

Results of Working Group C

Bottom-up approaches and Regional Management

Presented by Richard Eberlin

Key factors from Vojvodina example

+

- ▷ criteria: people's engagement in the process
- ▷ open approach to organisational development of LAG
- ▷ pre-regulation of management structures
- ▷ continuity guaranteed
- ▷ revival of "competition of municipalities"
- ▷ invest in human capital (young leaders)
- ▷ we started
- ▷ Regional Gov. acknowledges the need for bottom-up

- ▷ budget not in LAG's responsibility (ownership?)
- ▷ need for initial impulse from the top for creating LAG's
- ▷ selection process of LAG management
- ▷ financial sustainability of LAG (management)
- ▷ lack of social capital (partnership experiences)

▷ LEADER oriented (or not) to least developed areas?

Key factors from Polish example

+

- ▷ mayors with entrepreneurial initiative

⇒ ⚡ (?)

- ▷ area with huge social capital

▷ political changes in municipalities impact on the Partnership

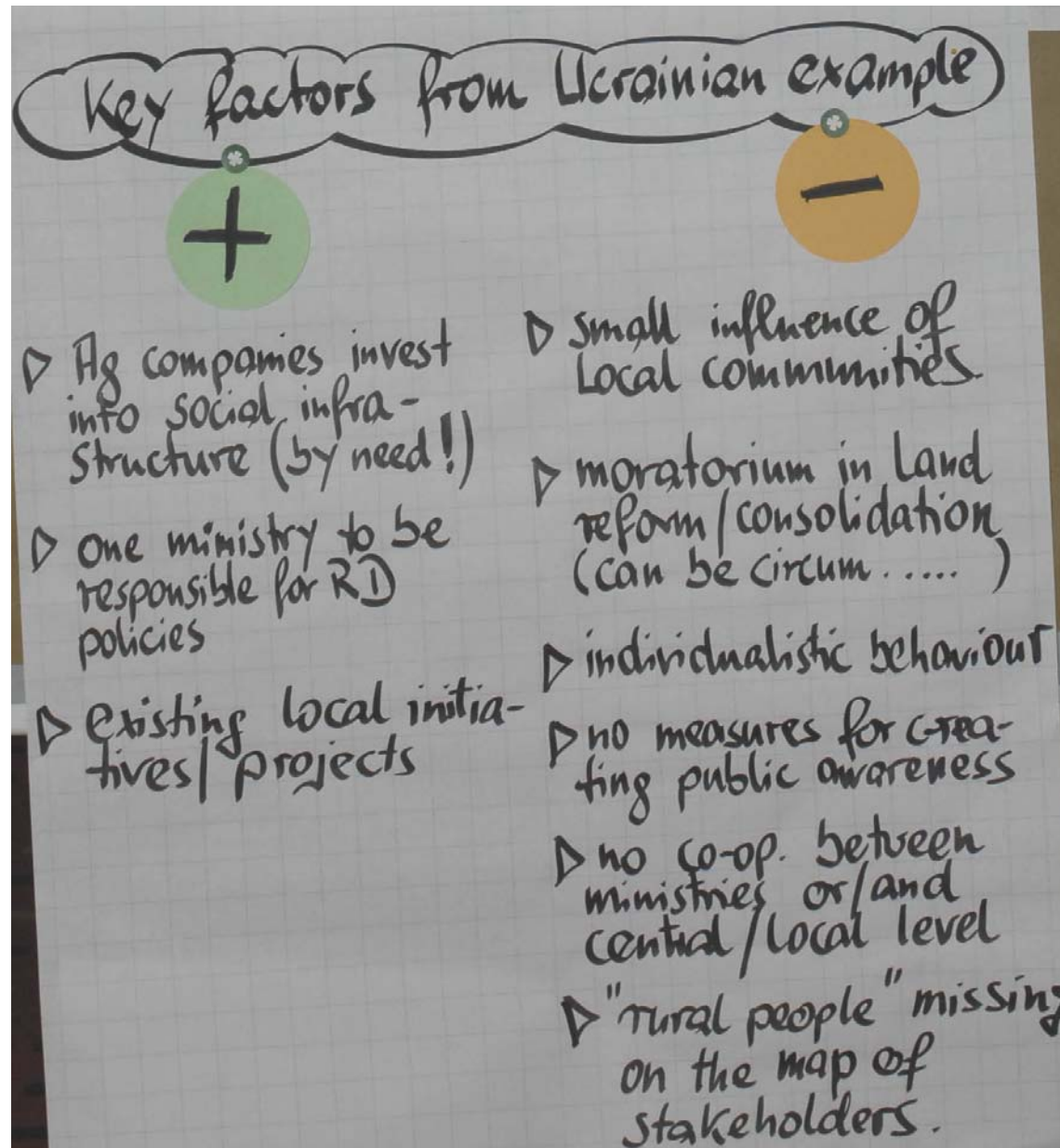
- ▷ LEADER approach to push inactive regions

⇐ ▷ lack of "LEADER"-philosophy at the beginning of the initiative

- ▷ include local financ. structures (coop. banks) into Local Action Group

- ▷ participation of private actors is normally highly positive
↳ brings in business thinking

⇐ ▷ private actors to enforce their private interests?



What are the lessons learnt?

Successful bottom up approaches need:

- support from the top, including funding
- initial impulses from outside (vertical: top-down – government/NGO/private sector driven; horizontal - external from local community, e.g. neighbouring communities, or even from foreign country, e.g. LAG from EU-members)
- priority setting: e.g. => poverty reduction? => less favoured and marginal areas? or only directed to prospective areas?
- develop / consider different approaches to initiate bottom-up approaches
=> “from protest to project orientation”
- a institutional and legal framework
- willingness and capacity of central governments to listen => top has to think rural
- engagement and commitment of all (local, regional, national, government) stakeholders

- induce bottom-up approaches needs time (foresee it!)
- capacity building to address lack of social and human capital at local level
- capacity building on importance of rural areas, rural development and bottom-up approaches for rural development at all level
- public awareness raising on the above
- leader who can share => public - private – business
- leader who think entrepreneurial, e.g. mayors
- find solutions adapted to local situation
- area or territorial oriented approaches (beyond administrative boundaries)
- integrative/ comprehensive development approaches
- application of LEADER principles
- use existing experience and learn from mistakes => take shortcuts and don't repeat the mistakes