1. **Summary of the Work Programme of the Italian NRN**

After a negotiating process with National Stakeholders, Civil Society and Regional Managing Authorities, in **June 2011**, the definitive 2011 working Programme of the Italian NRN has been formally adopted.

The 2011 Working Programme, covers all 16 Actions of the Italian NRN for a total of 294 outputs expected in 2011.

The main subjects of intervention are:

1) **the improvement of national governance** (in particular actions for supporting the RDPs Managing Authorities; the RDP evaluation and a national common framework for evaluation; the involvement of national stakeholders; Inter-regional programmes for networking);

2) **the strengthening of management skills for those involved in rural development** (i.e. support for the Local Action Groups and learning activities on LEADER; exchange of information and experiences; enhancement of sub-thematic programming in RDPs; technical assistance to inter-territorial and trans-national cooperation; technical assistance to cooperation amongst institutions);

3) **Best practices and knowledge** (identification, analysis, transfer in national RDPs and information about best practices and innovation; promotion of informative services for farmers and rural operators; dissemination of information on rural development and CAP for the public opinion).

These activities are carried out by 5 Thematic Task Forces, 10 Thematic Working Groups and 19 Regional Antennas of the NRN covering all regional RDPs.

2. **Focus and annual priorities supporting the RDP implementation in 2011**

Concerning the support for RDPs some of the 2011 priorities are:

- Network support for achieving a good expenditure target by 2011 (exchange of information and experiences, monitoring and evaluation framework on efficacy and RDPs efficiency);
- Networking support for the implementation of the broadband measure in rural Italy;
- Networking support for the on-going implementation of the LEADER approach;
- Support for the implementation of a “Guarantee Fund” for RDP;
- Implementation of an IT service for the “business plan on line” for farms;
- Exchange of experience on social farming;
- Exchange of experience on short supply chains and sub-thematic programming.

3. **Thematic Activity**

3.1. **Thematic Initiatives launched by the Network**

The Italian Rural Network is currently involved in the Thematic Initiatives launched in the context of the EN RD **(social aspects of rural entrepreneurship, short supply chains, rural finance, and forestry)**.

**Thematic groups established:**

This is the list of the NRN Thematic Task Forces set up according to the priorities identified in the Italian National Strategy Plan:

- Leader;
- Good practices and innovation;
- Cooperation;
- Monitoring and evaluation;
- Support to RDPs.
The NRN Task Force “Support to RDPs” is actually structured in 10 “Thematic Working Groups”, as follows:

- “Thematic Working Group” Sub-Thematic and supply-chain programming;
- “Thematic Working Group” Forestry;
- “Thematic Working Group” Water resources;
- “Thematic Working Group” Rural Development and its integration with other policies;
- “Thematic Working Group” Competitiveness;
- “Thematic Working Group” Environment and Cross-Compliance;
- “Thematic Working Group” Young Farmers;
- “Thematic Working Group” Equal Opportunities;
- “Thematic Working Group” Bioenergy;
- “Thematic Working Group” Landscape.

Furthermore small operative groups have been established for supporting the Italian Rural Network in the following topics: “Legal aspects”; “Events organization”; “Translation and interpreting service”; “IT systems”; “NRN Secretariat”.

**Events:**

Main international Events:
- International Seminar on the efficient communication of Rural Development measures – Milan 17th 18th November.

### 3.2. Relevant Experiences/Good Practices

There are available “innovative instruments” dealing with Communication.

Link: http://www.reterurale.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/3618

In detail the relevant experiences in Communication are:

- “YOURuralNeT” a Web Community for Young Farmers: http://46.137.91.159/youruralnet/
- Communication Plan about Cross Compliance http://www.reterurale.it/pcc2010
- RURALand project (Rural4kids, Rural4teens e Rural4youth) for communicating rural development in the schools http://www.reterurale.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/3690
- PIANETA PSR – newsletter on Rural Development http://www.pianetapsr.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/1
- RRN MAGAZINE http://www.pianetapsr.it/flex/files/8/3/b/D.9817b296eb2daaf0f4ab/RRN_n1web_def.pdf
- Communication Campaign on the National Strategic Plan (NSP). http://www.reterurale.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/3372

