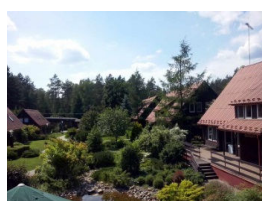
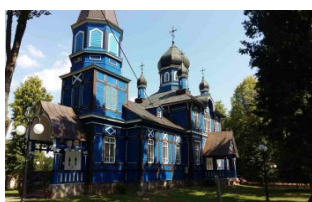


CIVIC DIALOGUE Workshop 2016

June 22 – 26, 2016 - Puszcza Knyszyńska Forest – POLAND

REPORT





**CIVIC DIALOGUE Gathering: June 22-26,2016, Poland
in co-operation with LAG "Puszczą Knyszynska**

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Short summary

Organised on 22-26 June, 2016, the objective of this workshop was to **contribute to identify the elements of methods that ensure good participative processes**. The training day based on participants' proposals was a successful test and was an opportunity to exchange elements of methods and concrete tools. As usual in our workshops, there were field visits organised by our host LAG Knyszynska Forest: they helped understanding the strengths and weaknesses of Knyszynska Forest region related to participative processes. Participants underlined the importance of "**building trust**" as a key factor for participation and cooperation between local inhabitants and stakeholders. 17 participants from 8 countries contributed to the exchanges, sharing their visions and knowledge, on topics such related to participative processes such as "**environmental mediation**", "keeping alive the **spirit of dialogue**", "dealing with powerful people/groups" or "**engaging elected people** in Civic dialogue". And last but not least, there was also time for celebration – another key element for participative processes - around a camp fire during midsummer night or sharing local food during the International Buffet.

Background – Context

"Civic Dialogue" is a new concept of how to approach the broad topic of democracy. This workshop is part of a series of annual gatherings whose intention is to deal with the topic of dialogue between different stakeholders when it aims at:

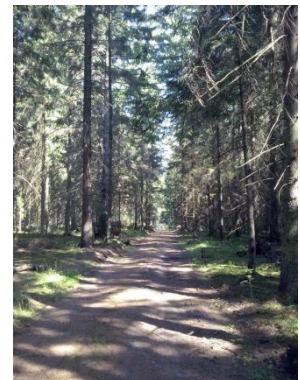
- influencing policies which have a strong impact on territories with regard to agriculture, food, environment and social cohesion
- contributing to the solution of local or regional issues of sustainable rural development

The objective of this 2016 workshop is to contribute to identify the elements **of methods that ensure good participative processes** and the political frameworks that favour dialogue between stakeholders.

One of the focuses was also to ask "**How have you implemented in your country, participation and stakeholders dialogue in EU procedure such as Natura 2000, CLLD-Leader, Water framework (or other ones specific to the country/region.)?**"

The workshop took place in Knyszyn Forest territory (Podlaskie region) in Poland, from 23 to 26 June 2016 and was co-organised in collaboration with LAG "Puszcza Knyszynska".

Podlaskie Province is located in north-eastern part of Poland, where there has always been an ethnic mosaic of the Poles, Belarusians, Lithuanians, Ukrainians, Russians, Tatars and Jews.). Supraśl (headquarters town of the LAG), is only 10 minutes far from Białystok the capital city of Podlaskie region (voivodship). It has 500 years of history and is surrounded by the Knyszynska Primateval Forest which gives the name to the LAG.



Elements of the workshop based on participants proposals

Training session

For the first time, we proposed to build a training session together with participants. Participation to this session was optional. The intention was that participants/ practitioners who have experience on participatory processes methodologies, on group's facilitation, on local community involvement proposed to share their knowledge on methods or specific skills, in a practical way.

The 3 following training sessions were proposed; they are described in detail in Annexe 1.

- "*Trilogue: how to great a local development plan with different stakeholders*"- (Anneli Kana & Anneli Kubi)
- "*Decision making in communities - outreach in Macedonia*" (Liljana Tanevska - Bashkim Bakiu)
- "*Practices on some elements of environmental mediation*" (Karl Brandt)



Market of initiatives

During the "market of initiatives, we offered the opportunity to share an experience, project, initiative people had been involved in – related to participation processes and dialogue between stakeholders - with other participants in a "market place".

The following presentations took place; they will be soon available on our website.

- *Conception et mise en place d'une démarche de stratégie 2020 pour Les Gets (74), commune-station de ski.* – Sarah Rutter
- *Workshop "Building the Civil Society – Solving the conflict in the Local Community. Liquidation of School in the Municipality of Lipsk.* – Ela
- *Organisation of seminars in each county with local communities In Estonia we have a regional in the frame of the municipality reform.* Anneli Kana - Village Movement Kodukant

Field trips: issues and learning

Two field trips were organised, with visits to 2 or 3 field experiences including discussion with local people. Some of the topics might be: CLLD in the Local Action Group (LAG) Knyszynska Forest, implementation of Natura 2000 in Knyszyń Forest Landscape Park, and also aspects linked to the territory specificities. We give hereafter a short description of the experiences, issues raised during the visits and during the collective feed-back.

- **Leader LAG "Puszcza Knyszynska"** - meeting with management team (Joanna Sokolska – Vice-President)

Presentation: Local Action Group "Puszcza Knyszynska (Knyszyń Forest)" is based in Supraśl near Białystok (Podlasie). Acting as a Local Action Group within LEADER initiative since 2008, it associates economic sector (entrepreneurs), social sector (local associations) and public one (10 municipalities surrounding Białystok from eastern site - about 95.000 inhabitants). It has been established on the basis of previous experience related with cooperation between communes within the Knyszyn Forest, The cooperation within the field of tourism, small enterprises related with agriculture, the use of natural and cultural potential of the region in order to achieve sustainability became the basis to realize the LAG project.



The mission of the LAG is to support inhabitants and initiative actions to achieve balanced and comprehensive development of the LAG, especially within the field of active tourism and entrepreneurship. Approximately 45% of its area is in under NATURA 2000 protection. It closely cooperates with National and Regional Forestry Administration, Landscape Forest Parks, Local and Regional Administration, regional and local associations and other 14 LAG in their region - under common organisation associating all LAG: Podlaska Regional Network of Local Actions Groups.

www.puszczaknyszynska.org.pl

Experience on dialogue / participative process that could be shared in this project: Participative Local Rural Strategy in the frame of Leader – CLLD

Issues raised during the field visits and exchange with local stakeholders:

Frame: The LAG encompasses 10 communities (7 in 2013) divided into two groups: rich ones around Białystok and poor ones close to Belarus. 50% of the communities are part of a NATURA 2000 area. Ceiling number of persons belonging to a LAG: 150.000, minimum: 20.000. The LAG is composed of representatives of local authorities, the business sector and the social sector

Process of participation: In the first period it was more one-way induced by the LAG - what was a goods approach in the phase of building a strategy. In the new financial perspective when there is access to social funds there is more focus on participation. Challenge: how to motivate people to do something. Normally people just want to see what is done and how it is done. The LAG team has been organising workshops, open debates, experience exchange panels in order to involve people. They followed 5 partly overlapping stages: diagnosis, defining of objectives, defining indicators, monitoring and evaluation, communication plan of implementation.

- **Park Krajobrazowy Puszczy Knyszyńskiej - Landscape Park Forest Knyszyńska** (Director Joanna Kurzawa+ representative from Stowarzyszenie Przyjaciół Puszczy Knyszyńskiej „Wielki Las” - Great Forest Association)

Presentation: Landscape Park of the Knyszyn Forest was established in 1988. The Park's area is 74, 447 hectares, and the surrounding wooded area comprises 52, 000 hectares. Forests and wooded complexes cover 63 000 hectares which comprises 85% of the Park's area. 80 % of the Park is owned by the State Agency (managing forest economy) and the other 20% by private and local authorities. It reaches 12.000 inhabitants in 11 communes (municipalities).



