

## Name of Rural Network

Deutsche Vernetzungsstelle  
ländliche Räume



Netzwerk Ländliche Räume

## Contact Details

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## Mission Statement and Strategic Objectives of the Rural Network

The mission of the German Network Support Unit (NSU) is to facilitate contact and exchanges between relevant players and institutions; and to provide targeted information and knowledge to rural actors and stakeholders.

The objectives of the network are to:

- Collect, prepare and disseminate knowledge stemming from the development and implementation of rural development measures and projects;
- Provide access to new and good practices concerning rural development, for a wide range of actors and also to provide support for their implementation;
- Implement and manage working groups with the additional support of experts;
- Initiate and foster cooperation between areas and actors responsible for rural development.

## Participants in the Rural Network

The formal core of the National Rural Network (NRN) is the Monitoring Committee (MC). The Monitoring Committee consists of about 50 members from the EU, the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection and other federal ministries (e.g. ministries responsible for Rural Development Programmes [RDPs]), federal states and economic and social partners. Actors, stakeholders and beneficiaries of the Länder-based RDPs are considered members of the NRN. These comprise professional and social organisations, cooperatives, business people and private persons, LAGs operating under Leader or similar national/regional support scheme programmes, as well as others active or interested in rural development issues. So far, almost 80 organisations are listed as part of the network. However, the list should not be seen as final.

## Network Structure

The German Managing Authority (MA) is the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection. The NSU is situated within a federal institute under the responsibility of the Ministry. It previously operated as the National Network Unit of the Leader Community Initiative (from 1997 onwards) with additional focus on axis 3 measures. From 2007 onwards the network also included activities under axes 1 and 2 of the RDPs. The Steering Committee consists of about 50 members from the EU, the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection and other federal ministries, federal states and economic and social partners.

The NSU has a staff of 13 people:

- Head of NSU: Jan Swoboda;
- Webmaster and contact person for the Leader axis: Stefan Kämper;
- Contact person axis 1: Bettina Rocha;
- Contact person axis 2: Jan Freese;
- Contact person axis 3: Isabell Friess;
- Contact person axis 3 (in particular on village development): Sören Bronsert;
- Contact person axis 4 (including Transnational Cooperation): Anke Wehmeyer;

- Contact person for the magazine LandInForm: Juliane Mante;
- Contact person for arrangements/seminars and publicity: Michael Koehn;
- Contact person for the newsletter Landaktuell: Monika Wohlerl;
- Contact person for arrangements/seminars: Sören Bronsert;
- Contact person for arrangements and seminars (financing): Lucian Wezel;
- Contact person for website and databank activities: Dagmar Nitsch;
- Contact person for the data base and arrangements/seminars: Monika Wohlerl

## Network Management

The German NSU displays a calendar of events, available via a link to the former Leader+ website and on the Network's website. This calendar is kept up-to-date with the latest information. As mentioned, the NSU produces both a magazine and a newsletter:

- The magazine "LandInForm" is published four times per year, both in hardcopy and electronically, with each publication focusing on a specific theme;
- The electronic newsletter "Landaktuell" is disseminated every 6-8 weeks

Up to the end of April 2011, the NSU produced thirteen magazines and 25 newsletters. Both are available in German only. The permanently updated website also serves as an important communication tool.

The NSU has organised several workshops and conferences in different German Länder, with the title "Together in the New Programming Period" to make both Leader and Integrated Rural Development (Integrierte Ländliche Entwicklung - ILE) groups more familiar with the Leader approach. The NSU also has arranged a training seminar for LAGs and/or similar national/regional support scheme groups focusing on:

- Communication;
- Value-chain management;
- Alternative ways for financing projects.

Once a year a national meeting of all Local Action Groups and ILE-areas is foreseen. The first one took place in the end of April 2011.

Seminars concerning the practical implementation of rural development concepts and agri-environmental measures have been organised for other rural actors. The NSU has also participated in the International Green Week Fair in Berlin and the Euregia fair in Leipzig. This was in cooperation with LAGs, thus enhancing their public profile.

## Cooperation Interests of the Rural Network

The NSU has published a handbook on cooperation entitled '1+1 is more than 2'. It deals with both the pitfalls and potential of cooperation, and provides practical examples. The handbook is also available in English. The NSU arranged an international conference and a cooperation forum at the Euregia 2008 Fair on Regional Development. This event served as a platform for exchanging information on trans-regional and transnational cooperation. 330 people participated in the conference and 120 in the cooperation forum. The NSU supports LAGs and project promoters seeking cooperation partners, by publishing these requests in the magazine, newsletter and on the website.

### Network Budget for the period 2007–13:

Network budget	€	Budget breakdown	€
Total network funds	6 828 112	Work plan resources	5 878 112
National co-finance	3 414 056	Network running costs	950 000
EAFRD	3 414 056	Others (if appropriate)	-