

Zagreb, 22-24th November 2010

Annual Working Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture in SEE

***Bridging the gap:
Agricultural and rural development policies in SEE
facing the challenge of EU compliance***

The Dresden Agenda
Conclusions from the Agricultural Policy Forum

Prof. dr. Emil ERJAVEC



University of Ljubljana
Biotechnical Faculty

Objectives of the 2010 APF

▶ **Main objectives:**

- ▶ a platform for dialogue on policy settings;
- ▶ to foster implementation of EU-like policies;
- ▶ European integration of the rural economies.

▶ **Specific objectives:**

- ▶ identifying gaps of policy making;
- ▶ formulating options for overcoming the gaps;
- ▶ expectations concerning policy at the national, sub-national, donor community and the EU level.

APF 2010, Dresden

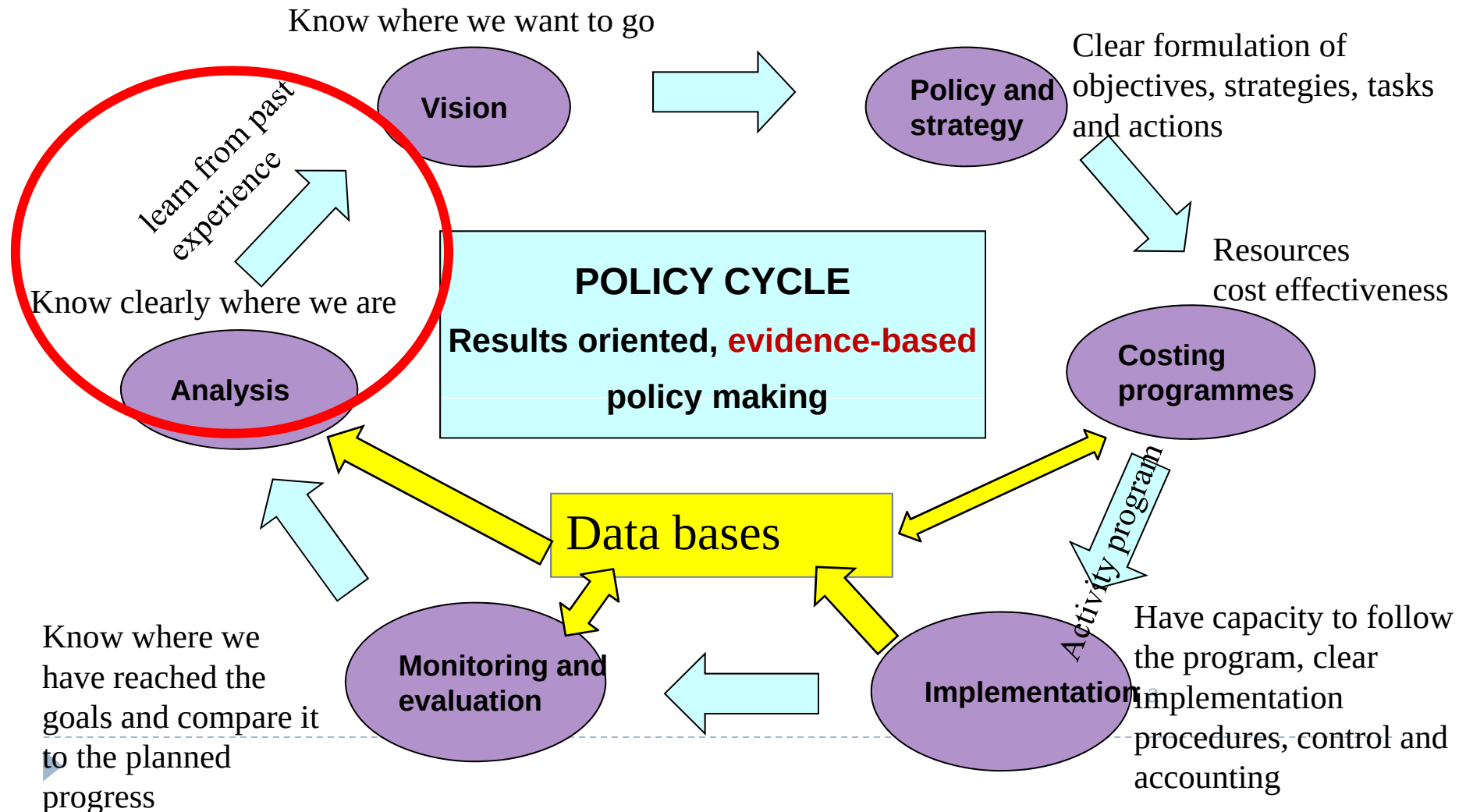
► Plenary speakers and working groups



The 2010 Dresden Agenda