The objective of the conservation, contained in the Park's statute, is the preservation of the one of the best preserved wooded areas in Poland. With it, the wilderness rivers, streams and springs as well as a very diverse post glacial terrain (it is an arboreal forest complex, part of the Scandinavian one). The whole surface is under Natura 2000 (both birds and habitats: 200 species of birds are nesting there).

Moreover, both cultural and historic values of the Knyszyn Forest are being protected. All this provides excellent conditions for scientific and didactic activities, not to mention the development of tourism (hiking, kayaking). In contrast to the national parks or nature reserves, agriculture, timber production and other uses of real estates that are located within the boundaries of the landscape park have economic significance. However, that operation is subjected to some regulations. They are supervised by the landscape park's superintendent, who is appointed by the voivodship managerial board. The superintendent is not entitled to manage the protected area, in the same way as the national park's director, but he/she has influence on the way the environment is used and managed on the basis of the nature conservation and the spatial management acts.

http://www.pkpk.wrotapodlasia.pl/pl/o_parku/historia_puszczy_2.htm

<http://puszcza-knyszynska.pl/>

Experience on dialogue / participative process that could be shared in this project: Management of N2000 spaces (with local stakeholders), dialogue to deal with conservation and economic activities

Issues raised during the field visits and exchange with local stakeholders

Main treats and challenges of the Landscape Park: The problems are mainly linked to the impact of some economic activities:

- **Spontaneous constructions** in the communes: as communes don't have Local Development Plans, they sometimes give priority to economic development and can omit the interest of the Park, who has no legal power.
- **Problems on rivers beds use / buildings:** they are owned by privates.
- **Pollution and trash** near Bialystok

Regulation and dialogue: an answer to the threats? Any implementation needs to be surveyed. The Park does it via regulation (framework of legal regulation) and dialogue (in conferences with local authorities, local conservation council etc. that can make suggestions. In principle Natura 2000 gives limits, but all these local laws are prepared in a framework of dialogue.

Tools they use to elaborate management planes for N2000 sites? The Regional Nature Conservatory Agency has a method that promotes the consultation/ dialogue with stakeholders. So, local stakeholders are informed and consulted for the definition of Management Plan / Action Plan. They have to listen to single opinions and to explain why they take into account (or not) some stakeholders suggestions). Depending on the sites, 20 to 30 people come to the meetings. It includes representatives from the municipality (the Mayor has deciding power). Meetings are organised at different hours depending on the public: in the morning for local authorities, in the afternoon for local communities. They also organise thematic meetings for foresters, local population etc. After all the opinions have been compiled, they give feedback on the final management plan version.

Villages' participation: Communes/ Municipalities are formed by groups of villages. Not only has the number of inhabitants in villages decreased in the last years but also the percentage of representatives from villages with the municipalities / local authorities bodies.

Evolution of the perception of the Forest: Popular opinion on the Forest has changed in the past decades: “*older generation knew the forest was use for economical (timber) and food (hunting, berries) purpose. The new generation that has left to villages to leave in the cities wants to see “Nature” and has forgotten that timber is also a resource*”. The Education facilities (of the Forestry Agency) try to educate also on the Forestry Economy.

Relation with LAG Knyszyn Forest: There is a real interconnection as they are working on the same area. When a decision has to be made on a project, the Park provides technical expertise. They also receive support from the State Forest Agency that has special development plan with guidelines precisising protected areas, species to take into account, timeline for nesting etc....

Private owners’ involvement and consultation which participation in decision making process: The Park cannot have influence on economic activities within the park area, only the communes do. It is a restrictive power for the Park.

Inclusion of local people within the Park to solve the attractiveness of the region: When new people are coming, their orientation is towards tourism, so the idea is to develop tourism activities, promoting Suprasl as a Brand (and a gate) that then will open people to the Forest.

- **Horse agro tourism.** Exchange with Cezary and Rita Moczulscy – local leaders and rural entrepreneurs and Adam Kamiński – LAG Puszcza Knyszynska President

Presentation: In 1997, Cezary and Rita decided to move from Bialystok to breed horses. They created in 1999 this agro tourism farm that offers environmental education for schools, horse rides to tourists and event centre, offering food workshops and meals for groups. They also offer horse carriage for special events (weddings etc.). In 2005 they obtained the status of an organic farm - growing vegetables and started breeding “Wrzosówek” – an old Polish breed of sheep.

<http://www.ritowisko.com/>



Experience on dialogue / participative process that could be shared in this project: Local focus on participation processes, local politics, entrepreneurship development on local level in the context of nature resources protection.

Issues raised during the field visits and exchange with local stakeholders

Issues related to farming and agro tourism difficulties in this area: The couple had no knowledge about farming and had to learn everything (how to do hay etc.). Nothing grows in the Forest, so agriculture is quite difficult: they hopefully could use the manure from horses to enrich the soil. They also were helped by the local population that thought them how to farm. “*Farming can be a living if you diversify activities*”. Seeing how the interest has grown for organic vegetable in the past years, he would have started before. Customers were difficult to find at the beginning but they are now recommended by the mouth to mouth (thanks to their food quality, organic, eco-friendly approach). They have been precursors as after 8 years, other agro tourism initiatives started.



What about local cooperation? For the farmers: “*Local community has almost disappeared*” so it is difficult to talk about cooperation with neighbours – who however gave some advices on farming. Locals were mostly surprised that Rita and Cezary brought money to the village.

In general in the region: Collective organisation seems difficult to develop in the region. A study in the province showed that it had the lowest percentage of associations per inhabitants. Character or history may be an explanation (division of Poland, suspicious, lack of trust besides hospitality). There is a clear issue on the cooperation topic: the forest is a brand, dozens of touristic offers are developing but there is no initiative from entrepreneurs for a common “touristic product”. “*There was an attempt to build a consortium for a cluster but it did not work as they did not manage to build “Trust”, which could be a challenge for the LAG for the next years.*”

- **Tatarska Jurta – Tatar yurt** (Dżamil Gembicki - local leader of Tatar minority)

Presentation: This Tatar household is located in the heart of Kruszyniany Primeval Forest, a Podlachian village of Kruszyniany (3km away from Belarusian border, 50km away from Białystok). Kruszyniany, located on the Tatar route, is a special place on the map of Podlaskie Voivodship (province). The place is often called a cultural melting pot as this is a cross point of three major religions: Catholicism, Muslimism and the Orthodox Church. The farm owes its peace and quiet to its location away from the urban hustle and bustle, in the village running its lazy rural life. For several years the owners have been continuing family traditions and running an agricultural farm.

<http://www.kruszyniany.pl/>

Experience on dialogue / participative process that could be shared in this project: Exchange on Tatar “minority” involvement in local development.

- **Local Leader involvement in local / social development – (Stowarzyszenie Bardzo Aktywna Wieś "Barwa")** Exchange with Danuta Bagińska - councillor District of Białystok, president of Barwa from Dobrzyniówka

Presentation: Stowarzyszenie Bardzo Aktywna Wieś "Barwa" (Village association “colour”)’s goal is to support and promote the local environment, “back to the roots” by playing the old customs, rituals and traditions. One of the main tasks is to cultivate and develop handicraft and prepare regional dishes from the area. The association want to interest children and young people by turning them into joint action, which will contribute to the fight against all social pathology (the association is located in the former PGR).



