



*“The network's mission is to encourage communication and networking processes in connection with the development of rural areas”.*

### NRN objectives

The Slovenian Rural Network defined **five strategic objectives**, four are based on the mandatory objectives set by the EU Regulation and **an additional objective** is defined on ‘knowledge transfer’:

- ➔ Providing **information** to general public and beneficiaries on the rural development policy and funding options;
- ➔ Better **implementation** quality of the rural development programme;
- ➔ Better **integration** of the stakeholder in the implementation of the rural development;
- ➔ Promotion of **innovation** in agriculture, food production, forestry and in rural areas;
- ➔ Encouragement of the **transfer of knowledge and cooperation** in agriculture, food production, forestry and rural areas.

 [Click here: Objectives, structure, members and activities of the Slovenian Rural Network \(EN\)](#)

 [Click here: Action and Communication Plan \(including NRN Intervention Logic \(SI\)\)](#)

### Membership

The Slovenian National Rural Network is comprised of organisations and individuals that join under a **voluntary and free-of-charge registration process**. Anyone can apply; in the application form there is a request to identify a field of interest (members can choose one or more categories).

*How to join the network?*

*What are the member's thematic interests?*

More than half of the current membership (**2.281 members as of May 2016**) has expressed **thematic interests** while registering: Agriculture (82%), integrated rural development (75%), management of the agricultural and rural areas (71%), tourism (68%), processing of agricultural and forestry products (66%), entrepreneurship (61%), food safety and quality (60%), LEADER (59%), diversification into non-agricultural activities (52%), forestry (50%) and environmental protection (40%).

**Members cannot apply for NRN funding.** NRN prepare open calls to identify the needs on the countryside and receive projects ideas. Where applicable (e.g. importance for RDP implementation, importance for NRN goals), the NRN implements those projects together with NRN partners.

*How to get involved?*

## The NSU and RDP management

### The NSU and the Managing Authority

- ✓ The Managing Authority (MA) is **responsible** for establishing and operating the NRN and NSU.
- ✓ The MA is also responsible for all documents that are prepared by NSU.

### The NSU and the Monitoring Committee

- ✓ NSU **reports to the Monitoring Committee** (MC) about the implementation of the Action Plan of the NRN 2014-2020 and on the RDP communication activities.
- ✓ Members of the MC have been invited to **register** for membership in the NRN.
- ✓ The NSU is sometimes involved in **logistic preparations** of MC meetings, and it is invited to those agenda points where NRN information is discussed.

## Regional NRN structures

Although there are no regional NSUs or regional antennae, the central NSU operates **INFO points**, which are run by NRN partners from their own resources. The main objective of these INFO points is to inform local stakeholders about RDP measures.

## NRN Governance



### Steering Group



The Steering Group of the Rural Network presents various groups/areas - **41 representatives from 19 different organisations** - and provides outlines for the Network operation. It meets at least 2 times per year, and has the following responsibilities:

- ✓ proposing the activities of the network;
- ✓ making proposals for improving the implementation of the activities and functioning of the network;
- ✓ making proposals to Network's activities and documents (including the NRN action plan);
- ✓ proposing the creation of thematic working groups;
- ✓ ensuring the dissemination and exchange of information, practices, skills, etc. in the field of rural development among the members of the Network, organisations and individuals;
- ✓ providing data and information for the preparation of materials, workshops, events, etc.;
- ✓ giving support for monitoring and evaluation of the activities carried out;
- ✓ participating in the activities of the network.

### Thematic Working Groups



Thematic working groups support different **areas/activities of the Network**. Not only the Steering Group, but also the Managing Authority initiates the establishment of certain working groups and, if necessary, provides the support for the operation of such thematic group.

### Info Points



The network cooperates with the so-called INFO Points, which **provide the stakeholders with information on RDP**.

## Communication

The Network's most important role is **the implementation of the information and publicity strategy**. Communication activities include provision of information, publicity and feedback actions.

The communication means **a two-way flow of information**, i.e. between the managing authority and partners, stakeholders, beneficiaries, rural areas, general public, expert public, etc. as well as connection/networking between the entities.



**Website:** Publishing information and publicity through the webpage <http://www.program-podezelja.si>



**E:-media:** Writing and distributing the weekly electronic NRN newsletter "PREplet"



The general public will also be **informed** about projects co-financed under the EAFRD.



**Publications:** Printing materials, providing presentations and being present in fairs, etc.



Click here: [Action and Communication Plan \(including NRN Intervention Logic \(SI\)\)](#)

## NRN self-assessment

The NSU will identify through self-assessment the **added value and contribution** of its activities to the objectives of the NRN. A full framework is being designed (May 2016).



An example on its structure and indicators is the following:

**Objective:** informing the general public and potential beneficiaries on rural development policy and funding opportunities

**Indicators:**

- ✓ the visibility of the RDP and EAFRD (percentage of respondents)
- ✓ the visibility of the Network (share of respondents)
- ✓ the successful implementation of communication activities (survey)



Click here: [Action and Communication Plan \(including NRN Intervention Logic \(SI\)\)](#)

## Timeline of NRN Workplans

### 1st period

13 Feb 2015 – 31 Dec 2015

### 2nd period

1 Jan 2016 – 31 Dec 2016

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## NRN Resources

### Financial resources (2014-2020) Budget (€)

**Total NRN public funds:** 3 991.360

Out of which national co-financing: 997 840

Out of which EAFRD: 2 993 520

### Human resources

No

Number of full-time equivalent (FTE) staff

2

### Contacts

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