

Social capital at rural communities: social cohesion and new actors



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Try to imagine a journey



- In the middle of rural Poland, there is small community. Community is plagued by many social and economical issued. The biggest employer – Polish Military just cut financial support for the inhabitants. **Grupa** is one of the place in which Polish Ministry of Internal Affairs sett up Immigration Centre. Polish Humanitarian Aid starts its own integration programme and story begins.

Find differences between those pictures



Grupa – PL,
Encounter of Cultures Fest

VS



Vorra - D



Stuttgart - D



Lomza - D



QUOTAS FROM onet.pl

- These are not refugees, these are A warriors of ISIS.
- They will concuere Europe without A shot
- It is not escape it is an invasion
- For working without documents they deport us, and they just came and we Should give them a job

*We have to remember who
decide about location
of refugee integration center
In Lomza – from Lomza forum*

Why similar communities
react completely differently,
what is a key to get a social
cohesion and peaceful
integration of different
actors?

4 perspectives on social cohesion and new rural actors



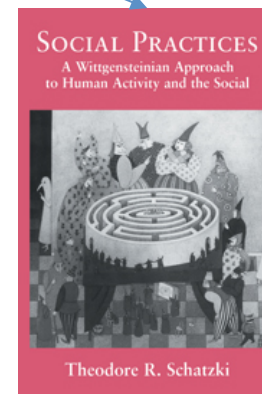
IDEOLOGY



IDEOLOGY



RATIONAL
CHOICE



SOCIAL PRACTICES



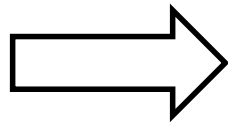
SOCIAL CAPITAL

Social Capital

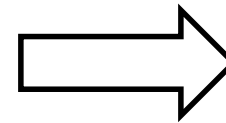


- Social capital is not only about trust, reciprocity, civic capacity. It is more about energy, potential enchanted in the mutual, real and imagined relations between people, groups and institution.
- Social capital shaped level of cohesion, efficiency, openness and integration of local communities.

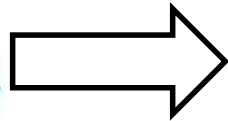
Synergic Social Capital



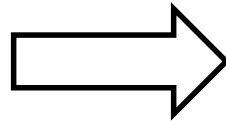
GROUP
INTEGRATION



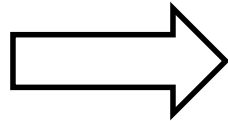
Do we trust each other?
How strong we are
connected?
Do we feel as a part of group?



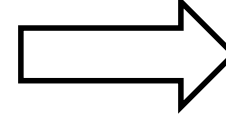
COMMUNITY
EFFICIENCY



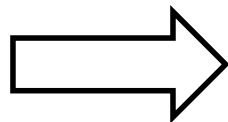
Can we cooperate?
Can we communicate?
Do we fill responsible?



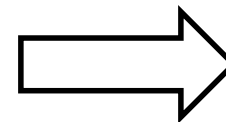
RELATIONS WITH
OTHER GROUPS



Contacts with other
communities?
Contacts with NGOs?
Contacts with informal groups?



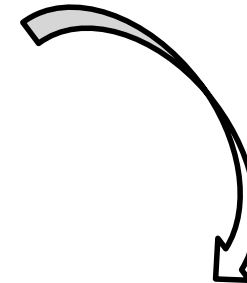
RELATIONS WITH
STATE



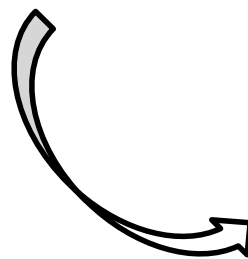
Do we trust in government?
How we cooperate with public
sector?
Do we feel connected to
state?