Experience on dialogue / participative process that could be shared in this project: Involvement of local inhabitants, local authorities for active engagement; Good Practice on local management of local association in context of cooperation and engagement on local level;

Issues raised during the field visits and exchange with local stakeholders

Personal wills: It was the initiative of strong women who wanted to prevent that the building they now rent becomes a pub. Behind that are personal stories of women suffering from the alcohol dependency of their men in one case even leading to the death of a man. So from that point of view the initiatives started not at all with a participative process but with the strong will and movement of some stakeholders. The initiative was awarded by an educational foundation allowing them to start to establish and adopt the building. They receive some financial support from the region but not from the major. They now experience some competition and jealousy due to similar activities started by other women. The leading lady is retired now but helps a lot in order to motivate others to become active and to set up their own organisation

- **Mirosław Stepaniuk: former director of Białowiecki National Park and President of Podlasie heritage Association;**

Presentation: The Podlasie Heritage Association is a private organization that focuses on cultural and environmental conservation as well as the promotion of the Podlasie Province of Poland. PHA is involved in regional development and organizes successful programs specifically for villages and small towns. The members of PHA have been using GIS for many years to record natural and man-made features in Podlasie. Realizing the special role that young people will play in the future for sustainable development projects in their local communities, PHA endeavours to take an active role in public education in cooperation with local community and government authorities.

<http://www.directionsmag.com/pressreleases/polish-students-use-esri146s-gis-to-study-their-cultural-heritage-and-natur/108424>

Experience on dialogue / participative process that could be shared in this project - Mirosław Stepaniuk experience in Białowiecki National Park (<http://voices.nationalgeographic.com/2016/01/19/ancient-bialowieza-forest-facing-major-destruction/>).

PHA involvement in local process of development, mediation and solving local and regional discussion on Białowiecka Forest and local wood economy.

Issues raised during the field visits and exchange with local stakeholders

Conflicts: The enlargement of the National Park is a strong source of conflict in the region. The region has a special history related to war, resettlements, the redefining of borders, changes in economic systems etc. This led to the fact that people can easily be manipulated and don't have a well-established local identity. That is why political and economic driving forces can put pressure on people and influence them in order to be against an enlargement of the park.

The ongoing process is an example of "anti-participation" that is run only by authorities, universities. It is an abuse of the demanded consultation process demanded by law and done just in order to remove the point from the list.

Proposal from MK (Liljana): move the conflict out of the local level and address the EU institutions directly

Values: *"If people cannot appreciate local, traditional values (culture, heritage), they cannot appreciate more universal values like nature".*

- **Hieronimowo: meeting with Stanisław Szczepańczyk local entrepreneur and local leader and representatives of local association on local development on Hieronimowo and Aneta Putko – representative of Local Authority (Gmina) cooperating in local development process**

Presentation: Hieronimowo is a former Polish state farm. The villagers are mainly people with low or no qualifications. Young people work in the farm run by p. Stanisław Szczepańczyka, and some in the forest. The farm permanently employs 15-18 people and up to 30 people in seasonal picks. Unemployment is accompanied by a massive impoverishment of the community as the former farm State employees were provided monthly allowances. But lack of success in finding new activities did not lead to an increased effort: on the contrary, the village faced an increasing apathy, and also alcoholism.

Today, most former State farm sites are considered as problem areas. The changes that have occurred in these areas over the past two decades, with higher disparities in economic and social development separate them substantially from other parts of the region and the country.

For the years 2010-2015 Hieronimowo village planned to accomplish tasks that relate primarily to ensure the villagers higher standard of public infrastructure and services, but also are associated with the development of a recreational and cultural complex which is the base to attract tourists from outside the region – as in the village are the ruins of the nineteenth century palace landowner headquarters.

Experience on dialogue / participative process that could be shared in this project: Involvement of local inhabitants, local authorities in common local activity. Methods and process of participation in the context of post state farm mentality. Methods used related to participation, objectives and products of participation; difficulties they meet and good practice.

Issues raised during the field visits and exchange with local stakeholders

Private initiative: A local entrepreneur bought 50% of the former state farm. Apart from personal motives (to leave in a nice place that is cheap to buy) his intention was to make the village more attractive so that young people tend to stay. He is now employing people; they do hired work in agriculture, forestry. Apart from that he is intending to bring back traditions to the village e.g. by organising festivals. They started with offers for children but now extend in order also to include the grown-ups.

Challenges: To seek for a better system that makes employment more stable. How to ensure a cost-covering agriculture

Communication: *"Communication as a side effect":* by helping people to facilitate their lives (e.g. by offering transport) communication starts. These small things promote communications and help to come into contact. What is needed: *"a lot of heart, patience and shouting!"*

▪ Feedback on study tours

What would we like to keep and bring home?

Participants were impressed by the **tenacity** and passion of the people they met, and the **engagement** and energy of the entrepreneurs.

They showed motivation to move for themselves, for their neighbours and then for the Community.

In most of the visits we made, the starting point has been more an individual/ **personal need** that sometimes has **evolved in a collective and participative process**.

The motivation is to work for **new generations**. Depending on the visits, the perception was that youngsters stayed in rural places.

Bringing back and valuing **traditions** and sticking to **local culture** was also a strong point

Impressed by the personal and group dedication to protect natural resource (Forest) and universal heritage.

Role and **ways of communication**: in one of the places, the links between people via a rural centre but also sharing time in transport.

Importance of **TRUST** in all the processes.

In the LAG, it seems that **Natura 2000 is understood as a label** and is a clear criterion to take into account for business development.

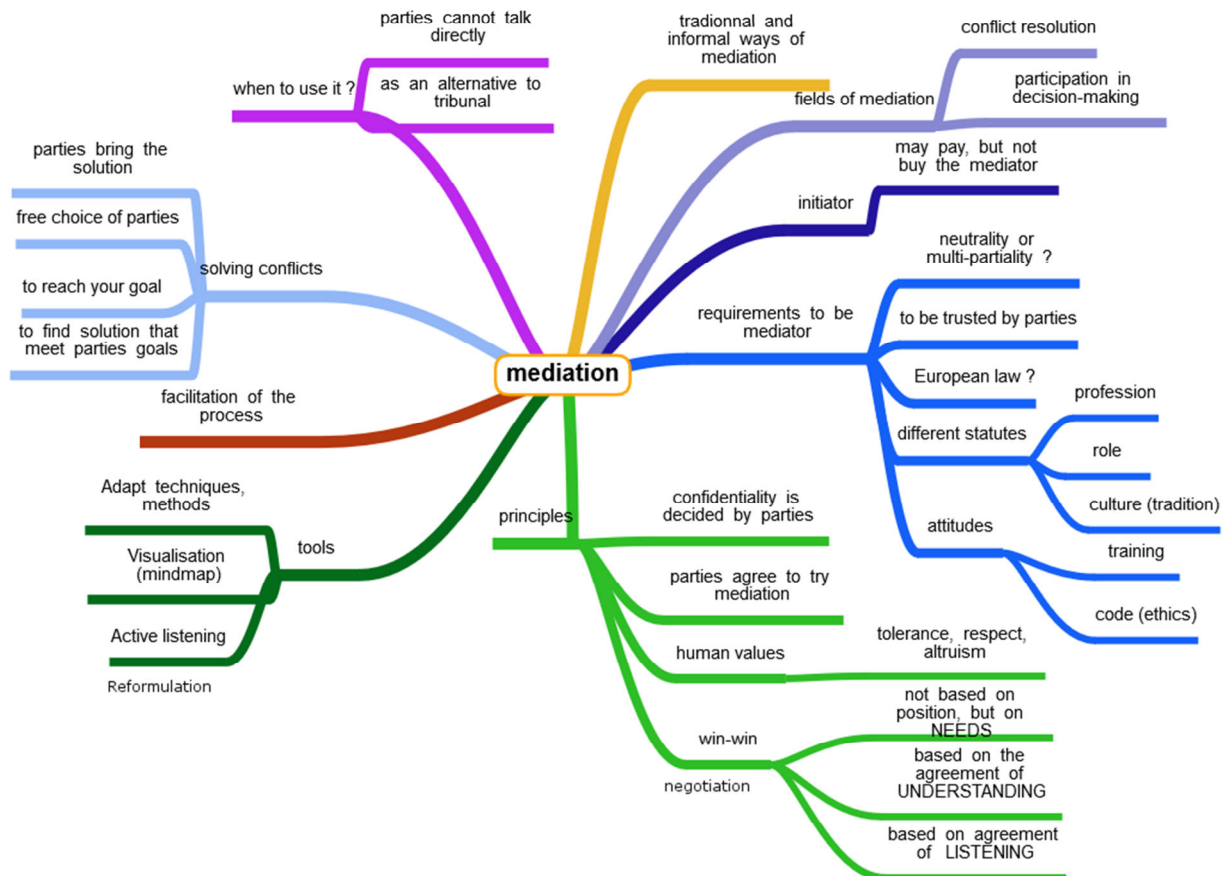
What we would like to suggest to hosts?

