

LEADER IMPLEMENTATION IN BELARUS

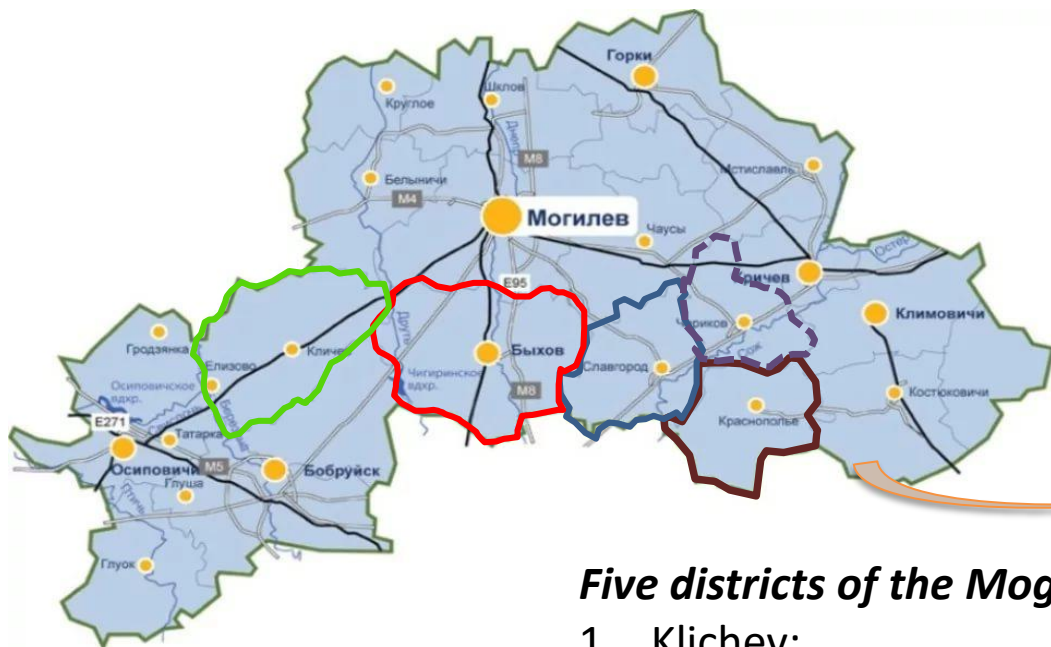
(TOOLS AND APPROACHES)

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Geography of Partnership



Five districts of the Mogilev region (since 2015):

1. Klichev;
2. Bykhov;
3. Slavgorod;
4. Cherikov;
5. Krasnopolye.

Two districts will join (since 2017)

District capacities

1. Population: around 80,000 people (14,000 on average; 9,000 minimum);
2. Economy basis: agriculture, only one district numbers 5 enterprises employing up to 50 persons each. The presidential decree on improvement of conditions for economic activity applies to a part of this territory.
3. Comprehensive environmental assets, including nature reserves (3 republican wildlife reserves, including one conserved under the Ramsar Convention);
4. The tourism sector does not contribute to the economic development, although there are over 40 sites of historical, cultural and religious significance. The city of Bykhov spreads along the Dnieper River.
5. Quite developed social infrastructure maintained by the government (healthcare, education, support for socially vulnerable people, etc.).
6. Four out of the five districts were contaminated as a result of the Chernobyl accident. Over a half of settlements in two districts were relocated.

Today's situation

The Krasnopolye district totals less than 10,000 residents.

Nearly 30% of employable population migrated from the Bykhov district in 2010-2015.

The government provides preferential treatment for a number of districts of the region in terms of economics that, however, does not result in essential change.

How to improve the situation in the districts?

Leader approach for regional cooperation

1. Joining resources for the development of each district and entire region;
2. Achieving consolidated understanding of the general trend and approaches to development management to invest resources;
3. Executing the common strategy (action plan) step-by-step and monitoring the outcome of joint efforts.