Balance of social capital: communities typologies

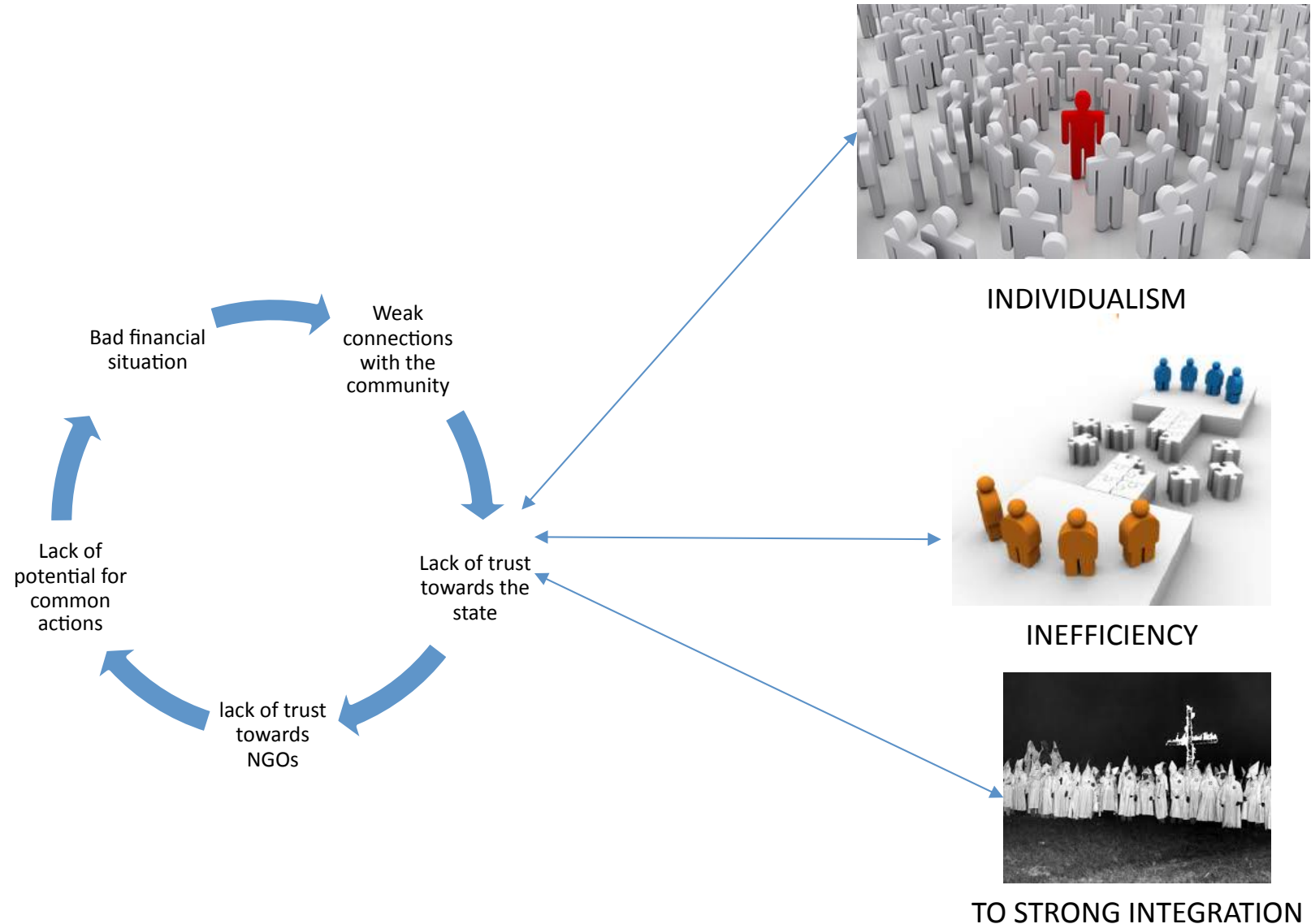
MICRO LEVEL		MICRO-EMBEDENESS The quality of in-group relations and social bonds	
		weak	strong
Micro - AUTONOMY Endogenous potential for local development	low	Amoral individualism	Amoral familism (clan)
	high	Anomy	Community with the development potential



MACRO LEVEL		EMBEDENESS INTEGRATION WITH THE STATE AND THE SOCIETY	
		weak	strong
AUTONOMY relations with groups outside the community)	low	Collapsed community	Enemy state and weak community
	high	In-effective, in-efficient community („dependend on others”)	Cooperation, flexibility, development

