



## Partnership in rural development in Central Transylvania Region – Romania

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## The general context, and problems in developing partnerships

- Still existing a valuable landscape with high biodiversity sustained by a large number of small exploitation
- Dramatic changes in the structure of the population, the young people are leaving the rural area, looking for jobs in towns or abroad, strong individualism, revulsion for the work in partnership
- Generally it's a lack of vision for the sustainable development of the rural space, in many cases contradictory influences from exterior, generally promoting big investments
- Danger for degradation of the valuable landscape



## The possible partners and their approach

- Local authorities: interested mainly on short term results, especially in infrastructure investments
- Local associations: in rural area the associative capacity is very weak, doesn't exist a strong civil society
- Regional authorities: interested to increase the absorption of the EU Funds, generally not interested in consultations with local stakeholders
- Regional NGOs: generally good contacts with local partners, promoting partnership principles

**The challenge:** Partnership is needed to save the rural area, which is an ultimate depository of knowledge of the traditional agriculture and rural lifestyle and a last refuge for biodiversity. It's needed also for the absorption of the EU funds, especially from the LEADER program.



## Partnerships in Niraj valley microregion with involvement of Focus Eco Center

- *Studies, strategies, documents,*
- *Trainings*
- *Pilot projects*
- *Cooperation in elaboration of LEADER strategy*

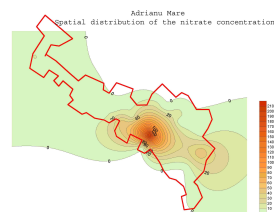


## Studies on natural capital, evaluation of potential tourism destinations



Partnership with local authorities, NGOs

## Studies concerning the nitrate pollution of the water in the wells in villages



Evaluation of more than 1000 individual wells  
Partnership with local authorities, Universities,  
research institutions



### Studies on water management and possible restoration projects

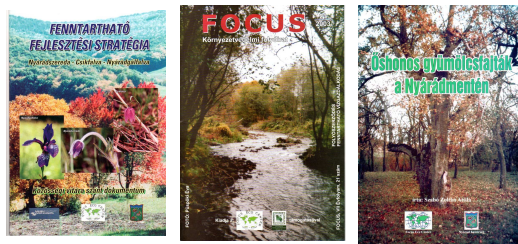


The Niraj River in the XVIII and in the XX century

Proposals for sustainable water management and agriculture  
Partnership with local authorities, county authorities, local NGOs



### Strategies, documents



- Sustainable development strategy for a pilot zone
- Water management strategy (river contract)
- Proposals for larger use of the traditional fruit species



### Training material, used on several trainings



Sustainable rural development methodology, developed with local, national and international partners

Trainings in 4 microregions



### River and wetland restoration pilot projects



Restoration works on Dorman creek, partnership with local community, NGOs, Universities



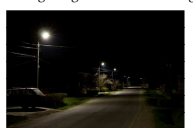
Wetland restoration, partnership with local community, NGOs, local business, Universities



### Energy saving pilot project



Public lighting with old technology



Public lighting with LED technology



Partnership with the local authority from Galesti, local NGOs

LED technology, solar panels



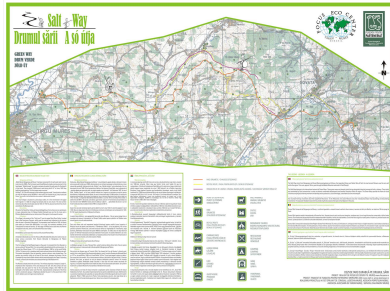
### Direct distribution system pilot project



Realization of a web page, 20 farmers, approx. 200 consumers involved



**Pilot project on sustainable tourism**  
**Green ways : Salt way**



Partnership with local business, NGOs, County Council



**Question:**

*What was the influence of the preparatory work for the sustainable use of the EU Funds in the Niraj microregion?*

**Positive result:** Focus Eco Center is elected in the board of the LAG, so can have a certain influence in future

**But:** In spite of many positive results, the partnership has to be continued in order to ensure the stability of the results and the sustainable use of the EU Funds



**Thank you**