Early stage lessons

Lesson 1. Each district only sees its own priorities

Lesson 2. Popular belief that the local resources do not suffice and hope for external inputs

Lesson 3. Lack of human resources competent enough to foster dynamic local development

Lesson 4. Poor motivation to assume responsibility for local development management in the difficult situation and results achieved

Lesson 1. Each district only sees its own priorities

Actions:

1. Make sure that each district clearly understands its key priorities and capacity;
2. Form inter-district focus groups to work out common approaches;
3. Coordinate a general plan of regional actions for the development of each district and entire region.

We appreciate the advisory support provided by our partners, NSW and Bavaria, Germany.

Lesson 2. Popular belief that the local resources do not suffice and hope for external inputs

Actions:

1. Targeted approach to the assessment of local resources and effectiveness of their utilization:
 - technologies;
 - environmental assets;
 - cultural and historical heritage;
 - human resources;
 - ..
2. Reconsideration of approaches to the use of already available resources (primarily financial and budgetary).
3. Involvement of local and external businesses in joint development projects, creation of a favorable business climate;
4. Creation of reinvestment tools (alternative energy, business incubators, finances).

We appreciate the assistance of our German partners, EU foundations and GEF SGP.

Lesson 3. Lack of human resources competent enough to foster dynamic local development

Actions:

1. Mobilization of human resources (very limited as of now, as no one provides knowledge in the field of regional development). This may include delegation of regular staff members, establishment of departments for development / Latvia's experience, our joint project/).
2. Establishment of local informal education institutions and resource centers to mobilize local communities and businesses /Lithuanian partners/;
3. Support for local action groups in shaping and promotion of their projects /GEF SGP, NRW Germany/;
4. Engagement of the 'golden' potential (persons of pre-retirement and retirement age) /local non-profit organizations/;
5. Support for young people, employment and self-actualization /consortium led by Georgia-based Civil Development Agency (CiDA) in partnership with IDP Women Association "Consent" in Georgia, Development Principles NGO in Armenia and IFRD, Belarus, PREPARE program. Special thanks to *Anahit Ghazanchyan, President at Development Principles NGO, Armenia/*.

Lesson 4. Poor motivation to assume responsibility for local development management in the difficult situation and results achieved

Actions:

1. Assistance to the local authorities in building their good governance capacity;
2. Building of the capacity of initiative groups capable of assuming responsibility for development, and enable their leaders to take part in the local and regional development as equals;
3. Mobilization of local and attraction of external resources for the execution of development plans (strategies) adopted by the local communities, business and government institutions;
4. Promotion of public tools of management at the regional and national level;
5. Participation in international networks (Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy, Mayors for Economic Growth, PREPARE program, etc.).

IMPLEMENTATION of LEADER approaches in Belarus

STEP 1. Formation of a Regional Council to support local sustainable development initiatives

Council of representatives of five districts:

1. Local governments (district level);
2. Local non-profit organizations;
3. Local businesses.

Have joined:

1. National non-profit organizations;
2. Representatives of regional institutions (Economy Committee, Natural Resources and Environment Protection Committee);
3. Representatives of foreign sustainable development organizations.

STEP 2. Fairs of environmental, social and business ideas in 2015-2016

Objective: Assessment of the local capacity and need for development

Results:

- Over 200 project proposals;
- 52 proposals selected now being part of project proposals for the EU, UNDP and GEF grant programs;
- Over 40 motivated community leaders;
- Environmental, social and economic solutions considered.
- A number of initiatives are being financed locally.

STEP 3. Fairs of initiatives for micro-region development in April and July 2017

Objective: Integration of initiatives at the level of the local community / small territory

Results:

- Over 40 proposals from micro-regions (local development concepts only – village, village council);
- 17 micro-region concepts passed through public hearing; 13 of them launched to improve the situation; 6 have unique features (specially protected natural areas, child centers, etc.);
- Over 35 ideas in the concepts, which may be used as a basis for fundraising projects;
- Local networking and local community's commitment to improve the situation on its own.