- To realize study visits where there are success initiatives to **improve social capital**, create network.
- Estonia example: **tax system that ensures money is back to local level** (giving funds to municipalities).
- Create work for local people and **make link with newcomers**.
- Develop a "**sense of place**": in order to create cohesion with local actors, and have a complementary approach between the Park (identity) and the LAG (operational body)

Workshop on Agro-mediation in Europe

Participants shared what were the methods, principles and political framework for this specific stakeholders' dialogue in their region or country. The result was the following mind map.

(Agro) - MEDIATION: What is it? What is the situation in different EU countries?



Comments on the elements of the Mediation Mind map (by Philippe Barret and Karl Brandt):

What is a conflict? What about using mediation? When you have targets and the others have theirs too, if they don't match and you can't reach your goal, there is a conflict.

It is important to evaluate the costs of conflicts before deciding if it is worth "fighting": what will be the hidden costs if you go to Court etc. and see if mediation could be an alternative.

What are the tasks of mediation? To find a solution that will fit to the parties involved and is accepted. And that is the best solution to all other alternatives.

Thematic areas of mediation:

- family mediation (heritage, divorce)
- environment (spatial planning, environmental impacts)
- agriculture: natural resources management (water for irrigation, forestry, food industry, chemicals and impacts on health, machinery, patents)

- business (contracts, payments)
- consumer protection: water quality, services
- administration
- construction

What is necessary to become a mediator ?

Training: In Germany, for the Environmental group Karl belongs to, it is necessary to have a 200 hours training in mediation and to have a basic profession (law, biology etc.).

This 3rd party is asked to be neutral. (We could also say that the mediator is not neutral because he is for both parties. Neutral could be understood as a lack of power whereas in mediation, people have to ask what the interest behind the position is.

Code of ethics: The European Code of conduct for mediators (http://ec.europa.eu/civiljustice/adr/adr_ec_code_conduct_en.pdf - July 2004) explains what is it and when to use it. A mediation directive was set up on EU level to encourage Mediation in Member states (mainly on family, consumers and business matters): <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/LSU/?uri=CELEX:32008L0052>

Karl recommends to include a mediation clause in all kind of contracts in order to start a mediation session before going to court.

The mediator has to be “trusted” by both parties.

Principles: It is **voluntary**: the parties agree to start a mediation session. Mediators shouldn't bring solutions but **help parties** finding them; his power is to lead the process. Any solution is good unless the parties agree.

Traditional mediation is based on **human values (tolerance, altruism, respect of people)**. And PB believes as a mediator that every human being is capable of altruism. **If you give the good conditions for people to be secure and be respected, they will express altruism** and will build up common understanding: it is Trust building as well.

Win-win negotiation:

You don't work with people on their position (what they think, “brain part”) but on their **needs** (what is important for them, “emotions and interests”). This is a first step to evolve towards altruism: if feel people needs are respected they will be more open to consider the others' ones.

The mediator not only has to **listen** and **understand** the parties but also to facilitate the listening and mutual understanding between the parties.

The **agreement will only comes at the end of the process** and is a small part of the process (20%).

Who initiates the mediation? Any party that have a conflict can suggest to the other to start a mediation process instead of going to court. Mediation is less expensive and is confidential (court is public).

Then you just have to find a mediator or a co-mediation (2nd mediator on the set that can be complementary too).

At the end of mediation, what kind of statement is done? Karl makes a Protocol on what are the **strong points**, making visible what **we agree on and what we disagree** on, what are the consequences and also who pays the mediator (one party, both)? Both sides might **agree to make public some parts** of the agreement if they are happy with it **or maintain total confidentiality** (it is decided by parties).

Different ways and statutes to implement mediation: Mediation can be a profession, a role (played by elder people or others) and also a culture (that anybody could use in everybody life, as an attitude “how to solve problems”) is it traditional or not.

Fields of mediation: Mediation can be used not only to **solve conflicts** but also as a way to **facilitate the participation of people in decision-making**. It is the case of Philippe who uses the same tools to help facilitating dialogue between different stakeholders working on specific resources (spatial planning for instance or other projects elaboration). When he works on environmental conflicts, they usually involve different stakeholders.

Tools and techniques:

Mediation is the art of movement: you have to be **flexible, adapt and move** (in a literal and figurative way).

Visualisation helps listening and understanding. Mind map helps creating a common vision for example.

Active listening: reformulating to be sure you (other people) understood what the others said.
Reformulating, asking more information, giving time helps ensuring people have understood.

Mediations vs non-formal judgment: Mediation is something different to non-formal judgement - when someone suggests a solution after hearing the parties as it also took place in some rural areas.

Mediation in other countries: inputs from participants

BALKAN (Kosovo, Macedonia): mediators were the main authority when there was no state legal system. There were usually old people mediating between 2 parties or families, before going to the Court. It could be public mediation. Starting first with separate meetings with the engaged parties and then bringing everybody in a public meeting (as witnesses).
In traditional mediation, the mediator he was not only there to assist the parties but sometimes had the authority to suggest solutions

UKRAINE: examples of groups (grain growers) that agreed to use mediation to solve conflict between members (usually a third party, auditor etc.)

ESTONIA: Consultancies are selling services as facilitators, counsellors or to mediate to solve conflicts (family, in agriculture etc.). In case of conflict between civil and public organisation, you can ask help from the Local regional Development Centre who had independent paid consultants. But the word "Mediator" is not used.
Tradition 300 years old, village meeting to meet and argue: with village elders helping to solve conflicts (sometimes taking decisions)

POLAND: spatial planning is an area of conflict and now in an official document suggests that "mediation" should be included in the training (but not offered nor mandatory yet)

UK: mediation is mainly known at workplace, between unions and employers. And also for family issues. Depending on the topics, there are consultants (specialised in environmental topics); for business topics, the lawyers are also mediating. The perception is that Anglo-Saxons have more faith in the legal system.

Workshop: Answering CIVIC DIALOGUE challenges

We used a an adapted version of the Open Space Forum method to discuss some issues raised during this Civic Dialogue workshop and previous ones (France and Wales)

- new issues proposed in Poland have been added in orange
- issues selected by participants to work on have a green circle



Topics

Decision-makers

- A①- How to engage elected people in civic dialogue (What about representatives of Decision-makers)?
- A②- How to co-work with politicians (find and support allies)?
- A③- How to ensure that decision makers implement proposals/agreements?