Concerning the support to RDPs there also some interesting examples:

- Support for the implementation of a Guarantee Fund for RDP;
- Implementation of an IT service for the “business plan on line” for farms;
- LEADER IN PRATICA “learning by doing”. Visiting the best projects of Italian LAGs (open to all Italian LAGs) http://www.reterurale.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/4902
- Summer School for LAGs http://www.reterurale.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/5845
- “LEADERBOOK” Web Community for LAGs http://www.reterurale.it/leaderbook

### 3.3. Leader related activities and LAG support

**NSU members dedicated to LAG support:**

- 10
• Training for LAGs:
  » “LEADER IN PRATICA” learning by doing. Visiting the best projects of Italian LAGs (open to all Italian LAGs)
    http://www.reterurale.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/4902
  » Summer School for LAGs
    http://www.reterurale.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/5845
  » “LEADERBOOK” Web Community for LAGs http://www.reterurale.it/leaderbook
  » Guides or other support documents:
    » Relevant documents for LAGs support can be found at the following link:
      http://www.reterurale.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/1387

3.4. TNC Activity

• NSU members dedicated to TNC support:
  » 5 people

• Cooperation fairs and similar events:
  » “CooperAction Day” 20th June 2011 – Inter-territorial and Transnational Cooperation.
    http://www.reterurale.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/5625

• Partner search facilities, guides, other support documents:
  » “Project Announces data-base” It is active a webpage with all projects TNC announces coming from Italian LAGs are published:
    http://www.reterurale.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/2026
  » Documents dealing TNC from the Italian Rural Network (NRN) can be found here:
    http://www.reterurale.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/1703

• Approved TNC projects:
  » At June 2011: none

4. Monitoring and evaluation of Networking

Being the Italian NRN a specific Programme approved by the EU Commission, there is an independent evaluator for the Italian NRN Programme, ECOSFERA (www.ecosfera.it) that has been selected through a call for tenders.

In 2011 it is carried out a specific enquiry on “customer satisfaction” of NRN Stakeholders and on the ability of the Italian Rural Network to establish contacts for a proper added-value in achieving the Programme objective (i.e. this enquiry is called “Networking analysis”).

Furthermore the Italian Rural Network is working in improving its set of indicators.

The Programme already developed a complete set of indicators for Networking (i.e. Outputs; Results and Impacts indicators).

5. Communication

• Communication Plan for the NRN:
  » at the moment the main communication about the NRN is provided through the website www.reterurale.it

• Communication plan for RDP:
  » Communication Campaign on the National Strategic Plan (NSP).
    http://www.reterurale.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/3372
ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL RURAL NETWORK

Italy

» A specific page of the Italian Rural Network website is dedicated to all calls coming from all Italian RDPs (every measure):
  » http://www.reterurale.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/377

» Data base of all RDP calls:
  » http://www.reterurale.it/flex/FixedPages/IT/RicercaBandiPSR.php/L/IT

» RDP calls at a glance:
  » http://www.reterurale.it/flex/FixedPages/IT/QuadroSinottico.php/L/IT

» A specific page of the Italian Rural Network website is dedicated to all calls coming from Italian LAGs (LEADER):
  » http://www.reterurale.it/leader/bandigal

6. **NRN Knowledge Base**

- **Publications**
  » All publications by the Italian National Rural Network (NRN) can be found at the following link:
    http://www.reterurale.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/1377
  
    Clicking on "documenti per settore" it is possible to find the National Rural Network (NRN) in relation to different topics.

- **Latest version of the NSP and RDP:**
  The latest versions of the NSP and RDP are available at:
  
    » NSP: http://www.reterurale.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/5054
    
    » Italian RDPs: http://www.reterurale.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/2439

- **Further Information:**
  Please find below a link to the MA/NSU/RDP’s website, where more information is available about financing under the RDP:
  
    » Managing Authority: www.politicheagricole.it
    
    » National Rural Network: www.reterurale.it
    
    » Rural Development Programmes: http://www.reterurale.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/2439