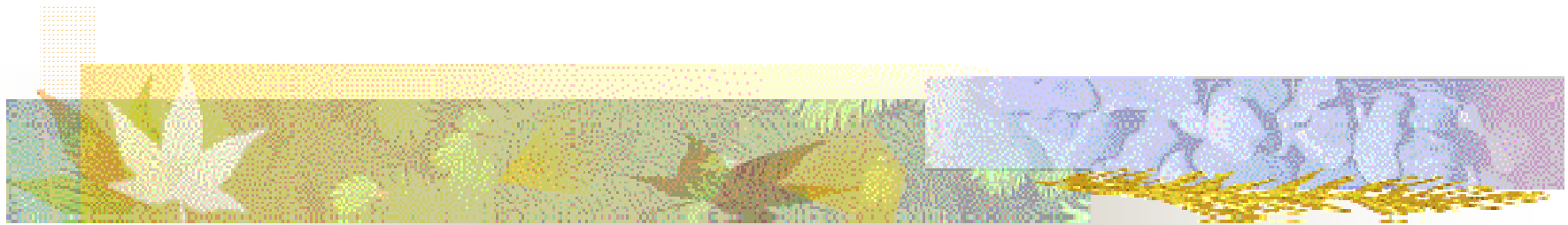


CAN BRIDGING/LINKING CSO's CONTRIBUTE TO AN INCREASE IN SOCIAL CAPITAL



Libby Cooper

OECD LEED International Conference

On The Social Economy in Central East & SE Europe





OBJECTIVES OF THE SOCIAL CAPITAL STUDY

- To assess the level of social capital in two localities of Croatia
- To explore the level of citizen engagement in CSOs
- To identify ‘bridging/linking’ aspects of CSOs
- To use the methodology as a tool for evaluating the effectiveness of the interventions of the Foundation for Civil Society



HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

- 437 in Cakovec
- 163 in Donji Miholjac
- (4.5% & 4.7% of their households)
- Groups and networks
- Trust and solidarity
- Collective action/co-op
- Information and communication
- Social cohesion and inclusion
- Empowerment and political action





6 DIMENSIONS OF SOCIAL CAPITAL

- Community activism
- Informal social interaction
- Trust in leadership, authority, identity
- Integration in closed settings
- Trust in neighbourhood
- Strategic membership of civic associations





CITIZENS WITH THESE CHARACTERISTICS

- Felt more integrated in their communities
- Wanted more such integration
- More likely to vote in an election



SOCIAL CAPITAL

- Exists in Croatia
- Is a positive force with potential to bridge different parts of the community





BRIDGING/LINKING ASPECTS OF CSOs

- Membership
 - Diverse
 - Promote loose ties
- Leadership
 - Democratic
- Decision making
 - Active community participation
- Activities
 - Collective local action
 - Mediating
 - Access to services
 - Advocacy
- External links
 - Networks/p'ships
 - Relations with different institutions

FINDINGS

- One or two examples but disappointing
- LA interest will be vital to stimulate new ways of doing things
- Decentralisation policies important
- Roma will be an issue and will attract EU funding





POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- How to stimulate synergistic interaction with public institutions?
- How to differentiate between role of state and role of other donors?
- How can CSOs play significant role in government's social welfare policies?

