

Added Value of Networking



Joint meeting of the thematic support groups in Austria

Basic information	
NRN:	Austria
Theme:	Good practice
Coordinator:	Christian Jochum
Partners:	n.a.
Beneficiaries:	Various actors of all areas
Resources:	n.a.
Period:	2012 onwards
Main element of networking:	Exchange of relevant experience and know-how amongst stakeholders
Other elements of networking:	n.a.

Background

When the Austrian NRN was established, thematic support groups (“Begleitgruppen”, TSGs) were set up. These covered all the RDP Axis and included agriculture and the market, environment, LEADER and forestry. Each TSG consists of around 12 people representing the relevant stakeholder groups such as the agricultural ministry, the agricultural chamber, environmental NGOs, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, environmental experts and LEADER managers. The different thematic support groups meet two or three times a year, but each time they meet separately from each other. In September 2012 the Austrian NRN invited all members of the different thematic support groups to a one day joint meeting to develop networking between all the TSGs.

Main activities

The joint TSG-meeting in September 2012 was attended by about 30 participants. All attendees were invited to actively participate in a round table discussion, a “market place of ideas”, to collect important topics for the 2013 work programme. They also discussed and identified the topics where they felt it would be useful to develop a collaborative network with other TSGs.

Afterwards, small working groups were established and the most important topics were selected and



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discussed in detail. These working groups consisted of members from different TSGs and therefore the results of the discussions reflected many different perspectives. These discussions focused on the multi-functionality of forests, climate & energy regions 2013, alpine farming, biodiversity & LEADER, and environmental protection & economics.

Main results/benefits

The main benefit was bringing together key stakeholders, all dealing with rural development but having different backgrounds, who shared and discussed their points of view on rural development, exchanged knowledge, created new ideas and started new collaborations. Recommendations for the Austrian NRN 2013 work programme were also developed and are now being delivered. This work has also resulted in the development of a seminar on the “Future of alpine farming” to be delivered in 2013 as well as a seminar, analysing the effects of rural development payments in a typical rural area.

Success factors

The success factors included:

- Joint meeting of important rural development stakeholders with different backgrounds
- Round table discussions
- Small working groups (moderated by the Austrian NRN)
- Recommendations/output transferred into the 2013 work programme.

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The Austrian Network brought together people from different thematic fields, creating a win-win situation for all participants.

Contribution of the NSU

The Austrian Network organised the meetings and provided facilitation to the small working groups.

Contribution of the partners

All partners actively contributed to the discussions.

Additional information

n.a.



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Pictures



(1)



(2)



(3)



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Caption: Participants of the joint thematic support group meeting of the Austrian NRN.

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