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Understanding Mediterranean Agriculture Food Systems and their
Supply Chain Actors Under Local, Regional and Global Uncertainty



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SOCIAL CAPITAL AND RURAL TERRITORIES: THE IMPACT ON LOCAL COOPERATION CASE STUDY OF ALBANIA

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PRESENTATION PLANNING

Theoretical Framework

Methodology

Results

Conclusion



THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Typical agro-food or territorial products play a central role in development strategies carried out by local actors which can be transformed into a very important development vector of rural areas (Pecqueur, 2001).

Several research suggests the European quality certification such as GI as a possible solution to avoid low profits to farmers and producers (Kokthi et al, 2016).

However, GI can constitute a possible protection instrument if the producers/farmers cooperate with each other.

Though, the conditions which make possible the networks and the process of cooperation are strongly linked, among others, with the concept of social capital.

What is happening with the cheese of Gjirokastra in the market?

- the usurpation
- consumers lose real value

The impact on breeders/cheese producers

- Market loss
- Income decrease

METHODOLOGY

Social capital

Cognitive

Structural

Bondin
g

Bridgin
g

Linking

Structural social capital

- Organizational density
- Social ties
- Collective action

Cognitive social capital

- Trust
- Solidarity
- Reciprocity
- Cooperation

**SCAT (Social Capital Assessment Tools) =>
Krishna (1999)**



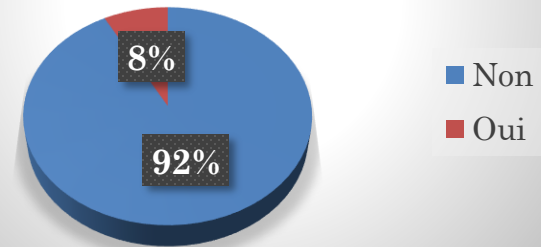
RESULTS (1/3)

STRUCTURAL SOCIAL CAPITAL

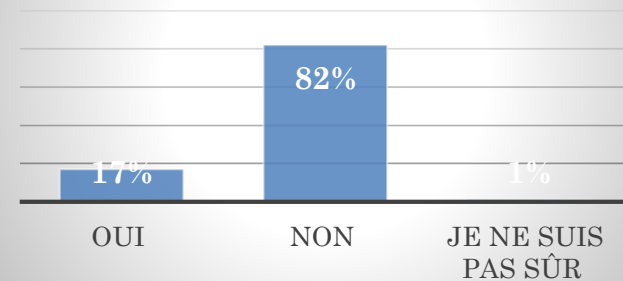
Weak indicator of social capital:

- hinders the creation and the expansion of ties
- hinders the acquisition and sharing information
- lack of information about the innovations in agriculture
- dependent society, incapable to take the initiatives
- collective communities: the power in the hand of one person (the role of leader)
- lack of information about the quality signs related to the product of origine

Are you or one of your family members part of any organization or association



Collaboration between different communities



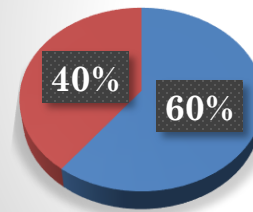
RESULTS (2/3)

COGNITIVE SOCIAL CAPITAL

Strong network in the same community can influence negatively the process of cooperation :

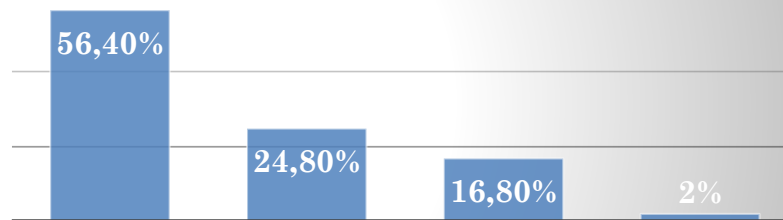
- the exchange of failed cooperation experiences
- can lead to corruption and emigration of the population

If you were in one of the following situations, which one would you prefer?



- Posséder une ferme de 5 ha tout seul
- Posséder une ferme de 15 ha avec une autre personne

If you and your family have to leave the village for a while, to whom do you entrust your farmland / livestock?



Autres membres de la famille (du frère, de la sœur, des parents) Le voisin Le paysan Autre

- create corruption in the distribution of goods to a small part of the community
- lead to pessimism by sharing life problems or failures



RESULTS (3/3)

Bonding: strong presence of bonding

- makes the society inactive, which implies a lack of innovation in the region.
- bonding can lead to corruption or criminal activity.
- a society influenced by a strong bonding relationship is less likely to cooperate with members outside the family or friendly group.

Bridging: low level of bridging means

- a society closed in a tight group.
- a negative impact on the level of cooperation.
- societies that do not develop bridging relationships are more likely not to cooperate with each other.

Linking: low level of linking means

- little exchange between institutions and the community.
- little communication between the community and the local government which increases transaction costs, increases corruption attempts and hinders the activity of local authorities.
- hinders the involvement of development projects in the study area.
- difficult access to credit.



CONCLUSION

- Local actors have little or any knowledge on Geographical Indication.
- Incomplete legal framework.
- Structural social capital develops cooperation. Its absence in our case prevents the process of creating a GI. Inactive society to take decisions.
- Cognitive social capital in our case plays a negative impact on the formal cooperation process, which is a *sine qua non* condition for the creation of GI. Closed society in a tight social circle.

The low endowment in social capital is related to;

- the mistrust of rural actors mainly linked to the absence of credible institutions;
- the lack of trust prevents the actors from gains obtained through effective cooperation;
- the history has reinforced a primitive form of social capital located in family cycle, and not in market networks;
- foreign occupation and socialist political organization has affected the low civic engagement and voluntary cooperation.