How to access social capital In LEADER (at the LAG level)

Elena Pisani (Prof. Ph.D)

Dep. Territorio e Sistemi Agro-forestarli dell'Università degli Studi di Padova (Italy)

How to assess the LEADER added Value

23 – 24 November 2023

Novotel Luxembourg Kirchberg, 6 rue Fort Niedergrünewaled,

Quartier Européen Nord Plateau de Kirchberg, L-2266,

Luxembourg, Luxembourg

European Evaluation Helpdesk for the CAP

Funded by the European Union

Assessment of LEADER value added: social capital at the LAG level
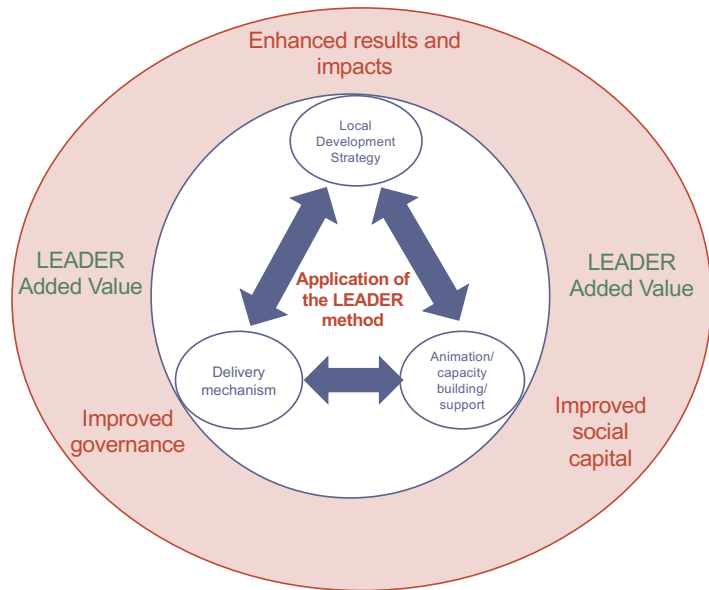
1. Network Diversity Index

2. Methods for measuring social capital with baseline, in itinere and final evaluation (Palgrave Book on Social capital and Local Development)

3. Network analysis for information sharing among members

Provide a working definition of social capital for evaluation purposes of LEADER

Working definition: **Improved social capital in LEADER** includes networks, mutual trust, shared mental models and beliefs that facilitate the quality of collaboration and cooperation within and among LEADER areas.

Source: **Assessing the added value of LEADER. Thematic Report.** Version 18/10/2023. DRAFT for discussion at the TWG meeting on 23/10/2023

A possible indicator for structural social capital: Network Diversity Index of the LAG membership

Component	Improved social capital
Key element to assess	1. Networks
Evaluation question	To what extent does LEADER contribute to quality interactions and networking among relevant actors?
Factor of success / brief description	FOS.S:1.01: The size of the network and quality of interactions within the LAG is improving or remains at a high level.
Outputs (indicators) / Data sources	O.01: Number of LAG members broken down by type of organisation: a) public administrations; b) private local economic interests; c) social local interests; d) other. *(Data source: Data for Monitoring and Evaluation (DME). Variables L600 to L604. (Annex VII to the Regulation (EU) No 2022/1475.)*
Results (indicators) / Data sources	R.01: ==**Network diversity index of the LAG membership**== (as a proxy of structural social capital of the LAG). *(Data source: focus groups and administrative records of the LAG)*
Impacts (indicators) / Data sources	I.01: Stakeholders that consider a quality cooperation culture has developed between LAG members (e.g., frequent exchange of information, frequent meetings, good relationships developed). *(Data source: Interviews, surveys)*

Network Diversity Index

The index varies in the range of 0 to 1 assuming the value 0 (no diversity) when there is only one category in the group and the value 1 (maximum diversity) when all the categories are represented in the same measure in the group. The index is calculated as:

$$NTd = 1 - \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N-1}(p_i - q_i)}{\sum_{i=1}^{N-1} p_i}$$

(1)where *NTd* stands for *network diversity* and the second member is a form of Gini's concentration index. *N* represents the maximum number of categories potentially present in a LAG, $p_i = i/N$ the proportion of all the first *i* categories, and q_i the number of members belonging to the first *i* categories. The index studies the distribution of the variable "kind of category" and measures the distance between each case and the maximum concentration level (each board member belongs to the same category).

