

1. Summary of Work Programme (NRN activities)



1.1 Priorities of the current AWP:

- The Spanish NRN has a multi-annual WP, included in the NRN Programme. The current AWP has been approved in 2008.
- The priorities of the Spanish NRN, already established in the NRN Programme, as follows:
 - Objective 1: to improve the implementation of the 2007-13 Rural Development Programme in the rural territory.
 - Objective 2: to increase the development capacity of rural territories and to promote a bottom-up approach.
 - Objective 3: to promote knowledge about the rural environment.
- All of them pursue the same aim: to promote the development of the Spanish rural areas.

1.2 NRN's activities implementing the above mentioned priorities

• **Objective 1: to improve the implementation of the 2007-13 Rural Development Programme in the rural territory**

- Activities:

- Organization of meetings between RDP Managing Authorities to strengthen the capacity for programming and executing the PDRs;
- Meetings to discuss, update and modify national programming documents (National Strategic Plan for Rural Development, National Framework and NRNP);
- Provision of technical assistance and surveys of general interest, transferable and horizontal, focused in the improvement of programming documents;
- Creation and support of online applications RDP monitoring and assessment;
- Organization of technical meetings and seminars for the discussion and analysis of innovative experiences in rural development;
- Realization of surveys and technical assistance for common national elements of the regional RDPs;
- Identification, analysis and diffusion of transferable Good Practices;
- Management of the NRN.

• **Objective 2: to increase the development capacity of rural territories and to promote a bottom-up approach**

- Activities:

- Support and coordination activities between RDPs Managing authorities, Paying Agencies, Certification Authorities and responsible entities of monitoring and assessment;
- Reinforcement of coherence between the different Community instruments through a fluent communication with the responsible organisms of the CAP first pillar and the Managing Authorities of other European funds execution programmes (ERDF, ESF, CF and EFF);
- Support of structures and applications needed for the coordination with other networks: Fishing Areas Network, ENRD and other State Member Rural Networks;
- Support of a solid framework of relations with economic and social agents related to rural development;
- Support of the evaluation ex post of horizontal programmes of programming period 2000-2006, and final reports;
- Training for administrative staff about common measures implementation, monitoring and assessment;
- Technical assistance to increase the skills of agents involved in rural development through training activities and innovative experiences;
- Support for analysis of RD politics, public administration and entities role in RD and experience exchange.

- **Objective 3: to promote knowledge about the rural environment**

- Activities:

- Support for the identification, analysis and diffusion of good practices in rural development and governance;
- Support for the realization of thematic surveys and technical assistance in relation to horizontal issues of special interest for the whole programming, from which extract guidelines about good practices in rural development and governance;
- Diffusion of the experiences and knowledge about rural environment to the whole society in general and rural society in particular.

- The network's AWP is available on: http://www.magrama.gob.es/es/desarrollo-rural/temas/programas-ue/Programa_RRN_2013_tcm7-229848.pdf

2. Thematic Initiatives launched by the Network

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

- Innovation, rural tourism, good practices, economic diversification and new technologies are four issues that now are being addressed by the NRN, mainly through the working groups.

- The latest NRN magazine "Rural and Sustainable Development" addressed the following topics:

- Fertilizers as the main factor for the carbon footprint of agricultural products
- Usefulness of the landscape: key for its future
- Communication technologies, rural tourism and new ways of leisure
- Empowerment of women in rural companies
- Livestock waste recover
- Networking strength
- Reconciling divergent interests as a tool for fighting against forest fires
- Innovation and research: key elements for the agro-food industry

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

- Most of the information is on our website:

- Working groups activity and products: <http://www.magrama.gob.es/es/desarrollo-rural/temas/red-rural-nacional/grupos-de-trabajo/>
- Events and Training: <http://www.magrama.gob.es/es/desarrollo-rural/formacion/>
- Publications: <http://www.magrama.gob.es/es/desarrollo-rural/publicaciones/publicaciones-de-desarrollo-rural/default.aspx>
- Magazine: http://www.magrama.gob.es/es/ministerio/servicios/publicaciones/rev_numero_art.asp?codrevista=DRS
- With respect to the on going activities, they are focused in compiling information between the members in order to build documents and applications of general interest

- **Issues addressed by the events:**

- Summary of latest events:

- Seminars for the diffusion of innovative experiences and cooperation projects of the NRN: <http://www.magrama.gob.es/es/desarrollo-rural/formacion/cursos/default.aspx#para3>
- Sustainable development of forests
- Rural tourism
- New Technologies projects applied to rural development
- Working groups meetings, with their respective thematic issues.

