

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

- The LRN maintained a multi-annual work programme, that is included in the LRN Regulation. By initiative of the LRN Members a yearly LRN Action Plan is developed and established.
- The current AWP has been approved on 17th September 2009 with some revisions on 4th January 2011 (according to the LRN legislative documents reduction, the AWP was included to the LRN Regulation).



1.1 Priorities of the current AWP:

1. Identification of agricultural, food sector and rural development experience and changes, collection, systematization, analysis, generalization and submission of proposals;
2. Dissemination of experience in the field of agriculture, food sector and rural development and other related information;
3. Development of training programmes for the local action groups, technical and methodical assistance in implementing LEADER method;
4. Technical support for regional and transnational cooperation of the rural development participants;
5. Representation of the interests of the rural development participants in the EU organizations;
6. Implementation of the projects initiated by the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania and related to agriculture, food sector and rural Development;
7. Network management.

1.2 NRN's activities implementing the above mentioned priorities

- Priority 1 - Activities pertaining to the realisation of studies and research, as well as innovative ideas related to the agricultural, forestry, food sector and rural development;
- Priority 2 – Activities related to the exchange and dissemination of information, such as the organisation of conferences, events, exhibitions, fairs, publications, and participation at the national and international events that are related to the agricultural, forestry, food sector and rural development etc.; The organisation of study visits, workshops and cooperation projects.
- Priority 3 – activities for LAG's, related to facilitate implementing of LEADER method, LEADER Programme and Farmers' Training Methodology Centre under the Ministry of Agriculture prepares training programmes for LAG and organizes educational events related to those training programmes.
- Priority 4 – cooperation activities among NRN Members and regional and/ or transnational partners, developing of common results.
- Priority 5 – participation of LRN Members in EU organization (ELARD, COPA-COGECA, COPA-GEOPA; ELO; PREPARE, ERA, CEJA; IDF, EUROGITIS, CEPF);
- Priority 6 – LRN Members implemented projects, related to the organization of the traditional fairs, events (AgroBalt, What you sow...Organic products fairs etc.);
- Priority 7 – LRN Members participating in the meetings, related to the LRN activities.

2. Thematic Initiatives launched by the Network

- **New thematic issues that the network is planning to address:**
 - Specific issues/ priorities extend LRN Committees before annual (yearly) Action Plan is approved. According to these priorities LRN Members prepare projects.

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

- LRN Committees for the Action Plan 2012 confirmed the same priorities of the Action Plan of 2011. The priorities are:
- Rural youth committee confirmed the same priority for 2011 and 2012 – Promoting entrepreneurship for rural youth;
- Committee on rural policy issues – Popularization of Lithuanian products and consumer education etc.

• **Issues addressed by the events:**

- In February the LRN secretariat organizes a meetings for all LRN Committees according to the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural development;
- In May a transnational LAG's fair is organized.

• **Issues addressed by working groups:**

- The LRN has just one working group related to the new LRN Members memberships.

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

- i. Committee on rural policy issues
 - Challenges of the Common Agricultural Policy.
 - The present and future Lithuanian agricultural policy in the context of foreign countries.
 - Popularization of Lithuanian products and consumer education.
 - Improving the quality of life in rural areas.
 - Activation of organizations representing interests of rural residents.
- ii. Committee for rural business promotion –
 - Promotion of rural entrepreneurship and competitiveness and competence improvement.
 - Promotion of rural cooperation, partnership and co-operatives.
 - Application of innovations to increase rural business efficiency.
- iii. Rural youth committee
 - Promoting entrepreneurship for rural youth.
 - Organizing rural youth leisure time and employment.
 - Facilitating dialogue between generations in rural areas.
 - Promoting rural youth volunteering.
 - Promoting rural youth initiatives.
 - Fostering public spirit of rural youth.
- iv. Landscape and rural area planning committee
 - Promotion of partnership.
 - Application of good and historical experience for village preservation and revival.
 - Enhancement of a traditional farm by preserving biodiversity.
 - Preserving forestry potential and sustainable development.
 - Landscape formation and management seeking a positive impact on climate change.
- v. Committee for innovations and rural research
 - Biotechnological innovations in rural areas.
 - Healthy environment and lifestyle in rural areas.
 - Development and implementation of social innovations in solving rural problems.
 - Application of information technologies in rural areas.
 - Application of technological innovation in rural areas.
- vi. LEADER and community promotion committee
 - Promotion of sense of community and volunteering.
 - Partnership strengthening among rural development stakeholders.

