

Added Value of Networking



National Conference on Rural Areas

Basic information	
NRN:	Czech Republic
Theme:	Good practice
Coordinator:	Managing Authority Department for RDP Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic, Association for rehabilitation of countryside, Regional Networks of the National Network of Local Action Groups of the Czech Republic
Partners:	Association for rehabilitation of countryside, Regional Networks of the National Network of Local Action Groups of the Czech Republic, National Network of Local Action Groups
Beneficiaries:	All actors involved in the development of rural areas (LAGs, municipalities, Czech universities, Ministries etc.)
Resources:	40 800 € (EAFRD contribution - 19 800 €)
Period:	Annually in autumn
Main element of networking:	Building common understanding of common policies
Other elements of networking:	Effective stakeholder engagement

Background

There was considerable demand among rural actors to have meetings where information related to the development of rural areas could be exchanged and relevant experiences of different funding options shared.



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Main activities

Every year a different region within the Czech Republic is selected to host the annual RURAL AREAS Conference. A pertinent issue in Czech rural areas that needs to be resolved is chosen as the main topic. The conference consists of plenary sessions – an introduction to the conference by various experts such as representatives from state administration, Ministries, university employees and researchers, representatives of regional and local self-administration units and foreign participants. The initial meeting, which introduces the issue and leads to discussion, is followed by work within thematic workshops. Each workshop also includes a thematically related field trip to explore projects that have been supported within the Rural Development Programme and other funds. Main conclusions are drawn from each of these workshops which are used to develop one overarching conference conclusion which represents a call for further action.

Main results/benefits

The conference outcomes are formulated into conclusions that rural practitioners can use as a shared position in meetings at various levels. Because the state administration is also represented at the conference, feedback is provided to the authors and implementers of rural development policy.

Success factors

Bringing a range of different rural development practitioners together to network and discuss relevant issues enables a better understanding of actions that can be taken to improve rural areas.

Added value of networking

By utilising the principles of networking this event facilitates meetings and expert discussions amongst all rural development representatives. These means they will be able to discuss similar problems and share solutions that they apply in different ways. During the workshops and excursions the participants have the opportunity to establish contacts with colleagues from other regions and who are engaged in different activities (e.g. the conference will allow university representatives to find new topics for their research).

Contribution of the NSU

The Czech National Rural Network identified and brought together a range of different rural development practitioners, provided information (know-how) on how to organise this event and suggested the topics and themes to focus on during the conference. The Czech National Rural Network was also the initiator of this event.



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Contribution of the partners

The partners of the Czech National Rural Network arrange the event both from the organizational as well as expert perspectives. They invite their other partners to the event, thus contributing to the high annual participation rate.

Additional information

Websites of conference in 2012: http://auc.cz/chateau/?page_id=181&lang=en

Pictures

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Last Update

April 2013

