

# ETHICAL CHALLENGES AND RESPONSIBLE POLICIES IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Ana Maria Sandi

Consultant

Romania

# Outline

- Present Challenges and General Responses
- Community Driven Development: Three Case Studies
- Ethical Concerns and Possible Answers
- Conclusions

# Present Challenges and General Responses

## Challenges:


globalization, depletion of natural resources, pollution, climate change and energy and food crises

## General responses:

- regulations, limitations
- trusting scientific innovation
- questioning development models

# Community Driven Development

## Romania Social Development Fund

 Improving the livelihood of sub-project Beneficiaries in poor rural communities and disadvantaged groups



 Increasing local level organizational and self-help capacity



## Community- Driven Development Approach

- Consultations are held in communities for identifying common problems and define priorities. The community submits a project proposal to RSDF, mentioning the community contribution (labor, materials and/or cash).
- If the grant is approved, the funds are given directly to the community.
- The informal community- based organization (CBO) is responsible for all procurements, accounting and management.
- Local authorities support communities in all phases of implementation.

# Case Study 1: Rural Road

- Priority for the poor community: access to education, health care, market
- Problem: heavy trucks destroy the gravel road; community's solidarity cannot beat the company's power and the corruption of local authorities

# Case Study 2: Income Generating Activity

- Wood processing activity generates income, but also shavings
- Environment is polluted
- New activity is developed to produce shavings briquettes

# Case Study 3: Waste Disposal

- In a poor community, solid waste accumulates
- Construction of a landfill is blocked by regional (EU) regulations
- The general solution for disposal cannot be applied, the environment continues to be polluted



# Ethical Concerns

- Community driven development: right or wrong?
- Community-based interventions: good or bad?

# Recommendations

- Since power tends to be corrupt, constantly pursue the fight against corruption.
- Since predictions are not possible, constantly evaluate impacts and be ready to solve new problems as they arise.
- Since poor people have a limited capacity in all respects, ensure that regulations take into account realities on the ground and provide for exemptions and gradual implementation.
- Since educated people can both get out of the poverty cycle and understand challenges, promote education for all.