

Name of Rural Network

Romanian NRN



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Mission Statement and Strategic Objectives of the Rural Network

The **National Rural Development Network** has as a general objective to enlist the energy of all actors in the rural development process, and to promote an effective flow of information, exchange of ideas and good practices, and cooperation among the actors, grouping all the organisations and institutions which are involved in rural development in order to:

- Create an agricultural and forestry economy based on those holdings which should be modernised;
- Develop the agriculture which has to favour diversity and environment preservation;
- Improve the quality of life and the economic development in rural areas;
- Improve the local governance in order to draw up and implement the local development strategies.

Participants in the Rural Network

The **Romanian National Rural Development Network** brings together, at a national level, the organisations and authorities involved in the rural development process in Romania. With currently 571 members, the NRDN is open to all rural development stakeholders, such as public authorities, universities and research institutes, local action groups, professional associations, socio-economic organizations, actors from agriculture, forestry and agribusiness and other relevant institutions and organizations active in rural areas.

Network Structure

The Romanian NRN comprises four elements:

- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MA),
- Network Support Unit,
- National Steering Committee (NSC), and
- Actors.

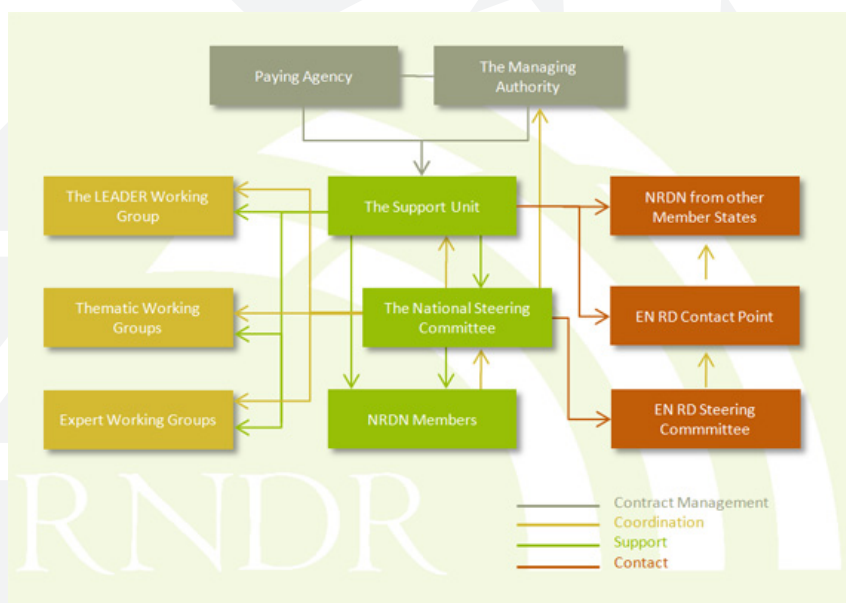


Figure 1: Romanian NRN Structure

Network Management

The **Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development**, through its Directorate General for Rural Development, acts as Managing Authority (MA) for NRDP. In this capacity, its main tasks are:

- To work closely with all the stakeholders in establishing the NRDN;
- To establish and chair the National Steering Committee (NSC) of the NRDN;
- To establish, through a chosen contractor, to fund the Support Unit of the Network (SUN) and to deal with the contractual relationship with the contractor.

In order to carry out its tasks, the MA will be supported in the territory by its representatives at a county level, the Agricultural Directorates for Rural Development (ADRD).

The activities of the Network and of the Support Unit (SUN) are coordinated by a **National Steering Committee**, chaired by MARD. The NSC members are the representatives of the main actor groups involved in the rural development process.

The role of the National Steering Committee is:

- to advise on priorities and themes within the activities of the Network and the work programme of the SUN;
- to approve the Action Plan prepared by the MA taking into consideration the mandatory actions provided by the EC Regulation 1698/2005, Article 68, paragraph 2 (b), other additional mandatory actions which have to ensure the achievement of the objectives foreseen in the National Strategic Plan and the National Rural Development Programme, respectively, as well as actions which will be performed in response to the needs identified throughout the implementation process; this action plan will be learned and implemented by the SUN and will guide the elaboration of annual work programmes;
- to advise the MA on the annual work programmes of the SUN, previous to their implementation by the SUN;
- to receive and analyze the progress reports from the SUN;
- to monitor the overall activity of the SUN and to consult the MARD within the framework of its role of MA for NRDP.

The **Support Unit of the Network (SUN)** is one of the main elements of the National Rural Development Network. Its task is to animate the efficient flow of information regarding the National Rural Development Programme, to animate the exchange of ideas and good practices and cooperation between all the members of the Network and to grant specialised support for all the other elements of the NRDN, namely the Managing Authority, the members of the NRDN, the NSC, the LEADER Working Group, the Thematic Working Groups and the working groups of the experts. The SUN also maintains the specialized connection with the European Network for Rural Development (ENRD) and the National Networks in the EU Member States.

The National Rural Development Network consists of the organisations which represent or work for the actors involved in the rural development process. The **NRN actors** are the people, businesses and organisations which have a stake in the countryside and which can contribute to the implementation of the National Rural Development Programme.

Cooperation Interests of the Rural Network

The Support Unit, through its cooperation department, ensures the stimulation and support for the cooperation among rural territories in transnational and inter-territorial cooperation projects, favouring the exchanges of experience and good practices with other NRN on specific topics related to the implementation of the Romanian RDP.

An evaluation of the thematic and interests in cooperation field of the members of the Romanian NRN is now on progress.

Network Budget for the period 2007–13:

Network budget	€	Budget breakdown	€
Total network funds	30 089 584	Work plan resources	22 576 188
National co-finance	6 017 916,8	Network running costs	7 522 396
EAFRD	24 071 667,2	Others (if appropriate)	-