Source: Nardone, G., Sisto, R., & Lopolito, A. (2010). Social Capital in the LEADER Initiative: a methodological approach. *Journal of Rural Studies, 26*(1), 63-72.
https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0743016709000540
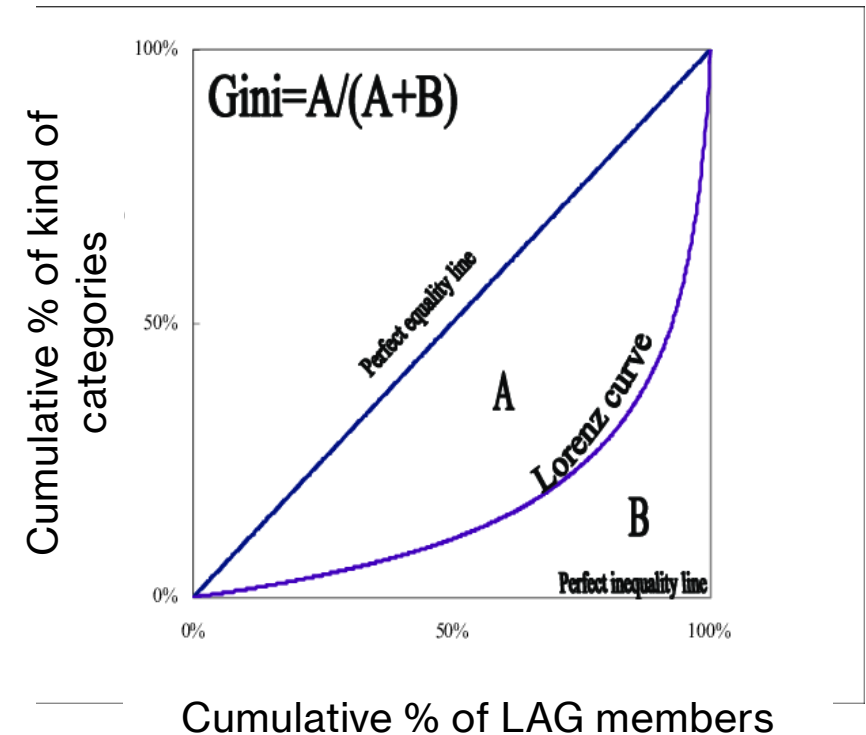
An example of computation of NTd

LAG	Farm enterprisee	Small medium enterprise	Large enterprise	Public enterprise	Professional organisations	Trade unions	Associations	Park-reserve authority	Environmental NGO	Social NGO	Local authority	Other	Total
LAG X		1	3		7		1	1		1	27	1	42
Equal distribution										Sum			
Categories	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8					
Cumulative distribution of categories	1	3	6	10	15	21	28	36		n-1			
relativation	0,03	0,08	0,17	0,28	0,42	0,58	0,78	1,00		2,33			
Specific case	1	1	1	1	1	3	7	27		42,00			
Cumulative distribution of members	1	2	3	4	5	8	15	42		38,00		n-1	NTd
Relativation	0,02	0,05	0,07	0,10	0,12	0,19	0,36	1,00		0,90	pi-qi	1,43	0,39
Difference of equal distribution and member distribution	0,00	0,04	0,10	0,18	0,30	0,39	0,42	0,00		1,43	pi	2,33	

Network Diversity Index: examples of application in different case studies in Europe

Evaluation support study of the costs and benefits of the implementation of LEADER

Final Report

ECORYS Agrosynergie metis
supporting good governance

ID	Case studies	NTd of the Board of Directors of the LAGs	NTd of the General Assembly of the LAGs	Indices of structural social capital of the LAGs
1	LAG.01	0.59	0.42	0.51
2	LAG.02		0.79	0.79
3	LAG-03	0.84	0.75	0.80
4	LAG.04	0.90	0.63	0.77
5	LAG.05	0.51	0.51	0.51
6	LAG.06	0.87	0.28	0.58
7	LAG.07	1.00	0.27	0.64
8	LAG.08	1.00	0.51	0.76
9	LAG.09	0.79	0.79	0.79
10	LAG.10	0.93	0.26	0.60
11	LAG.11	1.00	0.50	0.75
12	LAG.12	0.76	0.55	0.66
13	LAG.13	0.80	0.27	0.54
	Average	**0.83**	**0.50**	**0.67**
	Median	**0.86**	**0.51**	**0.66**
	Min	**0.51**	**0.26**	**0.51**
	Max	**1.00**	**0.79**	**0.80**
	SD	**+/- 0.16**	**+/- 0.20**	**+/- 0.11**

Assessment of LEADER value added: social capital at the LAG level

1. Network Diversity Index

2. Methods for measuring social capital with baseline, in itinere and final evaluation (Palgrave Book on Social capital and Local Development)