STEP 4. Fair of regional initiatives in October 2017

Objective: Integration of local initiatives at the regional level

1. Pending public discussion:

- Significant events and development of tourism;
- Mitigation of climate change and community adaptation (Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy);
- Zero waste cities;
- Better business climate for employment and self-employment for young people and rural communities;
- Education for sustainable development for all generations;
- Comprehensive waste treatment territory in cities;

2. Resumption of the regional networking for independent management of development processes

STEP 5. On the way to the establishment of the Regional Development Foundation

1. What are the basic functions?
2. How to accumulate resources?
3. What are the distribution conditions?
4. How it will be managed? Will it be just another bureaucratic organization?

Funds raised

District	Started	In 2017		Number of submitted applications, concepts and expanded proposals	
		EUR	Number of organizations	Number	EUR total*
Slavgorod	2004	327,000	7	6	Over 1 million
Krasnopolye	2014	148,800	5	2	Around 450,000
Klichev	2015	87,000	1	2	Around 580,000
Bykhov	2015	-	-	3	Around 800,000
Cherikov	2016	-	-	1	Up to 140,000
Projects to foster regional initiatives (IFRD)	2017	75,000			
TOTAL		637,800		Not calculated	
Own funds contributed		75,000			

* Preliminary amounts

Examples of projects



Krasnopolye:



"Старт-Восток"

Regional Program 'Green Economy of the Garden for Village Development'

'Green Economy of the Garden for Village Development' ('Village Against Poverty and Land Degradation')

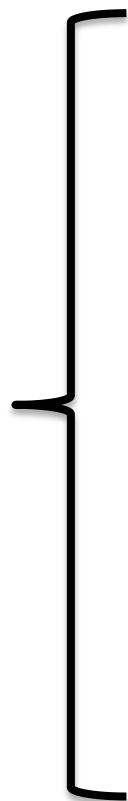
Resources

Reinvestment



Green reinvestment

*Preliminary, from
Generated revenues*



School's pressing needs

15 %

Support for the business
capacity of the center

51 %

New directions

20 %

Social responsibility (20
supported families a
year)

15 %

Green reinvestment

Similar green economy centers to be established in:

- Cherikov district (Lobanovka)
- Klimovichi district (Miloslavichi)



Slavgorod:



Полноправные люди.
Устойчивые страны.



Eco-Park Amulet Prisozhya

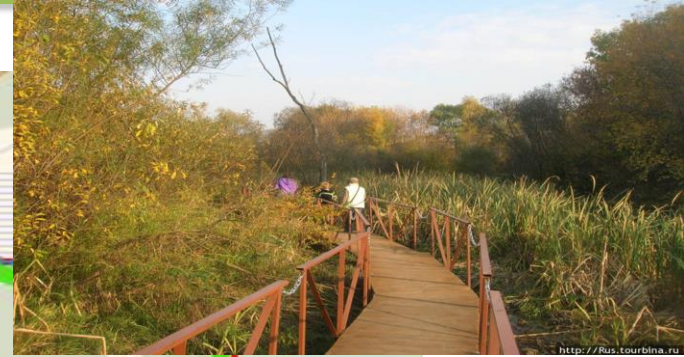
Turning the local problem into a starting point of development



Turning the local problem into a starting point of development



- Up to 100,000 visitors a year;
- Local budgets overburdened with territorial services



Potential self-employment growth: nearly 50 people



Experience 1. Energy and resource saving

Establishment of an Energy and Resource Saving Center at School No.1 of Slavgorod



Experience 1. Energy and resource saving



Adult education programs under implementation

1. ‘Save Electricity – Save the Budget!’
2. ‘Save Heat!’
3. ‘Save Water!’



Thank you for watching

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