- Promotion of community services development in rural areas.
- Promotion of youth initiatives in rural use.

1.2 LEADER-related activities

- NSU, MA, LEADER Programme and Farmers' Training Methodology Centre under the Ministry of Agriculture are dedicated to LAGs support.
- The LEADER Programme and Farmers' Training Methodology Centre under the Ministry of Agriculture organizes training and events.
- Information about these events is available on: <http://www.leaderlietuva.lt/lt/naudinga-informacija/renginiai.html>
- MA and LEADER Programme and Farmers' Training Methodology Centre under the Ministry of Agriculture provide guidelines and other supporting documents.
- Support documents are available on:
 - <http://www.zum.lt/index.php?285132261>;
 - <http://www.leaderlietuva.lt/lt/leader-lietuvoje/leader-2007-2013.html>.
- Other forms of support to LEADER implementation are:
 - LRN provides support for LAG's to facilitate the implementation of LEADER method,
 - LEADER Programme and Farmers' Training Methodology Centre under the Ministry of Agriculture from the budget of LRN prepares training programmes for LAG's and organizes educational events related to those training programmes.
- Cooperation support to the LAGs is provided by:
 - The MA which supports inter-regional and transnational cooperation,
 - The NSU which shares information about cooperation through the LRN website,
 - Paying Agency and LEADER Programme and Farmers' Training Methodology Centre under the Ministry of Agriculture.
- The NSU and the MA plan cooperation fairs, LAG visits abroad and other events: the NSU in May organizes the 1st transnational LAG's fair and LEADER Programme and Farmers' Training Methodology Centre under the Ministry of Agriculture organizes other events.
- Information about these events is available on: <http://www.leaderlietuva.lt/en/useful-information/events.html> .
- The NSU shares information about inter-regional and transnational cooperation through the LRN website. MA and LEADER Programme and Farmers' Training Methodology Centre under the Ministry of Agriculture provides guides and other support documents.
- Support documents are available on:
 - www.kaimotinklas.lt;
 - <http://www.zum.lt/index.php?1421087208>;
 - <http://www.leaderlietuva.lt/en/useful-information/partner-search.html>.

3. Relevant Experiences/Good Practices

- **Identification and dissemination of EAFRD-funded projects representing relevant experience:**
 - NSU receive the information from the Paying Agency, collect it and place the projects in the database. Dissemination of relevant experience is done also through the edition of brochures of EAFRD-funded projects.
 - Relevant experiences/good practices are available on: <http://www.kaimotinklas.lt/geroji-patirtis-67/Lt/>.

4. Monitoring and evaluation of networking

- The rural network assesses its performance through RDP evaluation. The network doesn't implement performance assessment through NRN-P evaluation nor through qualitative or quantitative assessment activities.

5. Communication

- The rural network doesn't have a communication plan but a communication plan is part of the RDP.
- The communication tools mostly used by the network are: events, edition of brochures, public utterance in the local press. These tools are the best to reach direct stakeholders.

6. Cooperation interests of the Rural Network

- The LRN is specifically interested in sharing information and experience with other networks, as regards the organization of conferences, study trips and the development of regional (e.g. Baltic) networks among others.

7. Documents

- List of your publications, info materials, videos, etc: the LRN implemented about 306 activities, related to the edition of publications, brochures, info materials, videos, etc.
- Latest version of the NSP and RDP available on: <http://www.zum.lt/index.php?1216814245>.