RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN ISTRIA – PRIMA PROJECT BASED PRELIMINARY CASEE - Conference

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Overview

- Prototypical Policy Impacts on Multifunctional Activities in rural municipalities" (PRIMA)- quick facts
- Istria case study
- Expected outcomes
PRIMA
Prototypical Policy Impacts on Multifunctional Activities in rural municipalities

PRIMA, a collaborative project

Call: Environment (including climate change)

Topic: ENV.2007.4.2.1.1- Methodologies for scaling down to the regional and local level the analysis of policy impacts on multifunctional land uses and the economic activity

Applied research objectives...

… in need of scientific breakthroughs
PRIMA: Eleven partners

Technical University of Dortmund, Faculty of Spatial Planning [DE]

University of National & World Economy [BG]

Agricultural Economics Research Institute - LEI [NL]

Norwegian University of Life Sciences - UMB Dept. of Economics & Resources Management [NO]

Newcastle University Centre for Rural Economy [UK]

Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Central and Eastern Europe - IAMO [DE]

University of Groningen Faculty of Economics & Business [NL]

Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency - PBL [NL]

Institute of Agricultural Economics and Information [CZ]

Faculty of Agriculture University of Zagreb [HR]
The stakes of downscaling

The *ex-ante* analysis of public policies has gone mainstream,...

...with an increased use of models (general equilibrium, integrated assessment methods),...

...which are not always helpful for the analysis of local-scale processes
PRIMA’s objectives

The aim: To develop downscaling methods for the *ex-ante* analysis of the impact of public policies on the multifunctionality of rural areas, and economic activities.

The focus: agriculture, forestry, tourism, and ecosystem services.

The object: European policies based on structural funds:
- Cohesion (ERDF, ESF, CF)
- Enlargement (IPA)
- Rural development (EAFRD)
PRIMA’s approach

To rely on micro-simulation and multi-agents models, designed and validated at municipality level, using input from stakeholders.

To address the structural evolution (appearance, disappearance and change of agents) of the populations depending on the local conditions for applying the structural policies, on a set of municipality case studies.
Four privileged dimensions

- Agriculture
- Forestry
- Tourism
- Ecosystem functions
A European wide issue

6 regional case studies:
different contexts, different policies

- Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire
- Altmark
- Istria
- South Moravia
- Auvergne
- North Central Planning Region
Towns and municipalities
Selection of municipalities

Selected research area is at NUTS3 level (HR036 Istrian County). For the research purposes, Istrian county is divided into two "sub-county levels (as LAU 1 levels) - clusters", based on following criteria:

- population density
- economically active vs. retired population ratio
- employed in agriculture vs. employed in tourism
- revenue of towns and municipalities in 2008
Stakeholders

- **Group A stakeholders**, representatives from the county level:
  - representative from the Istrian County administrative office, Department for agriculture;
  - representative from the Istrian Agency for Rural Development and

- **Group B stakeholders**
  - State office in Buzet,
  - Forestry service Poreč,
  - Institute for Agriculture and Tourism in Poreč,
  - Liburna Association Raša,
  - Ruralis Co-operative, Gračišće,
  - Nursery Longo, Rovinj,
  - Agritourism Family Farm Bažon, Gračišće and
  - Agrolaguna Poreč.
Material and methods

- Interviews were conducted in the period January-March 2010,
- "face-to-face" with all persons included
- average duration of the interview was 90 minutes.
1. Several informative questions

- **attaining independence**, with great effect in political and economic life of entire state, also of the Istrian county;
- **privatisation and transition** from centrally planed to a market system – loss of former firms and jobs forced people to change their economic activities; great number of them re-oriented themselves to agriculture and other rural activities;
- **Croatian War of Independence** – caused big economic and demographic changes; great migration processes changed the demographic picture of the county;
- **long-term deagrarization processes** – rural areas are abandoned and devastated;
- **rapid (un)sustainable building** – with mixed consequences (good when some important infrastructural capacities were built, bad in cases of uncontrolled building, especially in rural areas) etc.
The importance of **specific policy outcomes** for particular municipality (or for the entire county, in the case of Group A stakeholders, represented in this table with numbers 9-11).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome/examinee</th>
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<th>5</th>
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<th>10</th>
<th>11</th>
<th>Avgr.</th>
<th>St. dev.</th>
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Policy outcomes

- rather balanced importance of all three areas of policy outcomes
- "Istrian identity" (grade 4.5)
- "biodiversity" lowest average grade
- "co-operation of local actors"
## Current policy measures for delivering the most important outcomes [1]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure/examinee</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
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Policy measures

- low grade to the measure "investments in farms"
- "support to implementation of new production standards" +
- "improved monitoring and information system" in natural resource preservation, "investments in renewable energy resources"
## Current policy measures for delivering the most important outcomes [cont.]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Environment</th>
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<th>Outcome</th>
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<td>Env. 2</td>
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<td>investments in cultural heritage preservation and renewal</td>
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Policy measures

- "improved monitoring and information system" in natural resource preservation vs. "investments in renewable energy resources"
- Improvements in education and training system disaccord
- "civil society development"?
Conclusions

- Stakeholders won't change their priorities rapidly when Croatia will become the member of the EU
- Economic outcomes have great importance, reflecting still unsatisfactory economic situation in the region
- The promotion of Istria is seen as very successful measure not only in achieving the stronger local identity, but also as a measure of ensuring better market prospects, inter-regional and international co-operation
Expected outcomes (1)

Increased awareness among stakeholders on the potential gains of model based approaches
Agent-based models of municipality case studies for scenario analysis/identification and policy/management experiments
Sets of virtual municipality prototypes representing contrasted situations and potential evolutions
Maps of structural evolutions at municipality level in a set of regional case studies
Evaluation of robust differences between the evolutions provided by the aggregation of municipality level
Expected outcomes (2)

Micro-simulations, agent-based models and available models at regional scale
A better understanding of the regional rural response to global and national trends
New principles for the enhancement of the screening and the scoping of SEA, EIA & SIA impacts assessment methods
A database compatible with GEOSS & INSPIRE specifications
Thank you for your attention!