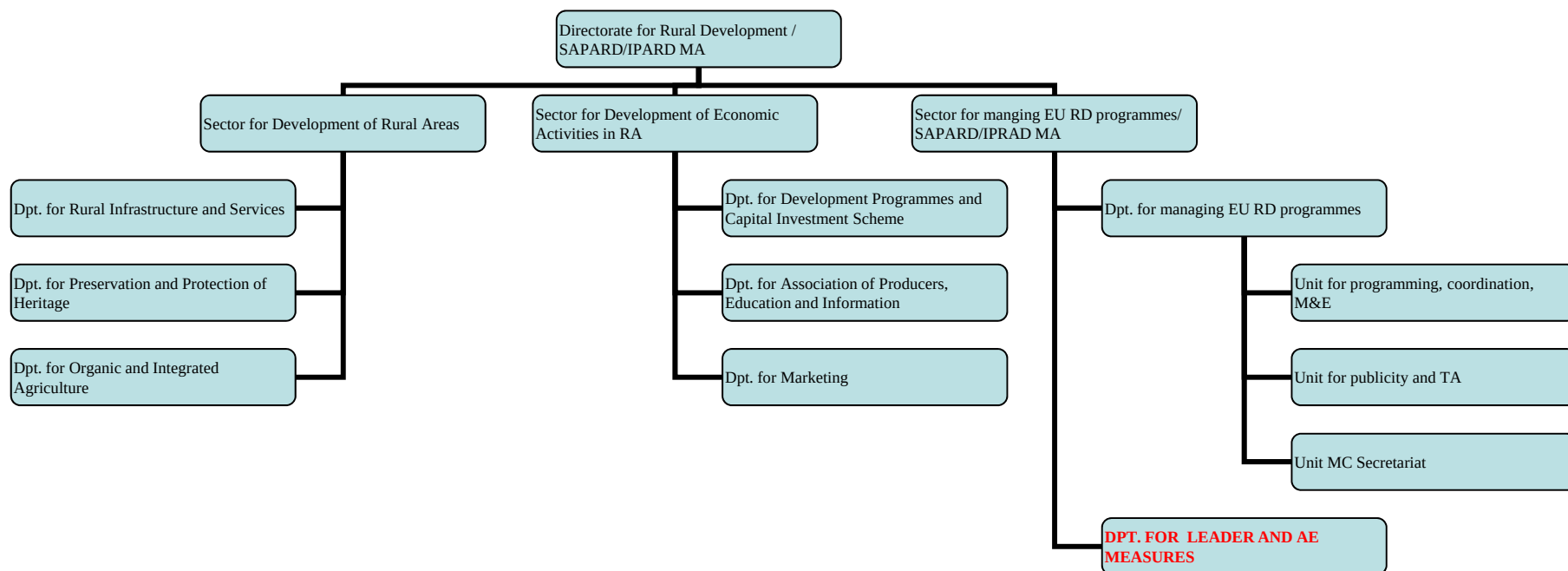


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**2003.** - Within the MAFWM Directorate for Sustainable Development of Rural Areas (**DSDRA**) has been established which is at the same time functioning as a Managing Authority of SAPARD

**2008.- MAFRD**

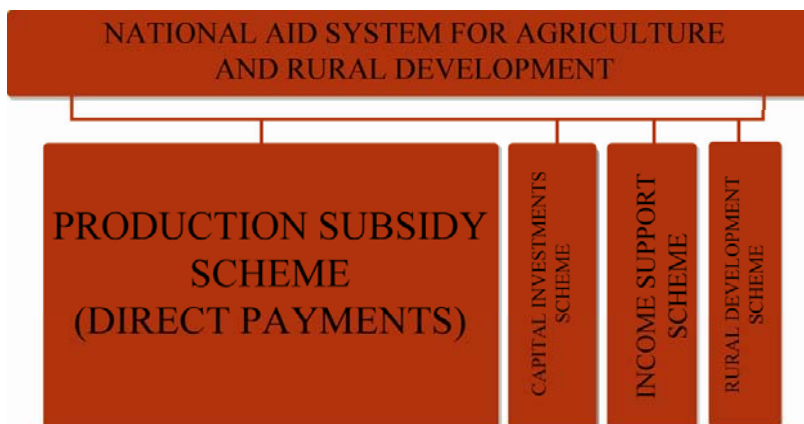
**Directorate for Rural Development, Managing Authority of SAPARD/IPARD programme:**



