

**Regional Workshop on
integrated community
development**

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**Региональный семинар по
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**FAO approach to integrated community
development in Europe and Central Asia**

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Work in the region

Albania, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina,
Belarus, Georgia, North Macedonia, Moldova
and Serbia,



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Objectives of a supported integrated community development process

- Bridge the gap between policy and field level.
- top-down (working together with the
gov./ministry)
+ bottom-up (involvement of farmers and
communities).
- Look at the needs of the community and respond.
- Contribute / support informed policy design.



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Principles of community development approach

- **Holistic:** view people holistically in all their contexts and with all their needs, constraints, and find solutions that address its own particular conditions;
- **Territorial / Area-based:** each territory has a set of physical, **human**, financial, institutional and **cultural resources (tradition)**, and contribute to its development potentials;
- **Participatory and inclusive:** involvement and participation of local people, representatives from authorities and NGOs, which requires coordination (ideally driven by);
- **Community mobilization:** reaching out and build trust takes time and effort
- **Gender and social inclusion**



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Whom are we talking about

Bosnia and Herzegovina



Georgia





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Why to support integrated community development as a process?

- Territorial approach aims to find solutions that **address the community's needs** based on its own particular conditions and also **build on opportunities**;
- The community development **plan/strategy** can be a **tool to get the process** of rural development started;
- Mapping the **financial and other resources**, which might be mobilized;
- The strategy is to be prepared for the benefit of the whole community, therefore important the **involvement and participation** of local people in the planning process, which requires coordination;
- Ultimate goal in the long run to **improve the livelihood** of the rural populations through sustainable job creation.



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Considerations when we launch the work with communities and villages

- The area of communities / villages does not necessarily have to follow administrative borders.
- It should be neighbouring villages, areas with some commonalities including common or similar:
 - economic interest
 - social interest, composition
 - historic background and
 - natural conditions.
- Commitment of the population, their common willingness – can be tested through community dialogues;
- Commitment of the community leaders, mayor, local council – tested through interviews and questionnaire.



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Community development planning process

Community
workshops are
held at strategic
times in the
process



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Core group of local people

- To reach wide public acceptance it is important to **involve all possible interest groups** right from the start.
- **Public sector**: mayor, local council, local government staff, etc.
- **Private sector**: entrepreneurs, businessmen and farmers.
- **Farmers' representatives** and civil society organizations;
- The process always requires a couple of **committed** and enthusiastic **people** at the beginning who are then able to motivate and mobilize the others;
- **Aim** of the group to establish partnership for a common goal and build trust;
- **Nominating** the people officially;
- Time and presence especially at the beginning to reach out.



Bosnia and Herzegovina



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Analyzing the current situation in the community

- Desk reasearch through collection of materials and data
 - Existing development plans / spatial plans and respecting planning and programs at regional and national level.
 - Existing socio-economic data including population, public services, agricultural production, economy etc.
- Interviews conducted with local stakeholders
- Establishment of focus groups based on main priority areas (e.g. livestock producers, winemakers, tourism service providers, women and youth etc.)
- Leads to priority setting to change the current situation in a positive way.



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Action Plan **FOR** the community

- It should represent the ownership of the community and the local consensus;
- It can be a tool to mobilize additional donor or national resources;
- Enable the local authorities to think strategically and link them up with external processes at national level

Nature of interventions in an action plan can be different:

- Improvement of services in the village
- Investments in public and agricultural infrastructute (e.g. road, drainage and irrigation system)
- Private investments of farmers, entrepreneurs
- Trainings (e.g. on entrepreneurship, cooperation and networking, sustainable agricultural production, processing, study tours, etc.)
- Social events



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Facilitation of the implementation of the Action Plan (I)

- **Share information** with the community on available funds for the local stakeholders (local, national, donor)
- **Provide coaching** to the rural population to apply for available support measures
- **Demonstrate the implementation of the Action Plan** through designing local rural development support measures for small-scale investments
 - Can be collective (municipality, association) and individual (farmers) investments;
 - Priority is to support: income diversification, improvement of livelihood, adding value to agricultural products, cooperation among farmers;
- **Involvement of the ministry and local authorities** in the process is key.



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Facilitation of the implementation of the Action Plan (II)

- Stimulate rural development project ideas, and test how local communities are ready to be mobilized and absorb the funding;
- Assess and build the capacity of local administration at community and municipality level including extension service for future rural development funding;
- The gained experiences can contribute to policy dialogue at national level on community development planning for strengthening the rural development policy in the future.
- Couple the small-scale investment support with specific trainings based on farmers' needs.





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Capacity development

- Based on the training needs assessment specific training can be provided to the communities and local authorities



Biosecurity and animal health training



Establishment of touristic trails in rural Georgia



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Capacity development



Cheese contest: sensory and laboratory evaluation of cheese, Bosnia and Herzegovina



Farmers Field School, Moldova



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Way forward

- **Process of conceptualization** of the regional programme on community development;
- Continue learning about **practical experiences** on local rural development and **discuss different approaches** to that;
- Discuss **policy options** for supporting the development of rural communities, specifically smallholders and family farms in the region;
- Promote **partnerships** between governments, international organizations, donors, civil society, academia and the private sector with interest in local rural development both at regional and country level.



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Thank you for your attention

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Georgia