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Title

LEADER funded projects in Czechia evaluated through hermeneutic interventional investigation

Abstract

The method labelled as hermeneutic interventional investigation is used to find out the coherence of projects funded under axis IV LEADER of Czech Rural Development Programme 2007 – 2013 with the principles of LEADER approach. The core element of this method is hermeneutics because it interprets the texts – namely the written information about projects available from the projects database. As interpreting the texts the users of this methods understand they intervene into the reality (a sort of social constructivism) – hence we use the wording of intervention as well, being aware of its consequences. Finally, the method also acknowledges Cartesian (linked to R. Descartes) tradition of rigid method – that is why the name of the method speaks about investigation as a way of finding data based on strong principles (e.g. similar criminal investigation harnessed by law). That is why the method is framed within the rules of content analysis when dealing with the interpretation of the text. The written information about surveyed projects in one Czech NUTS 3 region was scrutinized to demonstrate how this method can be utilized in evaluating these projects in term of matching LEADER principles. The preliminary data suggest low innovativeness of the projects and great emphasis on infrastructure (instead of supporting cooperation and intangible forms of capital).