Stakeholders

- B①- How to deal with powerful people/groups?
- B②- How to engage all interested group (young people? Newcomers?)
- B③- How to promote urban-rural dialogue?
- B④- How to communicate with passive groups minority?
- B⑤- How to find the right representative of a group? What about the mandate?
- B⑥ – How to integrate newcomers into stakeholders groups/ community groups?

Process

- C①- How to manage transparency and confidentiality in civic dialogue?
- C②- How to ensure that the process is right?
- C③- What are the roles of the facilitator/mediator? What about neutrality?
- C④- How to keep alive the spirit of dialogue?
- C⑤- How to maintain an equal footing for all participants?

Legal framework

- D①- How to build a legal framework to allow civic dialogue?

Proposals from the groups**Decision-makers**

A① How to engage elected people in civic dialogue (What about representatives of Decision-makers)?

- Integration of the decision-makers on Civic dialogue events:
 - integration of required decisions to be made in the agenda
 - more time
 - separate meetings with them individually to find out what is the issue
 - ask decision-makers to give representatives authority (mandate) to make decision – established at the start
- Origin of the initiative for the Dialogue should establish mutual respect and equality of all participants (self-esteem of civic sector)
- Roles and responsibilities of the participants in the CD
- Lobbying
- Individual interested / Programme statements
- Invitation as Key Speakers
- Use the Postman
- Announce Press Release
- Offer them something of their interest

A③- How to ensure that decision makers implement proposals/agreements?

- Keep the momentum going
- Follow-up (timetable to check implementation)
- Personal good relationship
- Celebration of agreement
- Maintain the good relationship

Stakeholders

B①- How to deal with powerful people/groups? (*see schema below*)

- Positive contributor – appeal to their interest
- Rebalancing with size of group in process
- Problem could unite people of different power levels
- Be confident with your mandate
- Fear
- People who use aggressive language and misuse emotions
- Neutral Venue
- How to avoid entering their game?
- Control your emotions
- Matador technique

- Feel overwhelmed by their effectiveness
- Analyse background of person – points in common etc. → Mini SWOT (needs/ fears/ motivations)
- Have private interest – need to see value of Dialogue
- Set rules of dialogue + get agreement from Powerful people
- But maybe they don't accept
- Meet them individually + show them their view is valued
- People who can change situation unilaterally
- Necessary but not interested (example, mayor refusing dialogue about reservoir)
- Find an alternative way round problem

B2- How to engage all interested group (young people? Newcomers?)

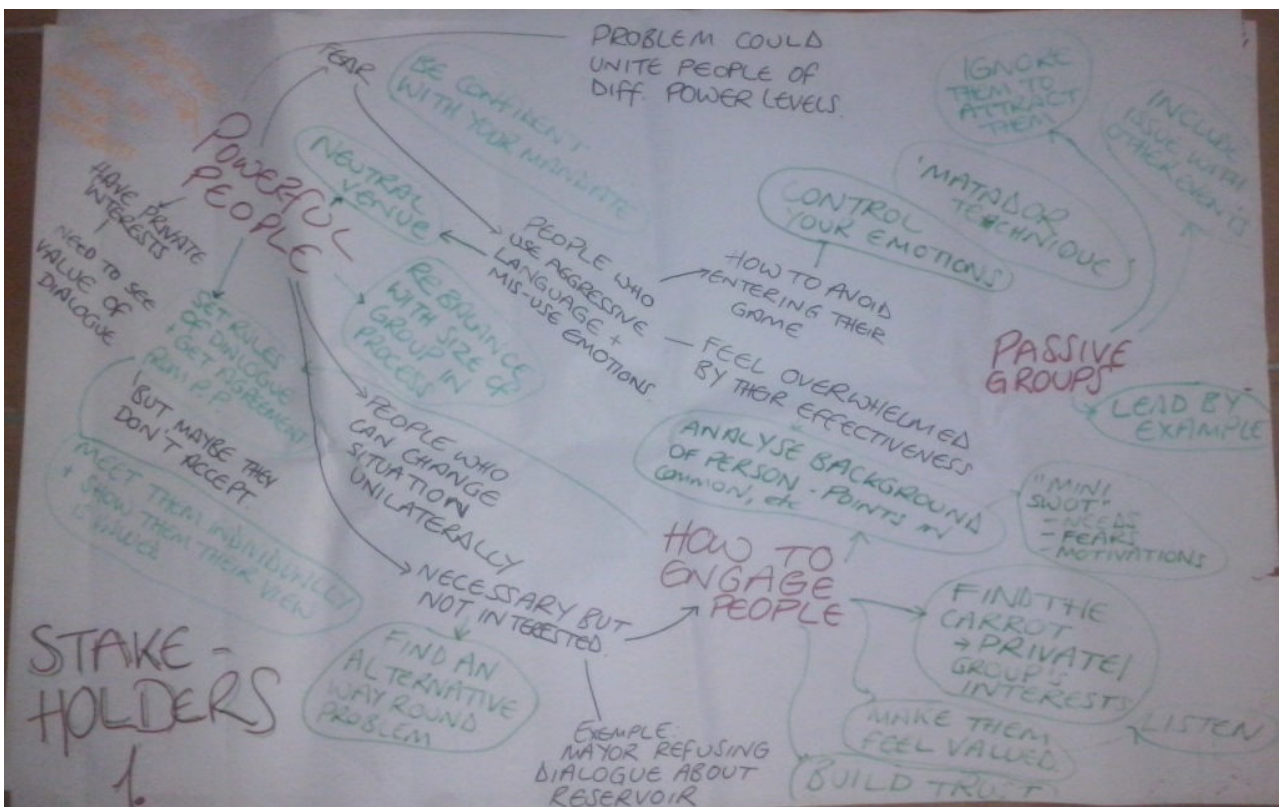
- Find the carrot – Private group's interest
- Make them feel valued - Listen
- Build trust

B4- How to communicate with passive groups minority?

