

Executive Master

“Territorial Planning and Economic Development of Rural Areas”

Booklet of Didactic Material

Module 5

EU territory and cohesion policy

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General introduction

Cohesion Policy objective is to reduce the significant economic, social and territorial disparities between the regions. In view of this discussing on cohesion policy and analysing the effects in Albanian rural areas it is considered an emergency. Agriculture is considered an important sector for Albanian Economy since nearly 40% of the population count on as the main source of income.

The adoption of the draft Law on regional development and cohesion policy in Albania and new requirements for the national development and cohesion strategy and plan for 2021-2027 (EU 2020) are searching prepared specialists to adopt all the EU measures.

Filling these gaps and analysing all the problems related with Cohesion Policies, territory and disparities among Albanian regions and EU as well will be a useful tool for Master Executive students.

This booklet is a product of series of brainstorming, exchange of experience and consultative meetings with various experts, Researchers and Academicians from University of Paul-Valéry, CIHEAM-IAM, University of Hohenheim, Agricultural University of Tirana, European University, etc.

The final version of the booklet is prepared by Prof. Asoc Dr. Etleva Muça (Dashi), lecturer at Agricultural University of Tirana, Faculty of Economy and Agribusiness, Department of Economy and Rural Development Policies and in close collaboration with Prof. Dr. Pascal Chevalier, Deputy director of Paul Valéry University, evaluation expert and lecturer of the module “EU territory and cohesion policy”.

This module is part of the Executive Master, spearheaded by Agriculture University of Tirana in collaboration with CIHEAM-IAM and University of Paul Valerie Montpellier France.

The content of this booklet can be used only by the partner institutions involved in the project, and in the meantime, it may serve as a reference for the teachers involved and the students that will be enrolled in the Master Program.

The objectives of this booklet are related with EU and Countries in development territory and social cohesion policies. So, through this module we will give the impact of the actual policies, we will analyse the new Regulations for the Cohesion Policy and as well we will evaluate the policy outputs and outcomes.

I . CONTENT OF THE MODULE

I Part I: Evolution of the cohesion Policy

CHAPTER ONE: CONCEPTUAL APPROACH TO SOCIAL COHESION – DEFINITIONS

Introduction

After the EU Policy introduction, it is important to understand the conceptual approaches on social cohesion. We will give different approaches from scholars and community.

It is important to understand that in modern societies, social relations, knowledge and standards are not based only on their lifestyles and knowledge but acquire respect through complex legitimisation processes. On the other hand, these societies suffer from conflicts, stability and security, which means that they are asking more and more to establish a balanced communication among the stakeholders.

Historic evolution Social Cohesion

The main aim of Cohesion policy is to reduce regional economic and social disparities across EU states and regions (Brunazzo M 2016). We will analyse the concepts from the Rome Treaty to nowadays.

Conceptual approaches on Social Cohesion

Analyse of different approaches and concepts on social cohesion. These theories has changed from the period, policies, politics played by different countries, cultural aspects and methods used in their application.

Evolution of the social cohesion concepts

Today exist different approaches to social cohesion. Their evolution is conditioned from period, role of the stakeholders or the impact in the rural areas.

Social cohesion is a key European policy which is related with an academic concept and refers to diverse aspects of the dynamics of social relations, such as social exclusion, participation and belonging (Novy et al 2012). Dictionary definitions place “cohesion” as the action or fact of holding firmly together or forming a unit. It refers to a state in which components „stick” together to form a meaningful whole (Chan et al., 2006, p. 289).

Social cohesion is primary a political concept, and one that is fundamental for putting into perspective the “strategy” that underpins any modern society that considers itself legitimate and sustainable.

According to the EU booklet (2005) definitions on social cohesion are as follows:

- The etymological sense of cohesion.
- The origins of the concept of social cohesion: the views of Emile Durkheim
- Definitions based on community bonds.
- Definitions based on shared values and a sense of belonging.

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R. Leonardi and C. Holguin, "The 'real' principles of Cohesion Policy" in S. Plattoni and L. Polverari (eds.) Handbook on Cohesion Policy in the EU, Cheltham: Edward Elgar, 2016, pp.429-442.

Council of Europe (2005). Concerted development of social cohesion indicators Methodological guide. Edited by Council of Europe Publishing F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex <http://book.coe.int>. ISBN 92-871-5742-1

Novy, A. & Swiatek, D. & Moulaert, F. (2012). Social Cohesion: A Conceptual and Political Elucidation. Urban Studies. 49. 10.1177/0042098012444878.

Chan, J., To, H.-P. & Chan, E. (2006) Reconsidering Social Cohesion: Developing a Definition and Analytical Framework for Empirical Research, Social Indicators Research, 75 (2), pp. 273-302

CHAPTER TWO : COHESION POLICIES IN THE EU THEORY, BASIS AND BACKGROUND.

