

NETWERK

PLATTELAND

Workplan 2012-2013



Network Unit / National Rural Network The Netherlands



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Summary

Rural areas will face changes in 2012 and 2013: the second phase of the Rural Development Program (RDP-2) is ending; the new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is coming. The present workplan describes the intended activities during the last 2 years of the National Rural Network (NNR). It also explains the priorities for this period and how the plan came to be. The emphasis is on phasing out of the NNR and what it will leave behind. How the NNR will implement activities in close cooperation with provincial authorities, local organizations, and other partners in rural development is described as well.

Provincial authorities have been involved in the preparations for the workplan. The NNR's strategic involvement has been discussed with a representation of civil organizations. Furthermore, the plan has been fine-tuned with the commissioning agency (the MoA).

Main points from the consultation of civil organizations:

- The rural development 'game' will change. Innovative ideas, bringing actors together and facilitation of implementers are in demand.
- 'Veelzijdig platteland' (associations of groups farming for nature), LTO (Dutch federation of agriculture and horticulture), the association of small villages (LVKK) and other organizations wish to cooperate more closely with the NNR.

The main outcome of the reconnaissance with the coordination platform of the twelve provincial authorities in the Netherlands (TPO):

- RDP-3. Several provincial authorities would appreciate the support of the NNR in preparing RDP-3 in informative meetings and with project ideas. E.g.: joint reflection on decentralization in the coming years. Recognizing opportunities and threats for rural areas rather than just allocating means.
- Heritage of the NNR. Approach and lessons learned should be transferred to increase the visibility of the NNR.

The outcome of the consultations is in line with two broader trends that have already been observed in the workplan for 2011:

- *Transfer of responsibilities and funding to local level.* This is very relevant as roles between national, provincial and municipal authorities are changing considerably.
- *Public services:* the revision of the CAP and RDP-3 considers rendering innovative, public services in rural areas. What do green services entail in practice? The Dutch Government aims at increasing sustainability and contracts with local collectives.

The following priorities emerge from the consultations:

- Optimizing the use of knowledge and experience regarding rural areas and agriculture
- Local funding
- Well functioning local and regional partnerships
- Visibility and heritage (of the NNR)

Priority	Services and products
1. Utilization of knowledge and experience	State-of-the-art-meetings
	Access to useful practices including local funding and organization
	Excursions to exchange (Standplaats.pl)
	Communities of practice
	Study meetings
	Articles in professional magazines, information bulletins and blogs
2. Local funding	New forms of cooperation
	Workshops and conferences
	Website and blog
	Articles in 'Streek'(magazine)
3. Local and regional partnerships	Regional meetings
	Pilots in new partnerships
	Relevant benchmarks
	Website
	LinkedIn-groups
	Rural Parliament
4. Visibility and heritage	Book 'The ideal country side'
	Publication on local funding
	Handing over document for the next Network Unit

The Network Unit proposes to implement above by:

- Regular meetings with all the provinces (TPO) regarding further detailing of activities.
- Organize once again a strategic, civil consultation focusing in particular on the essentials of the revised CAP.
- Organize intervision between the most important funding agencies (national, provincial and municipal authorities and water boards) regarding contemplating and formulating RDP-3.
- Link civil organizations with new ideas on local funding to provincial authorities.
- Together with NCOB (Dutch centre for public governance) organize think-tanking on local governance and local responsibility with sufficient guarantee to achieve public targets.
- To sustain the heritage: experience between 2006 (end of RDP-1) and 2007 (beginning of POP-2) indicates that it is important to transfer the heritage to the subsequent Network Unit. Hereto, timely meetings are required with the commissioning agency.



1 Background and approach to the two year workplan

In this chapter we briefly describe position and role of the National Rural Network (NRN), its environment, recent developments, the recurrent issue of the visibility of the NRN and the main direction for the next two years. Further adjustment will take place in consultation with the commissioning agency depending on progress. In this way we can anticipate on actual developments.

1.1. National Network and Network Unit

The NRN consists of and is meant for individuals and organizations that are engaged in a strong and attractive country side. The NRN is facilitated by a Network Unit. Its mission is:

1. **Strengthening local development** – the Network Unit supports cooperation between members of civil organizations that are involved in local development.
2. **Creating thematic links** – the economy, environmental quality and social aspects of rural areas are as much as possible developed in an integrated manner. In RDP jargon: interlink the four axes. Therefore, we want to link actors of the four axes.
3. **Strengthening the network** – the Network Unit brings actors together and identifies opportunities for cooperation, exchange of knowledge, experience and best practices. The Network Unit also profiles the NRN within the Netherlands as well as abroad by publications, newsletters and the www.
4. **Internationalization** – the Network Unit promotes (international) exchange of *good and bad project practices* and experience in rural development.
5. On request of the DG-Agri (and in accordance with the MoA-CAP) the NRN Unit plays a role in the public debate on RDP-3 since 2010.

