

NRN objectives

The Italian NRN shall contribute to achieving the following objectives:

The strategy of the Italian NRN Programme focuses on 3 specific targets

- ➔ increase the **involvement of stakeholders** in the implementation of rural development
 - ➔ improve the **quality of the implementation** of rural development programmes
 - ➔ **inform** the broader public and potential beneficiaries on rural development policy and funding opportunities
 - ➔ foster **innovation** in agriculture, food production, forestry and rural areas
- ✓ **Target Group 1** concerns all the actors at national, regional and local level who are involved in programming, managing and implementing the the rural development policy.
 - ✓ **Target Group 2** refers to all economic, environmental, social stakeholders and all the potential beneficiaries of the RDP support (farms, SMEs in rural areas, forestry holders, etc.).
 - ✓ **Target Group 3** concerns the civil society.

The Italian NRN Programme is declined in 4 strategic priorities: the first three correspond to objectives 1, 2 and 3. The 4th priority represents one specific axis and is fully devoted to “Promotion of innovation” along two specific objectives (4.1) “Supporting the implementation of the EIP Operational Groups and the liaison with Horizon 2020 and national research/innovation policies”, and (4.2) “Promoting innovation in the primary and agro-food sector and in rural areas”

This following link from contains a comprehensive information about our NRN Programme :

<http://www.reterurale.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/17032>

Membership

Who are the members?

The structure of the NRN is **pre-defined**, however activities are **open** to all stakeholders, who can also ask to participate in meetings. No formal selection process is envisaged.

There are no specific categories. NRN committees usually include representatives of the most important rural stakeholders at national scale

How to join the network?

How to get involved

The Italian NRN does not issue any specific call for proposals, but relies on the action of its **two government bodies**: ISMEA and CREA.

Regional NRN structures

The national Network Support Unit is organised in a National based NSU and Regional Antennae.



The NSU and RDP management

The NSU and the Managing Authority

- ✓ The Network Support Unit (NSU) is **set up within the Managing Authority** (MIPAAF) with some activities outsourced or contracted to ministerial agencies.
- ✓ The NRN is centrally planned and managed, with one “antenna”(help-desk) at MA level of each regional RDP. These 21 antennae rely on one person (two/three in the biggest Southern regions). They have a two-fold role: they perceive and gather needs from the territory, raising these issues to the central NRN structure; they provide feedback to their stakeholders.
- ✓ In order to carry out all of the NRN actions, MIPAAF signed a cooperation agreement with two main technical bodies: ISMEA (Institute for the provision of services to agricultural markets), and CREA (Council for Agricultural Research and Economic analysis). These two Government bodies implement the NRN Action Plan.

The NSU and the Monitoring Committee

- ✓ The NRN Monitoring Committee is formed of nearly 50 people, and meets at least once a year.
- ✓ It has the task to review the implementation of the Programme, taking into account the progress made towards achieving the NRN objectives according to financial data, outputs and target indicators.
- ✓ The Committee is also consulted in the case of amendments to the Programme and may express observations or remarks to the MA regarding the NRN implementation.
- ✓ A wide representation of institutional bodies (such as Regions, Ministries) as well as stakeholders and NGOs are part of the Monitoring Committee.
- ✓ Each Member has a [voting right](#) and EU Commission representatives also take part in the committee.



NRN Governance

Referring to the Art. 66 of the Reg. UE N. 1305/2013, the MA is responsible for the correct management of the Programme. The MA’s responsibilities implies the monitoring and evaluation of the program, its information and institution of a sound internal audit and control system, financial reporting and is in charge of managing the relations with the Paying Agency and the Monitoring Committee.

MA
Level

The MA operates together with a **“Network support and coordination unit” (STC)** and an **“Administrative and control unit” (SAC)**

Coordination
Units Level

**“Network support and
coordination unit”
(STC)**

The **“Network support and coordination unit” (STC)** is established within the office DISR 2 (Rural development coordination – Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Policies) and is responsible for the governance of the Network, also through specific Committees for each axis of the Programme. The STC comprises 5 people.

**“Administrative and
control unit” (SAC)**

The **“Administrative and control unit” (SAC)** is responsible for the monitoring of the expenditures of the Programme, control activities and interaction with the Paying Agency. The SAC comprises 2 people.

Four
Steering
Committees

In relation to the four specific objectives of the Network, four steering committees, each of them composed by approx. 20 people, with the participation of Regions and other stakeholders have a supervision task on the Network’s projects and “on going verification” of target groups needs during the NRN implementation.

Timeline of NRN Workplans

1st period

Jan 2015 – Dec
2016

2nd period

Jan 2017 – Dec
2018

3rd period

Jan 2019 - Dec
2020

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[Download: NRN Two years Workplan \(IT\)](#)

Communication

The NRN has a communication Plan and an integrated communication strategy, guided by the following objectives:

- **Closer cooperation** between Italian Institutions and Italian civil society.
- The aim is double: a) improving **public awareness** of the potential of rural areas to deliver on a wide range of economic, social, and environmental challenges and opportunities; b) focusing on **learning, education, advice and vocational training** for developing the skills needed, peer-to-peer exchange and networking.
- **Increasing transparency** (open government) and to produce high quality information (both data and publications) on the rural development policy, as well as new tools and services for RDPs MA, stakeholders and the civil Society. This action is also aimed at networking with RDPs MA, in order to collect their needs and exchange experiences and good practices.



The NRN has a specific **website** www.reterurale.it , and a monthly **magazine** “Pianeta PSR” <http://www.pianetapsr.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/1>



[Download: Communication Plan \(IT\)](#)

NRN self-assessment



- The NRN relies on a widespread use of **13 Output Indicators** (e.g. meetings, workshops, conferences, etc.) to assess its activities;
- This scheme is applied to each of its **44 project fiches, affecting 27 main thematic areas**. In the 1st bi-annual plan some **350 outputs** were recorded.
- The system foresees a **“co-management” style** for these fiches: each of them has a project manager, and a Ministry referral, that routinely meet in order to check the action’s progress and outcomes. This management pattern should ensure that every key action is assessed from two distinct point of views, therefore facilitating an internal learning process.
- The NRN also relies on the **inputs from the independent, external Evaluator** (to be still appointed) and on the work of the four Steering Committees.

NRN Resources



Financial resources (2014-2020)	Budget
Total NRN public funds:	€ 114 665 194
Out of which national co-financing:	€ 54 993 427
Out of which EAFRD:	€ 59 671 767

Human resources	No
Number of full-time equivalent (FTE) staff	80

Contacts ✉
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