

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

- The network maintains an annual work programme. The current AWP has been approved on December 2011.
- The main priorities of the current AWP are to strengthen the effectiveness of the Rural Development programmes for Mainland Finland and the Åland Islands and to inform LAGs of their possibilities.
- The Finnish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the Finnish Agency for Rural Affairs, the Centres for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment, the Leader action groups and the third sector together implement these priorities.
- The AWP is available on:
  - <http://www.maaseutu.fi/fi/index/maaseutuverkosto/maaseutuverkostotoimintasuunnitelmat.html> (finnish)
  - <http://www.landsbygd.fi/sv/index/landsbygdsnatverket.html> (swedish)
  - [www.rural.fi](http://www.rural.fi) (english)



## 2. Thematic Initiatives launched by the Network

### • **New thematic issues that the network is planning to address:**

- The Finnish Rural network will highlight the results of the programmes and will support the transition to the next Rural Development programme period.

### • **Status info and plans about continued thematic initiatives:**

- The themes will be entrepreneurship, young adults in rural areas, the quality of life in the countryside, innovations, the state of the environment, and the future of the countryside.

### • **Issues addressed by the events:**

- All of the above.

### • **Issues addressed by working groups:**

- Innovations, interregional cooperation and Leader-work. Entrepreneurship is coming for 2013.

### • **Issues addressed by committees/steering groups:**

- All the annual themes.

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

- [www.maaseutu.fi](http://www.maaseutu.fi)

### 2.1 LEADER-related activities

- One network coordinator in the NSU is dedicated to LAG support.
- The NSU/MA organises training and events for the LAGs. Information about these events are available on:
  - [www.maaseutu.fi](http://www.maaseutu.fi) -> Tapahtumakalenteri (event calendar)
  - [www.rural.fi](http://www.rural.fi) -> International events in Finland
- The NSU/MA also provides guidelines and other supporting documents. Support documents are available on:
  - <http://www.maaseutu.fi/fi/index/leader.html>
  - [www.mavi.fi](http://www.mavi.fi)
  - [www.mmm.fi](http://www.mmm.fi)
- The Network supports Leader implementation also by providing assistance in communication.
- The Network supports inter-regional and transnational cooperation.
- NSU, Ministry and the Leader-groups plan cooperation fairs, LAG's visits abroad and other events.

- Information about these events (international events in Finland) are available on: [www.maaseutu.fi](http://www.maaseutu.fi), [www.rural.fi](http://www.rural.fi)
- The NSU/MA provides partner search facilities, guides and other support documents. These documents are available on: <http://www.maaseutu.fi/fi/index/leader.html>.
- The networks supports the cooperation also by delivering study trips.

### 3. Relevant Experiences/Good Practices

#### • Identification, communication and dissemination of EAFRD-funded projects representing relevant experience:

- Through the Best Practises 2012 competition, the Rural Network wishes to highlight the best projects and measures implemented as part of the EU-funded rural development programmes. The process starts in the spring when Leader-groups can sign up as candidates for the competition. Regional authorities choose one Leader-group to represent their region. The jury selects four semi-finalists to every category. This year there were 5 categories. Also the most outstanding Leader-group was chosen. The winners are announced in the Rural Gala, which gathers together rural developers, entrepreneurs, politicians and decision makers. The Best Practices are then distributed by contact point.
- Relevant experiences/good practices are available on: <http://www.maaseutu.fi/fi/index/hyvatkaytannot.html>.

### 4. Monitoring and evaluation of networking

- The network implements self-assessment/evaluation activities every year through a survey filled out by the stakeholders.
- The network implement qualitative performance assessments: the quality of the services is evaluated based on the survey to the stakeholders. No quantitative performance assessment is carried out.
- Self-assessment and evaluation reports are available on: <http://www.maaseutu.fi/fi/index/maaseutuverkosto.html>.

### 5. Communication

- A multiannual communication plan is included in the Rural Development Programmes. It is available on: [http://www.maaseutu.fi/fi/index/viestinta/viestintastrategia\\_ja\\_suunnitelma.html](http://www.maaseutu.fi/fi/index/viestinta/viestintastrategia_ja_suunnitelma.html)
- The main communication channel used by the network is the website ([www.maaseutu.fi](http://www.maaseutu.fi)).

### 6. Cooperation interests of the Rural Network

- Areas in which the network seek or offer cooperation with other rural networks:
  - Study trips,
  - International seminars,
  - Information change,
  - Expert visiting.

### 7. Documents

- A list of documents is available on the NRN's website: <http://www.maaseutu.fi/fi/index/viestinta/esitteet.html>.
- All the material is in both national languages (finnish/swedish).
- The latest version of the NSP and RDP are available on:
  - <http://www.maaseutu.fi/fi/index/maaseutuverkosto.html> (finnish/swedish)