

1. Summary of Work Programme

Landdistrikter.dk



The Danish NRN does not have a formal work programme approved on a yearly basis, but it does have set network activities, to be undertaken during the entire period, and specific activities can be decided according to emerging needs.

The main pre-determined network activities are as follows:

- Establishing, managing and developing a rural development and networking website;
- Maintaining daily information services (via phone and e-mail);
- Preparing and sending out news and newsletters to LAGs, regional authorities and other stakeholders;
- Establishing websites for LAGs and training LAG webmasters;
- Undertaking regular meetings with other ministries involved in rural development (e.g. the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Environmental Affairs and Social Affairs);
- The delivery of technical seminars covering specific topics or addressing different target groups;
- Preparing and conducting educational seminars;
- Preparing and delivering the Monitoring Committee meetings (RDP and Fisheries Development Programme) as the secretariat for both committees;
- Preparing and delivering annual meetings for LAG members and coordinators (managers/field officers), as well as other stakeholders within the LAG area;
- Preparing and delivering biannual meetings for LAG coordinators;
- Preparing and delivering biannual meetings with representatives from rural regional authorities;
- Facilitating and supporting informal networking and meetings among LAG coordinators and other stakeholders;
- Participating in and facilitating international cooperation, through membership of the Coordination Committee, the Leader Subcommittee, the Evaluation Expert Committee and participation in ENRD activities and the Nordic-Baltic Forum.

2. Focus and annual priorities supporting the RDP implementation in 2011

Network activity is mainly focused on:

- Supporting rural entrepreneurship and the business focus in LAG projects.
- Strengthening the relationship to regional and local authorities through specific support to regional/local strategies/projects regarding rural development.
- Amendment and development of new support schemes after the RDP revision in 2009, in order to meet the goals set out in the Danish government's green growth strategy.
- Youth in rural areas.
- Partnerships and mobilization of local resources - related to LAGs.
- Training of LAGs in the Leader method.
- Debate related to CAP post 2013.

3. Thematic Activity

3.1 Thematic Initiatives launched by the Network

- **Creation of thematic networks:**
 - » **Promoting the business dimension of LAG projects:** The creation of this theme stems from the need to implement projects that create new job opportunities. The main idea is to support the development of cooperation initiatives between LAGs and local administrations, balanced against the fact that regional/local administrations have their own strategies and also

control the implementation of for example structural funds.

- » **Youth in rural areas:** The main purpose of this initiative is to find new tools to engage young people in the development of rural areas. The MA would like to have more projects developed by young people. Youth in rural areas has been a theme for several years implemented through various initiatives, i.e. the "Teen Town Initiative", which project aimed at supporting coherent efforts/action in two or three specific places in the country, to create more attractive living conditions for young people. The most important element is the involvement of young people at every level of the implementation process. Youth in rural areas is also a theme at the annual LAG-meeting in June 2011, where a workshop on innovation and entrepreneurship by the rural youth is held.

• Events (until July 2011)

- » 10 March: National meeting for LAG-coordinators with focus on "Leader and innovation";
- » 2 May to 7 June: Regional meetings and trainings for LAG-coordinators and board members with focus on the Leader method;
- » 8 June: Meeting on local business development amongst LAGs and the local business councils;
- » 24 and 25 June 2010: National meeting for LAG-boards with focus on business projects, innovation and entrepreneurship.

3.2 Relevant Experiences / Good Practices

The NSU (National Support Unit) is working on developing best practice tools amongst LAGs, and including this topic as an integral part of all LAG meetings. A magazine on 'good practice' LAG projects has been published. The NSU is currently revising the networking homepage so as to include the development of those homepage sections relating to the exchange of best practice and ideas. Also the NSU is regularly providing new descriptions of RDP projects on the homepage and the ENRD project database.

3.3 Leader Related Activity

• Training for LAGs

- » Training for LAGs is undertaken at the biannual and annual meetings, as well as regularly on a regional basis.

• Guides or other support documents

- » An inspirational guide on cooperation projects is being published;
- » A publication on the strengths of the Leader method is currently being published;
- » A pamphlet on innovative projects is being published;
- » Pamphlet on support to Natura 2000 projects is being published.

3.4 TNC Activity

• NSU members dedicated to TNC support

- » Several LAGs have or are building international relations with LAGs or other stakeholders from other member states;

• Partner search facilities, guides, other support documents

- » "Partner search" is available via the network homepage;
- » Best practice on cooperation projects;
- » An inspirational guide is being published on cooperation projects (see above);
- » Extra funding for partner search assistance and the development of cooperation projects is possible – for LAGs.

4. Monitoring and Evaluation of Network:

The network activities have been evaluated within the framework of the mid-term evaluation by an external evaluator. The evaluator has specifically taken into consideration the evaluation of Leader and its added value to the implementation of the programme.

5. Communication

• Communication plan for the NRN

A communication plan is drawn up each year, in conjunction with the Communication Unit of the ministry. The main communication activities of the Network Unit include:

- » The production of publications;
- » A Daily hotline for RDP and LAGs;
- » A weekly newsletter for LAGs and regional forum;
- » Participation in external meetings;
- » Organising information meetings for stakeholders;
- » Establishing, managing and developing a rural development and networking website.

- **Communication plan for the RDP**

N/A

6. NRN Knowledge Base

- **Publications:**

- » Research publication "Danish Local Action Groups in Rural and Fishing Areas 2008 – composition, activities and cooperation in the start-up phase".
- » Publication on good LAG projects in Denmark, June 2010 (with possible translation into English).
- » Research Report on Rural Tourism and innovation (March 2011).

- **Latest version of the NSP and RDP:**

- » http://ferv.fvm.dk/landdistrikter_2010.aspx?ID=53675

- **Link to MA/NSU/RDP's website:**

- » www.landdistrikter.dk