1. EU policy evolution

The first part of the chapter will analyse why it was important the constitution of the European Union.

The first reason why European Union was important was the peace due to the tragic conflicts which shattered the continent during the first half of the twentieth century.

Main mile stones

Why it was important the EU creation?

Devolution in Europe: state reform and building institutions at sub-national level.

CAP

The foundation and the evolution of the CAP, main mile stones.

Analysing the main principles of the CAP:

- a unified market - free-intra community trade
- Community preference
- financial solidarity

Benefits from the CAP

We will analyse the main benefits of the CAP as follows:

The creation of a highly protected area greatly benefited Community exports at the expense of exports from outside the Community.

- Self-sufficiency of food supplies in the Community - agricultural output increased greatly
- Food security was assured
- Agricultural markets were stabilised
- Standard of living increase for farmers

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Novy, A.& Swiatek, D. & Moulaert, F. (2012). Social Cohesion: A Conceptual and Political Elucidation. Urban Studies. 49. 10.1177/0042098012444878.

Chan, J., To, H.-P. & Chan, E. (2006) Reconsidering Social Cohesion: Developing a Definition and Analytical Framework for Empirical Research, Social Indicators Research, 75 (2).

CHAPTER THREE: UNDERSTANDING TOOLS OF THE SOCIAL COHESION

The first step of the module is to provide theoretical basis, rules and aspects of regional policy and rural development in EU countries. Evolution of EU regional policies.

1. Strategic approaches to Social Cohesion

The Strategy for Social Cohesion adopted by the Council of Europe and is presented as an approach integrating the many different components of social cohesion. The benefits of this strategy when it

comes to understanding the present and future aspects of social cohesion in Europe will also be set out (CE 2005).

1. Evolution of the cohesion Policy in EU

Cohesion policies are the product of the Single Market and Single Currency programmes which have had a strong impact on the institutional structure of EU member states.

2. Understanding Social Cohesion as an objective

The main objective of the Social Cohesion is related with quality of life and the indicators of measuring it.

3. Understanding Social Cohesion as a Process

Social cohesion is the result of complex processes at various levels, such as those that forge collective awareness, particular interests, human communities, etc., and in which opposition, conflict, consultation, learning and building on one's achievements have a vital role to play (CE 2005)..

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CHAPTER FOUR : MEASURING OF THE COHESION POLICIES IN THE EU. DIFFERENCES BETWEEN COHESION AND REGIONAL POLICY.

Measuring social cohesion according to the OECD means examining three dimensions of social cohesion:

1. Social inclusion: measured by absolute and relative poverty levels, income inequality between groups and regions within the country, growth incidence curves;
2. Social mobility: inter-generational mobility as measured by income or educational levels, and intragenerational mobility as measured by the ability to move upward in society
3. Social capital: extent of civic participation, trust, tax morale, social network support

We will analyse as well the contemporary problems of EU regional policy and cohesion policy, differences and priorities.

EU cohesion policy is just another regional development policy. Differences between cohesion and regional policy. The Europeanisation of policies in agriculture, competition, transport, environment and social policies.

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http://www.oecd.org/dev/inclusivesocietiesanddevelopment/OECD_Social_Cohesion_Policy_Note.pdf

EU cohesion Policy <https://youtu.be/rgIFPUWWzkg>

CHAPTER FIVE: INSTITUTIONS PROCEDURES AND ECONOMIC THEORY OF THE COHESION POLICY.

Cohesion policy engages a multiplicity of actors over successive programming periods in both renegotiating the Structural Funds regulations and interpreting them within the new design of the operational programmes financed by the three main funds. The first step is to identify the actors and institutions which act in Cohesion policy at the EU countries.

1. European Commission
2. Member States
3. European Parliament
4. Committee of the Regions
5. European Court of Auditors
6. European Investment Bank
7. Formalised Interest Groups
8. The Funds

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Part II: European Cohesion Rural Policy

CHAPTER SIX: LOCAL DEVELOPMENT AND TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT

The role of the rural development it is important in the CAP since it is linked with agriculture European policies. The European concept of territorial cohesion is a relatively recent development, yet it is complex, elusive, and ambiguous (Medeiros E. 2016). The students will be aware for the importance of the territorial cohesion. In the EU countries and in Albania as well it is adopted the NUTS classification which is a geographical nomenclature subdividing the economic territory of the European Union (EU) into regions at three different levels (NUTS 1, 2 and 3 respectively, moving from larger to smaller territorial units) (EUROSTAT 2019).