The NU does not gain from rural development. It detects policy implications but does not influence policies or politics. The NRN also does not provide subsidies or (subcontracts) research.

The NRN, i.e. all rural actors such as villagers, (agricultural) entrepreneurs, civil servants, environmental organizations, waterboards, politicians, etc., supports these actors with knowhow. The degree of involvement depends per activity.

Tools

The Network Unit has composed a tool kit with:

- Website, weblog and other web 2.0 tools, a digital newsletter and a magazine.
- Varied meetings ranging from small workshops to large conferences.
- Communities of practices consisting of actors and experts around various themes. This tool will be used more on request of municipal ministers.
- Think tanks, workshops and webinars.
- Excursions and meetings in the field aiming at various target groups meeting around best practices with brand name 'standplaats.PL'
- Publications.



Target tree

Prior to drawing up the two year plan, network activities that contribute to achieving the goals of rural development (presently RDP-2) have been analyzed. To this end a tool of the Objective Oriented Action Planning has been used: the objective tree. The tree is based on a thorough and integrated analysis of underlying problems. The latter analysis revealed the bottlenecks in rural development in the Netherlands. For each problem the scope of solutions is mentioned. (The problem analysis of the Network Unit and the objective tree coincided with the main objectives of the three axes of the RDP-2 and the leverage effect of LEADER, axis four. This is shown in attached diagram 'Objective tree rural development policy', from which the objectives of the NRN are derived.

This clearly demonstrates how the NRN strengthens the implementation of RDP-2. By solving (some of the) problems, network activities contribute directly to realizing sub-objectives of the RDP-2 and indirectly to the main objectives. That was exactly the reason why a national network and a Network Unit were instituted by directive.

Finally, an integral approach to local development is considered important. Considering the already formulated priorities of RDP-3, a thorough analysis of problems will contribute to improving the quality of RDP-3.

1.2 Environment and developments

Strategic consultation

The Network Unit has been asked to organize a strategic consultation regarding the operational priorities for the next two years of the NRN. Earlier this was done, amongst others, by consulting the LOVP (national consultation on a vital country side) which does not exist anymore. The consultation focused on picking up signals from the NRN environment and from society regarding development of rural areas that deserve to be addressed.

Some ten experts/stakeholders, together with the Network Unit and representatives of the commissioning agency, have brainstormed on the role of the NRN, the spearheads and, of course, the interaction between various partners. Visibility and profile of the NRN were a topic as well and ideas on prioritization have been exchanged. It was also discussed whether or not the NRN should anticipate the next EU funding period and which means of communication have to be used. In short: the focus for the coming period.

The outcome of the consultation was broader than the involvement of the NRN: broad trends in society and developments in rural areas were included as well. To which extent this has to widen the scope of the NRN was discussed with the commissioning agency.

A brief summary of the main outcome of this discussion:



- The NRN should clarify its role and what it means to local parties: is it an authority or a movement? Veelzijdig Platteland (associations of groups farming for nature), LTO (Dutch federation of agriculture and horticulture) and LVKK (association of small villages) would like to cooperate more closely with the NRN. How to best organize this cooperation? The NRN is challenged to look across borders, there is more than policy. What counts is even looking beyond POP-3. The next two years of the NRN could be lined out for example. The mandate of the NRN is focusing on organizations involved in rural development. This allows for the desired cooperation.
- A lot is going on in social media. It is important to monitor what happens in waves of online interaction and during physical exchange. What are key issues and how could we contribute to incorporating them in policies?
- The rural development 'game' is going to change. Innovative ideas, facilitating the implementation and bringing parties together is in demand.
- The question of scale is asked, but not clearly answered: at what level would the NRN be most effective? At national or regional level and how to do it? The identity of a region could be a possible focus, that is an energizing issue.
- Attention for the municipal level is emphasized. A key to realizing targets is local authorities cooperating with entrepreneurs and land owners.
- Advice on process: use the next two years to identify key issues for the period beyond 2013. Select two or three priorities!