Source: MAFRD, 2008



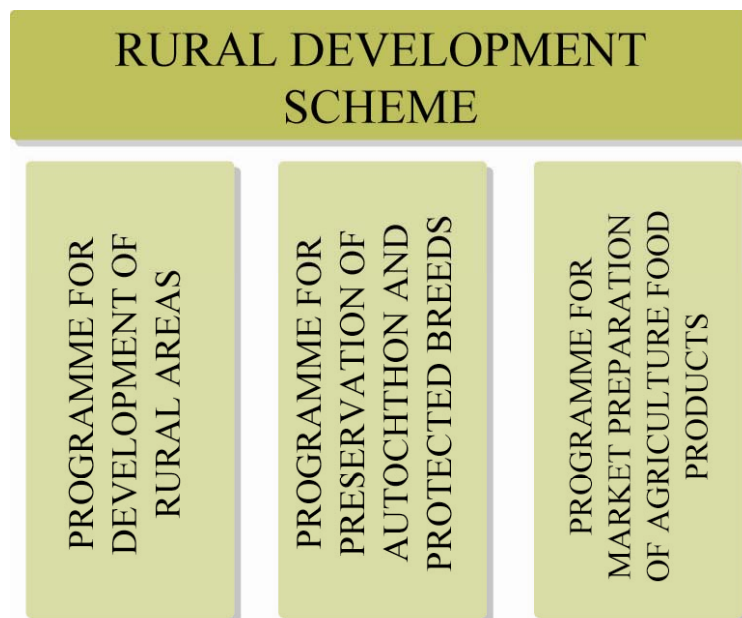
### *National aid system in agriculture*



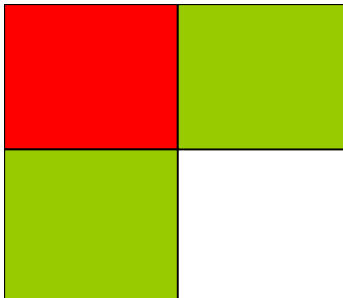
The majority of the national agricultural policy is implemented through two Acts:

- Agriculture Act** (OG, 66/01, 83/02)
- Act on the State Aid in Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry** (OG, 87/02, 117/03, 82/04, 12/05, 85/06, 141/06).

### *Rural Development Scheme*



***MAFRD is the body responsible for their implementation***



## SAPARD Special Accession Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development

- total EU support of 25 million EUR

**Measures** under SAPARD programme:

1. **Investments in the agricultural holdings**
2. **Investments in processing and marketing of agricultural and fishery products**
3. **Investments in rural infrastructure**

Civil society has been and still is included in all phases of creating programming, monitoring and modifying of SAPARD and IPARD programmes through working groups and different committees.

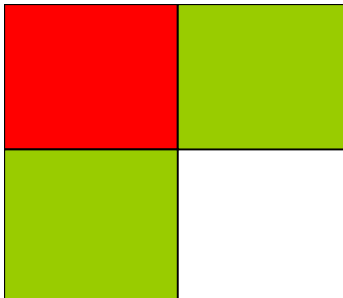
Until now there were **3 Calls for application for Measures 1. and 2.**

*In first call 51 applications were received, of which 5 were approved.*

*In second call 46 application were recived, of which 24 were approved.*

*Results for third call are not yet available.*

**In Croatia 35,59% of all SAPARD program allocated funds was used so far**  
*(for measures 1. and 2. , 55% of funds allocated)*

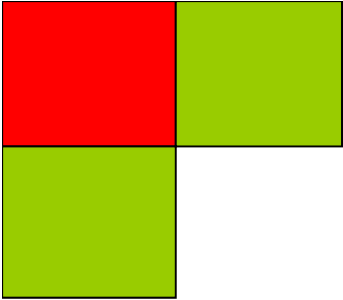


## **DRAFT**

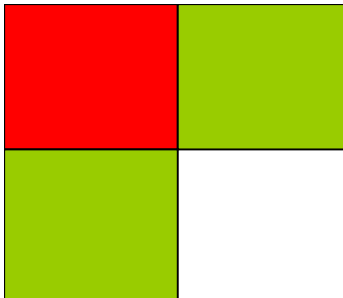
# **Strategy for Rural Development of the Republic of Croatia 2008. – 2013.**