3. Network analysis for information sharing among members

Method implemented
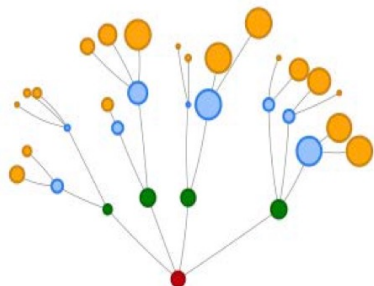
Related aspects of governance
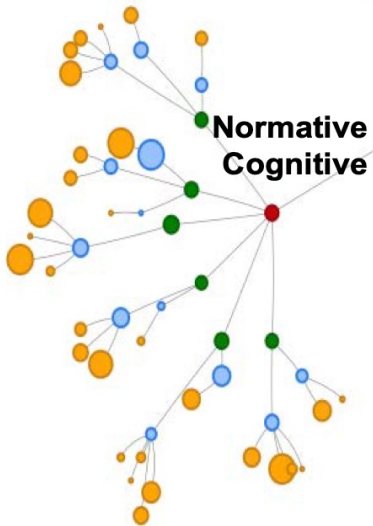
Normative Cognitive
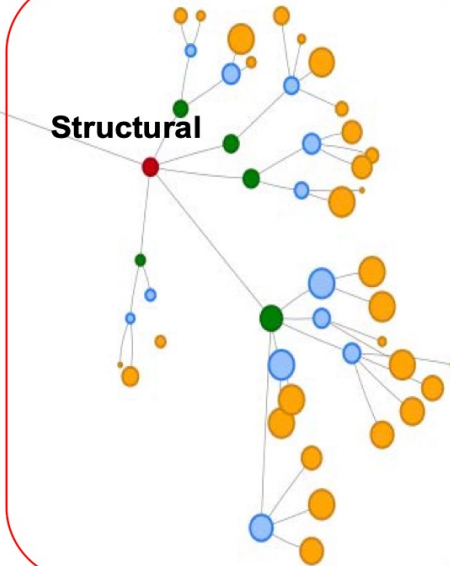
Structural

Social capital

3 Forms

15 Dimensions

34 Sub-dimensions

78 Indicators

The assessment of the added value of LEADER/CLLD as improved social capital in the LAG Prealpi & Dolomiti (Italy)

Elena Pisani – TESAF Dep. – University of Padova

Matteo Aguanno – Director of the LAG Prealpi & Dolomiti

Good Practice Workshop: "Showing the added value of LEADER/CLLD through evaluation"
17-18 May 2018 Helsinki, Finland

Forms

	2022	2018	2013
CS e governance	70	66	53
CS normativo-cognitivo	64	61	56
CS strutturale	60	55	51
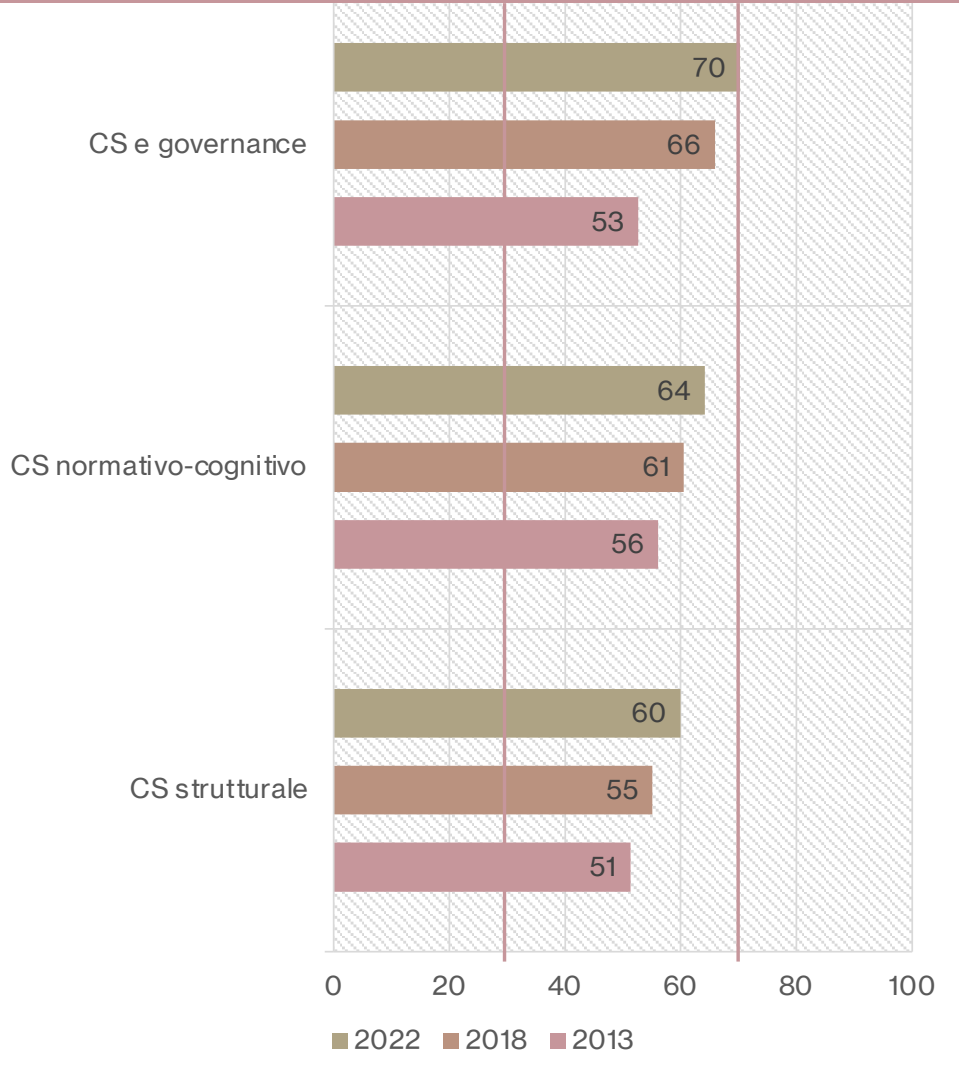
Social capital of the LAG Prealpi e Dolomiti (2013, 2018, 2022)