Identifying the gaps in policy settings

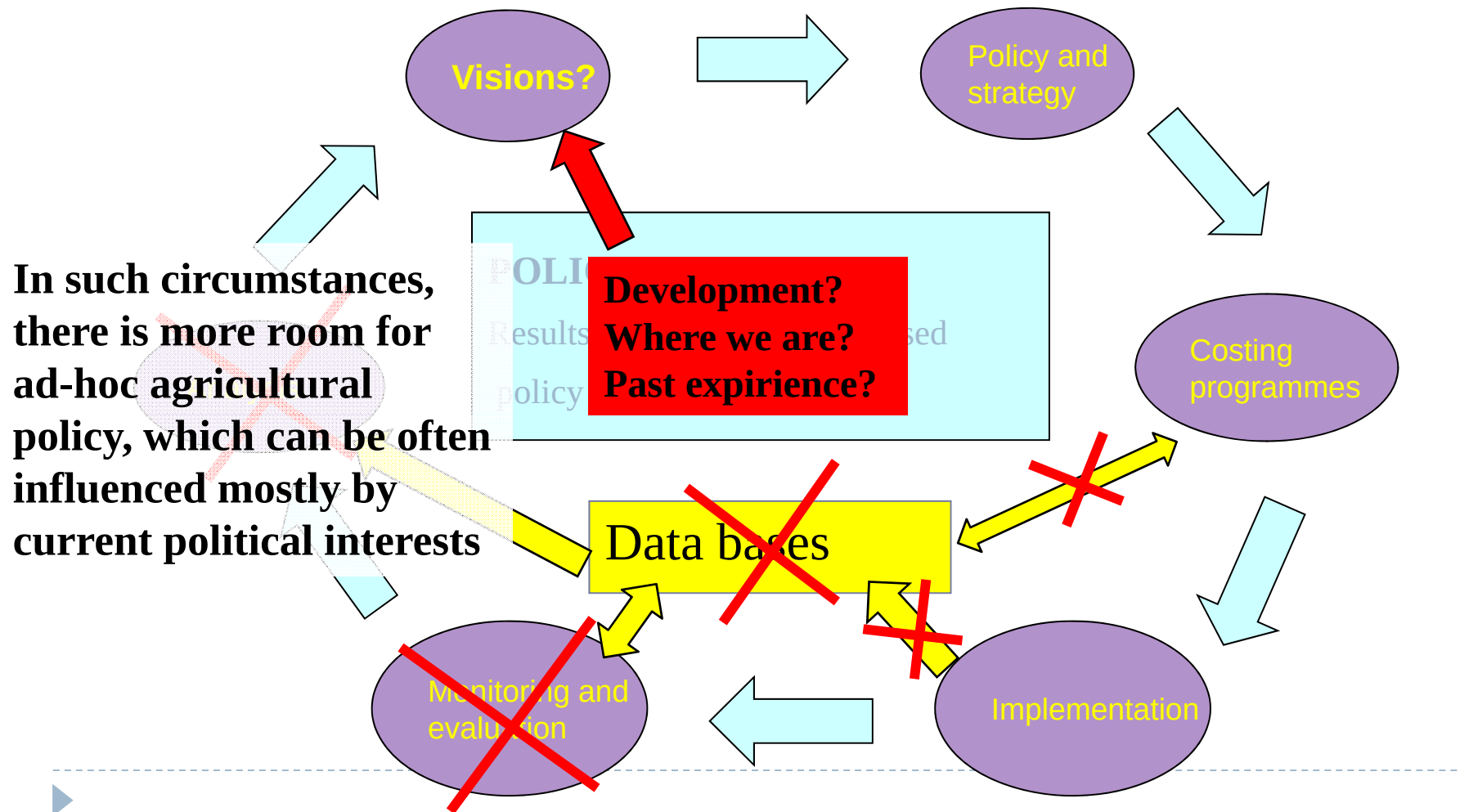
Theoretical frame: Policy cycle process



Gaps of policy settings I

- ▶ **Weak implementation of policy cycle elements!**
- ▶ ***Vision and strategies:***
 - ▶ What we really want to achieve? What are market and policy failures to be solved? Non-CAP like policy is prevailing. Do we freeze or develop better farm structures? Why we do not deal with rural poverty and small farmers? Agro-food chain approach? Rural/regional? Environment and LFA support? Territorial based approach?
- ▶ ***Costing and implementation:***
 - ▶ Stable and sufficient resources? Transparent implementation and fair procedures? CAP like approach?
- ▶ ***Monitoring, evaluation and analyses:***
 - ▶ Missing parts! Weak statistics, no permanent work. No independent bodies for analysing. Annual monitoring? Impact assessments? Evidence based policy?

