



# **The territorial impact of EU policies – a consistent and inclusive approach**

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## **The perspective of local communities in Croatia**



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# LEADER / CLLD in Croatia – facts and figures

- 61 LAGs
  - 513 municipalities (92%)
  - Almost 50.000 km<sup>2</sup> (88% territory)
  - Almost 2.250.000 inhabitants (53%)
  - Population density: 45 inh./km<sup>2</sup>
  - 42 LAGs approved under pre-accession IPARD programme in 2013
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# LEADER / CLLD in Croatia – facts and figures

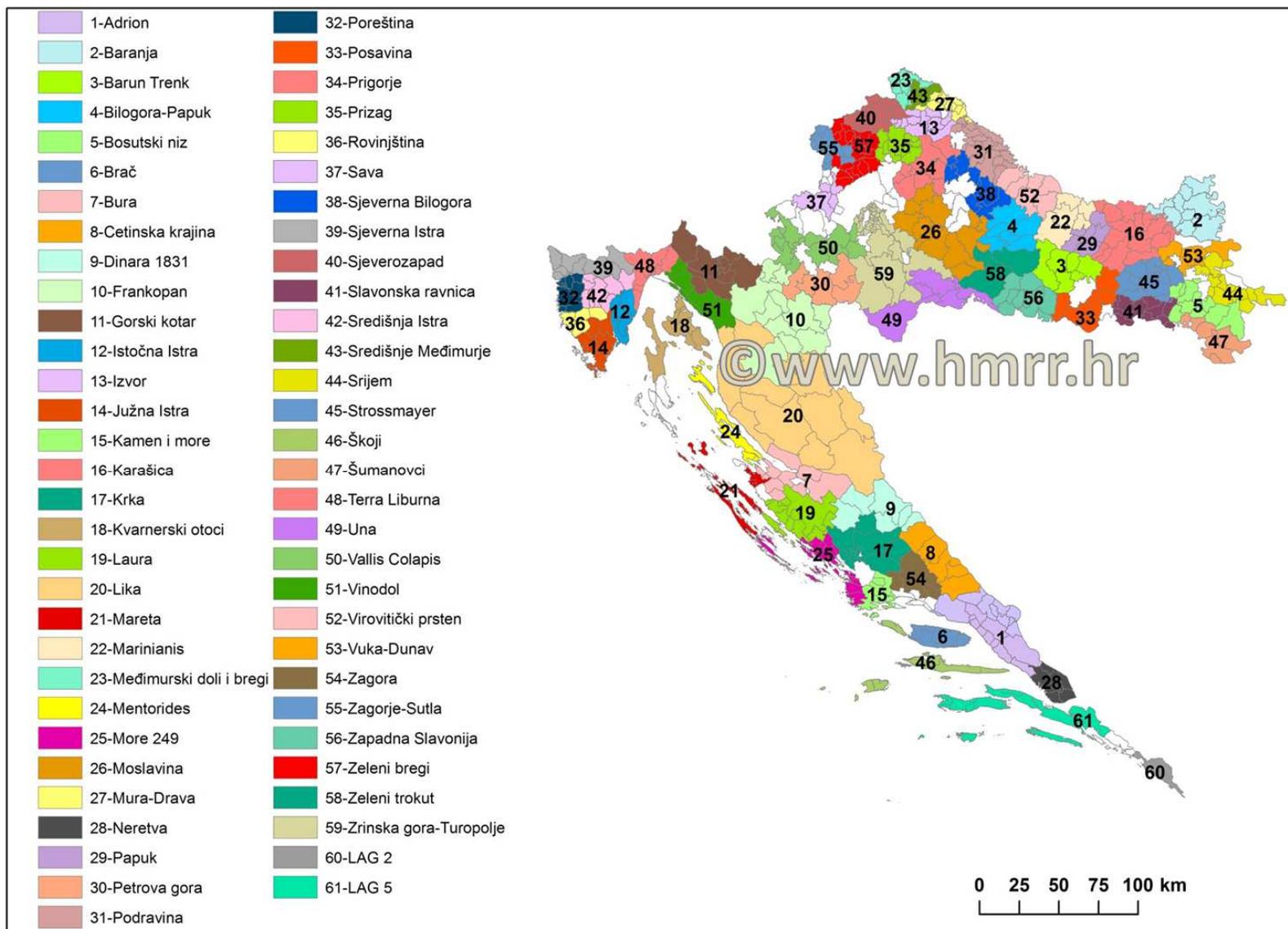
First five LAGs established in 2009; some 60 LAGs were registered as associations when LEADER / IPARD implementation started in 2013

IPARD / 2 sub-measures:

- Acquiring skills and animating inhabitants in LAG area
  - LDS implementation – LAG running expenses (up to 120.000 € per LAG)
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# LEADER / CLLD in Croatia

## 61 LAG in 2015



# New RDP 2014-2020

- approved on 26/05/2015

Support for LEADER local development (CLLD) - 4 sub-measures:

**19.1** Preparatory support (max 100.000 € per LAG)

**19.2** Implementation of operation under the CLLD development strategy (max 3,000.000 € per LAG)

**19.3** Preparation and implementation of cooperation activities of local actions (max 100.000 € per LAG)

**19.4** Running costs and animation (max 25% allocated public expenses of LDS strategy)

## CLLD in Croatia

CLLD is addressed in the RDP through a mono-fund approach:

- EAFRD >>> LAGs (3% of total available funding for CLLD)
- EFPR >>> FLAGs (FLAG establishment will be taking over IPARD / LEADER implementation experience)

LEADER had been broadly accepted by Croatian communities before the formal implementation started and dedicated financial assistance became available. It has been recognised and confirmed as a good response to rural community needs.



## Experiences and lessons learned

- Strengthening local capacities and resources by linking together neighboring communities is a good way forward for small and weak rural communities. The negative processes – loss of young and educated population) did not stop.
  - The Government prefers big projects and neglect the potential of a great number of small undertakings in rural areas.
  - In a highly centralised country, rural communities need to make their voice better heard in the capital city. They need continual education and support. LAG as a new community needs a long-lasting support.
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# The First Croatian Rural Parliament

First Croatian Rural Parliament (HRP) brought together 230 stakeholders of rural development from all sectors and levels. It was organised by civil sector network and organisations and open to all interested people. HRP gave opportunity to rural communities to express their needs and expectations. A strong message was sent to the Government:

**Development of rural areas is of utmost importance for the overall development of Croatia.**



# The First Croatian Rural Parliament

- A declaration has been passed outlining the way forward.
- EESC gave a valuable contribution to the organisation and proceedings of the HRP. A 7-member delegation took active part in the proceedings.

**Thank you!**

