Scenario Method in Envisioning New Rural Ways of Life: Key Drivers of Change in Croatian Countryside

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The main anticipated result of the CRORURIS study

• A set of alternative future scenarios for Croatian rural areas
  – not “a crystal ball”
  – to encourage informed and evidence-based public debate on rural futures
  – within the European context
Expected outcomes

• To encourage and support discussion about future of rural areas in academic, decision-making and public discourse

  – Creating web based GIS discussion tool “Rural Change in Croatia”
  – Preparing and publishing “The Atlas of Rural Change in Croatia”
  – Organizing workshop “What is the future of Rural Areas in Croatia?”
  – Preparing policy recommendations
Examples of well-known and influential scenarios at the global scale

• Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change – IPCC scenarios
• UNEP’s Global Environmental Outlook scenarios
• OECD Environmental Outlook.
• ESPON spatial scenarios exploring trends and key mechanisms in relation to alternative territorial futures
New policy scenario

Define your own policy

Choose a reference scenario:
Scenario A2

Market support
decrease stable

Income support
not decrease stable increase

Ambition to stimulate biofuel
low medium high

Stimulate Less Favoured Areas
not limited current

Show result as map

Map detail: Europe
Timeslice: 2030

Indicator: Select indicator group
Select indicator

Click here to go to the page where you can download and install the software application on your computer, using Java Web Start.
CRORURIS

Recognizing key drivers of change
- Rural demographic patterns
- Economic and agricultural market transformations and trends
- Environmental and land-use change.

Recognizing rural diversity
- Typological approach – cluster analysis
- Judgment on degree of influence of change drivers to type of rural area
- Modelling and DELPHI

Constructing alternative future scenarios
- Simulations of the model
- Developing scenario storylines
- Elaboration in the Croatian and EU context
- Comparison with conceptual framework and similar studies
Typology of rural and urbanized settlements in Croatia

Types of rural and urbanized settlements

A - Dynamic, structurally stronger s.
B - Accessible, commuting dependent s.
C - Market oriented agricultural s.
D - Economically diversified, mainly tourist s.
E - Extensive agriculture and weaker demographic structure
F - Rural periphery
G - Other rural settlements
Ghost settlements
Urban
La trahison des images
The Treachery of Images

This is not a pipe
René Magritte
Methods

• Questionnaire survey – participants of The First Croatian Rural Parliament
  - 55 respondents
  - LEADER Local Action Groups, NGO, Ministry of Agriculture, academic researchers
  - 29 female i 26 male
  - 17 out of 21 counties
Which key drivers of change will be the most influential for rural Croatia in next 15–20 years?

- Employment possibilities
- Demography
- Education
- Communal infrastructure and accessibility
- Social services, general services
- State policy
- Accession to EU
- Territorial and integrative approach to rural development
- Financial framework
- Mental image and awareness
- Changing lifestyles
- Balance between big and small economic actors
- Evaluating local resources
- Innovation and diversification
Demography

- Emigration
- Younger population staying in rural areas
- Decreasing and ageing population
- Supporting younger population to have a family
- Changing population structure
- Immigration of urban population
Education

• Relating education opportunities to market needs in rural areas
• Non-formal and informal education, especially concerning managing finances and fundraising
Territorial and integrative approach to rural development

• Recognizing needs and specifies of rural areas in Croatia

• Increasing decision-makers awareness that rural areas accounts for most of the state territory (except few bigger cities) which requires holistic approach to development (instead sectorial-agriculture)

• Perception of importance of rural areas by important ministries
Balance between big and small economic actors

- More support is needed for smaller producers (family farms)
- Favoring big producers and vertical chains (and neglecting smaller producers) supports depopulation of rural areas
- Corporate sector buying smaller farms for its agricultural land (smaller farms faced with decreasing income have no other choice but to sell)
- Strengthening agricultural cooperatives
- LEADER
- Small and medium size entrepreneurship in rural areas
Innovation and diversification

• New renewable energy sources
• New technologies
• Adding value to both traditional local products and new products through processing and branding by local small and medium sized entrepreneurs
Mental image and awareness

- Local consciousness and mentality
- Local identity and pride
Changing lifestyles of urban population

• Need and wish for less stressful life
• Ecological awareness
• Health
• Fondness for agriculture
• Self-sustainability
State policy towards rural areas

• Active state support for rural areas
  – Rural development program
  – Land-use policy
  – Agricultural policy
  – Sectorial cooperation
  – Local government
Different types of rural areas

Key factors influencing development of rural areas

- Transition
- EU accession
- Globalization

- Demography
- Economic sustainability
- Social infrastructure
- Accessibility and communal infrastructure
- Education, diversification and innovation
- Lifestyles, mentality and valorization of local resources

Political framework
- Social capital
- Institutionalization of relationship between actors of rural development

Different responses of rural communities

Different types of rural areas

2015.

2030.
Thank you for your attention!

CRORURIS 2030
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