2022	194
2018	182
2013	160
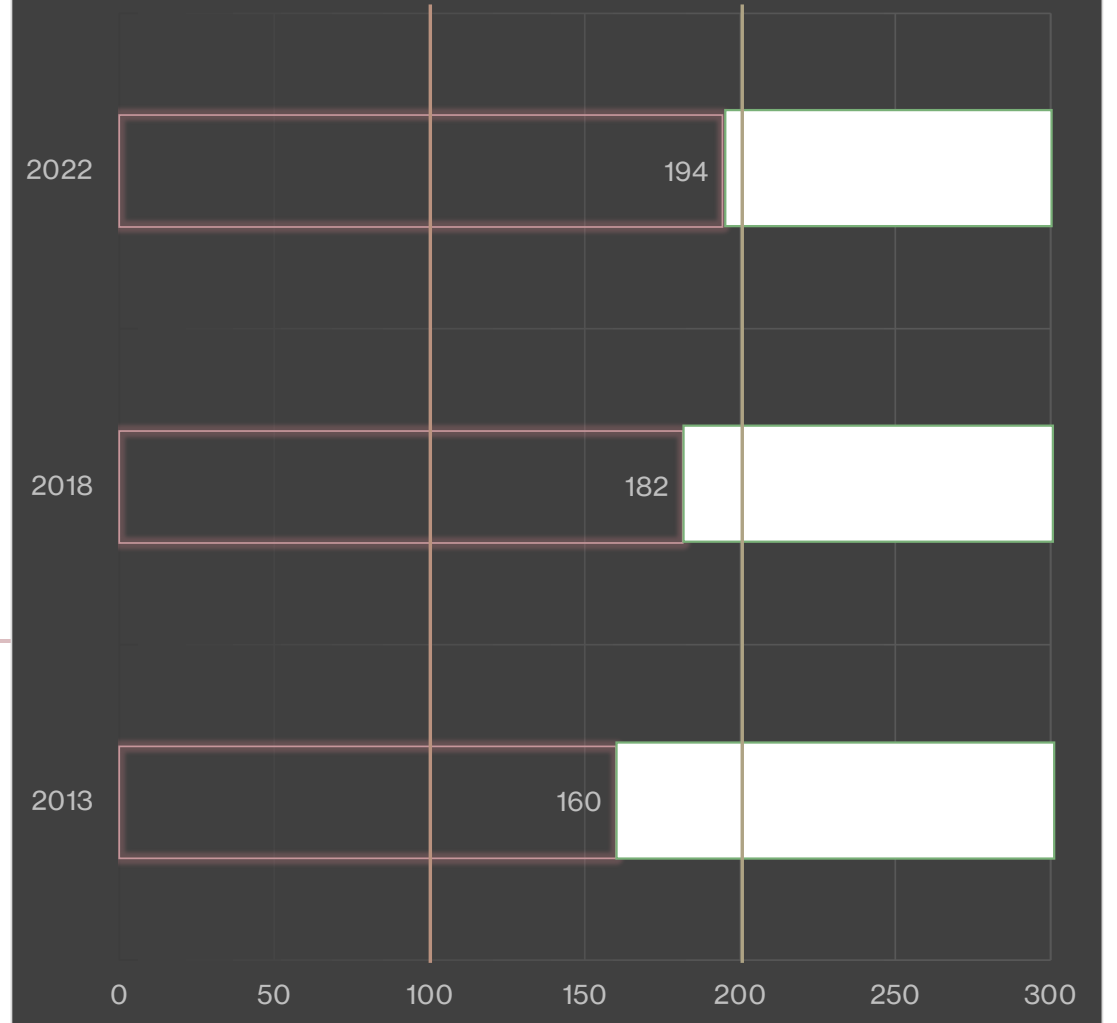
Structural social capital