1 . The Nomenclature of territorial units for statistics (NUTS)

1.1) Historic of NUTS

2-2) Definition

3-3) Operational interest

2 Application examples: OECD and rural regions in Europe

3 Application of the NUTS system in Albania

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CHAPTER SEVEN: *PREPARING THE GROUND FOR THE LEADER APPROACH*

1 The Role of LEADER approach in rural development

Leader initiative (Liaison entre actions de développement de l'économie rurale) is the EU's 'bottom-up' method for implementing rural development policy, which was launched in 1991. LEADER is an area-based development approach. This LEADER approach is built on the idea that each rural region has its own characteristics and potential. Leader has been working to provide rural communities in the EU with a method for involving local partners in steering the future development of their area (EU guide). If a region wants to participate in the LEADER program, they first must be recognized as a so-called LEADER region. This LEADER approach is built on the idea that each rural region has its own characteristics and potential. These potentials are to be discovered and developed as an opportunity for an independent profile and a stronger identification of the population with the region.

2 LEADER evolution

These potentials are to be discovered and developed as an opportunity for an independent profile and a stronger identification of the population with the region. A prerequisite for taking up such opportunities is broad participation of private and public regional stakeholders. Therefore, regional initiative needs to be mobilized. These players develop, together with the guidance of experienced facilitators, a strategy as how the regional development potentials can be identified and used. We need to analyse what is capacity building for LEADER? Who are the local LEADER animators?

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CHAPTER EIGHT: LOCAL PUBLIC POLICIES FOR SOCIAL AND TERRITORIAL COHESION

Policy making in the EU Topics: 4 phases of policy-making: preparation, decision, execution, controlling Decision procedures, Legal Instruments, The EU Budget

Bibliography

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Part III: Local development stakeholders (identification and analyze)

CHAPTER NINE : LOCAL ACTORS AND THEIR IMPACT IN TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT. ESTABLISHING LOCAL ACTION GROUPS (LAGs)

1. LAG evolution and importance

Niemi and Ahlstedt (2007) consider as the objective of the LEADER approach methodology of the linking and the mobilization of the people and LAG's for cooperation in the rural development area with a focus on communication on development opportunities, development of cooperation between the private and public administration as well as improving of cooperation at all levels. Local development method allows local actors to develop an area by using its endogenous development potential through involving partners at local level including the civil society and local economic stakeholders in designing and implementing local integrated strategies (GIZ 2016). So we will analyse what is a LAG and who forms it? Its establishment. IPARD support in the creation of LAGs

2. LAG duties

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CHAPTER TEN: THE IMPACT OF SOCIAL CAPITAL IN THE COHESION POLICIES THROUGH SIDE-PAYMENTS AND MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE.

"Many rural regions and communities experience genuine difficulties in generating economic development, largely due to insufficient capacity to solve economic problems, an inadequate institutional milieu and lack of political responsibilities. It is important to understand that the community-led rural development theory focuses on the strengthening of the self-help capacity of local actors, which is considered to be a major precondition for establishing and sustaining local economic development. Partnerships and adjustments of the institutional structures are seen as the main tools in the process of capacity building" (Terluin 2011). As a result, we can say that LEADER is

an important instrument in reducing the economic and social imbalance between the rural areas. Social capital needs to be considered as a crucial instrument in cohesion policies.

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CHAPTER ELEVEN: PERSPECTIVES OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN EUROPEAN RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Today, we can hardly imagine a democracy without the involvement of civil society (PREPARE 2011). It is important to understand their role main actors in cohesion policies.

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Part IV: Implementation of the EU policies

CHAPTER TWELVE: MANAGEMENT OF EU FUNDS – MAIN RULES.

1. **Managing authorities and programs in EU member countries. The measures required for new members**
2. **Decentralization of state structures as an important instrument in the EU funds management.**

On the other hand, enlargement towards Eastern Europe places into question the sustainability of cohesion policies in the EU. New member states are not in a position to engage in effective multi-level governance of cohesion policies. Institutional learning needs to carry out, formulate and manage long time cohesion policies as well with new member states. The Cohesion funds 2021-2027.

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R. Leonardi, Cohesion Policy in the European Union.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN: PREPARING AND IMPLEMENTING LOCAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

How to Prepare a Local Development Strategy (LDS), ground rules. Implementing Local Development Strategies What support can LAGs receive to implement their Local Development Strategies under IPARD? Evaluation of the indicators required in LDS preparation.

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Part V: Case studies on the rural cohesion policies

CHAPTER FOURTEEN: LEADER APPROACH IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

Good practices of North Macedonia and Romania. The actual situation on other Balkan countries.

Bibliography

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CHAPTER FIFTEEN: LEADER APPROACH AND LAG IN ALBANIA

Analysing actual situation of LEADER approach in Albania. Where we are and what we will do for the future. Case studies of the Albanian Local Actions Groups

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