



The role of natural resources in sustainable rural livelihoods in the Western Balkans. The distribution and flow of costs and benefits.



Project partners

- Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA, www.nina.no)
- Center for Rural Research (www.bygdeforskning.no)
- American University of Kosovo (<u>www.aukonline.org</u>)
- Macedonian Ecological Society (MES, <u>www.mes.org.mk</u>)
- Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania (PPNEA, <u>www.ppnea.org</u>)
- Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Zagreb (<u>www.vef.hr/</u>)
- KORA (<u>www.kora.ch</u>)

The project is financed by the Norwegian Research Council



Aims

• 1. Examine the traditional patterns of resource utilization-documenting those traditions



Aims



 2.Explore how those natural resources could serve as a platform for sustainable development



- -Build regional social science capacity.
- -Having an interdisciplinary approach (social science&natural science)

What's innovative about this research?



-Build regional cooperation (study area)

"Peace/conflict researchers have pointed out that normalization after conflict is difficult, but that is a process mainly driven by normal people returning to normal activities, more than by large symbolic gestures from governments. Science has traditionally been regarded as an apolitical border-bridging activity, and now is a time to use science to restore dialogue between experts and stakeholders both within and between the countries that make up the region." J. D. C. Linnell



The how-to of the project

The project goals are going to be achieved in different ways i the different countries.

1.Kosovo & Croatia: increase the research experience of university's staff and students 2.Macedonia&Albania: investing in the social research capacity of two environmental NGOs(MES, PPNEA).



Develop a more holistic approach in their work within civil society



Methodology

- Household surveys
- In-depth interviews
- Sampling size: AL: N = 300 / KOS: N = 450 /

MK: N = 309 / HR: N = 303

A glimpse at our Done-List ...

- Training and capacity building
- Household surveys (summer 2011)
- In-depth interviews(spring 2012-spring 2013)



As we got inspired on the way



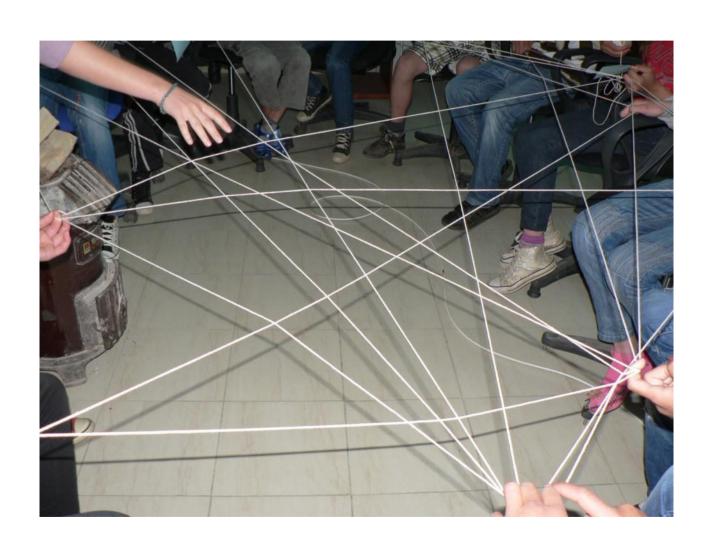
As we got inspired on the way...



As we got inspired on the way...



As we got inspired on the way





Various potential futures

Build a common knowledge platform



"Informed debate"



What shall we have in mind before we come up with a vision for sustainable rural development?

- 1. Forestry
- 2. Game
- 3. Grazing
- 4. Agriculture
- 5. Tourism

Guide the development of appropriate policies which should reverse migration and get the people out of the poverty trap.





Think out of the box but know WHAT is inside first...

• The concept of "sustainable rural livelihoods" is increasingly central to the debate about rural development, poverty reduction and environmental management.



Facts

- Rural development is also a European concern.
- EU level:
- -1950s the development of CAP (Common Agricultural Policy)
- -1960s there is a change in the perception of rural areas (migration of rural working age population). The EU expands its focus beyond the Agricultural sector.



- CAP Reform, 1999: introducing a distinction between policy areas of the first pillar of the CAP and the second pillar, the development of rural areas.
- Funding period 2007-20013: rural development will be cofinanced with about 10% of the CAP budget through the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. However, compared to the total EU expenditure for agriculture and regional development is a low budget.