Indicators

Rilevazione 2007-2013 | Baseline   Rilevazione 2014-2020 | In itinere   Rilevazione 2014-2020 | Finale
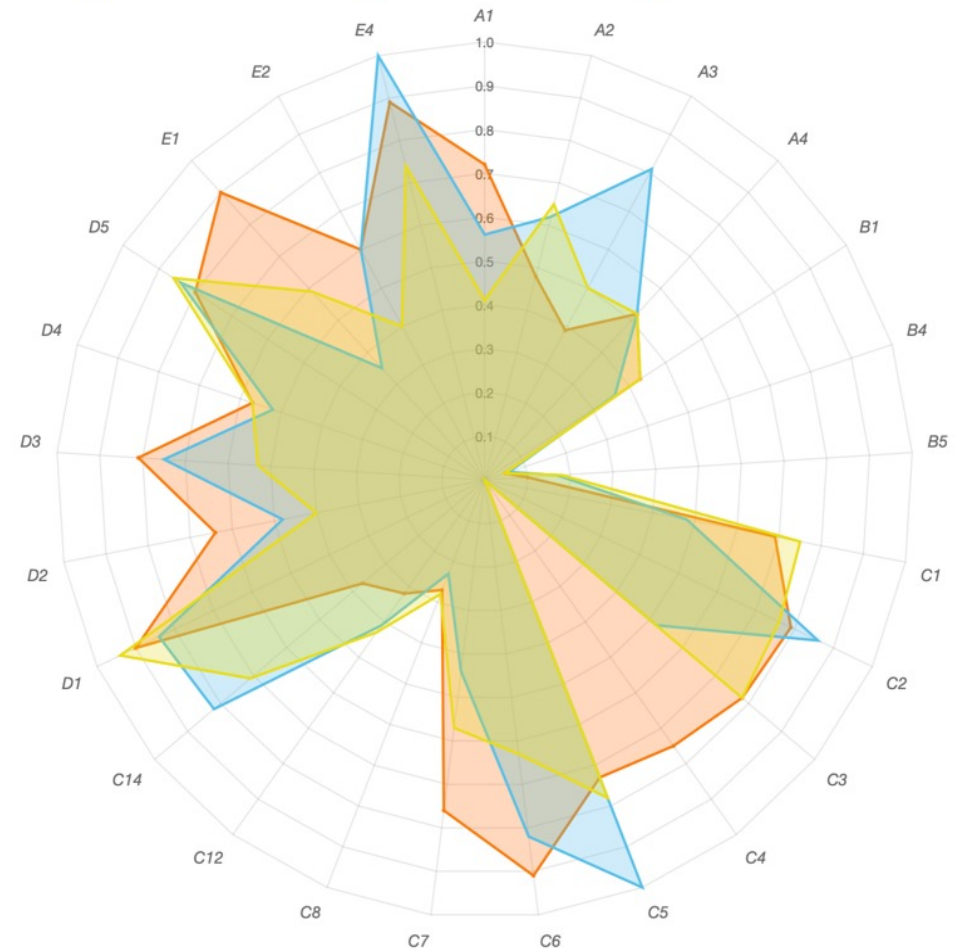
Dimensions

