# Added Value of Networking

## Success Story

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| Success Story title | *Syntax typology of rural areas in Greece* |
| Theme | *Network communications; Cooperation* |
| NRN | *Greece*     Coordinator     *NSU* |
| Partners | *We requested the help of some experts who had experience from similar projects at European level* |
| Period | *Oct 2011 – Feb 2012*     Resources     *15,000.00 Euro* |
| Geo-location | *Athens, Greece* |
| Beneficiaries | *Members of the Greek NRN, Ministry for Rural Development and Food* |

### Background

During its 1st Meeting the Greek NRN decided to link its members through their participation in three parallel thematic working groups. The subjects of the groups were chosen by the NSU and inspired by the priorities of the EU Strategy for Europe for 2020 and the objectives of the CAP. The subjects of the three Thematic Working Groups were as follows:

1st Group: "Smart development (research – innovation)"
2nd Group: "Sustainable management of natural resources and public goods"
3rd Group: "The policy for rural development under the regional development"

The 3rd Thematic Working Group has already completed its work/ meetings and the topic of the group has specialized in the direction of "Syntax typology of rural areas in Greece".

### Main activities

Four meetings were organized with the members of the NRN and during those meetings discussions and agreement was reached regarding what the target of the typology of rural areas of the country will be (in the frame of the future goal of the CAP, namely balanced regional development) and the spatial level of the analysis as well. Also, it was decided by the members of the NRN what the criteria / standard spatial variables will be and time reference point for this typology.

### Main results/benefits

Applying the method of K-means Cluster and the method of Hierarchical cluster analysis in the selected criteria / variables we have reached in a map of the country, where Greece is divided into 5 clusters of regions with common characteristics.

- The first cluster for Urban Areas (metropolitan areas)
- The second cluster for productive agricultural areas that have undergone structural adjustment (competitive agricultural areas)
- The third cluster concerns Diversified rural-oriented tourism
- The fourth cluster on Conventional farming areas under structural adjustment
- The fifth cluster for remote areas

Contribution of the NSU

The NSU decided the initial subject of the Thematic Working Group and organized the whole working programme. After the end of work, the NSU disseminated the results of the TWG to National level.

Contribution of the partners

The experts involved in the specific Thematic Working Group provided the background of the conversation, and helped the group reaching conclusions. Specific methodologies were applied by using statistical data from sources such as Euro Stat and the National Statistical Service of Greece.

Success factors

1) Successfully linked a lot of the members of the Greek NRN and mostly LAGs.
2) Showed the territorial fragmentation and the diversity of the rural problem and showed that measures should be taken to solve problems or strengthen the advantages of rural areas cannot be unified.
3) Formulating a proposal for implementing specific actions of the new Programming Period for the country, using as an individual tool this typology of rural areas.

Additional information

See attached file with map of Greece and the results of the Syntax Typology of rural areas