The NRN has also consulted TPO (coordination platform of the twelve provincial authorities in the Netherlands) and a number of LEADER-coordinators regarding their ideas on the network in the years to come. The following questions have been submitted to the participants of the TPO: could you identify with the (process) priorities of the Network Unit? What are (content wise) the most important themes and who are the partners for cooperation? What are the top priorities in your province and which ones could be tackled by the NRN? Finally: what should the NRN leave behind (heritage)?

The main outcome:

- Priorities. The NRN priorities were generally well received.
- Some remarks: (1) facilitation at municipal level are a fairly new activity. Its goals and focus should be clarified to ensure results. (2) The focus on local partnerships should be based on consolidated outcome during the previous phase.
- Themes. The priorities per province are diverse, but overall reflect the ensemble of what the NRN is involved in. E.g.: a shrinking rural population, quality of life, urban-rural relations, transnational cooperation. The relation between agriculture and environmental management in the context of the CAP is mentioned as well. Generation of sustainable energy at local level in relation to local entrepreneurship is frequently mentioned as a theme for the years to come.
- RDP-3. Preparing for RDP-3 (with information meetings, project ideas) was a frequent answer to the question 'what could the NRN tackle in your province'. Also: support in thinking in opportunities, rather than allocating financial means.
- Heritage. As desired heritage of the NRN, all five options surfaced. Remark: 'inspiring meetings to consolidate the heritage with managers from the public and private sectors, rather than producing reports.



- Cooperation. Knowledge institutions and water boards are explicitly mentioned as prospective partners for cooperation besides provincial and municipal authorities, local and village committees and LEADER groups.
- LEADER. Local groups would like support in monitoring and evaluating their programs, support in the transition to the new program period and support in developing new regional visions and programs. Keeping existing groups alive should be means to an end. The development of new initiatives has to be encouraged by a clear communication to all prospective partners.

The outcome of the consultation and the response of the TPO (coordination platform of the twelve provincial authorities in the Netherlands) and some LEADER coordinators, have contributed to the workplan 2012-2013.

Ongoing affairs and new developments

In this section some trends which surfaced in 2011 (or earlier) and that will be somehow addressed in 2012- 2013 are described. Added value over the involvement of others is a prerequisite for involvement of the Network unit.

- *Local responsibility and funding*
Organizing at local level is increasingly important as financial responsibilities between the state, provinces and municipalities is changing. The ILG (rural investment fund managed by provincial authorities) and other public funding should not be taken for granted. This will be addressed in meetings making use of experience in various regions in the Netherlands. Obtaining (private) funds for rural projects, rendering green services and experiences with local contract funding will be addressed as well.
- *Public services*
Rendering innovative public services in areas will be considered in the new CAP and in RDP-3: how could rural greening take place in practice? Dutch policies aim at sustaining efforts and contract funding with collectives, for example in CAP pilot areas. These topics are valuable points for discussion. How will be the second pillar of the CAP be concretized and what will be the role of provinces? Reform of the CAP will take shape in 2012 and we will follow it up.

1.3 A well known and effective NRN

The visibility of the NRN is a recurrent topic of discussion. On the one hand it is mentioned that the prominence of the NRN is low. On the other hand it is questionable whether time and funds should be used to build a prominent image of a temporary network. Moreover, meetings of the NRN are well attended, target groups are reached and the network is frequently consulted by individuals as well as organizations. However, flaws in communication will be addressed.

Surveys at European level show that national networks have a positive impact on rural development. The NRN has designed a monitoring and evaluation protocol for its own activities and their impact.



An increasing number of target groups is reached (via website and magazine) and meetings are positively evaluated by participants. However, we are considered as invisible in the country side. In the remaining years, the NU will focus on what we want to leave behind (the heritage) after 2013. We will formulate the heritage based on experiences in networking so far and also look at requirements for networking in RDP-3. This analysis will be made in 2012 in order to incorporate concrete outcome in the planning for the period beyond 2014.

One of the products is a book on 'the ideal country side with an ideal community'. The book will cover: how to best organize rural areas, participation and initiatives of citizens as well as (networks of) entrepreneurs, local funding, very good practices, etc. Some themes will be approached across borders.

Another product in demand is a document on local funding: what are the innovations, which ones work well, and how can success be explained.

2 Priorities for 2012-2013

Addressing the following priorities will result in a maximum contribution to achieving the goals of RDP-2. Theme's are translated into activities and worked out according to the EU directive.