Baseline   In itinere   Final
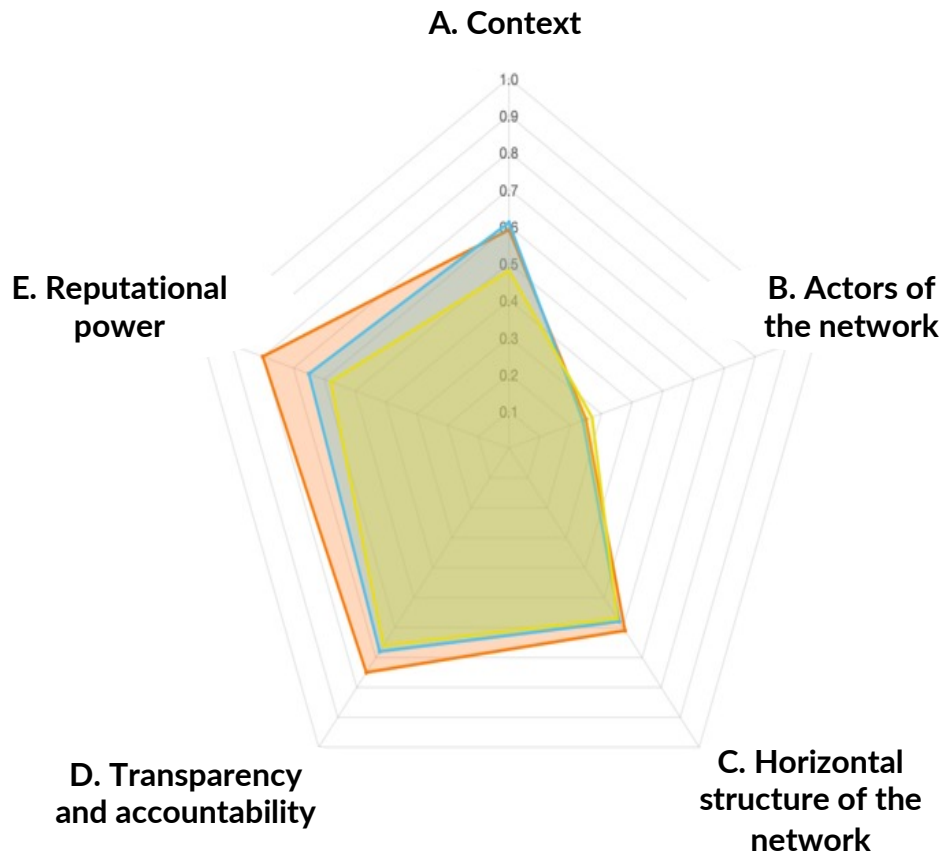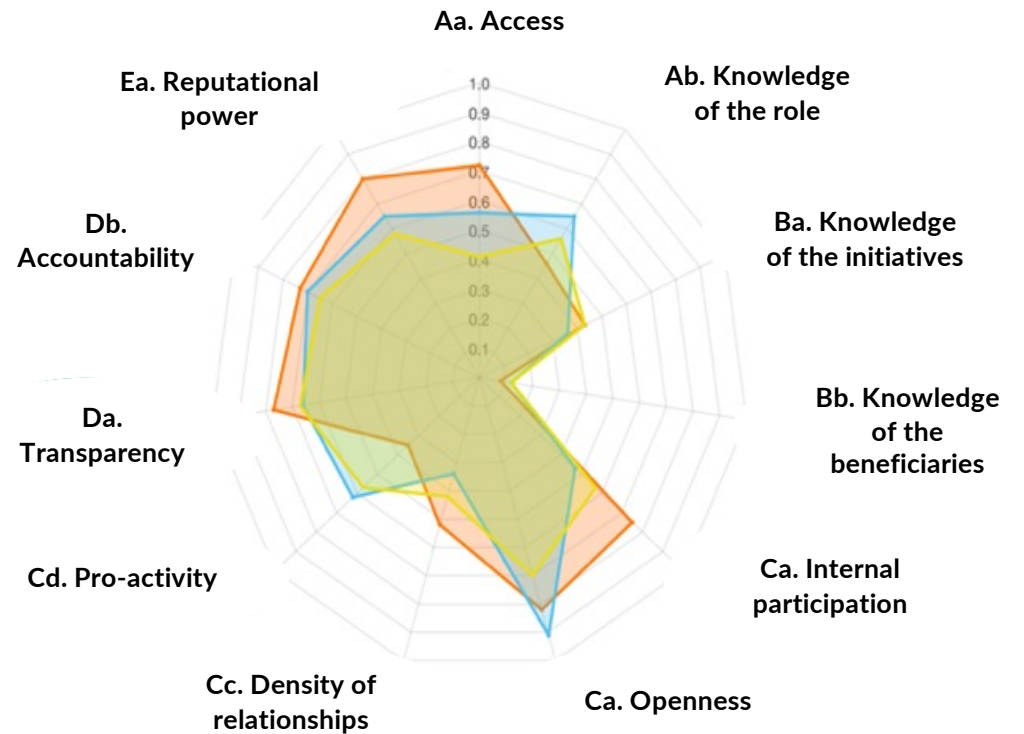
A. Context

- E. Reputational power
- B. Actors of the network
- C. Horizontal structure of the network
- D. Transparency and accountability

Sub-dimensions

Baseline   In itinere   Final

- Aa. Access
- Ab. Knowledge of the role
- Ea. Reputational power
- Ba. Knowledge of the initiatives
- Db. Accountability
- Bb. Knowledge of the beneficiaries
- Da. Transparency
- Ca. Internal participation
- Cd. Pro-activity
- Ca. Openness
- Cc. Density of relationships