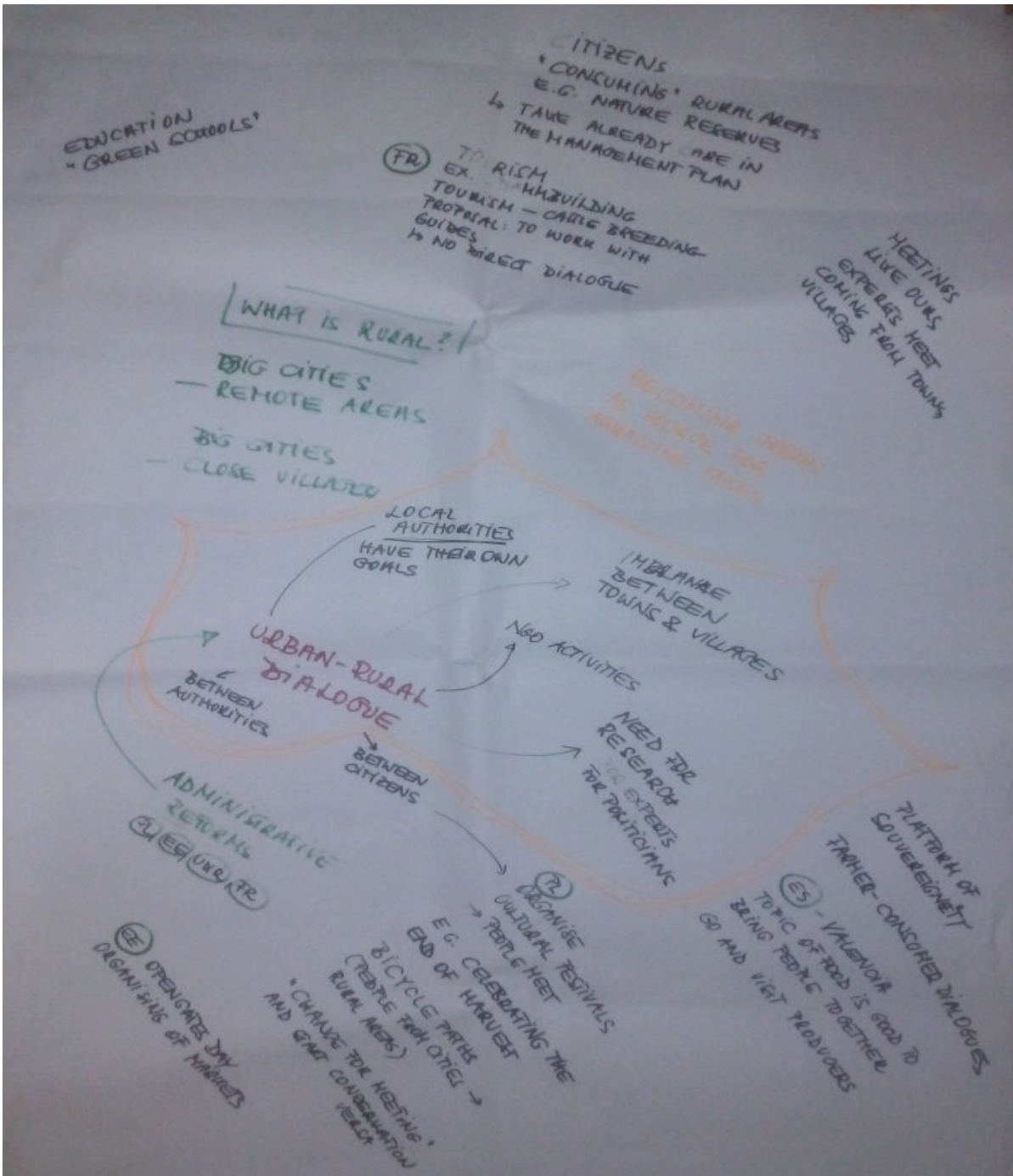
- Ignore them to attract them
- Include issue with other event
- Lead by example

B5- How to find the right representative of a group? What about the mandate?

- Identify what are the different kind of interests
- Person must be respected
- Make sure that the delegates take care of feed back



B3 - How to promote urban-rural dialogue?



PROCESS

C4- How to keep alive the spirit of dialogue?

What do we talk about?

- Specific process with starting date and end
- Follow-up of what happened
- Overall philosophical idea of Civic Dialogue (integrate new generations, citizens and local authorities)

Proposals

- It is responsibility of all sides (authorities / civil society / private)
- Punctual revision once a year is not enough (like opened invitation) : so a **personal and organizational commitment** at the beginning could be an idea
- Defined **timetable / topics / organization** and Agreed upon
- Need to be **adapted to people Lifetime** (season / day)
- Check **why there is no interest** and try to find a solution (to have more participants)
- Prepare the **replacement** of your representative in the process
- When the process is **long**,
 - remind where we are, what have been the results, evaluation of the situation, successes, **explain next steps**
 - have **small achievements**
- **Pleasure, conviviality** during the process to be interested in following in (with local products!)
- **Celebrating** the Dialogue (success and failure) and be **proud** of what we achieved.
- **Skills / personality** of the **facilitator** of the process
- Commitment to participate ⇔ participate on a voluntary basis

The session "Democracy in times of crisis" was postponed to the next workshop.

Gathering evaluation

What do I keep from the meeting?

Atmosphere – elements of the workshop

The good energy and positive spirit of local people who take responsibility for the place where they live. There are solutions around. Problems will never stop.

Atmosphere of meetings: study trips and whole methodology of workshop

Department of fun 😊.

Methodology of realizing the workshop: presentations combined with methods of transfer/sharing knowledge

Every participant brought experiences/ideas into the group: it's great.

Learned from the field visits in Poland in terms of civic dialogue and democracy

New elements

New ideas gathered during these days.

New partners and old Friends "in crime" (in rural development in Europe)

All information, good ideas, feelings and emotions to use in the future.

Topics – Approaches

Mediation – How to grow trust – make decision-process

Mediation is a powerful instrument in Civic dialogue

Explore more the **emotions** of the stakeholders

Celebration of the affect after well done work.

Practices shared of misuse of Democracy principles for diminishing results of Civic Dialogue

Dialogue is the first step for solving problems and possibility to balance between different sides

Importance of **identifying interests** of each party and appealing to those interests (carrot!)

Importance of setting roles, **framework**, responsibilities, delegation of decision powers etc. at the very beginning of process.

Trust: an important element to work out

Sometimes you have to take action and be a leader, after that a participation method can start.

What would I suggest for next one(s)?

Workshop organisation

During (or before) meetings, share the background of the region/ country (to have a frame of the "picture")

Allow more time for each field visit: maybe max.3 in a day (depends on travelling time between locations)

Less intense field visits, more time for discussions with people: better to have 2 field visits and more exchange than 3 visits and limited exchange.

More field visits

A Little bit more time for free time (1-1,5h)

Everything was super.

More meetings

New elements to include in the workshop

Promotion of traditional products

Feedback from participants/stakeholders in a civic dialogue process

Feedback: how and what was useful (from the workshop) when you are back in your daily life.

Build links to our youth group.

Follow working /answering on issues raised on Cd (as we did in the Open Space session)

More information on the content agreed: missing session on "Democracy in times of crisis"

One more day to have time to "taste" the surroundings (and more time for training?)

Suggestion on topics

More space for small towns in rural areas.

Let's keep civic dialogue alive (to work in next meetings)

Migration of people from villages (towns?) to rural area

Explore more mediation (tools/skills)

Workshop on funding civic dialogue projects.

Europe survey in the art of agri- mediation

Dialogue techniques of effective communication – ecological issues

Mediation technics it's redundant?

Trust building

Influence new situation in EU

To include elements of non-violent communication

ANNEXES

Annexe 1: Training session

- *“Trilogue: how to great a local development plan with different stakeholders*
- *“Decision making in communities - outreach in Macedonia”* (Liljana Tanevska - Bashkim Bakiu)
- *“Practices on some elements of environmental mediation”* (Karl Brandt)

Annexe 2: Programme of the workshop

Annexe 3: Participants list

METHOD: **TRILOGUE OR OTHER PERSPECTIVE**
(Anneli Kana)



Using:

- in the case of different opinions;
- planning new project between different partners

Time: minimum 2 hours

Content of the exercise:

- divide the whole group (up to 25 persons) into 3 groups (up to 7-8 persons)
Groups can be shared by the common interest or by nationality or regions (in international group). Each group have a prepared worksheet and marker.

Step 1: each group discusses and writes the 3 most important problems of the discussion topic (in our case the topic was cooperation between civil society and authorities). Time depends of the number of group, 20-30 min

- moderator shares the sheets: group 1 gives their paper to group 2 paper (problems), group 2 gives the paper to group 3 and group 3 gives the paper to group 1

Step 2: each group takes a look to the listed problems and tries to describe the possible positive results of these problems (like in a project planning- description of the current negative situation and the desired positive situation). Time 15-20 minutes.

- moderator shares the sheets: group 1 gives the paper to group 3, group 2 gives the paper to group 1 and group 3 gives the paper to group 2

Step 3: each group takes a look to the listed problems and possible results of the problems and tries to describe the potentials actions to achieve the results. Time 15-20 minutes

- moderator gives the papers back to the groups who started (with their problems). Groups can read and discuss the fulfilled papers.

Final phase VERSION 1

- The moderator puts the papers on wall and each group can comment their sheet: problems, suggested results and suggested activities. Do they like these suggestions, do they agree etc.

