HUNGARIAN AKIS MAP, LAND USE AND CLIMATE CHANGE MAP & RURAL PROSPERITY MAP

Hungary's aggregated MAP includes the AKIS MAP, the Land Use and Climate Change MAP, and te Rural Prosperity MAP and consists of local organisations, agricultural chamber, research institutes, universities, and government representatives. Sharing competences and cooperation mechanisms among territorial levels is missing in Hungarian development policy. The local government system is fragmented with limited autonomy, and not part of policy making other than on local issues. Public participation and cooperation in policymaking is low, though there are active networks with good local, regional, and national examples. At the regional/local level, digital solutions enable new connections for rural development.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Future rural policy

- Encourage the adoption of MLG approaches, practices, and citizen participation

- Encourage flexible inter-municipal associations for joint development and provide support for community cooperation

- Embrace LEADER/CLLD approach for integrated urban-rural development

- Strengthen local communities & economies with LEADER, better focusing on youth, women and disadvantaged groups

- Allow linking of Rural Pact and Action Plan resources and shape long-term programme objectives

Future rural research

- Targeted rural studies and exploit results

- Provide evidence of the outcomes of community-led operations

- Identify personal factors in governance and their impact on regional development policy, and mitigate their potential negative impacts

- Explore how mechanisms for reconciling regional interests can be institutionalised

- Examine the competences of each territorial level

- Optimise equal opporunities and environmental sustainability objectives at territorial scale

KEY STRENGTHS

- Presence of organised communities for specific activities

- Existing networks like Hungarian National Rural Network and LEADER groups provide a platform for communication and cooperation

- County-level spatial development planning indicates a decentralised approach to development

- The Digital Success Programme network provides free help in digital skills development, indicating a commitment to modernisation and digital literacy

- Existing local government organizations for the joint representation of interest and knowledge sharing

KEY NEEDS

- LA national - regional - local administrative system that better follows Community guidelines for multi-level governance in development policy

- Promote formal and informal collaboration, formalising successful informal networks when possible

- Ensure consistency between bottom-up and top-down initiatives

- Support civil initiatives and acknowledge the uniqueness of regions

- Establish clear definitions for common interests, objectives, tasks, roles, and funding

- Encourage motivation, good leadership, communication and conflict management mechanisms

- Disseminate good practices, monitor development plans, and communicate results through digital tools

EXAMPLE OF GOOD PRACTICE

Digital Village Programme

The Hungarian Digital Village Programme was launched in 2021 to increase the attractiveness and liveability of small settlements using digital and smart solutions, and aligns with the CAP strategy. The Settlement Survey is part of the programme and includes participatory research to propose solutions for efficient organisation of services (e.g. sustainable transport, waste management) based on local community needs