Consistent and reliable database is the necessary basis



Gaps of policy settings II

Institutional and capacity building deficiencies:

- ▶ **Weak human resources and institutional development at all levels.**
- ▶ **Governmental organisation:**
 - ▶ Policy programming in the MoA
 - ▶ Monitoring and evaluation units of the Moa
 - ▶ Coordination of long-term policy making at the governmental level
- ▶ **Support for stakeholders:**
 - ▶ Extension service, promotion and information
- ▶ **Analytical base for policy making**
 - ▶ Institutions, standing services, long term outputs

Overcoming the gaps I

- ▶ **Strengthening of evidence based policy:**
- ▶ **Improve use and quality of statistics**
 - ▶ Improved statistical data bases and additional data for impact assessments, harmonisation with EU
- ▶ **Reorganising of Ministry of Agriculture**
 - ▶ Establishing of M&E units in the MoA
 - ▶ Strengthening of analytical part in the MoA
- ▶ **Development of analytical institutions**
 - ▶ Independent standing analytical body in the country (annual reports, impact assessments)
 - ▶ Regional analytical body (a part of SWG activities)?

Overcoming the gaps II

▶ **Reform of policies (vision and strategies)**

▶ **Principles**

- ▶ Dealing with the causes and not symptoms
- ▶ To cope with huge diversity of agricultural and rural structures.
- ▶ Equal treatment of all stakeholders (farm types!).
- ▶ Development and modernisation as the main focus...
- ▶ Reduce the political pragmatism and interest based policy

▶ **Strengthening of the EU integration process**

- ▶ Introduction of gradual CAP-like approach,
- ▶ ...but CAP is a moving target! (follow 2020 reform process)
- ▶ Reviewing of IPARD criteria and implementation approach.

Overcoming the gaps II

- ▶ **Reform of policies (vision and strategies) (cont.)**
- ▶ **Competitiveness**
 - ▶ Increase of competitiveness of farming sector in comparison with other rural activities. Regional development is important!
 - ▶ Focusing on agro-food chains and production systems.
 - ▶ Better functioning of land markets (Reliable land and property registration)
- ▶ **Environment**
 - ▶ “Greening” of policies is necessary.
 - ▶ Focusing on specific areas (LFA, HNV) and environmental issues...
- ▶ **Multi-sectoral and territorial approach**
 - ▶ Support for local actions.
 - ▶ Coordination with other policy: general strategy for the regions.

Overcoming the gaps III

- ▶ **Institutional and capacity building**
- ▶ **Strengthening and modernisation of administration at all levels**
 - ▶ ... with better training for programming and implementation.
- ▶ **Better coordination of agricultural and rural development at governmental level**
 - ▶ ...establishing of national Council for RD.
- ▶ **Better involvement of stakeholder in the decision making and policy cycles..**
- ▶ **Strengthening and restructuring of extension services.**
- ▶ **Further strengthening of regional networking**
 - ▶ SWG as unique and prosperous institution.
- ▶ **Improving communication with the EU institutions and member states.**



[The 2010 Dresden Agenda](#)

The policy expectations

► Donor community

- Partnership approach and respect for local and regional conditions.
- Better alignment with the national strategies.
- More support for national implementation structures.

► EU institutions and Member states

- Involvement of the regional and national institutions into the CAP 2020 reform discussions.
- To develop and assist in better rural development strategies and pre-accessions supports according to the real needs of the countries.
- Contribute to establishing independent analytical body for policy analysis in the SEE.



[The 2010 Dresden Agenda](#)

Main conclusions

- ▶ **Needs for further partnership:**
 - ▶ The APF and the Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group (SWG).
- ▶ **Cooperation in the SEE under umbrella of European integration process.**
- ▶ **To overcome gaps:**
 - ▶ Implementation of policy cycle management in all elements.
 - ▶ Visions & Strategies
 - ▶ Monitoring and evaluations on base of good data..
- ▶ **Appreciation for the strong engagement of German development co-operation.**