

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

- The network maintains an Annual Work Programme. The current AWP was approved on the 10.03.2011 with the activities kicking off on 23.12.2012.
- The network's main priority is to provide effective assistance to NRN and animate the efficient flow of information and activities to achieve NRDP 2007-2013 objectives.
- The specific priorities include:
  - Develop general operating procedures.
  - Support for institutional and administrative development of the NRN.
  - Coordination with institutions and other bodies.
  - Creation and maintenance of information channels.
  - Support the setting-up and operation of Thematic Working Groups and Expert Working Groups.
  - Animation of NRN members' activities.
  - Consultancy and training services for stakeholders.
  - Support for continuous incorporation of new "actors".
  - Support for inter-territorial and transnational cooperation projects.
  - Ensuring connection with ENRD and other networks.
- NRN's activities to implement its priorities:
  - Technical assistance for the management and functioning of the Rural Network.
  - Organization and secretariat for National Steering Committee, thematic and Leader working groups and experts' meetings.
  - Thematic expertise on Rural Development.
  - Training services for LAGs.
  - Organization and participation of meetings, seminars and conferences.
  - Support for transnational and inter-territorial cooperation.
  - Exchange of ideas and good practices.
  - Cooperation with the ENRD and other NRN.
  - Promoting producer groups, traditional products and rural tourism.
  - Dissemination of information and communication.
  - Monitoring and evaluation of the Network.



## 2. Thematic Initiatives launched by the Network

- **Issues addressed by events:**
  - Conferences:
    - New CAP
    - Job creation in rural development context
    - Rural development: Support Opportunities for Roma minority.
    - High Value Nature Farming in Romania after 2013
  - Ad-hoc Seminars:
    - Innovation process and rural development. Experiences under Leader Approach
    - Accessing Measure 312 Support for the creation and development of microenterprises
    - Opportunities for the development of business in rural areas for young farmers and entrepreneurship in non-agricultural activities
    - Value of horticultural potential
    - Short food supply chains

• **Issues addressed by working groups:**

- During the second meeting of the National Steering Committee, held on February 2012, 8 thematic groups were established:
  - Promotion and recovery of the heritage, both cultural and natural (including rural tourism).
  - Exchange of good experiences for LAGs.
  - Opportunities of financing.
  - Support for SMEs.
  - Labour force in rural areas.
  - Environment, green infrastructure.
  - Improving competitiveness.
  - Association and cooperation.
- Each thematic group meets 3 times per year, resulting in a thematic publication.
- Also a LEADER working group has met 4 times in the year with the following thematic:
  - Measures under Axis 4 Leader in the NRDP.
  - Training of Trainers
  - Rural Finance
  - Project Management
- Experts meetings with the themes on :
  - Leader and GALs (at regional level)
  - Cooperation between Hungary and Romania
  - Rural Development Policy- Present and perspectives
  - Small farms and active farmers in Romanian rural areas.
  - Certifications for traditional products and ways of adding value through short supply chains.
- Meetings of the most representative members of NRN:
  - Renaissance spirit of cooperation and solidarity - for sustainable rural development
  - Rural Development Policy - the present status and future prospects

• **Issues subject of surveys/consultation/analysis:**

- New programming period 2014-2020 issues are now on consultation process.
- Some of the thematic working groups have developed surveys (exchange of good practices and opportunities of financing).
- Studies on Young Farmers, Short Food Supply Chains are on-going.

• **Thematic issues addressed in other ways:**

- Through virtual community (thematic forum) and thematic publications.

• **Information about thematic initiatives available on:**

- Thematic working groups: <http://www.rndr.ro/PaginaGeneral.aspx?idContenido=1443>
- Leader working group: <http://www.rndr.ro/PaginaGeneral.aspx?idContenido=28>
- Events: <http://www.rndr.ro/EvenimenteLista.aspx>
- Virtual Community: <http://www.rndr.ro/ForumPrivado.aspx>
- Publications: <http://www.rndr.ro/PublicatiiLista.aspx?TipPublicatie=4>

**2.1 LEADER-related activities**

- NSU and MA staff is dedicated to LAG support. With a transversal organization in the NSU, experts from different departments at headquarters and regional offices, give support to LAGs for the implementation of their local strategies (such as cooperation, training, promotion, exchange of experiences and good practices, communications and publications).
- The NSU/MA organizes training and events for LAGs: LAGs are invited to participate in different conferences, seminars and working groups. Specific activities are: training sessions for capacity building addressed to LAGs, LEADER working group, Thematic Working Group "Exchange of Good Practices for LAGs"
- Information about these events are available on:
  - Events: <http://www.rndr.ro/EvenimenteLista.aspx>
  - Training: <http://www.rndr.ro/PaginaGeneral.aspx?idContenido=324>

