Mission Statement and Strategic Objectives of the Rural Network

- The general objective of the Greek National Rural Network (NRN) is to bring together all its members – i.e. national and local level actors involved in rural development - to facilitate the exchange of experience and support of rural development policy.
- The Greek NRN has seven main specific aims:
  • Connect stakeholders & administrations involved in rural development;
  • Identify, analyze and disseminate information at local and national level on transferable relevant practices for rural development;
  • Disseminate the results of the Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 (RDP) at local, national and EU level;
  • Organize the exchange of experience and knowledge on rural development at local, national and EU level;
  • Provide technical assistance for inter-territorial and transnational cooperation projects, in the context of the RDP axis 4 “LEADER approach”;
  • Cooperate with the European Network for Rural Development (ENRD) and other NRNs;
  • Strengthen capacity building for RDP evaluation purposes.

Participants in the Rural Network

- The network is characterized by a formal membership defined through a Ministerial Decision.
- Membership is open to public sector and stakeholder organizations but not to individuals. There are 78 members in the Greek NRN, categorized in two main groups:
  - organizations representing Programme beneficiaries and other stakeholders concerned by the objectives of the RDP measures, and administrative authorities involved in Programme’s management and implementation at national level.
  - There is an on-going process concerning membership. Stakeholders wishing to be members of the Greek NRN can apply for it and the NSU makes the appropriate evaluation.

Network Structure

- The responsible Unit for the NRN (NSU) is the Unit E “Rural National Network” within the Managing Authority (MA) of the RDP (Ministry for Rural Development & Food, Special Secretariat of the Administrative Sector for Community Resources & Infrastructure).
- The NSU is not delegated to a ministerial agency or other institution; it is part of the Managing Authority. All of its actions are paid through technical assistance of the RDP.
- Greece has one national RDP, one NRN, one NSU and no regional NSUs.
- The NSU is composed of five full-time employees of which one is the head of the unit. All of them are responsible for the operations of the Network.
Network Management

- The decisions management in the Greek NRN is flexible and involves mostly less formal decision-making processes.
- In case the activity to be approved require any significant financial outlay the decision-making process must be approved by the MA or by the Special Secretariat otherwise the decision is taken by NSU (less formal processes).
- Flow chart (if possible) of the decision making processes within the Network Support Unit:

Network Budget for the period 2007–13

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Network budget</th>
<th>€</th>
<th>Budget breakdown</th>
<th>€</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total network funds (Public Cost)</td>
<td>Up to 10,000,000</td>
<td>Total Network funds (Public Costs)</td>
<td>Up to 7,500,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>National co-finance</td>
<td>500,000</td>
<td>Work plan resources</td>
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<tr>
<td>EAFRD</td>
<td>9,500,000</td>
<td>Network running costs</td>
<td>Up to 2,500,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>EAFR Co-financing %</td>
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<td>Others (if appropriate)</td>
<td>/</td>
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