

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

1.1 Priorities of the current AWP:



- The action plan for the Cyprus National Rural Network (CNRN) is set out on an annual basis. It describes in detail the actions required for achieving the strategic objectives of the network, as well as ensuring the optimal operation of the network.
- The CNRN's objectives include:
 - Facilitate the exchange of experiences among all stakeholders and other actors involved in rural development;
 - Operate as a centre for the collection and dissemination of information and know-how at both national and community level;
 - Submit proposals to the Managing Authority (MA), responsible for the coordination of policy planning for rural development;
 - Support and promote the rural development policy of the Republic of Cyprus;
 - Promote inter-professional and inter-scientific collective action and collaboration at national and European level, aimed at encouraging innovation in the rural sector;
 - Collaborate with other National Rural Networks (NRNs) and organise common seminars and programmes concerning rural development;
 - Actively participate in the European Network for Rural Development (ENRD).
- In particular the current AWP, approved the 16th December 2011, has the following priorities:
 - Collecting, analysing and disseminating information and know-how for the promotion of rural development;
 - Defining, analysing and promoting good transferable practices;
 - Submitting proposals to the MA relating to the implementation of the action plan for 2012;
 - Effective operation of the NRN;
 - Organising training programmes and supporting Local Action Groups (LAGs)
 - Promoting transnational and inter-territorial cooperation;
 - Promoting and publicising the Cypriot National Rural Development Programme (RDP);
 - Participating in the process of drafting the new RDP;
 - Publicising the Evaluation results for the Cypriot RDP.

1.2 NRN's activities implementing the above mentioned priorities

- Organisation of seminars and meetings as a mean of distribution and exchange of experiences, technical knowledge and new ideas;
 - Preparation and publication of informative materials relating to the activities and operation of the CNRN;
 - Organisation and/or participation in seminars and educational programmes, which promote rural development;
 - Creation of a website as a mean of providing electronic information, links to other web pages and access to electronic forums relating to rural development;
 - Participation in radio and television broadcasts on subjects relating to CNRN activities and rural development in general;
 - Participation in rural fairs;
 - Collection of information on rural development and creating/organising databases;
 - Creating a database of experts and universities involved in rural development for quick access etc.;
 - Providing advice on subjects relating to rural development.
 - E-newsletter circulation every two (2) weeks starting from beginning of 2013.
- Cyprus AWP is in Greek language and can be requested from the Operation and Management Group of the Cyprus National Rural Network at the following emails: ppapachristoforou@da.moa.gov.cy, ead@da.moa.gov.cy.

2. Thematic Initiatives launched by the Network

- All Members of the CNRN are categorised into Thematic Network Working Groups (TNWGs), based on the four axes of the RDP 2007-2013, in order to ensure equal participation (distribution of knowledge and experiences) between eligible parties. In addition to the four TNWGs, the network addresses other specific or horizontal themes proposed by network members, such as organic farming, biodiversity, composting processes, the LEADER approach etc. Themes with a specific focus are launched based on consultations with members of the network.
- New thematic issue addressed:
 - Consultation meetings on the 2014 – 2020 RDP
 - Short Supply chains
- Both the thematic initiatives are on going and are addressed through events, working groups, committees/steering groups. The topic 'Consultation meetings on the 2014 – 2020 RDP' is addressed also through surveys, consultation and analysis activities. Information about the thematic initiatives are available on the CNRN website (in greek) in form of articles, presentations, pictures and video.

2.1 LEADER-related activities

- NSU/MA/other staff is dedicated to support LAGs: the NSU of the CNRN provides LAGs with continuous support.
- The CNRN organises meetings and workshops for the LAGs, who can also request further training from the network, and approval is sought at the Coordination Committee meeting of the network.
- Information about these events are provided upon request from the Cyprus National Rural Network.
- The NSU provides guidelines and other supporting documents: information about Leader Axis and transnational Cooperation (TNC) are collected by the NSU and forwarded to LAGs. Also these kind of information are available in Greek upon request from the CNRN. Leader implementation is supported also through regular monitoring meetings.
- The NSU provides partner search facilities, guides and other support documents upon request from the Cyprus National Rural Network.
- All members of the NSU inform LAGs about TNC opportunities and partner search offers are published on the Cypriot NRN website. Opportunities for cooperation furthermore are provided during international exhibitions.
- Based on requests, the CNRN organises meetings with groups or individuals.

3. Relevant Experiences/Good Practices

- **Identification of EAFRD-funded projects representing relevant experience:**
 - The rural network identifies EAFRD-funded projects representing relevant experience through an open competition of Best Practices examples. A judging panel decides the winners of the competition.
 - Relevant experiences are communicated and disseminated through:
 - Website of the CNRN and website of the Department of Agriculture
 - Article in Agrotis magazine
 - Tv/radio
 - Article in the newspapers
- **Communication and dissemination of relevant experience:**
 - After the competition projects are published on the website of the CNRN and in a magazine. Also a radio and a tv programme will be used to disseminate the stories to the broader public.

4. Monitoring and evaluation of networking

- The Network assesses rural network performance through internal and external RDP evaluation. Monitoring and evaluation of the network is carried out with the following methods:
 - Annual Report;
 - Questionnaires answered by members;
 - Feedback from personal contacts.
- The Network assesses its performance through both internal and external evaluation.
- The Network is also establishing indicators in order to run self-assessment/evaluation activities.
- Quantitative assessment comparing output units with target indicators are planned to be developed.
- After each action/event, the NSU collect feedbacks from the participants through the use of a questionnaires and evaluates the CNRNs performance, identifying areas for improvement. The annual evaluation of the RDP by the MA includes an evaluation of the CNRN. The CNRN, moreover, presents its annual report at the end of each year, outlining the organised events. In this way the NSU can monitor whether targets set at the beginning of the year and included in the action plan, have been accomplished.
- Qualitative/result-oriented assessment reviewing feedback of network constituents are analysed in annual report.
- Self-assessment/evaluation reports are available in greek upon request.

5. Communication

- The main communication channel of the CNRN is electronic communication (using e-mails and a website). NRN activities are also communicated via newsletters, articles in Agrotis magazine, the national press (newspapers) and other media (radio). When necessary, phone calls are made to inform stakeholders.
- The MA with the cooperation of the CNRN is responsible for the communication of the RDP. The NSU is responsible for contact–ing members of the CNRN and informing them about the measures of the RDP. The CNRN is also responsible for updating the relevant information on its website (e.g. measures, call for measures, deadlines etc.).
- The communication tools utilized by the network include: Internet, webpage, emails, e-newsletter.

6. Cooperation interests of the Rural Network

- The NRN seeks or offers cooperation with other rural networks to:
 - Exchange of experience
 - Transfer of knowledge between stakeholders
 - Transfer of innovation between stakeholders
 - Exchange visits
 - Seminars

7. Documents

- Publications: The CNRN stores all information and publications regarding the RDP in its web based library. At a later stage, good practice examples will be uploaded on to the CNRN's website. This will be a powerful tool for information sharing between rural stakeholders and others. At present the website of the CNRN is only available in Greek, however most of the information will also be available in English by the end of 2012.
- Latest Version of the NSP and RDP:
 - http://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/da/da.nsf/dmldevelopment_gr/dmldevelopment_gr?OpenDocument
- For further information on funding available under the CY RDP refer to the following:
 - Managing Authority: www.moa.gov.cy
 - NRN: www.ead.da.moa.gov.cy (this is a new website and it will be launched shortly):
- The websites of the Department of Agriculture and of CAPO, the Cyprus Agricultural Payments Organisation (www.capo.gov.cy) also contain information about various measures.