2.1 Best use of knowledge and experience in rural areas and agriculture

Collecting and disseminating know how remains to be the core task of the NRN. The purpose is to improve the implementation of the RDP-2 program by being an intermediary between authorities (with varying mandates) and beneficiaries (sectoral and regional organizations, entrepreneurs, and civilians).

We make use of the multitude of (scientific) knowledge as well as know how based on experience of beneficiaries in rural areas. Activities aim at improving access to scientific knowledge by professionals.

We started with cross pollinating science with practice in 2011 when a state-of-the-art-meeting regarding shrinking population was held. Similar meetings will be organized on other theme's as well.

Hidden practical know how from or outside of RDP projects is equally important. This is partly documented in good practices and project reviews by the NRN and DLG (state agency for rural areas). These two databases will be fine tuned also considering the 'map of opportunities' made by MOVISIE (institute for knowledge and advice on social issues).

We will actively promote exchange of know how between professionals in the years to come. Various administrative levels appear to insufficiently use each others' implementation capacity (subsidies and pilot projects). The envisaged effect is: new insights and concepts by joint reflection



and exchange. At the same time, civilians, entrepreneurs and other beneficiaries may gain a better understanding of rural policies. The required exchange will amongst others take place via excursions in the context of standplaats.pl (excursions to exchange), communities of practice and study meetings. Participants will be asked a financial contribution to ensure involvement and at the same time increase our financial capacity for similar events.

The agenda for these exchange meetings depends on special themes within the RDP and the outcome of the strategic consultations.

Realistic and practical opportunities for international exchange of knowledge and experience will be taken up. Opportunities emerge from the 'autumn conference' and other NRN meetings. The outcome of international exchange will be described in info sheets, magazines and blogs.

A proposal to draw lessons from the present RDP fase and from benchmarking of relevant (international) rural practices will be elaborated. The outcome will be part of the heritage.

2.2 Local funding and opportunities for (European) funds

Rendering public services in rural areas with reducing public funding could be positively considered as a challenge. This applies to other rural activities as well. Budget cuts on environmental services are evident. This will also affect management of nature from 2013 onwards. Dutch national policy will exclusively linked RDP subsidies under pillar 2 of the CAP to farming. Consequently, funds for other rural projects wil decrease. This is unlikely to be compensated by provincial authorities.

Hence, inventorizing all kinds of local funding is urgent. This has started in 2011 with as outcome: expectations for private funding of landscape interventions are too high. Therefor, new concepts of local funding, like profit driven, regional shares, private sponsoring, etc have to be further investigated. Integrating funding from various EU sources is another opportunity for local organizations. This topic will be on the agenda of the NRN in the remaining years. New organizational arrangements with new partners like the private sector will be explored.

The present popularity of the countryside offers opportunities: the TV series 'Boer Zoekt Vrouw' (date a farmer) draw an enormous audience. 'Het betere boeren bed' (on farm holiday arrangements) is also increasingly popular. The challenge is to extend popularity to financial involvement.

Like in 2011, these themes will be fine tuned with other interested parties like Groenfonds (GreenFund) and the Innovation network. New partners like MKB (association of medium and small scale business), banks and entrepreneurs will be approached as well.

The preliminary result of an inventory has been published in the professional magazine 'Landwerk' in 2011. In 2012 the results will be published through own channels like the magazine 'Streek' and the www and possibly a joint multimedia edition with 'Groenfonds' (GreenFund). Experiences with new forms of local funding all over the country will be shared in a work-conference. We expect a lot of interest in times of recession. Results will be made available (text and audiovisuals).

We will invite professionals to share their approach on the NRN -blog.



2.3 Well functioning local and regional partnerships

Well functioning partnerships are increasingly important for a sustainable future of the country side. Hence, the aim of the NRN is to continue supporting local organizations and (new) collectives, in particular the ones that are not familiar with the LEADER approach. This will result in well functioning local and regional partnerships with entrepreneurs and authorities. Reinforcing the organizational capacity of an area is important for implementing and co-funding RDP projects and for preparing for the future. The NRN makes a strong effort to forge new and unexpected alliances. Bringing special parties together could create unexpected opportunities.

The most relevant issues emerging from a meeting with representatives of eight regions were: 'around which challenge do we organize a region' followed by 'which local organization is most appropriate to implement RDP-3'. The discussion will continue in the annual autumn conference of the NRN. This was also strongly recommended during the strategic consultation. We will continue to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experience regarding the best way of (re)organizing regions. This will be done in easily accessible meetings for which the agenda will be determined by the participants. The result will be a publication with guidelines to effectively organize at local level. Initiating and eventually supporting a few pilots in innovative and creative forms of organizing could be a task for the NRN in 2012-2013. Additional funding will be looked for.

