

THE NATIONAL RURAL NETWORK

The National Rural Network (NRN) is a project that gives Italy the chance to take part in a wider European project (European Network for Rural Development - EN RD), thus joining and completing all the activities as to rural areas development for the whole period 2007-2013.

Why the National Rural Network has been established?

- In order to overcome the sectorial isolation of the rural development policy, thus encouraging a more participatory approach (namely “bottom-up”) that allows the involvement of stakeholders operating in the rural world as well as of other individuals from different sectors, either national or international;
- In order to encourage on a large scale the knowledge of rural development policies being implemented in Italy. This brings out the positive impact RDPs have on the environment and quality of life as well as their significant role in the improvement of farms competitiveness, in the encouragement of agricultural activities diversification and in the enhancement of culture and rural traditions;
- In order to overdraw the effects and strengthen the performance of interventions being co-financed by the European Union through the above-mentioned 21 Rural Development Programmes.

HOW IT WORKS

The organization of NRN activities is carried out by three specific institutions:

1. the National Unit in charge of Animation and Coordination (UNAC), representing the “core” of the Network. This is an internal unit of the Ministry of agricultural food and forestry Policies;
2. the Network Regional Sites (NRS), representing the regional and local “interface” of the UNAC;
3. a Steering Committee providing guidance and coordination of the activities.

The National Unit in charge of Animation and Coordination consist of Thematic Task Forces carrying out support activities, research and in-depth analysis activities, as well as information spreading activities.

THE ACTIVITIES IT COVERS

The National Rural Network consists of 16 actions aimed at:

- enhancing the exchange of experiences and know-how among rural development stakeholders in Italy;

- encouraging all central, regional and local Administrations to implement the Rural Development Programmes as to improve their effectiveness, efficacy as well as their integration with other policies;
- fostering cooperation between territories and stakeholders involved in setting up actions aimed at the rural areas development at a national and international level;
- spreading and conveying to rural areas experiences, good practices and innovative actions;
- strengthening the relations between institutional and non-institutional stakeholders involved in implementing the rural development policies;
- improving the flows of information concerning rural development policies opportunities and results.

The National Rural Network through Task Forces carries out several activities: it holds and participates in events, meetings and seminars at regional, national and international level; it carries out study and research activities; it publishes technical and in-depth analysis documents; it sets up communication strategies (web portal, videos, press campaigns, etc.) and implements instruments supporting information spreading.



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INFO

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