

## Name of Rural Network

Lietuvos kaimo tinklas



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## Mission Statement and Strategic Objectives of the Rural Network

- The current objectives of the LRN include to:
  - Organise different stakeholders for common activities;
  - Support dialogue between stakeholders;
  - Encourage improved networking amongst various stakeholders;
  - Motivate stakeholder cooperation;
  - Enhance RDP implementation;
  - Stimulate the exchange and dissemination of information;
  - Promote transnational cooperation (TNC);
  - Achieve added value for rural development policy.
- In line with the objectives of the agricultural and rural non-governmental organizations, State institutions and agencies, involved in the implementation of the Programme and other rural development, agricultural, and food sector goals, the specific aims of your rural network are to ensure the proper implementation of the Programme and to address the projects towards a sustainable agricultural, food sector and rural development.

## Participants in the Rural Network

- The network is characterized by an on-going formal membership open to the public sector and the stakeholder organisations. The membership is not open to individuals.

## Network Structure

- The Network Support Unit (NSU) is established within the Managing Authority.
- The NSU is not delegated to a ministerial agency or other institutions, and is not outsourced or have regional NSUs.
- NSU's Human Resources include:
  - 1 Person (full-time), responsible for preparation of annual Action plans, LRN Members submitted projects implementing rules, organization of the meetings of the LRN organizational structures;
  - 1 Person (full-time), responsible for selection of new LRN Members, information collection for the LRN website, administrations of establishment and administration expenditure as well as encourage and support the dissemination of information for LRN Members.
- Membership in the network is voluntary, open, and formal. The roles and functions of LRN's Members are:
  - To participate in the activities of the committees;
  - To ensure the exchange and dissemination of relevant information and good practice;
  - To contribute to the preparation and implementation of the Action Plan and Work Programme;
  - To share good practice and experience of the projects supported by LRN in the Committees after the implementation of the Annual Action Plan;
  - To take part in the legislative process by making proposals to improve the implementation of the RDP.

- The network is composed of:

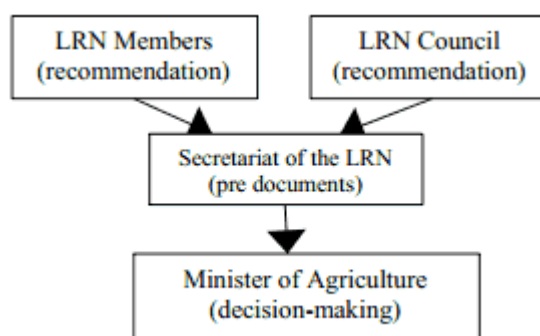
**1. LRN Thematic Committees:** (Committee on rural policy issues, Committee for rural business promotion, Rural youth committee, Landscape and rural area planning committee, Committee for innovations and rural research, LEADER and community promotion committee). Each organisation that applies to become a member of the Network is asked to nominate a representative to one of the LRN Committees. The Committees are able to take initiative and influence the activity of the network. Through a 'bottom-up approach', they have decided on their own management structure, in particular, that the chairman is elected on a rotating basis. They also have approved rules and regulations for work and they actively participate in the preparation of the annual priorities of the committee that are confirmed at the yearly Action Plan for the LRN. According to these priorities Committees make recommendations for implementation of the projects.

**2. LRN Council:** formed of the representatives of the Network members, deals with rural development issues and other issues relating to agriculture, food sector and forestry. It is also in charge of the Network activity coordination, activity animation, and formation of annual action plans. The Network Council members represent the Network interests on the principle of rotation. They are delegated to the Network Council by the Network committees (each Network committee shall delegate 3 members). The Network Council is elected twice a year.

**3. LRN working group:** (comprising the representatives of each committee and representatives of the Ministry) are in charge of accepting new members and discussing emerging issues.

## Network Management

- The management decisions in the network involve formal decision making process: LRN Members take proposals for the improvement of LRN main documents and LRN main documents are approved by Minister of Agriculture.
- The NSU assists this decision-making process by providing technical assistance for given recommendation and decision making bodies (collection and dissemination of information, prep documents).
- Flow chart of the decision making processes:



## Network Budget for the period 2007–13

Network budget	€	Budget breakdown	€
Total network funds (Public Cost)	9.297.920	Total Network funds (Public Costs)	9.297.920
National co-finance	2.324.480	Work plan resources	6.973.440
EAFRD	6.973.440	Network running costs	2.324.480
EAFR Co-financing %	75 %	Others (if appropriate)	/