Final phase VERSION 2

- The moderator puts the papers on wall and all participants can vote/discuss and find the 3 most important problems (from 9) for all big group and continue work with these, for example to find the common topic for new project.

STEP 1 (by each group) 3 top problems in the topic	STEP 3 (by the other group) Propose some activities to achieve the results (1-2 for each)	STEP 2 (by the other group) Describe the possible positive results for the 3 top problems
1-	1- 2-	1-
2-	1- 2-	2-
3-	1- 2-	3-

“THE PROCESS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF CIVIC DIALOGUE AMONG PEOPLE, PEOPLE AND AUTHORITIES AND DECISION MAKING PROCESSES ON LOCAL LEVEL. - *Liljana Tanevska*

Shared personal professional experience on people’s empowerment, in rural areas of Macedonia and Albania.

The experience was related to building trust as a key element for further actions among the participants in the process. The trust building and measuring of trust on social capital development influenced development of the dialogue among people within one village, dialogue with people from other villages and with local authorities.

The programme included support of the decentralization in Macedonia and Albania and participatory decision making in rural areas for dialogue, and participation in decision making.

The process of facilitation of finding from individual to collective solutions was elaborated, for the phases of the programme. The issue of building trust based on no financial support from the donors was also elaborated and how it was functioning on local level in environments with different cultural and economic background in rural areas of Macedonia and Albania. Gender mainstreaming and inclusion of women was explained from the point of positive discrimination measures to the general inclusion of women in the village councils.

The process was done in stages for making decisions through phases and sequences of discussions, silence, arguments, revision of initial discussions, finding solutions, discussion over solutions.

Key values driving the process on the bilateral and multilateral level were: social justice, participation, equality, learning and facilitation.

Ref to: http://www.sida.se/contentassets/96b75c5e3c6c45cf91111c729e11689/200848-lessons-learnt-from-the-integrated-rural-development-programme-alka-and-the-albanian-macedonia-peoples-empowerment-p_1909.pdf

The situation with the dialogue and participation in decision making on local level in rural areas in Macedonia was presented by Bashkim Bakiu.

PRACTICES ON SOME ELEMENTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL MEDIATION – Karl Brandt

Get to know you better - the better you understand the other.

1/ 100 min: Priorities to prepare your negotiation

There are five central aspects to prepare a negotiation.
Please take your time to estimate your time input.
You have planned 100 min for the whole preparation ..
... and 3 min for this exercise (Dupont 1982)

Preparation	Your time in minutes	(unexperienced)	(experienced)
Diagnosis - collect and prepare information about the subject and the participants		15'	25'
Setting targets - what result is desirable		25'	15'
Alternatives - what to do when negotiation does not give satisfactory results		5'	25'
Tactics - how do I start, what do I do, when		25'	10'
Strategy - development of a strategic plan - style, playing role		5'	5'
		75min	85 min

Comments:

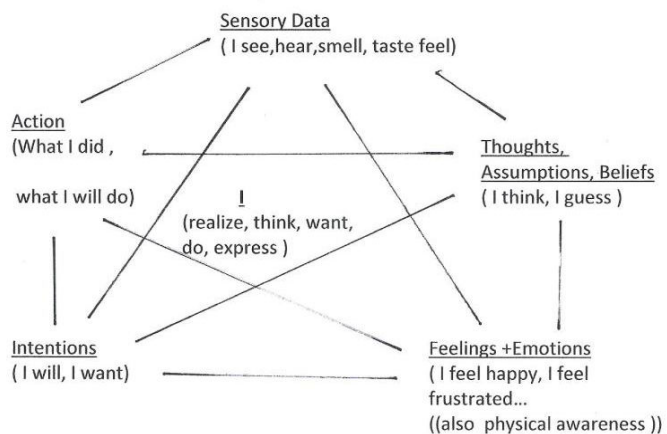
- know your BATNA (Best-Alternative to non-agreement)
- mediation/negotiation process needs preparation time

2/ Awareness wheel (Sherod Miller 1972)

Purpose:

- improve your self-awareness
- express self-information
- personal responsibility – instead of over/under responsibility

Exercise: in group of 3 (one speaker, one listener and one observer) , speak/ have a dialogue and exchange on what you have observed (your own perceptions or the ones you saw as an observer).



Comments after the exercise:

- importance of non-verbal communication : eye contact, body language, feelings (you cannot NOT COMMUNICATE)
- importance and difficulties to control EMOTIONS (there are real emotions even in a playing game)
- there is a difference between **interpretation** and **comprehension** . For instance, if someone is not talking:
 “Why are you quiet?” is an interpretation of the fact and leads to justification (why)
 “Do you want to tell something? Is there something to share with the group?” is more neutral and comprehensive.
- the perception people have of facts is more important than the fact itself
- going through the 5 parts of the wheel needs time and training.



“Civic Dialogue” Workshop. 23rd - 26th June 2016 (Poland)

PROGRAMME AND ORGANISATIONAL INFORMATION

This year our workshop will take place in **Knyszyń Forest territory** (Podlaskie region) in **Poland**, from **23 to 26 June 2016** and will be co-organised in collaboration with LAG "Puszcza Knyszyńska" and "Biuro Inicjatyw Rozwojowych".

The objective of this workshop is to contribute to identify the elements of methods that ensure good participative processes and the political frameworks that favours dialogue between stakeholders.

During this workshop, the focus will be “**How have you implemented in your country, participation and stakeholders dialogue in EU procedure such as Natura 2000, CLLD-Leader, Water framework (or other ones specific to the country/region.)?**”

The workshop will include **training sessions** (offered by participants aiming to share methods), **fields visits** and exchange with local stakeholders on this topic. And **working group sessions to share experience and discuss topics of participation and stakeholders dialogue** in local/rural development and environmental issues.

Read our [Action Sheet](http://forum-synergies.eu/article258.html) and other information on Civic Dialogue on: <http://forum-synergies.eu/article258.html>

PROGRAMME

Wednesday 22nd June 2016: Arrival of participants participating in the training session

Afternoon /	
evening	Arrivals of participants to Rozlogi
20h00	Buffet / Dinner

Thursday 23rd June 2016: Training session

8h00	Breakfast
9h00-12h30:	Training session: Presentation of the participants (30 min) - Training exercise “ Trilogue : how to great a local development plan with different stakeholders”- Anneli Kana & Anneli Kubi - Training exercise : Decision making in communities - outreach in Macedonia (Liljana Tanevska - Bashkim Bakiu) ^{1st} part
12h30- 14h00	Lunch



- 14h00-19h00: Training session**
 Proposal to start with a short walk in the forest after lunch before training
 - Training exercise: " Decision making in communities outreach in Macedonia (Liljana Tanevska - Bashkim Bakiu) 2nd part
 - Training exercise: practices on some elements of environmental mediation (Philippe Barret- Karl Bandt)
- 19h30** Dinner
- 21h00-21h30** Presentation of the programme of the following days

Friday 24th June 2016: Discovering the local experiences related to participation and dialogue between stakeholders

