

Name of Rural Network

Nationaal Netwerk
Platteland (NNP)



Contact Details

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Mission Statement and Strategic Objectives of the Rural Network

- The strategic objective of the network is to contribute to the success of the RD strategy 2007 -2013 in the Netherlands.
- The NRN is facilitated by a Network Unit. Their mission is :
 - Strengthening local development – the Network Unit supports cooperation between members of civil organizations that are involved in local development.
 - Creating thematic links – the economy, environmental quality and social aspects of rural areas are as much as possible developed in an integrated manner. In RDP jargon: interlink the four axes. Therefore, we want to link actors of the four axes.
 - Strengthening the network – the Network Unit brings actors together and identifies
 - opportunities for cooperation, exchange of knowledge, experience and best practices. The Network Unit also profiles the NRN within the Netherlands as well as abroad by publications, newsletters and web/social media.
 - Internationalization – the Network Unit promotes (international) exchange of good and bad project practices and experience in rural development.
 - On request of the DG-Agri (and in accordance with the MoA-CAP) the NRN Unit plays a role in the public debate on RDP-3 since 2010.

Participants in the Rural Network

- The network is characterized by an informal membership open to public sector, stakeholder organisations and individuals.
- The network is coordinated by a National Network Unit (NNU): which consists of a private consortium made up from five private institutions. The proper network does not have a formal membership, with participation depending on the topic. However, the hard core of partners in the network consists of: LEADER groups, other formalised area based groups, theme specific groups (involved in the combination of farming/nature/recreation, rural reconstruction or national parks), regional- or village-level committees of inhabitants and various private sector initiatives, mainly involved in economic development. So the public as well as the private sector is represented. Some of the partners also collaborate in own networks. However, network participants do pay a fee for some activities.

Network Structure

- The Network Support Unit (NSU) is not established within the Managing Authority and is not delegated to a ministerial agency or other institution.
- The network doesn't include regional NSUs.
- The managing authority – the Ministry of Economic Affairs (the Ministry) – has subcontracted one private Company to coordinate the national network. The NNU –the network facilitation team- consists of a consortium of five independent companies, with three involved in the core management, and with two members providing thematic support as and when required. The following exper-

tise is represented in the NNU: network and process coordination, agri-environmental and rural advisory services, communication and social research.

- The annual work programme of the NNU is approved by the supervisory unit for rural development within the Ministry. On request of the NNU, regular meetings are held with the Managing Authority in which the 12 provinces are also represented. The NNU participates in LEADER meetings when needed. Within the LEADER programme, two regional sub-networks are already operational. Liaising with other networks is like the whole operating structure: very informal. The network has no formal operating structure.

Network Management

- The NSU prepares a draft work plan every year, however for the period 2012 -2014 a multi-annual work plan has been proposed. The draft work plan is based on a strategic consultation held with key stakeholder in September 2011. Also the 12 provinces and LEADER-coordinators have been consulted. The draft work programme has been discussed with our client (MA). It has been formally approved by the Ministry and 12 provinces in January 2012.

Network Budget for the period 2007–13

Network budget	€	Budget breakdown	€
Total network funds (Public Cost)	4.000.000	Total Network funds (Public Costs)	4.000.000
National co-finance	2.000.000	Work plan resources	1.439.000
EAFRD	2.000.000	Network running costs	1.357.000
EAFRD Co-financing %	50 %	Others (if appropriate)	1.204.000