 Agricultural policies solely did not succeed to trigger rural development.



- OECD calls for a rethinking and champions integrated approaches in a "new rural paradigm". The two main characteristics of this paradigm being:
- 1. a focus on *places* instead of *sectors*; and
- 2. a focus on *investments* instead of *subsidies*.



Rural Development

• Is the improvement of the spatial and socioeconomic environment of rural space. It leads to the enhancement of the individual's ability to care for and sustain his/her well being (Madu,2003 b)



Livelihood

 A livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets (including both material and social resources) and activities required for a means of living. A livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stresses and shocks, maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets, while not undermining the natural resource base.(Chambers & Conway:1992)



Key elements to livelihoods

- 1. Poverty reduction
- 2. Well-being and capabilities
- 3. Livelihood adaptation, vulnerability and resilience
- 4. Natural resource base sustainability



Are you in for a challenge?

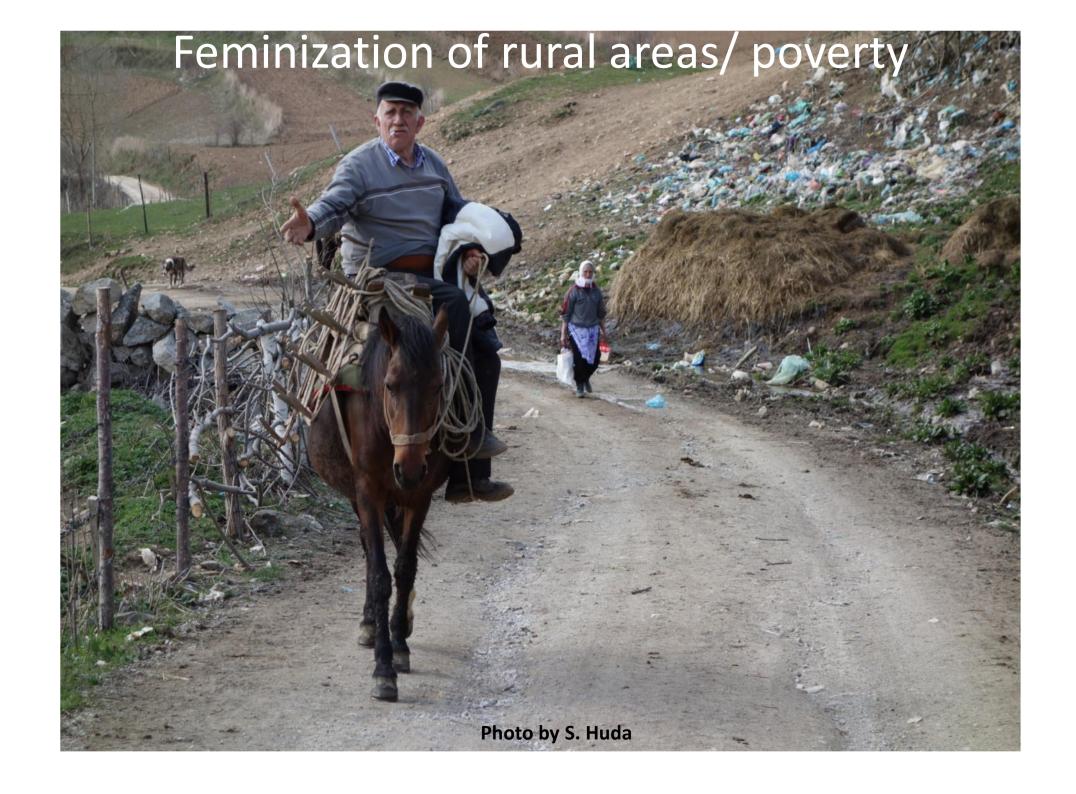


















Conclusion

- Spatial, policy, institutional and relational linkages
- Rural demography & livelihood patterns: Adressing poverty and inequality.
 Poverty reduction as a means, not an end, a component of, but not a rural development strategy
- The value of the rural space & sustainable resource use: leveraging potential to sustain livelihoods, nurture socio-cultural coexistence and enhance productive potential.