- 7h30** Breakfast
- 8h15** **Starting of field trips** (We will split into 2 groups)
- 1st group**
- 8h30-9h00 Transport Rozlogi –Suprasl
- 9h00 – 10h00 Meeting with **Local Action Group Knyszynska Forest management team (Joanna Sokolska – Vice-President);**
- (10h00 – 10h30 Transport/walk to Suprasl /Knyszynska Forest Park)
- 10h30 – 11h40 Meeting with **Park Krajobrazowy Puszczy Knyszynskiej (Director Joanna Kurzawa + representative from Great Forrest Association)**
- 11h45 – 12h30 Transport Suprasl – Kruszyniany
- 12.30-14.00 LUNCH..Exchange on Tatar involvement in local devlopment –**local lider of Tatar minority (Dżamil Gembicki)**
- 14h00 -14h45 Transport Kruszyniany- Surazkowo
- 14h45-16h00 **Horse agrotourism /gite; meeting with Cezary and Rita Moczulscy – local lidere and rural entrepreneurs; Adam Kamiński – LAG Puszcza Knyszynska President;**
- 16h00-17h00 Transport to Rozlogi center
- 2nd group**
- 8h30-9h00 Transport Rozlogi –Suprasl
- 9h00 – 10h00 **Meeting with Local Action Group Knyszynska Forest members and management team (Joanna Sokolska – Vice-President);**
- 10h00 – 10h40 Transport to Dobrzyniówka
- 10h40 – 12h00 Exchange with Local Leader involvment in local / social development – **Danuta Bagińska - Stowarzyszenie Bardzo Aktywna Wieś "Barwa" (Associaton)**
- 12h00 – 12h30 Transport – DOBRZYNIÓWKA -Puchły
- 12h30 – 14h30 LUNCH. Meeting with **Mirosław Stepaniuk former director of Bialowieski National Park and President of Podlasie heritage Association;**



14h30- 15h00	Transport to Hieronimowo
15h00 -16h15	Meeting with local farmer and local association on local development in Hieronimowo Stanisław Stepańczuk and Aneta Putko - representative of Local Authority (Michałowó)
16.15 -17.00	Transport Hieronimowo- Rozlogi center
17h00 -18h00	Working groups: issues / questions / ideas raised during the visits
19h00 – 19h30	Plenary: short feedback on the visits by each group
19h30	Dinner
21h00-22h00	Market of initiatives: Presentation and exchange of participants' initiatives in a "market place"

Saturday 25th June 2016: Exchange, debates and proposals

9h00 - 12h30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Democracy in times of crisis : Polish situation: short presentation and debate (1h) - Workshop on Agro-mediation in Europe: participants will share what are the methods, principles and political framework for this specific stakeholders dialogue in their region or country (2h)
12h30 – 14h00	Lunch
14h30 -18 h30	<p>Deepening on challenges we identified and next steps – adaptation of the Open Space Forum method</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposal of topics (identified by FS or by participants) – 30 min - Selection of 2 or 3 subjects /participants – 10 min - 2 rounds of discussion on the selected topics (2 h) - Plenary session: questions raised on the conclusions (1h)
18h30 – 19h00	General conclusion and evaluation
20h00-21h30	International Buffet

Sunday 26th June 2016: Good-bye

Departure

GATHERING INFORMATION

Participants

You will find the participants list in **Annexe 1**.

Travelling and Transport (people arriving with public transport)

- We will arrange a shuttle bus or taxis from Białystok to the workshop venue in Rozlogi (30 min far) on Wednesday evening (June 22) and Thursday evening (June 23)
- We will also arrange shuttles back to Białystok train station on Sunday 26 June.



· Remember to buy your bus or train ticket on line (if you have little time between flight arrival and train/bus departure to Bialystok) Journey from Chopin airport to Bialystok is around 3h00 by train (<http://rozklad-pkp.pl/en>) and 3h30 by direct bus (www.zakexpress.com.pl or www.plusbus.pl)

Check the taxi – shuttles we organised to know which one you have to take (Annex 2)

Field trips/Study tours

Two field trips will be organised, with visits to 2 or 3 field experiences including discussion with local people. You will ask you to be “active” during the visits, having in mind that we would like to answer to the following questions in group after the visits

*Which strenghts and weaknesses have you identified (related to participation processes) ?
 What questions/doubts emerge from the visits ?
 What would you like to keep from the visits ?
 What suggestions would you like to offer to our hosts?*

You will find a short description in Annex 3

Market of initiatives

During our "market of initiatives" on Friday 24th, we offer you the opportunity to share an experience, project, initiative you have been involved in – related to participation processes and dialogue between stakeholders - with other participants in a "market place" (with tables to put posters, leaflet, laptop etc.). We had 2 concrete proposals (see below) and at least 2 or 3 people that would be ready to share experience (but without giving details yet: we will take some time on Thursday night to explain again and list the proposals: new ones will be welcome.

Ms Monika B. Arzberger: I facilitate and analyze participation processes in rural areas in Germany and Austria since 2009. The focus of my work is forest management und alternative conflict resolution in land use conflicts.

Ms Anneli Kana: In Estonia we have a regional reform (municipality reform) and village Movement Kodukant have an agreement with the ministry to organize reform seminars in each county with local communities. I can share a poster of that initiative.

Do not hesitate to take with you brochures, posters etc. !

International Sustainable Buffet

All participants are invited to contribute a speciality from their region for our international sustainable buffet that will be offered on Saturday 25th.

Don't forget to bring some food and/or drink from your region (better if non-alcoholic due to Rozlogi Center rules)!

Accommodation and venue

Forum Synergies will cover all meals and coffee-breaks. As alcoholic beverage are not included in the meals, you will have to pay for them or any extra drink you may have in Rozlogi.

Bring some Zlotys!



We will stay at Centrum Konferencyjno-Bankietowe "Rozlogi" so working rooms, restaurant and rooms are in the same place.

Bring a swimsuit bath in case as there is a swimming pool in Rozlogi. And also windbreaker and warm sweater as foreseen temperatura are between 12 and 24°C, with rainy and sunny weather.

Address:

CENTRUM KONFERENCYJNO – BANKIETOWE

„ROZŁOGI”

Walif; 16-040 Gródek

tel. +48 - 516 315 010 / + 48 - 516 237 158

e- mail: rozlogi@ckbrozlogi.pl

GPS: E 23° 33` 55. 69” N 53° 06` 22. 46”

www.ckbrozlogi.pl

Contact

If you have questions or need information, please contact:

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Fondation Charles Léopold Mayer
pour le Progrès de l'Homme

Participants Civic Dialogue Workshop - Poland - 22-26 June 2016

Title	First Name	Last Name	Organisation	Position	Country
Ms	Liljana	Tanevska	Forum Synergies	Board member	Macedonia
Mr	Rostyslav	Kos	NGO "Assosiation Karpatske kolo"	Executive director	Ukraine
Mr	Lamir	Thaçi	Food and Veterinary Agency of Kosova	Public relations officer	Kosova
Ms	Elzbieta	Strzelecka	Lodz University of Technology	adiunkt	Poland,
Mr	Karl F.	Brandt	Agrar-Mediation	Founder	Germany
Ms	Anneli	Kana	Estonian Village Movement Kodukant	Board member	Estonia
Ms	Anneli	Kubbi	Kodukant Harjumaa NGO	Board member	Estonia
Mr	Bashkim	Bakiu	Institute for Policy Research and Good Governance	President	Macedonia
Mr	Rafal	Kończyk	Mazowiecki Leader	Vice President	Poland
Ms	Urszula	Biereznoj-Bazille	Biebrzański Park Narodowy	officer_nature conservation	Polska
Ms	Simone	Matouch	Forum Synergies	coordinator	Austria
Mr	Philippe	Barret	Association Geysier	co-founder, mediator	France
Ms	Marina	Guédon	Forum Synergies	coordinator	Spain
Ms	Marta	Dobrogowska	LAG "Puszcza Knyszyńska"	Vice Director / Board member	Poland
Ms	Sarah	Rutter	ASADAC-MDP	Chargée de mission	France
Ms	Joanna	Sokolska	LAG "Puszcza Knyszyńska"	Vice-president	Poland
Mr	Adam	Kamiński	LAG "Puszcza Knyszyńska"	President	Poland