

Multi-stakeholder initiatives and grassroots participation

Case study of the unfolding of the LEADER programme in Croatia

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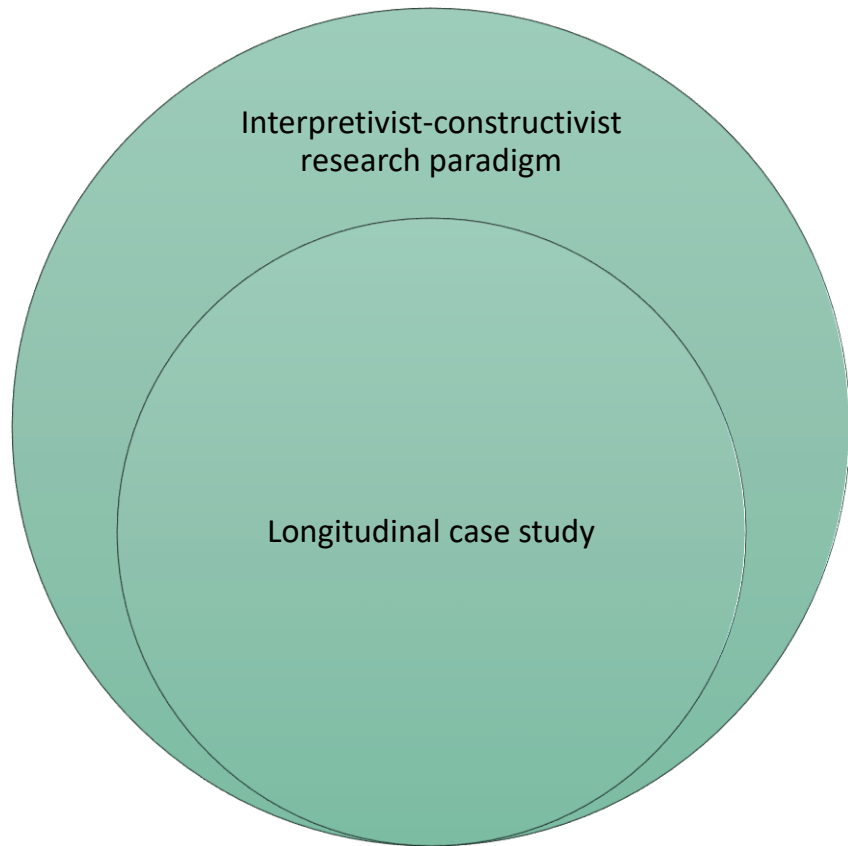
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Theoretical framework

- How is an MSI implemented and promoted through the State?
 - To which extent does it (succeed in being inclusive of, and actually) engage with the grassroots, the (weak) local actors?
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- MSIs – multistakeholder initiatives
 - LAGs as publicly funded MSIs
 - Value regime as political arena that reaches a certain stability when “three inter-related dimensions are aligned:
 - Economic models of value creation and distribution (...); normative and cultural value (...); and governance mechanisms.” (Levy et al., 2015, p.6).
 - Regimes as stabilized configurations that privilege certain technologies and actors

Research design



Posture of an embedded action researcher

Table 1 Data Sources

Period	Interviewees	Legislation	Reports	Evaluation	Relevant academic publications	Other
2002-2009	3	2	3	1	19	Newspaper and web articles on projects related to LEADER initiatives (COAST project)
2009-2014	5	3	5	2	8	Diaries of LAG manager Minute meetings
2014-2019	5	26	18	4	13	Diaries of LAG manager Minute meetings Social media communication

Data collection


- Data collection from at least two (out of three) representative groups working on LEADER on the level of European Union, the State and organization,
- We triangulated interview data with other types of data such as communications, minute meetings, reports, legislations and operational handbooks;
- Semi structured interview around role of the actors, description of other actors working with them, anecdotal evidence and project management documentation.