Examples of recommendations in relation to structural social capital

- **Recommendation on the horizontal structure of the network**. I

- *Identify the best strategies and methodologies to continuously structure the relationship with the beneficiaries not only for the purposes of the calls, but also in the follow-up activity of the funded projects. An example of this could be the ==organisation of events to present directly completed projects to the LEADER territory by those who have benefited from rural development measures, which could become attractors for new potential beneficiaries with the support of the LAG==. **The idea, therefore, is to move from an "egocentric" network** where the LAG is in charge of all the management of local development to "**polycentric networks**" where the LAG delegates certain functions to local actors to support it in different functions and activities.*

Examples of recommendations in relation to structural social capital

- ***Recommendation on the quality dimension of the network.*** *Further strengthen the quality of the network for which there is still significant room for improvement. After implementing several Community programmes, the LAG has now reached a degree of maturity to allow a further leap forward. The challenge to be met, in the short term, is **functional decentralization**, i.e. the LAG should begin to propose and launch **thematic tables** among the representative actors of the territory that go to investigate in depth specific issues or sectors, the critical issues in the same present, but also the strengths in order to propose specific development proposals.*

Assessment of LEADER value added: social capital at the LAG level

1. Network Diversity Index

2. Methods for measuring social capital with baseline, *in itinere* and final evaluation (Palgrave Book on Social capital and Local Development)

3. Network analysis for information sharing among members

Network Analysis: exchange of information among LAG members

Betweenness centrality:
who are the information brokers?
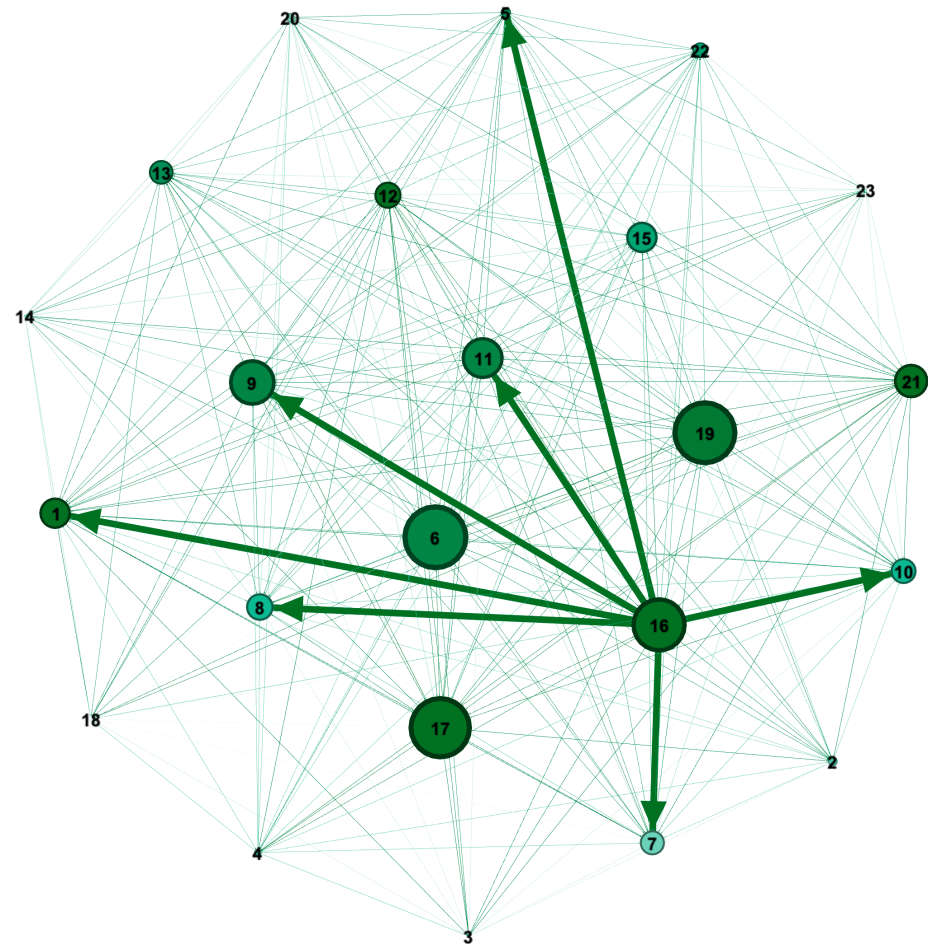
Network Analysis: exchange of information among LAG members

