

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



- The network maintains an annual work programme. The current AWP, agreed between the MA and the network providers, has been approved on February 2012.
- The main priority of the current AWP is to carry out actions that create and disseminate information.
- NRN activities used to implement Network's priority include: Strategic Issues Working Groups, Case Studies, Website, Newsletters, Conference and Forum.

2. Thematic Initiatives launched by the Network

- New thematic issues that the rural network is planning to address are: Rural finance and rural youth.
- Continued thematic initiatives and thematic issues addressed through events vary from year to year.
- Issues addressed in working groups are: Farm Partnership, Farm Enterprise, Rural Economy, Climate Change.
- No thematic issue is addressed by committees/steering groups.
- 'LEADER Impact research' is a thematic issues subject of surveys and analysis.
- Information about the thematic activities is available on the publications present on the website.

2.1 LEADER-related activities

- The NSU/MA have staff dedicated to LAG support and organises training and events for LAGs.
- Information about these events is available on the NRN website.
- The NSU/MA provides guidelines and other supporting documents: many available from the past programme.
- Support documents are available on:
 - <http://web.archive.org/web/20090302124902/>
 - <http://www.ilsu.ie/Publications.html>
- The NSU/MA staff support inter-regional and transnational cooperation by providing information to LAGs is seeking for partners.
- The NSU/MA doesn't plan cooperation fairs, LAG visits abroad or other events; this is done by LAGs themselves.
- The NSU/MA provides partner search facilities through circulation of requests.

3. Relevant Experiences/Good Practices

- **Identification and dissemination of EAFRD-funded projects representing relevant experience:**
 - Good practices are identified and disseminated through:
 - Case studies;
 - Conference;
 - Forum Meetings;
 - Newsletter;
 - Media pages.

4. Monitoring and evaluation of networking

- The rural network assessed its performance through the RDP evaluation during the Mid-Term-Evaluation by reviewing its website and the newsletter.
- The Network doesn't assess network performance through NRN-P evaluation or through other self-assessment activities.

5. Communication

- The network doesn't have a communication plan but a communication plan is included in the RDP.
- The communication tools mostly used by the network are: website, newsletter, farming press and conference.

