



PREPARE Gathering 2011:

Access EU with Integrated Rural Development

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European Rural Development Policy and Western Balkan – Does one size fit all?

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A. Actual RD policy in WB

- **Situation in WB rural areas:**
 - ... Economic decline, depopulation, rural poverty, cultural degradation
 - Agriculture only partially developed
 - deficiencies in mechanisation, technology, knowledge, market integration, dual structures
 - Environment less degraded by agriculture, but some serious problems in intensive regions, fallow land
- The rural policy in WB still mostly income and **productionistic** oriented. Sector approach.
 - Rural development policy „in development“
 - Connected mostly with EU harmonisation...
 - Rural areas often in development status..
- **Serious demand for public actions**, for active and efficient **rural development policy!**

B. Future of EU RD policy

CAP new reform wave (2013-2020)

- New CAP (budget) **argumentation**:
 - Public goods:
 - Food security, environmental protection, territorial balance
 - CAP funding
 - How to keep the resources...
- **Direct payments 1.Pillar**
 - equalising, restructuring (and greening?)
- End of traditional **market price policy**
 - Only as safety net, no answer on price volatility?
- New dimensions of **RD policy**
 - **LESS AMBITIOUS CHANGES....**

B. Future of EU RD policy

RD (reform) issues and EC proposal

- How to bring new challenges into policy
 - EC new issues: climate change, water management, biodiversity, risk management
- How to adopt policy to the **need of NMS**?
 - production orientation, less environment focusing, rural poverty?
 - EC: some awareness (small farm issue,...)
- The conceptual crash with **cohesion policy**?
 - Rural development in cohesion countries – overlapping structures and instruments
 - EC: Again stronger coherence with other policies
- **Key**: How much for RD policy and to whom what?
 - EC: New distributional criteria for funding (less for NMS, compensation for OMS?)

B. Future of EU RD policy

Comments

- The **golden enthusiastic years of RD** are over,
 - ...not acquiring anymore on the importance
 - Problems to keep the RD budget!
- **Stabilisation** against innovations and adoption to the new needs:
 - NMS, poverty, climate change....
 - ... administrative approach...
- to strong EU nucleus view (**Berlin-Brussels-Paris**), ...
 - ... sorry, EU is very diversified
- **RD is changing, but STAYING AND SURVIVING, valid and important** for WBc!
- What could bring new RD (theory and practice) to WBc?



C. SWOT: RD for WBc (+)

Strenghts

- More targeted and tailored approach and new concept for solving domestic problems.
 - Implementation of policy cycle process.
 - More efficient policy.
- Donor foundation.

Opportunities

- Modernisation of domestic administration.
- Support for sustainable development.
- Local potentials used.
- Resources improved.
- Economic and social cohesion...



C. SWOT RD for WBc (-)

Weaknesses

- Less funding before the accession.
- Less acceptable by stakeholders.
 - Financing problems. Human resources deficiencies.
- Other national priorities.
- „**Reformlution**“ for policy makers and administration.
- ..and old and new EU RD approach not completely **appropriated** for WB
 - other focus and priorities (policy for rich rural regions)
 - small farmers, rural poverty,... problems not touched
 - administration demanding and complex.



C. SWOT RD for WBc (-)

Threats

- Country **institutions** not prepared.
 - Bad and weak management (at all level)
- Potential **beneficiary** not capable to take their obligations (f.i. financial contributions, environmental standards compliance)
- Copy – paste mentality in programming and implementing (also forced by EC!):
 - The not appropriate cases from other countries
 - Some SAPARD/IPARD examples already exists
- Redistribution mentality prevails
 - two elements important: funds are distributed and most to the most powerful clients
- Funds not used. Issues not improved.

D. Take home messages...

1. Rural development **remains** one of the main EU integration concept and opportunity for WBc.
2. Serious **work** has to be done in WBc:
 - much more attention for RD requested.
 - administration and stakeholders capacity upgrading.
 - Detailed and precise programming and implementing to the regional needs. Be original in the given frame.
3. EU should **rethink** the RD concept and practice:
 - ... the RD concept should be adopted more for the needs of newcomers,
 - Basically development policy in all sense is requested!
 - Partial approaches could lead to wrong messages and impacts.