

1. Summary of the Work Programme of the Romanian NRN

With the purpose of supporting the delivery of the National Rural Development Programme of Romania 2007-2013, the National Rural Development Network (NRDN) is set up, by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, as an instrument for promoting a model of integrated and sustainable rural development in Romania.

The Support Unit of the Network has started the implementation of the first action plan at the end of 2011, with the following scope of activities in Rural Development:



- Technical assistance for the management and functioning of the Rural Network;
- Organization and secretariat for National Steering Committee, thematic and Leader working groups and experts' meetings;
- Thematic expertise on Rural Development;
- Training services for LAGs;
- Organization of meetings, seminars and conferences;
- Support for transnational and inter-territorial cooperation;
- Exchange of ideas and good practices;
- Cooperation with the ENRD and other NRNs;
- Promoting producer groups, traditional products and rural tourism;
- Dissemination of information and communication;
- Monitoring and evaluation of the Network.

2. Focus and annual priorities supporting the RDP implementation in 2012

The **National Rural Development Network** has as a general objective to enlist the energy of all actors involved in rural development processes, and to promote an effective flow of information, exchange of ideas and good practice, and cooperation amongst 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.

3. Thematic Activity

3.1. Thematic Initiatives launched by the Network

- **Thematic groups established:**

During the second meeting of the National Steering Committee, held on February 2012, 8 thematic groups were established:

1. Promotion and recovery of the heritage, both cultural and natural (including rural tourism).
2. Exchange of good experiences for LAGs.
3. Opportunities of financing.
4. Support for SMEs.
5. Labour force in rural areas.
6. Environment, green infrastructure.

7. Improving competitiveness.

8. Association and cooperation.

Each thematic group meets 3 times per year, with a result of a thematic publication each.

- **Events**

- » Seminars and conferences are organized within this year.

3.2. Relevant Experiences/Good Practices

Three key directions are settled for the identification, dissemination and transfer of good practices at national level:

- Exchange of ideas through the Virtual Community for NRN.
- Selection of good practices through a Network of Evaluators of Good Practices.
- Exchange of knowledge with the ENRD and other NRNs.

For these purposes activities as database of good practices, publications, seminars and participation in events are implemented during the present year.

3.3. Leader related activities and LAG support

- **NSU members dedicated to LAG support**

- » With a transversal organization in the SUN, experts from different departments at headquarters and regional offices, give support to LAG, (such as cooperation, training, promotion, exchange of experiences, communications and publications) and regional offices, give support to LAG for the implementation of their local strategies.

- **Training for LAGs**

- » After the study of needs of training for the LAG, a specific programme is addressed to Local Action Groups is going to be developed during 2012 at a national level, covering the following subjects:
 - Leader approach as a model for rural development.
 - Organization and development in rural areas.
 - Boosting local capacity building and empowerment for LAG to mobilize local potential.

- **Guides or other support documents**

- » Among others, a database of LAGs and baseline study of LAGs' training needs are developed in 2012.

3.4. TNC Activity

- **NSU members dedicated to TNC support**

- » Cooperation department in collaboration with Good Practices, Promotion and Training departments, as well as experts in Regional Offices.

- **Expected partner search facilities, guides, other support documents during 2012:**

- » Cooperation projects database
- » Partners' database.
- » Database for documents in cooperation field.
- » Manual and guide for transnational and inter-territorial cooperation

- **Approved TNC projects:**

- » N/A

4. Monitoring and Evaluation of Networking

The main aspects of the monitoring and evaluation of the Network are, on one hand the development of an indicators system for monitoring and control, and on the other hand the participatory system through empowerment evaluation. All the results will be contained in the first Annual Self- Evaluation Report 2011/12.

5. Communication

- **Communication plan for the NRN**

- » Within the department of communication and public relations, the SUN develops the visual identity and a communication plan for the NRN activity for 2012 in relation with mass media, organization of conferences and seminars and campaigns.

- **Communication plan for the RDP**

- » MARD is responsible for communication activities relating to the RDP 2007-2013.

6. NRN Knowledge Base

- **Publications:**

During the year 2012 the following types of publications are realised and available at www.rndr.ro:

- » Newsletters.
- » Publications on Rural Development.
- » Publications on Good Practices.
- » Thematic publications.

- **Latest version of the NSP and RDP are available at MADR website:**

- » NSP – updated November 2008: <http://www.madr.ro/pages/page.php?self=03&sub=0303&tz=030301>
- » NRDP – consolidated July 2011: <http://www.madr.ro/pages/page.php?self=03&sub=0302&tz=030202>

- **Further Information:**

Please find below a link to the MA/NSU/RDP's website:

- » Managing Authority: www.madr.ro
- » National Rural Development Network: www.rndr.ro
- » National Rural Development Programme: www.pndr.ro