Closeness centrality: *who are closed to relevant actors in the network*?
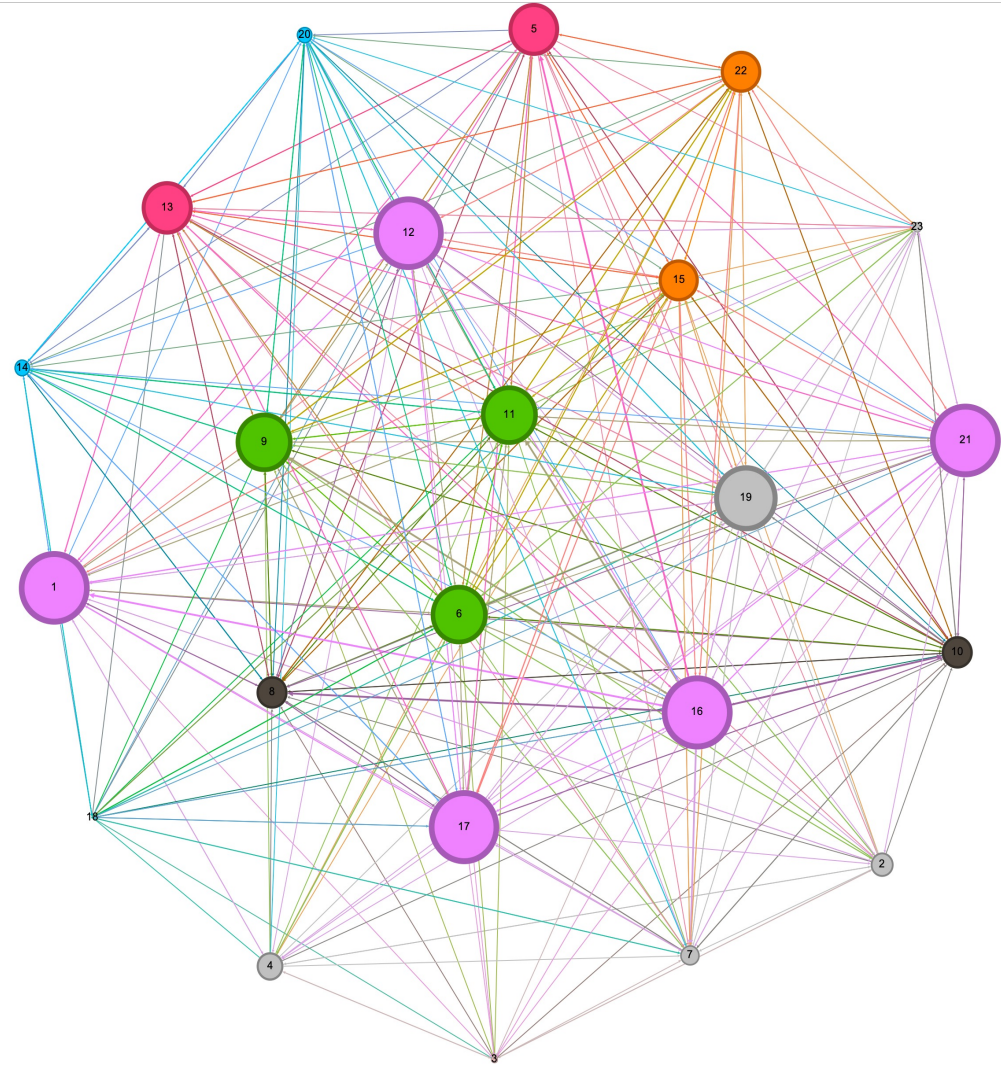
Some working considerations

	Historically, social capital has been analysed via qualitative information.
	We now know that social capital can be measured also with quantitative indicators, and not only on a qualitative base.
	We have now at our disposal different **instruments** and **tools** that can be used for this purpose at the LAG level (mainly) but also at CSR level.
	Qualitative data can help in interpreting better the quantitative results or in those LAGs where the M&E system is well-structured.
	Certain indicators can be used as secondary data (*e.g., CAP Network and National Network databases of LAGs membership and data collected at the beginning and at the end of the programming period*).

LAG Profile

GAL 100 Villages

LAG code:	BE-001
Country:	Belgium
Main ESI Fund:	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)
ESIF Programme:	Rural Development Programme - Wallonia

Contact information

LAG email:	leader@wfg.be
LAG manager:	Gilbert Kuepper
LAG manager email:	gilbert.kuepper@wfg.be
Address:	Haupstrabe 54 4780 Saint-Vith Belgium

Additional information   −

Municipalities covered:
Amel/Amblève, Büllingen/Bullange, Bütgenbach/Butgenbach, Sankt Vith/Saint-Vith, Burg-Reuland

SOURCE: https://ec.europa.eu/enrd/lag/be-001_en.html

Thank you for your attention

- Elena Pisani
- Dep. Territorio e Sistemi Agro-Forestali
- Università degli Studi di Padova (Italy)
- elena.pisani@unipd.it
- https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8918-2781