- **Issues addressed by working groups:**

- Rural tourism
- Economic diversification
- New technologies in rural environment

- Future programming period 2014-2020
 - Trashumance (seasonal migration of livestock)
 - Good practices
 - Gender mainstreaming
- **Issues addressed by committees/steering groups:**
 - RDP Evaluation and LEADER axis (subcommittees)
- **Issues subject of surveys/consultation/analysis:**
 - The thematic working groups members contribute with their expertise through surveys and analysis of good practices.
- **Thematic issues addressed in other ways:**
 - The NRN innovative experiences and cooperation projects involve one or more thematic issues. For example:
 - Short supply chains
 - Analysis and decrease of carbon footprint
 - Promotion of rural women: creation of job and social services
 - Forest management
 - Local and quality products: labeling, marketing, diffusion
 - Promotion of innovation in rural development
 - Disabled people in rural areas
- **Information about thematic initiatives available on:**
 - All the information is on our website <http://www.magrama.gob.es/es/desarrollo-rural/temas/red-rural-nacional/> .

2.1. LEADER Related Activity

- The regional RDP MAs support LAGs directly, although NRN MA and NSU staff is also available for LAG support.
- The NRN organises training and events for LAGs: The Spanish NRN Training Plan (<http://www.marm.es/es/desarrollo-rural/formacion/>) includes also courses and symposiums that congregate experts, technicians, LAGs and public administrations.
- Information about these events available on:
 - Within the website, there is a calendar of events: http://www.magrama.gob.es/es/desarrollo-rural/temas/red-rural-nacional/calendario-de-eventos/calendario_eventos.asp
 - Information about training courses: <http://www.magrama.gob.es/es/desarrollo-rural/formacion/cursos/default.aspx>
- The NSU/MA provide guidelines and other supporting documents. Supporting documents are available on
 - Summary: http://www.magrama.gob.es/es/desarrollo-rural/publicaciones/publicaciones-de-desarrollo-rural/GRUPOS_LEADER_2007-2013_tcm7-216739.pdf
 - LAG search engine: http://www.magrama.gob.es/es/desarrollo-rural/temas/red-rural-nacional/directorio-de-grupos-de-accion-local/consulta_gal.asp
 - LAG Interactive map: <http://sig.magrama.es/geoportal/>
- Each regional RDP/MA further supports Leader implementation by providing guidelines and support to the LAGs located in their territory.
- The NSU supports inter-regional cooperation projects.
- LAG activities are supported by the regional RDP, although many interregional cooperation projects include cooperation fairs, visit abroad, etc.
- Each regional RDP MA provides guidelines and support to the LAGs located in their territory. Information about all LAGs is provided by the previously mentioned search engine and interactive map in the website.

3. Relevant Experiences/Good Practices

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

- The projects are selected mainly through an evaluation commission according to a set of criteria, mainly the contribution of the projects to economic diversification, improvement of life quality and promotion of rural areas multifunctionality, in the framework of sustainable development.
- Good Practices are selected by the working groups, composed by members of the NRN Monitoring Committee.

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

- The most relevant experiences are disseminated by conferences and events where the entities or LAGs present their projects by themselves. Information about all the projects can be found in the NRN Website. Additionally, most of the projects include their own diffusion activities.
- Good Practices are disseminated through publications available in paper and digital version.