Local initiatives and local responsibility will remain relevant in the present context. This is part of a long term process as it requires attitudinal change of civilians as well as authorities. We will identify new initiatives and analyze the conditions under which local responsibility is becoming effective. Relevant experiences with local governments (Praktijkkringen), will be widely disseminated. We will also promote innovative concepts to the public and private sector. E.g: through benchmarking, trust funds for the country side. Experiences from urban areas will be considered as well, for example by linking with the 'Agenda Burgerschap' (civil agenda) of the interior ministry (BZK).

How the public sector could anticipate on civil initiatives was discussed in the PlattelandsParlement (RuralParliament) of 2011 and will be without doubt be on the agenda of the NRN in 2013. In between the topic will be addressed with the public sector.

Good practices of local and regional partnerships and of civil initiatives will be collected during the next two years and made accessible via the www. We will link it to questions to be addressed in LinkedIn-groups to gain insights in the roles and responsibilities of involved parties.



Table with an overview of the means/products per priority

Theme	Products
Using knowledge and experience	State-of-the-art-meetings
	Project database of good practices
	Standplaats.pl (excursions to exchange)
	Communities of practice
	Study meetings
	Articles in professional magazines, info sheets and blogs
Local funding	New organizational structures for cooperation
	Streek (magazine)
	Website en blog (worden bij alle thema's ingezet)
	Workshops/conference
Locale and regional partnerships	Meetings for interested regions
	Start of pilots (if possible)
	Benchmarks
	Website
	LinkedIn-groups
	RuralParliament
Visibility and heritage	Book "the ideal country side"
	Publication on local funding
	Handing over document to the next NU

3 Activities

Activities have been elaborated according to the system prescribed in EU directive (1698/2005, article 68). Further detailing will take place in consultation with the network partners during in the next two years. An implementation plan will be made for each activity including the budget required.

A1: Planning – and quarterly detailing

Many changes will occur during the period 2012-2013. In order to keep abreast of changes, implementation of the two year plan will be detailed quarterly with a specification of expected results. The TPO and the commissioning agency will provide input as well. Participation of the NU in the TPO will be more frequently and consultation with partners will be organized in order to stay in touch, in particular regarding the aspects of visibility and heritage of the NRN.



A2: Identify, analyze and disseminate relevant practices

Identify projects pertaining to axes 1-4. Besides we will look for specific examples regarding:

- The application of new directive strategies in order to reduce the administrative load;
- New funding set ups for rural areas;
- Innovative cooperation between the public sector and local initiatives;
- Practices regarding smart use of the limited administrative capacity and dealing with limited public funds;

Dissemination of good examples will be done through innovative projects, databases, and/or publications. They will be advertised in various meetings.

A2 is an important part of the of the task of the NRN. During 2012, we will look for sectoral and interest groups that are willing to take over certain tasks in this domain from the NRN. E.g.: LVKK en MOVISIE (institute for knowledge and advise on social issues).

A3: Exchange of experience and knowledge via meetings and publications

This particular cluster of activities is required for all other activities. The NNU has a kit with different tools as already mentioned under 1.

Social media

We see a few areas for extra input during the next 2 years:

- Further development of blogs combined with active community management aiming at growth, strengthening and conservation;
- Strategic strengthening and integration of new ways of working (not from offices) in all aspects of rural development.

Meetings

Scheduled meetings organized by the NNR or with involvement of the NNR:

- The Annual Autumn Conference of the NRN (end 2012)-(A2, A3)
- The concluding manifestation of the Taskforce Multifunctional Agriculture (April 2012) (including an international meeting on Multifunctional Agriculture (2012)
- The concluding manifestation NRN (end of 2013)
- (Partners of the NNU try to mobilize additional funding for a Web campaign (2012) with youth regarding the future of rural areas and agriculture.
- RuralParliament 2013 (A4)
- Specific for provinces (on demand): communities of practice and thematic meetings
- On demand: an international excursion for provinces (for example regarding the shrinking populations in eastern Germany). (A6)
- Preparing for the future: in particular regarding the implication of the second pillar of the CAP for rural organizations (through meetings, debates and exchange).



Besides exchange between regions and sharing good practices regarding quality of life and a shrinking population, we also stimulate cooperation between villages. Together with partner MOVISIE we will work on locations of practice in the social domain. Locations with interesting issues that should followed and can be published. Exchange is best organized at provincial level. Together with provincial authorities, we will identify how to stimulate and how provinces and the NRN could cooperate. This cooperation could also generate new ideas regarding the role of provinces as catalyst in exchanging know how at regional level. Provincial authorities could eventually take over some of the tasks of the NRN after 2013.

