

## 1. Annual Work Programme (AWP) 2012: priorities supporting RDP implementation

### 1.1 Priorities of the current AWP:

The Flemish National Rural Network (NRN) or Vlaams Ruraal Netwerk (VRN) acts as the site of integration for various (networks of) actors, involved in different areas (axes) of rural development. It therefore increases synergy between various development initiatives under the four axes of EU programmes. More specifically, the network identifies, analyses and systematically stores in a database, examples of 'good practice'. It also presents information on related experiences and specific know-how on special information or study days. In relation to Leader the VRN supports the start-up Local Action Groups (LAGs) through introductory programmes and the provision of guidelines. In a wider context, the VRN also actively supports inter-territorial and transnational cooperation and collaboration with the Contact Point of the European Network for Rural Development (EN RD).



The Flemish NRN maintains an annual work programme with no formal approval. The main priorities of the current AWP are the organization of events, communication and transnational assistance.

### 1.2 NRN's activities implementing the above mentioned priorities

The main activities implemented by the Network are: seminars, excursions, articles on our website, newsletters, reports, CAP information, stakeholder meeting, participation in Coordination Committee, Leader Subcommittee, ENRD meetings and several working groups. Information about the AWP are available on <http://www.ruraalnetwerk.be/node/937>.

## 2. Thematic Initiatives launched by the Network

The programme for 2013 will focus on the organization of activities and a newsletter on young farmers and the different roles of farmers in 2012.

- **Issues addressed by the events:**
  - The different roles of farmers, young farmers, the current and the next programme period.
- **Issues addressed by working groups:**
  - Young farmers.
- **Issues addressed by committees/steering groups:**
  - Preparation of the RDP 2014-2020.
- **Issues subject of surveys/consultation/analysis:**
  - Stakeholder consultation: discussion on the priorities for the next programme period.
- **Information about thematic initiatives available on:**
  - <http://www.ruraalnetwerk.be/thema-2012-landbouwer-als>;
  - <http://www.ruraalnetwerk.be/agenda/platteland-na-2013-waar-zetten-we-op>.

### 2.1 LEADER-related activities

- In the NSU/MA/other there is staff dedicated to the support of LAGs.
- The NSU/MA/other organise training and events for LAGs.

- Information about these events are available on:
  - » <http://www.ruraalnetwerk.be/>
- The NSU/MA/other provide guidelines and other supporting documents available on:
  - » <http://www.ruraalnetwerk.be/pdpo/pdpo-ii-4>
- The NRN apply other forms of support to Leader implementation by the Managing Service of Axis 4.
- The NSU/MA/other staff support inter-regional and transnational cooperation.
- The NSU/MA/other plan cooperation fairs, LAG visits abroad and other events.
- Information about these events are available on:
  - » <http://www.ruraalnetwerk.be/>
- The NSU/MA/other provide partner search facilities, guides, other support documents by informing the LAG-coordinators about events, cooperation offers etc. These information are sent by e-mail.

### 3. Relevant Experiences/Good Practices

- **Identification of EAFRD-funded projects representing relevant experience:**

The NSU identifies EAFRD-funded projects representing relevant experience in cooperation with Managing Services and LAG coordinators.

- **Communication and dissemination of relevant experience:**

- In order to communicate and disseminate relevant experience the Flemish Rural Network organizes excursions and seminars about good practices. The Rural Network gives space to the communication of these good practices also in its newsletters. In 2010 the Network organized the competition 'Prima Plattelandsproject'. Projects could be submitted in 4 categories and a jury selected the best project in each categorie. In 2013 the Network is planning to organize this competition for the second time. Sometimes the LAGs and other public authorities (for example provinces) organize excursions or seminars on good practices.
- Information about relevant experiences and good practices are available on:
  - » <http://www.ruraalnetwerk.be/>
  - » <http://www.ruraalnetwerk.be/publicaties/andere-relevante-publicaties/brochure-prima-plattelandsproject-2010>

### 5. Monitoring and evaluation of networking

- The rural network assesses its performance through internal evaluation of the annual programme and the evaluation of the events by the participants.
- Qualitative/result-oriented assessment reviewing feedback of network constituents are collected.
- Self-assessment and evaluation reports are available on: <http://www.ruraalnetwerk.be/node/937>.

### 6. Communication

A communication plan and a RDP communication plan are part of the annual programme. The communication tools utilized by the network are e-mails and the NRN's website. They are considered the most effective way to reach the people.

### 7. Documents

- Publications, info materials, videos, etc are available on: <http://www.ruraalnetwerk.be/publicaties>.
- The NSP and RDP latest versions are available on: <http://lv.vlaanderen.be/nlapps/docs/default.asp?id=1538#Programmadocument>.