



The CRORURIS project: A scenario-based approach to discuss planning and development of Croatian rural areas

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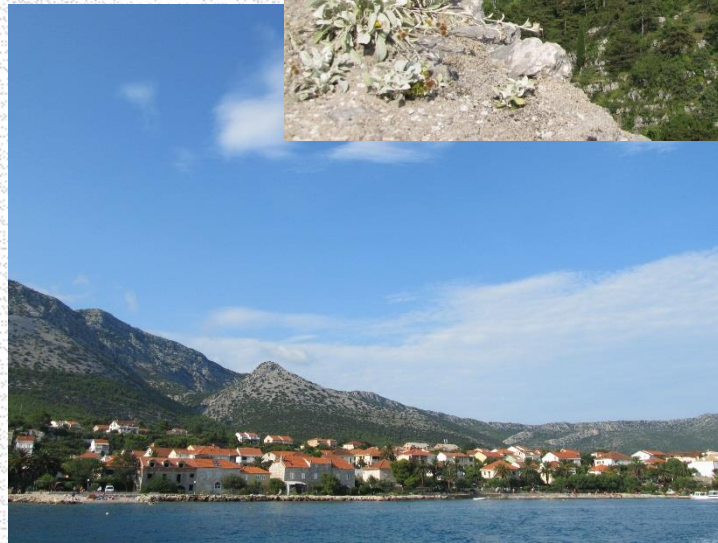
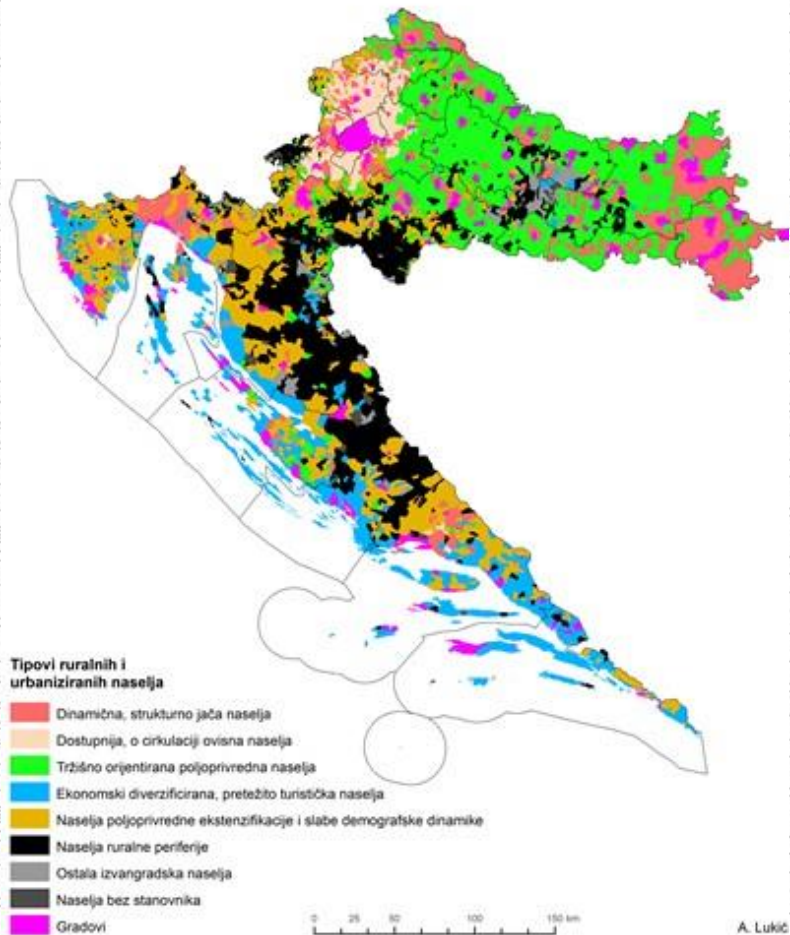




The CRORURIS project – why?

