

**PANEL IV:** How to use toolboxes and stakeholder participation in policy support?

Dimitre Nikolov and Teodor Radev

IAE, Sofia

**COUNTRY:** Bulgaria

**HOTSPOT:** BG-1 [Mountain agriculture]

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# HOTSPOT: BG-1 [Mountain agriculture]

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- CSR – South Central Planning Region (SCPR)
- Size – 22 365 square kilometres or 20.1% of the country
- Inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup> - 66
- Share of agricultural area – 46.3 %
- Mountain farming in combination with unspoiled nature and the lack of polluting enterprises guarantee the high quality and purity of the produced agricultural products.
- Main productions are potatoes, tobacco and beans and animals for milk and meat.

# LESSONS LEARNED FROM PARTICIPATORY PROCESS OF MECHANISMS DESIGN

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Major local-level shortcomings:

- Missing information/awareness about public goods from agriculture and forestry;
- Lack of governance system thinking, leading to inadequate integration of stakeholders in the design process and to shortcomings in the coordination of measures;
- High complexity of mechanisms and measures, preventing the understanding of measures and objectives by the addressees and therefore causing low acceptance;
- The local stakeholders were from: Credit Cooperatives, University and Research Institutes, Farmers organizations and Local Government Bodies.

# Advantages and challenges of the participative approach of mechanisms design

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The main advantage of discussing notions of public goods with stakeholders were:

- The stakeholders had different information level on the notion public goods.
- At the end we had a better and relatively equal level of understanding of the notion public goods;
- High involvement of each stakeholder in the discussion;
- Collecting local knowledge of the research area;
- Collecting useful information about the local features of public good and beds.

# Advantages and challenges of the participative approach of mechanisms design

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The main strengths of the participatory approach were:

- Better communication;
- Building trust between our research team and the stakeholders as well as between the stakeholders themselves;
- Interaction between participants;
- Active use of local knowledge;
- Increasing of the stakeholder's information level
- Increasing stakeholder's involvement

# Advantages and challenges of the participative approach of mechanisms design

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The main challenges of the participatory approach were:

- Preliminary identification the different stakeholder information level and needs regarding the PGs will give the possibility to involve more active the stakeholders.
- On that equal information base and “good examples”, the stakeholders will be better prepared to the issues and problems.
- Stakeholder meetings organized together with local government bodies from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry will increase the number and ability of the participants.

## BG-1 [Mountain agriculture]

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THANK FOR YOUR ATTENTION!