



LEADER – a European social innovation worth dissemination

The UNDP seminar 8th February 2011, Vienna

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Background: LAG manager since 2001

Joutsenten Reitti LAG (Route of Swans) in SW-Finland – one of the 55 LAGs in the country

The LAG strategy aiming at creation of "cultural river valley" attracting "the creative class"
→ new businesses, new jobs

LEADER dissemination to the new territories (NMS, Southern Africa, Russia) and new policy fields (fisheries policy) – LEADER Dissemination Guide Book in 2008





Background: ELARD president since 2011

International non-profit organization founded in 1999 by 5 European national informal LEADER networks:

1. *French LEADER Network* - **LEADER France**
2. *Greek LEADER Network* - **Ελληνικό Δίκτυο LEADER**
3. *Irish LEADER Network* - **Comhar LEADER na hEireann**
4. *Italian LEADER Network* - **AssoLEADER**
5. *Spanish LEADER Network* – **REDR**

Today, ELARD is representing more than 890 Local Action Groups through national and regional voluntary networks in:

- **Belgium, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, North Ireland, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Scotland, Slovenia, Spain.**
- In contact with Rural Networks in **Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus.**



ELARD aims

(see more at www.elard.eu)

One of the most important aims of ELARD is to:

"campaign to spread the philosophy, principles and reach of the LEADER method grounded in the eight specific features in order to achieve sustainable rural development across Europe".

The association aims also to:

"represent the interests and needs of its members in front of other international, European, and national institutions to liaise with other stakeholders and institutions working towards an integrated rural development and to influence EU policies in favour of rural development".



LEADER road to Africa

OECD regional policy analysis on Finland in 2005 → LEADER identified as one of the best practices → has the method ever been applied outside of the EU?

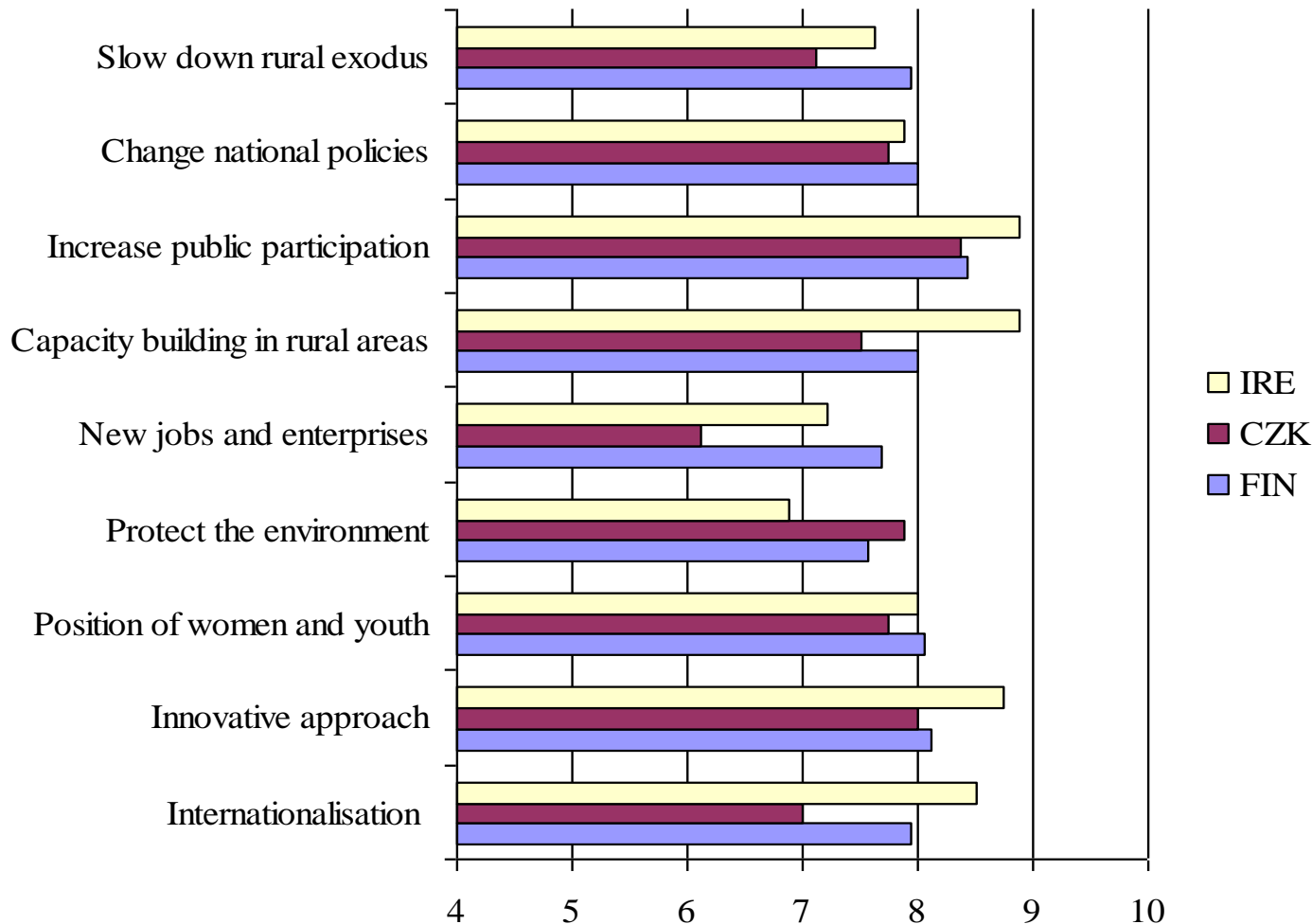
Inter-Ministry Finnish Rural Policy Committee launches a comparison study between Finland, Ireland and the Czech Republic on LEADER implementation to draw conclusions for geographical dissemination