- Rural areas:
 - given their size, population number, functions and variety of challenges they face, the question of the future of rural areas is one of the most pressing issues in Europe today
 - evident from recent scenario-based approaches on national and EU level (e.g. SCENAR 2020, EURURALIS etc.)
- the majority of Croatian rural areas face tremendous demographic and economic challenges
 - often synonymous with problem areas possessing negative demographic, economic and social features
 - 1/3 of Croatian territory is home to less than 7% of the population

The CRORURIS project



Source: <http://www.agroklub.com/poljoprivredne-vijesti/selo-koje-ozivi-samo-jednom-u-godini/20144/>



The CRORURIS project

- Complexities of challenges in rural areas require an interdisciplinary approach to study possible future developments
- Scenario method:
 - an important part of planning in business and public policy, technology foresight, environmental studies, as well as spatial research and planning
 - used at different spatial levels, from global to local (e.g. Alcamo, 2008; de Nijs et al., 2004; Özkaynak, 2008)
 - scenarios help envision various development possibilities, integrate various aspects of spatial development,
 - being multidimensional, they mirror socio-geographical complexity thus avoiding overly simplistic views on development



The CRORURIS project – goal:

- ❖ producing a set of alternative future scenarios for Croatian rural areas in 2030
 - ❖ as a basis for informed and evidence-based public debate on rural futures
- 4 main objectives:
 - **Objective 1:** Developing a conceptual framework for understanding recent changes in rural Croatia
 - by identifying current processes, main drivers of change and local responses
 - different areas face different problems
 - so far little effort has been invested to offer a more comprehensive, interdisciplinary understanding
 - the conceptual framework is intended to reflect the interplay between global context and driving forces, and national, regional and local factors



The CRORURIS project

- Methodology and work plan for Objective 1:
 - literature review
 - analyses for the period of 1991-2001-2011:
 - the rural demographic patterns;
 - the economic and agricultural market transformations and trends; and
 - the environmental and land-use change.
 - questionnaire survey: participants of the first Croatian Rural Parliament, April 2015
 - 6 case studies
- ❖ key drivers of change in rural areas of Croatia 1991-2011



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- **Objective 2: Developing a methodological framework**
 - Lowe and Ward (2009) suggested developing conceptual framework into typology of rural areas based on multivariate analysis
 - development of new a typology of Croatian rural areas, using factor and cluster analysis
 - the typology will be used in creating a matrix consisting of the most important change-drivers derived from typology, set against the recognized types of rural areas
 - the final result is a model simulating rural dynamics in Croatia, developed using judgement on the degree of impact each change-driver will have on the different area types



The CRORURIS project – goal:

- ❖ producing a set of alternative future scenarios for Croatian rural areas in 2030
 - ❖ as a basis for informed and evidence-based public debate on rural futures
- 4 main objectives:
 - **Objective 3: Constructing alternative future scenarios of rural Croatia and relating them to the context of rural Europe**
 - statistical techniques will be used to perform large series of simulations of the newly developed model
 - the results of model simulation will serve as an input to develop scenario storylines



The CRORURIS project – goal:

- ❖ producing a set of alternative future scenarios for Croatian rural areas in 2030
 - ❖ as a basis for informed and evidence-based public debate on rural futures
- 4 main objectives:
 - **Objective 4: Encouraging and supporting discussion about the future of rural areas in academic, decision-making and public discourse**
 - different outputs of the results, including the online atlas and web-based GIS discussion tool, organizing a final workshop “What is the future of Rural Areas in Croatia?” and preparing policy recommendations
 - promoting debate on Croatian rural futures among different stakeholder groups in rural development (governmental, non-governmental and private sector)



The CRORURIS project

- The interdisciplinary team (11 members):
 - human and physical geographers,
 - a GIS specialist,
 - a sociologist,
 - an agricultural economist, and
 - a psychologist-statistician.



The CRORURIS project: **the course**

- Duration: October 2014 – October 2017
 - the first year: developing a conceptual framework for understanding recent change in rural Croatia
 - two main objectives for the 2nd and the 3rd year:
 - to develop a methodological framework for identifying predominant trends and key uncertainties, based on an integration of qualitative and quantitative approaches;
 - to construct alternative future scenarios related to the context of rural Europe.



Conclusion

- we hope that CRORURIS study will:
 - improve interdisciplinary, and comprehensive views on the complexities of planning and development in rural areas of Croatia
 - enrich existing methodological knowledge in scenario development
 - aid in decision-making processes
 - enable networking in creating a broader picture of rural areas and their future perspectives in Central and South-East Europe

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION!**



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