

1. Annual Work Programme (AWP) 2012: priorities supporting RDP implementation

- The Greek NRN maintains a multi-annual work programme. The date of approval of the multi-annual work programme was May 2011.
- The main priorities of the current AWP include:
 - Development of members' linkages;
 - Exchange of views, know-how and experience, as well as the submitting of proposals for rural development;
 - Development of skills;
 - Identification and dissemination of notable practices related to Rural Development;
 - Dissemination of the results of RDP at local, national and European level;
 - Promotion of inter-territorial and transnational collaboration projects within Axis 4 "LEADER approach" of the RDP;
 - Close cooperation with European Network for Rural Development (ENRD) and NRNs of other Member States;
 - Contribution to the RDP evaluation process.



- The NRN activities typically used to implement these priorities are:
 - Conducting meetings, conferences, seminars;
 - Organization of thematic working groups/ meetings;
 - Scientific and technical support on specific issues;
 - Collection and dissemination / publication of notable practices;
 - Publications, such as newsletters, brochures and production of electronic and /or audiovisual material;
 - Development and constant update of the website (Greek version and English light version).

- The AWP is available on: <http://www.ead.gr/portal/b6d1577e2189a5de.html>

2. Thematic Initiatives launched by the Network

- **New thematic issues the rural network is planning to address:**

- "Agro environmental measures – chances for the development with simultaneous need for environmental protection" including proposals for apply environmental and economical measures, which are found in Mediterranean-type ecosystems and could potentially be applied to the Greek ecosystem.

- **Status info and plans about continued thematic initiatives**

- The ongoing thematic activities are:

- i. "Smart Growth: Research and Innovation"

The Thematic Working Group entitled "Smart Growth: Research and Innovation", whose work had started at the first Conference of the NRN, concluded its proceedings during the afternoon session of the 2nd NRN Conference on 15th of October 2012. The conclusions of the TWG are going to be published very soon.

- ii. "Environment and agriculture"

A new Thematic Working Group began during the 2nd NRN Conference. The theme of the workshop was "Agri-environment measures in Mediterranean-type ecosystems and their application in the Greek reality", decided by the NSU and the Coordination Committee of the NRN. This TWG will be continued.

- iii. "Experiences and reflections of the current programming period on the three priorities of the RDP 2007-2013: Competitiveness, Environment and Regional Development"

The outcomes of this workshop are going to be partly used in the preparation for the next programming period.

iv. Collecting results of applied research in order to assist in planning specific measures for the next programming period. An on-going process with the contribution/collaboration of Research Centers and the General Secretariat of Research and Technology.

• **Issues addressed by the events:**

- Experiences and reflections of the current programming period

• **Issues addressed by working groups:**

- Environment and agriculture
- Smart Growth: Research and Innovation

• **Issues addressed by committees/steering groups:**

- Environment and agriculture

• **Issues subject of surveys/consultation/ analysis:**

- Collecting results of applied research

• **Information about thematic initiatives available on:**

- Information about thematic initiatives is available on the network website www.ead.gr (mostly in Greek language).

2.1 LEADER-related activities

- Greece has an NSU dedicated to support LAGs: Unit B6-LEADER, which is part of the Implementation Authority, monitors and supports the LAGs.
- The NSU organizes training sessions for the LAGs. Information about these events is available on our website www.ead.gr.
- The MA and Unit B6-LEADER provide guidelines and other supporting documents.
- Support documents are available on: <http://www.agrotikianaptixi.gr/index.php?op=Axis&todo=Load&id=03f68714dba796f8>.
- NSU and Unit B6-LEADER support inter – regional and transnational cooperation.
- NSU occasionally plans LAG visits abroad and some events in Greece (one event is about to be held on 29th of November inviting representatives of all 43 Greek LAGs).
- Information about these events is available on our website www.ead.gr.
- The NSU/MA doesn't provide partner search facilities, guides, and other forms of support for cooperation.

3. Relevant Experiences/Good Practices

• **Identification of EAFRD-funded projects representing relevant experience:**

- The identification of EAFRD-funded projects representing relevant practices is based on their characteristics concerning technological and organizational innovation, originality, use of new technologies, maintenance and enhancement of environmental standards with specific outcomes and benefits for the local economy and society. The quest of relevant practices is a responsibility of the NSU, which communicates directly with the actors (members) and especially with the agencies of the Ministry for Rural Development and Food, which implement the Measures of the RDP.

• **Communication and dissemination of relevant experience:**

- Relevant practices selected are being displayed through the NRN website. Furthermore, the NSU is planned to hold an event during which relevant practices that have been selected will be presented to the public. This event will be combined with an award ceremony to announce the farmer and / or the project of the year. Projects identified as good practices will be included among the candidates to be awarded. The above lay within the competence of the NSU.
- Relevant experiences/good practices are available on:
 - <http://www.ead.gr/portal/a3e514d16011d36a.html> (Greek version)
 - <http://www.ead.gr/english/1c4c397ee04239c7.html> (English version)

4. Monitoring and evaluation of networking

- The evaluation of Rural Network performance is assessed through RDP evaluation (external).
- The responsible Unit for guiding and supervising the on-going evaluation of the RDP is Unit A of the Managing Authority. A group was set up in order to support the work of Unit A in the assessment / evaluation of the RDP, the Steering Group. The Unit E-NSU participates in the Steering Group and supports assessment activities under the NRN Action Plan.
- There are also some internal evaluation activities (part of the evaluation process of the Ministry of Rural Development) mostly concerning employee performance.
- The network doesn't implement quantitative or qualitative assessments.

5. Communication

- A communication plan approved by the Ministry for Rural Development and Food is set in the RDP.
- The communication plan is available on: <http://www.agrotikianaptixi.gr/index.php?obj=2ef3dce7c059b268>.
- The communication tools mostly used by the network are newsletters, e-mails, communication through our web-site, brochures and newspapers (on rural issues). These tools are more affordable and also accessible to many people.

6. Cooperation interest of the Rural Network

- Areas in which the network seek or offer cooperation with other rural networks:
 - Med Cluster (cooperation with EU members Italy, France, Spain, Portugal, Malta and Cyprus)
 - TNC offers mostly by neighbour countries
 - Self-assessment activities

6. Documents

- Newsletters: <http://www.ead.gr/portal/42a215471a4083a4.html>
- Brochures: <http://www.ead.gr/data/files/1d7861249344ffe9/file.pdf>; <http://www.ead.gr/data/files/80af008dfe155dde/file.pdf>
- Latest version of the NSP and RDP available on:
 - www.agrotikianaptixi.gr
 - RDP 11th edition: <http://www.agrotikianaptixi.gr/index.php?obj=0f6d11a5f98dbcc4>
 - NSP 2007-2013 - March 2012: <http://www.agrotikianaptixi.gr/index.php?obj=c532c8500b58418b>