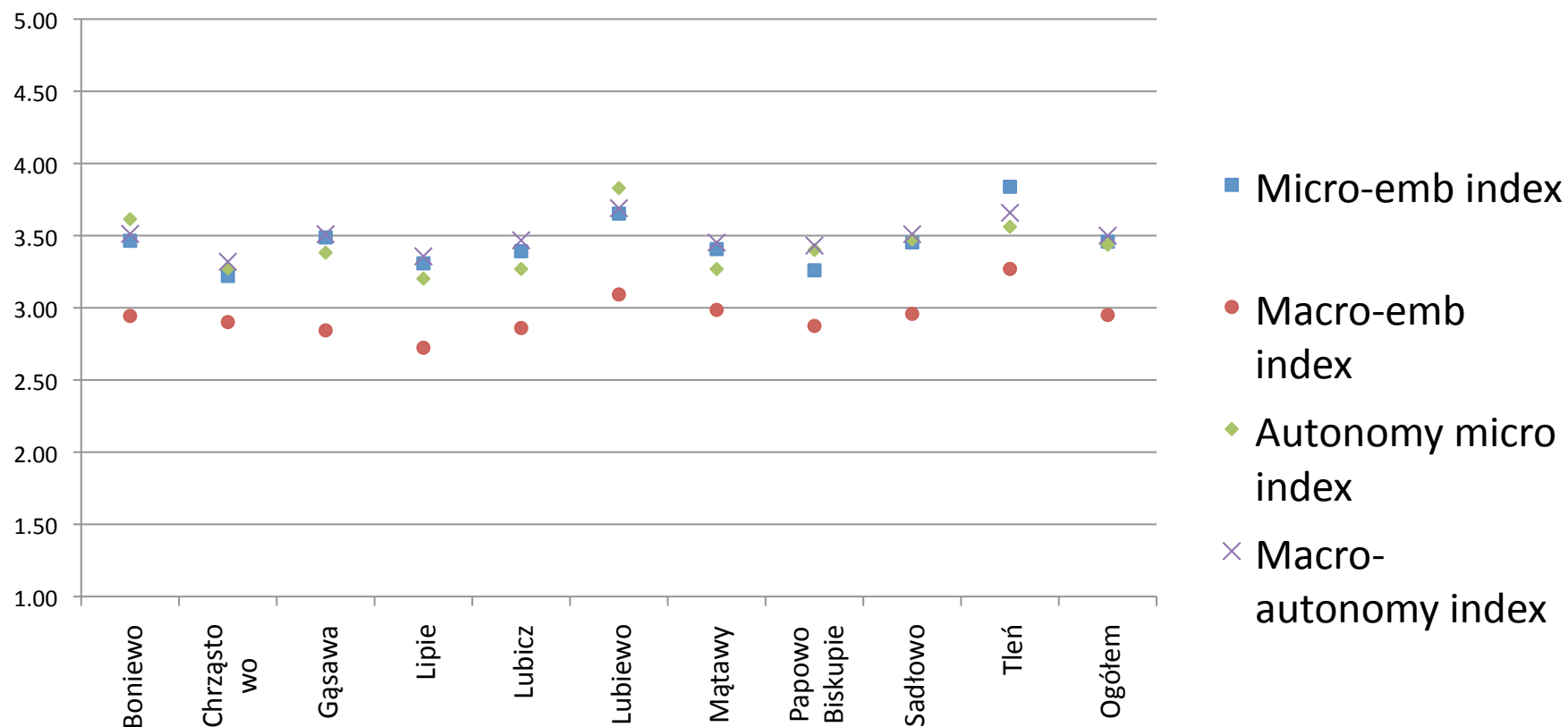


Social capital imbalance leads to:



SO.... How Social Capital Works in Polish Rural Communities

Results of quantitative research



CASE 1 Tuchówka – solidarity in poverty

Strong internal relations

Poor rural community,
Post-transition countryside

Local identity as an
opposition to
„Others”

Social and infrastructural
Isolation of village



High level of social integrity,
and social cohesion

High level of unemployment

Community as a functional
resources

Strong social cohesion and
Trust to neighbours

Strong distrust in state, NGOs and
others

SUMMARY: Community as a last resort, community started into its core, predicted conflicts with new actors can be solved by rational argumentation (benefits).

CASE 2 Banino – social collapse

Strong attachment to private life and space

Urban sprawl

Rupture urban newcomers vs old community

Personal resources
Used during conflicts

High fence land



BANINO

Division of space, power and resources

Low level of social activity –
Individualization of rural life

No connection with locality

Low level of identification
with community

Low level of identification
with community

SUMMARY: community as place of private life. Low level of social cohesion, lack of common identity, strong divisions between inhabitants. Predicted conflict in case of new actors introduction.

CASE 3 Mały Komórk– institutionalized trust

Personal relations between leaders

Highly organized community

Institutionalization
Of common actions

From peripheral to
developed community

Good relations
With other groups

Animated by the local leaders

Trust between inhabitants



Local identity

Strong impact of public sector

SUMMARY: community rebirthing from ashes. Strong trust and identity animated by the public actors. Institutionalization of common actions. Great place to introduce new people and institutions. Well balanced communities.

Conclusions



- Low level of trust to state, public sector and others makes those communities inefficient.
- The trust, strong neighborhood not accompanied by general trust and citizenship spirit often lead to clan – type rural community
- Local economy is important factor, with special remarks (post-state farm villages)
- The solidarity of poverty and the trauma of rapid social change are foundation for strong social relations which can lead to clans or development (in case of intervention)
- The role of local charismatic leaders and institutionalised charisma (e.g. by constant presence of village funds) and formal representation
- The role of institutions that create, sustain and channel local energy – cultural centers, NGOs etc.
- Important role of local conflicts, when not tense and institutionalised – functional.

Finishing our journey – why does it works in Grupa?



- **IDEOLOGY:** not so strong at discourse moment of establishing refugee center.
- **RATIONAL CHOICE:** from fears to hope!
- **SOCIAL PRACTICES:** everyday interaction bring communities closer to each other.
- **Social Capital:**
 - Paradox: medium level of community integration makes opposition inefficient (ineffective tensions).
 - Good connections with public sectors helps to introduce new actors.
 - Close connections builds trust between communities.
 - Actions of NGOs helps introduce refugees center to inhabitants.
 - Common actions brings people together.

SUMMARY: social capital has to be balanced, it is not about strong social cohesion but about proper level of social cohesion at rural communities. It is also about preapring community for new actors, and bringing people closer

Thank you

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