

Name of Rural Network

Maaseutuverkosto -
Landsbygdsnätverket



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Mission Statement and Strategic Objectives of the Rural Network

- The general objective of the Finnish network is to bring together the various parties involved in the Rural Development Programmes for Mainland Finland and the Åland Islands, i.e. authorities, organizations and citizen operators participating in rural development. The Rural Network aims at promoting networking activities between the various operators and experts, and at supporting the maintenance of networks, between target groups and different fields.
- The specific aims of the rural network is to engage in training and informational work on the results of the various programmes and the opportunities offered by them. It also aims to promote the dissemination of best practices and methods. The rural network gathers and relays information on training sessions and events relating to rural development and the implementation of the programme.

Participants in the Rural Network

- The network is characterized by an informal and on-going membership open to the public sector, to the stakeholder organizations and to individuals.

Network Structure

- The Network Support Unit (NSU) is established within the Managing Authority and is delegated to a unit within the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.
- The NSU is not outsourced and has no regional NSUs operates in the nation.
- The NSU's Human Resources include seven full-time employees: Director (Head of Unit), Network Coordinator (work of local action groups, promoting internationalisation), Information Officer (communication), Network Trainer (organisation of training, compilation and dissemination of good practices, agriculture and the environment), Network Coordinator (Swedish-speaking training and communication, collaboration with stakeholder groups in Swedish-speaking areas and the Province of Åland, village action), Network Coordinator (electronic communication, organization of meetings), Financial Planning Coordinator (purchases, fairs, financial administration, clerical tasks).

Network Management

- The management decisions in the network involve both formal and less formal decision-making processes. The NSU collects the information from the field and prepares the annual working plan. First the Steering Group and then the RDP Monitoring Committee defines the annual work program. The results of the NRN activities are reported, together with the results of the RDP implementation, to the RDP Monitoring Committee. Managing Authority and other relevant bodies are members of Rural Network steering

committee, which is guiding the action of rural network. There are 21 members in steering group.
- The NSU assists this decision-making process by preparing every year the annual working plan.

Network Budget for the period 2007–13

Network budget	€	Budget breakdown	€
Total network funds (Public Cost)	11 800 000	Total Network funds (Public Costs)	11 800 000
National co-finance	6 490 000	Work plan resources	10 800 000
EAFRD	5 310 000	Network running costs	1 000 000
EAFR Co-financing %	45%	Others (if appropriate)	/