- **should be adopted during this month!!!**
- strategic goals are defined as:
  1. Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector
  2. Preserving, protection and sustainable development of the environment and the countryside
  3. Improving the quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy
  4. Improvement of efficiency of institutional environment

*“...Application of LEADER approach through support for establishment and work of local action groups, acquiring skills and animating of areas, preparation and implementation of local development strategies and cooperation projects, and creation of rural development national network ...”*



- **The LEADER approach, including establishment of LAGs, is a new subject in Croatia**
- **different initiatives aiming at mobilizing local communities and resources are ongoing in several areas of Croatia by a number of associations, networks and NGOs**
- **experiences from the preparation of the ‘regional operation programmes’ (ROP) as well as from the ‘total development projects’ (PUR) will help to understand and implement the LEADER approach**
- **however, there is a huge need for enhancing social and human capacity as well as skills among rural inhabitants on the one hand and to motivate them to join a local partnership on the other hand**
- **The LEADER approach for Croatia in IPARD has been developed in cooperation with the relevant stakeholders in order to ensure that the design of the LEADER approach matches the demands and needs experienced in rural Croatia**



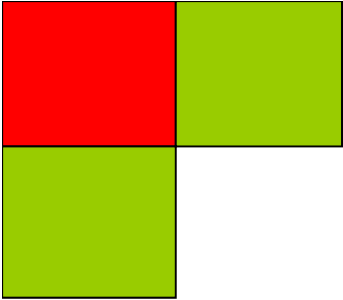
## **IPARD PROGRAMME 2007 – 2013**

**EC has adopted:**

- Multi-annual Indicative Planning Document 2007 - 2009 for Croatia on 20/06/2007**
- IPARD PROGRAMME 2007 – 2013, Agriculture and Rural Development Plan on 25/02/2008**

**MEASURES under IPARD programme are:**

- **Investments in agricultural holdings to restructure and to upgrade to Community standards**
- **Investments in the processing and marketing of agriculture and fishery products to restructure those activities and to upgrade them to Community standards**
- **Actions to improve the environment and the countryside**
- **Preparation and implementation of local rural development strategies (LEADER)**
- **Improvement and development of rural infrastructure**
- **Diversification and development of rural economic activities**
- **Technical assistance**



## **LEADER :**

### **•Acquisition of skills, animating the inhabitants of LAG territories (sub - measure 1.)**

The final beneficiaries are potential LAGs.

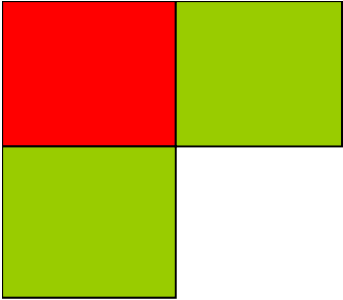
Objectives are:

- ✓to bring together rural inhabitants and raise their abilities and skills to work together (networking) in partnerships
- ✓to enhance rural capacity within the field of the LEADER method

Eligible activities are:

- ✓Awareness and promotion activities
- ✓Defining and setting up LAGs
- ✓Advisory and experts services related to establish a LAG
- ✓Technical assistance for rural studies, regional analysis
- ✓Technical assistance for preparation of local development strategies including training/education sessions and training-of-trainers

It is expected that approximately 30% of the Technical Assistance measure annually will be allocated

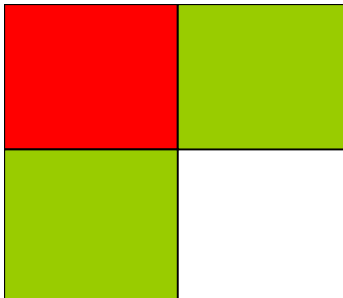


- **Implementation of local development strategies (submeasure 2.)**
- **Cooperation projects (submeasure 3.)**

The final beneficiaries of sub-measure 2 and 3 are: LAGs whose local development strategy has been approved by the IPARD Agency .

Objectives are:

- to support implementation of local development strategies
- to support running LAGs
- to support inter-territorial or trans-national projects
- Implementation of the submeasure 2. and 3. will begin 2010 indicating that no funds are allocated for 2007 – 2009



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***THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION !***

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