- Leader Working Group: <http://www.rndr.ro/PaginaGeneral.aspx?idContenido=28>
- Thematic Working Group: <http://www.rndr.ro/PaginaGeneral.aspx?idContenido=1443>
- The NSU provides guidelines and other supporting documents. The NSU has released:
  - 3 manuals for training sessions named Leader approach, Development in rural areas and Capacity building for animating and mobilizing local potential,
  - 3 Cooperation guides named Practical guide for the design of a cooperation project, Decalogue of actions for defining a cooperation project for rural development and Guide for Economic-Administrative Management of Cooperation Projects.
- Support documents are available on:
  - Training manuals: <http://www.rndr.ro/PaginaGeneral.aspx?idContenido=1355>
  - Cooperation guides: <http://www.rndr.ro/BibliotecaLista.aspx?tipologia=6> Section: Publicații de interes pentru cooperare.
- Other forms of support to LEADER implementation are: technical assistance for implementation of LDS and training of rural actors.
- Support for inter-regional and transnational cooperation is provided by: Cooperation department in collaboration with Good Practices, Promotion and Training departments, as well as experts in Regional Offices.
- The NSU plan cooperation fairs, LAG visits abroad and other events: the NSU participates in events; it supports the participation in events at national and EU level; and also disseminate information through its website and by mails to RNDR members and MA.
- Information about these events is available on the Events Section: <http://www.rndr.ro/EvenimentelLista.aspx>
- The NSU/MA provides partner search facilities, guides and other support documents through its website:
- Database: <http://www.rndr.ro/Index.aspx>
- Guides and documents: <http://www.rndr.ro/BibliotecaLista.aspx?tipologia=6> .
- Information available on the website contains:
  - Cooperation projects database
  - Partners' database.
  - Database for documents in cooperation field.
  - Cooperation guides: Practical guide for the design of a cooperation project, Decalogue of actions for defining a cooperation project for rural development, Guide for Economic-Administrative Management of Cooperation Projects.
- Other forms of support for cooperation: technical assistance for cooperation projects.

### 3. Relevant Experiences/Good Practices

- **Identification and dissemination of EAFRD-funded projects representing relevant experience:**
  - The identification of projects is done by Regional offices and evaluation is made by the Good Practices Evaluation Network, within the NSU. Dissemination of good practices is done by USR (Exchange of Ideas and Good Practices Department in collaboration with Regional Offices and other department, such as Publications and Communication and Public Relations) through the following instruments:
    - Good practices database
    - 4 publications on Good practices: study cases
    - Seminars ad-hoc: In 2012 about: Opportunities for the development of business in rural areas for young farmers and entrepreneurship in non-agricultural activities and Short food supply chains
    - Thematic Working Group: Exchange of Good practices for LAGs
    - Thematic Publication: Good practices and innovation.
    - Forum at Virtual Community Section in [www.rndr.ro](http://www.rndr.ro)
  - Relevant experiences/good practices are available on:
    - Database: <http://www.rndr.ro/PaginaGeneral.aspx?idContenido=196>
    - Publications on good practices: <http://www.rndr.ro/PublicatiiLista.aspx?TipPublicatie=3>
    - Thematic Publication: <http://www.rndr.ro/PublicatiiLista.aspx?TipPublicatie=4>
    - Seminars ad-hoc: <http://www.rndr.ro/EvenimentelLista.aspx>
    - Thematic Working Group: <http://www.rndr.ro/PaginaGeneral.aspx?idContenido=1443>

- Forum: <http://www.rndr.ro/ForumPrivado.aspx>

#### 4. Monitoring and evaluation of networking

- The rural network assesses its performance through external RDP evaluation. The network has not been subject to the mid-term evaluation of RDP because the NSU at that moment still didn't started NRN activities.
- As indicated in the AWP the network undertakes both quantitative and qualitative assessments.
- The main aspects of the monitoring and evaluation of the Network are, on one hand the development of an indicators system for monitoring and control, and on the other hand the participatory system through empowerment evaluation. All the results are contained in the first Annual Self- Evaluation Report 2011/12.

#### 5. Communication

- Within the department of communication and public relations, the NSU develops the visual identity and a communication plan for the NRN in relation with mass media, organization of conferences and seminars.
- The RDP doesn't include a communication plan.
- The communication tools mostly used by the network are: website, publications, social media, events, information and open sessions for journalists at regional offices and press releases.

#### 6. Cooperation interests of the Rural Network

- Fields in which the network seek or offer cooperation with other rural networks:
  - Exchange of information about rural development (mainly LEADER approach) and previous experiences,
  - TNC,
  - participation in events,
  - identification of good practices/ success stories,
  - dissemination of publications,
  - Danube NRN cluster.

#### 7. Documents

- List of your publications, info materials, videos, etc:
  - During the year 2012 the following types of publications are realized and available at: [www.rndr.ro](http://www.rndr.ro)
  - Publications section:
    - » Newsletters.
    - » Publications on Rural Development.
    - » Publications on Good Practices.
    - » Thematic publications.
  - Also materials such as: leaflets LAGs maps and other promotional materials.
  - Videos at: <http://www.youtube.com/RoRuralNetwork>
  - Other communication tools:
    - » <http://www.facebook.com/RNDR.Romania>
    - » <http://twitter.com/RORuralNetwork>
- Latest version of the NSP and RDP available on MADR website:
  - NSP – updated November 2008: <http://www.madr.ro/pages/page.php?self=03&sub=0303&tz=030301>
  - NRDP – consolidated July 2011: <http://www.madr.ro/pages/page.php?self=03&sub=0302&tz=030202>
  - Also at <http://www.rndr.ro/BibliotecaLista.aspx?tipologia=1>