

***Rural Romanian Social Inclusion
and Local Development
by Claudia Novac***

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Background

- Rural Romania
- NGO field
- Community based organisations

Why local development?

- One of the key conditions for successful local development^[1] is the creation of *inclusive policy processes*, both at the central and local levels of government. Inclusive policy processes are based on the premise that a sound partnership and alliance between government and civil society organizations is a prerequisite for participation.
- ^[1] From UNDP policy paper “*How to make local development work*”

TeleCenter?

- TeleCenters are multi-purpose development tools, that facilitate the access of a rural community to informational and communication technology and supports training, consultancy and assistance services in the social, cultural, educational and economic field.
- The TeleCentre is created for the community, in order to encourage individual and group initiatives.
- Villagers have to learn how to act citizens, sharing the same rights and responsibilities, to become aware of their civic role as members of the community.

Social mobilisation

- *Building social capital*
- *Empowered local government and workable legal and financial framework*
- *Building multi-sector partnerships*
- *Environmental sustainability*
- *Creating favourable economic conditions*

Conclusions

- Any strategy formulation process should be preceded by an analysis of the starting conditions, focusing in particular on social and human capital, the position and capacity at the level of the local government, the potential to build partnership between key actors and the economic conditions in place. Ideally, the formulation of a comprehensive strategy should only start once at least the basic conditions in these areas are met. This strategic approach is present in the implementation of the TELECENTER project.