- Relevant experiences/good practices are available on:

- Innovative experiences: http://www.magrama.gob.es/es/desarrollo-rural/publicaciones/publicaciones-de-desarrollo-rural/LIBRO_EXPERIENCIAS_INNOVADORAS_RRN_tcm7-209976.pdf
- Cooperation projects: http://www.magrama.gob.es/es/desarrollo-rural/publicaciones/publicaciones-de-desarrollo-rural/PROYECTOS_COOPERACION_RRN_tcm7-209977.pdf
- Good practices on rural development and disabled people: http://www.magrama.gob.es/es/desarrollo-rural/publicaciones/publicaciones-de-desarrollo-rural/Discapacidad_dobles_tcm7-174897.pdf
- Good practices on rural development and elderly people: http://www.magrama.gob.es/es/desarrollo-rural/publicaciones/publicaciones-de-desarrollo-rural/personas_mayores%5B1%5D%5B1%5D_tcm7-174195.pdf
- Good practices on gender equality in rural development: http://www.magrama.gob.es/es/desarrollo-rural/temas/red-rural-nacional/Buenas_pr%C3%A1cticas_en_Desarrollo_Rural_e_Igualdad_tcm7-174047.pdf
- On going publications, soon available on the Website: "Good practices on Reconciling family life and work in the rural areas" and "Good practices on rural development and youth"

4. Monitoring and Evaluation of Networking

- Spain has Regional RDPs and a National Programme for the NRN: performance is assessed independently. In the case of the NRN, the intermediate performance assessment is external.
- In addition of the external intermediate assessment, every year a mid-Term report is presented to the Monitoring Committee. This evaluation includes the state of the implementation of the activities through indicators, as well as the financial execution of the Programme.
- The network implement quantitative performance assessment comparing output units with target indicators: in 2012 the NRN target indicators and goals per objective are almost achieved.
- The network implement qualitative assessment reviewing feedback of network constituents: according to the external intermediate assessment, the feedback or the network membership is high.

5. Communication

- The Spanish NRN and regional RDP MA have a communication plan.

- The communication tool mostly used by the network is its website.
- The website is used for external and internal communication:
 - Internally, through applications that are restricted to the NRN members, as:
 - » Application "mi RRN", that allows the members to get information about the events and register directly, get other members contact or mail them directly, etc
 - » Application for the Working Groups, through which all the members can access and share the documents and mail directly the rest of the group
 - Externally, as all the information and publications of the NRN is available to the general public.
 - » NRN magazine "Rural and Sustainable Development";
 - » Participation of NRN in fairs and events; for example NRN has its own stand every year in FITUR (International Fair of Tourism), where the best projects related to rural tourism are shown.

6. Cooperation interests of the Rural Network

- Areas in which the network seeks or offers cooperation with other rural networks:
 - Seek: Innovation and economic diversification
 - Offer: Good Practices and Innovative experiences, rural women

7. Documents

- Publications:
 - "Grupos de acción local 2007-2013": compilation of information templates of each LAG
 - "RRN Proyectos de Cooperación de la Red Rural Nacional": document that includes the cooperation projects made within the NRN between 2009 and 2011
 - "RRN Experiencias innovadoras de Entidades de la Red Rural Nacional": document that includes the innovative experiences carried out within the NRN by its members between 2009 and 2011
 - "Manual BBPP en desarrollo rural y personas mayores": Guidelines in the field of elder people and rural development
 - "Manual BBPP en desarrollo rural y personas con discapacidad": Guidelines in the field of disabled people and rural development
- NRN publications can be found in the link <http://www.magrama.gob.es/es/desarrollo-rural/publicaciones/publicaciones-de-desarrollo-rural/default.aspx>, where the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment presents its publications about rural development.
- Information and publications of the NRN Working Groups (some already closed and other still open) can be found at <http://www.magrama.gob.es/es/desarrollo-rural/temas/red-rural-nacional/grupos-de-trabajo/>
- Other tools already mentioned: search engines, interactive maps, etc
- Latest version of the NSP and RDP available on:
 - The 17 regional RDP and the NRN-P: <http://www.magrama.gob.es/es/desarrollo-rural/temas/programas-ue/periodo-de-programacion-2007-2013/programas-de-desarrollo-rural/default.aspx>.