Data analysis

Operationalization of the value regime concept

	NGO REGIME	STATE LED REGIME
Key actors	Civil society	Public authorities
Accumulation regime	Small scale	Large scale
Normative/cultural dimension	3 rd way (hybrid, multi-actors)	From all state to all market
Governance / organization	Project based – efficiency – formalization and participation	Informal arrangements (friendship) and bureaucratic rules

Defining actor typology

Supporting actors	Key actors	Actor role
	MANAGING AUTHORITY	FRAMING
	PAYING AGENCY	CONTROLLING
	LAGs local multistakeholder organizations	IMPLEMENTING
	Public actors Private actors Civil actors	BENEFITING

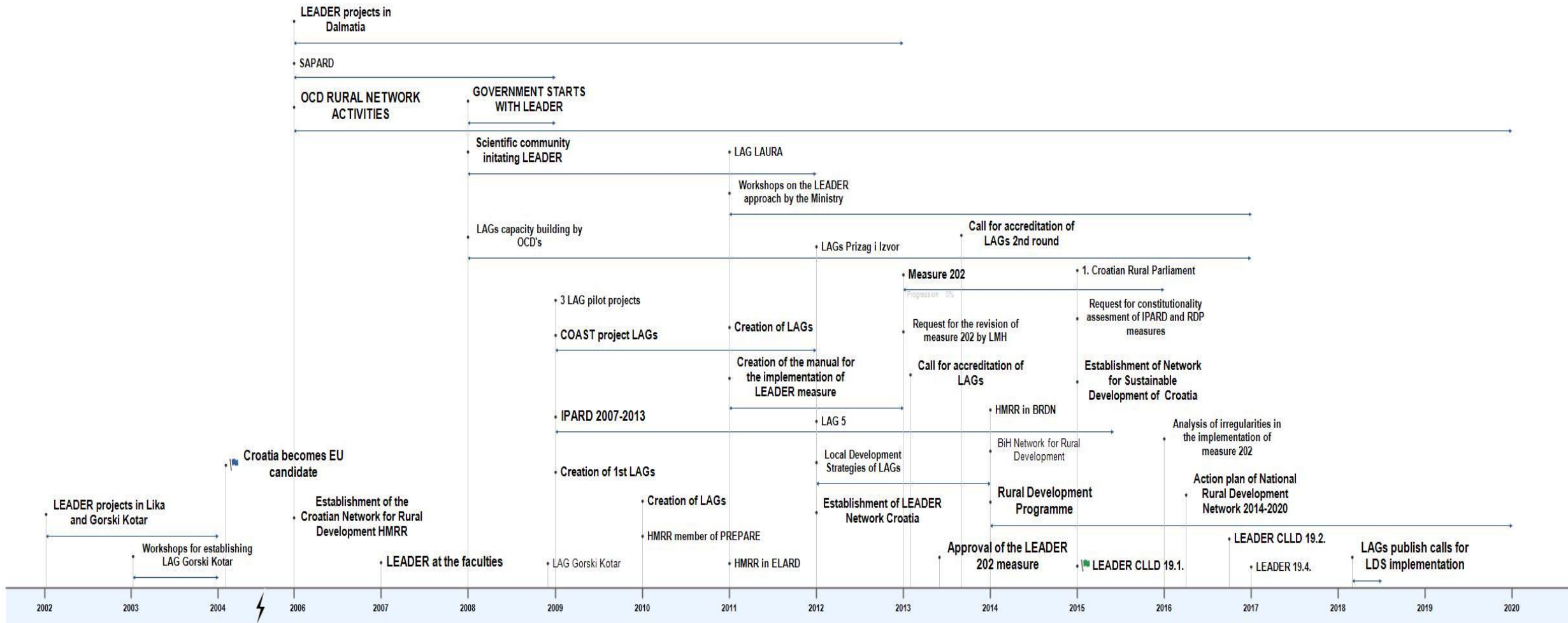


*In this country everybody knows
everybody, or we are cousins*

National civil sector verbatim, 2017



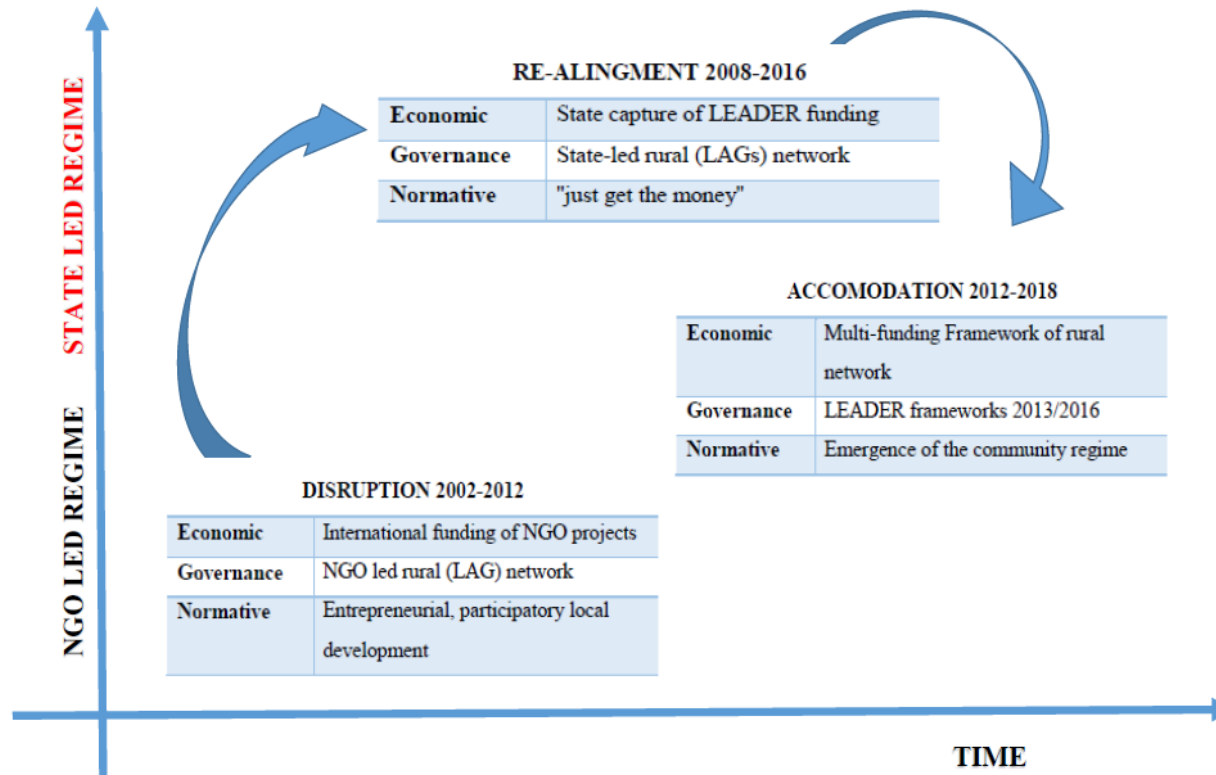
The case of LEADER in Croatia



At that time it seemed to me that (...) with the rural development schemes we might have difficulties to implement. My first task, to be quite honest with you, was to negotiate the money. And nothing else was important.

(National appointed negotiator for chapters: agriculture, fishery, food safety and consumer protection between Croatia and European Union in the period 2003-2013)

Findings



Conclusion

Through the process of europeanization the dominant regime loses its space in favour of the counter hegemony in the « war on position ». The civil society networks occupy a part of the territory subdividing it between the LAGs.

LAGs as MSIs at least at the formal level succeed in engaging with the weak local actors, the grassroots due to the hegemony imposed by the European Union to the Member State.

Thank you for your attention

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