Publications

Planned, specific publications are: functional profit generating models at local level, new organizational models at regional and local level, new civil initiatives. See link with A2.

A4: Informing, advising, signalling and lobbying

- Inventory current thinking about the future. Follow up activities depend on outcome and requests from local organizations;
- Transfer of learning points of RDP-2 to the RDP-3;
- Involve new groups in an integral approach at local level like MKB (association of medium and small scale business), banks, interest organizations, regional development societies, land managers, farming for nature groups, groups of volunteers for nature, knowledge institutes and some thematic networks;
- Maintain contact on these topics with the European Network and other National Networks;
- Specific trajectories in close cooperation with provincial authorities regarding: maximum depletion of RDP-2 funds, support preparing RDP-3 with lessons learned in RDP-2 and working towards new local organizations;
- Manage the CAP-website and fine tuning with NRN-website.

A5: Promoting expertise for regional development

LEADER groups are not (anymore) supported separately by the NRN. Activities with LEADER Local Groups (LGs) are interrelated with other efforts of the NU.

A6: International (transnational cooperation)

This activity concerns support of cooperation across borders. Attention for, amongst others removing discrepancies in legislation, remain necessary. Most LGs (Local Groups) consider the efforts for transnational cooperation (TC) too much compared to the outcome that can be expected. Finding effective forms of TC deserves support of the NRN by in particular:

- Initiate new forms of cooperation and translate these in projects. E.g. regarding: urban-rural relations, food strategies and cooperation in agriculture;
- Cooperate with European Network, other NRNs, the European Commission (DG-Agri);



- Offer international exchange or study visits to provincial authorities for example regarding a shrinking rural population (to be detailed after consultation);
- Whenever possible, for example via the annual autumn conference, try to establish international contacts to get foreign inspiration.

B1: Networking, regional, national as well as international

Regional contacts are usually via LEADER Local Groups and other regional committees, but also via associations of entrepreneurs and village councils. Contacts at national level are with other networks like the Taskforce Multifunctional Agriculture and the wide network around MOVISIE. Joint activities emerge from these networks. Networking at national level with agricultural and nature organizations is increasing. E.g.: Veelzijdig Platteland (associations of groups farming for nature) and LTO (Dutch federation of agriculture and horticulture). Transnational networking takes place with the European networks for rural development, but also with various rural organizations, in particular in Belgium and Germany. We use these linkages for *benchmarking*.

We also intend to stimulate networking on content around certain theme's. One of the purposes of the annual autumn conference is to strengthen regional networking.

B2: Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation concerns activities of the NU based on agreed indicators like the number of participants, number of subscriptions and satisfaction assessments. As activities are detailed per quarter, we will once in a while do digital assessments per theme and type of meeting amongst addresses in our database. Social media can also be mentioned as a form of 'live' documentation. This gives a good impression on valuable lessons learned, progress and input for redirection.

Besides internal monitoring and evaluation of the NRN, we also want to stimulate M&E, including self evaluation, with Local Groups and other local committees. This is important to get a clear picture of the results of RDP-2.

The final evaluation of the NRN will be performed in 2013.

B3: Coordination and contacts with the commissioning agency

Fine tuning with the national RDP steering committee (Regiebureau POP) as representative of the commissioning agency, the TPO (coordination platform of the twelve provincial authorities in the Netherlands), the supervisory board (CvT) of the RDP-2 is scheduled as agreed. The strategic consultation also asked for more fine tuning and broader cooperation. The frequency of fine tuning with the commissioning ministry and the TPO will increase in order to anticipate on actualities.



C: Project coordination and management

This activity concerns reporting on content and financial matters, office organization, coordination of the NNU and project management. Final reporting, audits and coordinating the formulation of the heritage will receive special emphasis. This includes handing over to another NNU.

D: Direct costs and direct implementation in regions

To facilitate the network, we join existing structures in particular at regional level. We also join in the dynamics at national level. Many good initiatives and projects create positive energy which we would like to support, nourish and spread. For an efficient and effective implementation, we aim at involving and mobilizing the broader network, in particular in the region, by employing extra temporary personnel, by combining several activities in one and by cooperating with other parties. Therefore, we included from the beginning of the network a budget reservation of 30% for direct costs for implementation in the region.

