

Name of Rural Network

Национална селска мрежа
(Nacionalna selska mreza)



Contact Details

Address: 36 Dragan Tsankov Blvd., office B/106, INTERPRED WTC, 1040 Sofia, Bulgaria

Telephone number: 0035 92 969 32 22

Website: www.nsm.bg

Network e-mail: office@nsm.bg

Contact person name(s): Mira Mileva, office@nsm.bg

Contact person e-mail(s): Yanka Kazakova, yanka.kazakova@gmail.com

Mission Statement and Strategic Objectives of the Rural Network

- The Management Unit of the Bulgarian National Rural Network started its activities in November 2012.
- The Bulgarian NRN is a tool for supporting the implementation of the rural development policy. Its mission is to contribute to the efforts for realization of the Rural Development Programme for each one of its three priority areas:
 - Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector;
 - Improving the environment and the countryside;
 - Improving the quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy.
- To avoid any possible duplication of the work, the network is built on previously established organizations and networks.
- The specific aims of the rural network are:
 - Dissemination of information amongst the members of the network on current topics related to the rural development policy;
 - Exchange of experience, knowledge and good practices for rural development from Bulgaria and the other EU member states;
 - Providing a platform gathering the interests and capacity of the NRN members for discussion of effective and feasible solutions for rural development;
 - Providing feedback on current issues and possible solutions related to the implementation of the Rural Development Programme;
 - Cooperation for capacity building and strengthening of the Local Action Groups (LAGs) under the LEADER approach;
 - Encouragement of the cooperation between NRN members at regional, national and trans-national level;
 - Establishment and maintenance of a sustainable National Rural Network in Bulgaria.

Participants in the Rural Network

- The network is characterized by an ongoing formal membership open to public sector, stakeholder organizations and institutions engaged in sustainable local and regional development, promotion of employment and improvement of the quality of life in rural areas, as well representation of all groups of potential beneficiaries under the RDP.

Network Operating Structure

- The MSU (Management Support Unit) is outsourced to the Italian company Agrotec Spa: Project "Organizational activities related to administration and management of the National Rural Network" since November 2012. The MSU operates at the national level,

with a headquarter in Sofia.

- Inseparable part of the NRN MSU team are the 28 regional coordinators (RC), located in all Bulgarian districts, and 20 LAGs – local units, are located in their specific territory. All of them are acting as info points and communication channels. Regional coordinators encourage new members to join the network and to participate in the implementation of the Network's Action Plan at regional level. They provide connection with other networks and/or participants in the rural development and also take part in the identification of good practices under the Rural Development Programme implementation and carry out regional events, included in the NRN Work Plan.
- Functions of the NRN Management Support Unit:
 - Technical and/ or methodological assistance for the NRN members;
 - Supporting the interterritorial and transnational cooperation;
 - Information exchange between the national rural networks and the ENRD;
 - Collecting and dissemination of information about good practices from Bulgaria and the EU;
 - Communication and publicity;
 - Information about the everyday management of the MSU.
- The Management Support Unit (MSU) team, consists of 6 experts (part time) and one coordinator (full time) and Assistant-Coordinator (part time), 28 regional coordinators, 20 local units (LAGs)

Network Management

- The Bulgarian NSU unit is outsourced under the Technical Assistance measure and thus operates under a pre-defined detailed Terms of Reference. An indicative work-plan was submitted and approved as a part of the tender procedure. The implementation of the project activities based on the ToR are reported and updated on a quarterly basis by the MA.
- The overall management and control of the project implementation is carried out by the Management and Control Commission, established in the Managing Authority of the Rural Development Programme.
- The strategic decisions related to the National Rural Network's activities are made by the Monitoring Committee at the Rural Development Programme.
- NSU has two ways to assist the decision-making:
 - » Through the quarterly report which is the official procedure; and this is accompanied by:
 - » Regular operative contacts with the contact experts from the MA either face-to-face, e-mail or telephone to discuss matters arising during project implementation.
- **Decision making processes within the Network Support Unit, Managing Authority and other relevant bodies where necessary**
 - STAGE 1
MA prepares the ToR for NSU for the period 2012-2015 under TA measure -> Open Tender Procedure for companies to implement the ToR for NSU -> Companies submit offers, including an indicative workplan for the period 2012-2015 -> MA selects a company thus approves the indicative workplan for the period 2012-2015.
 - STAGE 2
Selected NSU begins work in an inception phase -> Selected NSU consults with rural stakeholders in formal and informal meetings -> Selected NSU revises the indicative workplan for the period 2012-2015 -> MA comments the revised workplan 2012-2015 -> Selected NSU amends/changes the revised workplan -> MA approves the revised workplan which becomes the workplan to be implemented.
 - STAGE 3
Selected NSU implements the workplan -> reports implementation quarterly to MA, including if changes/adaptations are necessary -> MA comments or approves the proposed changes/amandments – the cycle repeats next quarter.