Finnish Minister of Development Affairs Ms Paula Lehtomäki's initiative to search Finnish/ European value-added to Finnish Government's development aid programmes → cooperation with Mozambique (the biggest target country of Finnish development aid) and the Finnish Embassy in Maputo begins in 2006



The LEADER impacts in Ireland, Finland and the Czech Rep. in 2007

(A LEADER Dissemination Guide Book)



LEADER started

- 1991 in Ireland
- 1997 in Finland
- 2004 in Czech Rep.

Adaptability in a very new and different environment?

Case Mozambique, Alto Ligonha

- 170 000 inhabitants (38/km²)
- half less than 15 years old
- life expectancy 35 years

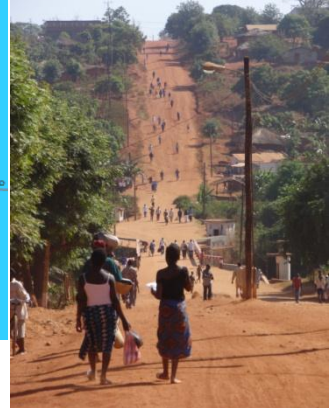
2007: Lecturing & Province agreement

2008: Local strategy design

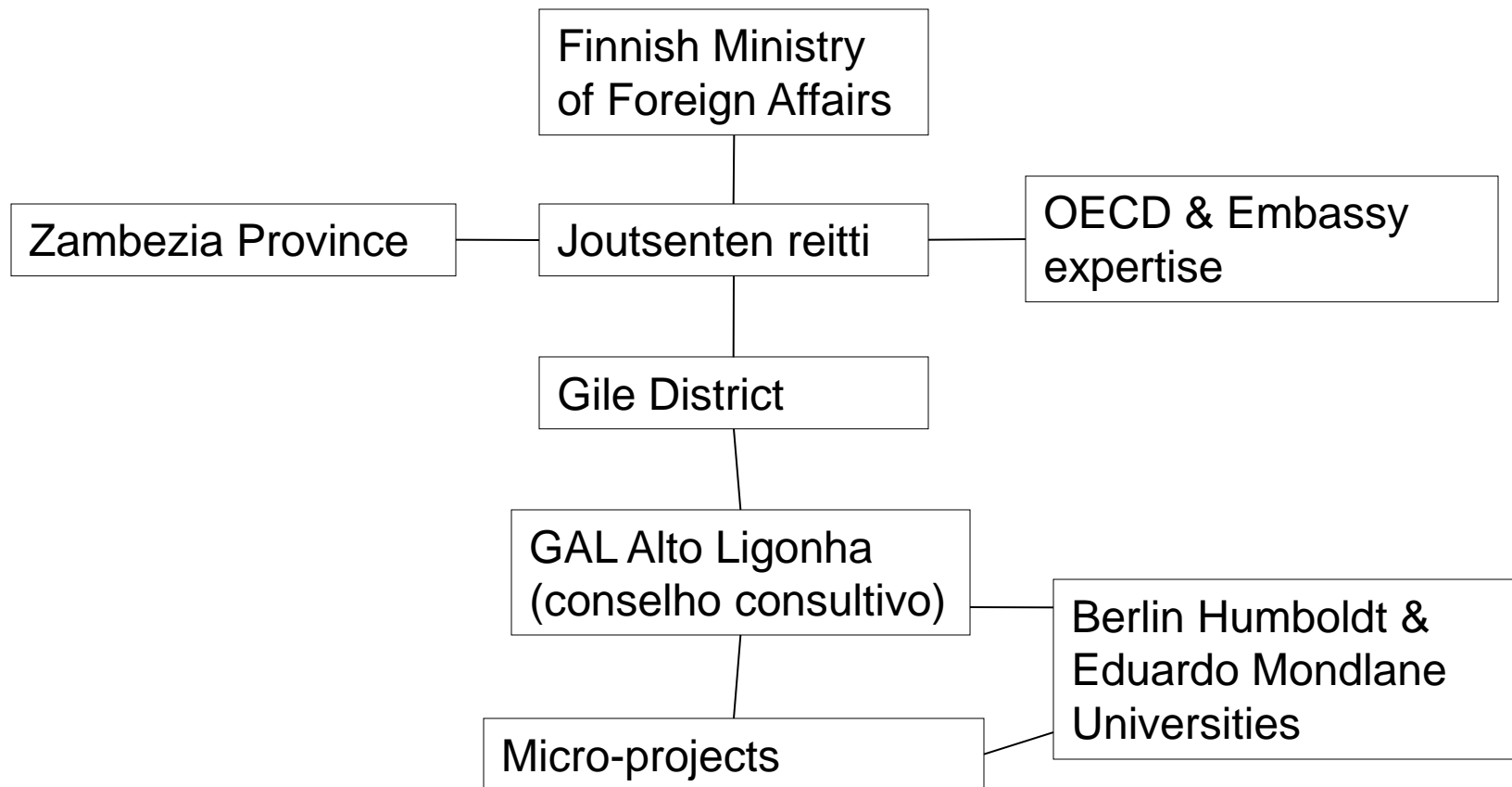
- 1) agricultural cooperatives
- 2) local trade structures
- 3) community forestry & cashew nuts

2009: 11 LEADER projects selected worth of 12 000 €

2010: Mid-term evaluation & 14 LEADER projects selected worth of 19 000 €



ADMINISTRATION





The lessons learnt

1. LEADER can adapt anywhere!
2. In Africa it's more about giving access, in Europe about mobilising people
3. Small funds and grants don't attract the corrupted people
4. Politicians need concrete development tools to be handed over to the people
5. Involve everyone in the strategy building process – use the local media
6. Capacity building/ training sessions are crucial in the beginning
7. Teach by example and good practice rather than long lectures
8. Constant monitoring of the projects in a supportive way pays back
9. Develop easy-to-use indicators to measure outcomes already in the strategy
10. If something goes wrong, the LAG or Managing Authority must intervene

At the end

REMEMBER!

LEADER is not yet another EU funding programme, it's a bottom-up development methodology. In order to use the method right and effectively all of its 8 special features must be valid simultaneously!

At the end

ALSO REMEMBER!

LEADER is not about money, it's about giving access and mobilising the rural people to shape their own future!

"It's not the people who aren't credit-worthy, it's the banks that aren't people-worthy." (M. Yunus)

THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

See more in Google:

A LEADER Dissemination
Guide Book

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