

netzwerk  
zukunftsraum  
land  
LE 14-20



BMLFUW/Alexander Haiden

"Informing. Networking. Innovating. Inducing."

## NRN objectives

Austrian Rural Development Programme set five main objectives:



Building **awareness** of the challenges of the rural areas



Facilitating new **innovative solutions**



Wide **participation in the implementation** of the RDP



Reflection of **learning experience** and improvement of the RDP 2014 – 2020



**Strengthening the skills** needed for programme measure implementation



*NRN Intervention Logic (AT)*

## Structure of the NSU

There is one national NSU in Austria. The Austrian NSU consists of **five partner organisations**, specialising in different fields to cover all of the topics of rural development.



*Organigram of the Austrian NSU & governance bodies (EN)*

## Membership

The Austrian Rural Network has an **informal membership** process. The network targets different stakeholders by designing different kinds of activities: some of them are open for all interested people; some are specialised and addressed mainly to specific stakeholders and experts.

*Who can join the network?*

*How to get involved*

The addresses of **interested stakeholders** are collected and clustered by the Network's most relevant working areas: agriculture, forestry and value chain, environment, nature protection and climate change, LEADER/CLLD and innovation. Stakeholders are informed through **newsletter, website and magazines**.

The network is **open to receive suggestions** from stakeholders on themes or projects to address issues in each working area. These are discussed with the NSU management team, which decided whether to include additional sub-projects into annual action plan.

## The NSU and RDP management

The NSU is **outsourced from the MA** (the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management) and it is the contracting authority for the NSU partnership.

### The NSU and the Managing Authority

The **cooperation** with the Managing Authority is very close and based on **3 steps**:

1. A very precise **yearly action plan** based on which every activity is discussed and authorised;
2. Every three months a **meeting** is set to discuss on-going questions;
3. A **yearly report** includes documentation for all activities undertaken, including self-assessment.

### The NSU and the Monitoring Committee

The **NSU team leader** is a member of the National Rural Development Monitoring Committee and represents the Austrian NRN in the meetings.

## NRN Governance



### Coordination Committee



The first governance body is the coordination committee, where representatives from the **NSU and the MA develop and negotiate annual working programmes**, which are the basis for the work of the NSU.

### Strategic Advisory Groups



Strategic advisory groups (“Begleitgruppen”) are a second layer in the Austrian governance structure. Along five thematic fields, **representatives from different organisations meet regularly to support the NSU** in developing the annual working programmes, and are a valuable source for monitoring and evaluating NSU activities.

The five thematic fields of the advisory groups are:

- Agriculture and forestry / value chains
- Environment, biodiversity, nature conservation
- Climate protection and climate change
- Basic services, LEADER and municipalities
- Innovation

### Thematic Working Groups



Thematic working groups are established as a third category of governance bodies. Especially for new topics like integration of refugees in rural areas or the role of businesses in rural development these working groups **help find a focus for further actions**. Compared to the strategic advisory groups, thematic working groups meet on an ad hoc basis.

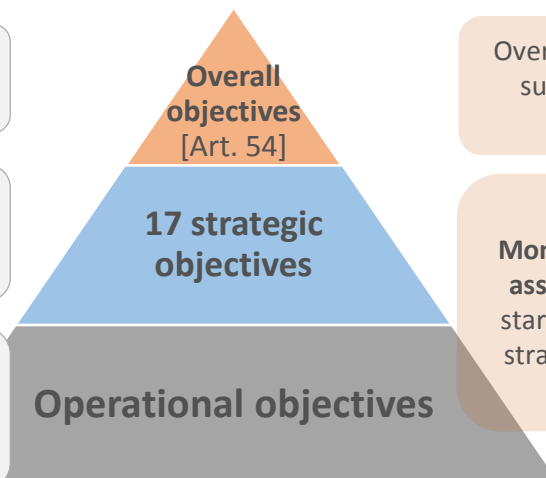
## NRN Self-assessment

### Three-stage intervention logic

At the very top there are the **overall objectives** (ref. EU Regulation Art. 54).

To make them more tangible and operational, these objectives are broken down to 17 **strategic objectives**.

Strategic objectives are further detailed by **operational objectives**: every working area defining one or two operational objectives in line with the strategic ones.



Overall objectives are subject mainly to **evaluation**.

**Monitoring and self-assessment** mainly starts at the stage of strategic objectives.

 Download 'NRN Intervention Logic' (AT)

### Self-assessment in practice



The **overall working plan**, as well as the more detailed annual working plans, refers to these operational and/or strategic objectives.

This means that for **every measure** (workshop, annual conferences, website, etc.) planned by the NSU there is a clear description of which strategic and/or operational objectives are addressed. For every type of measure instruments are developed that allow an observation on how far these measures are contributing to the strategic and/or operational objectives.



For workshops and conferences, **feedback forms** are developed, which contain a quite detailed questionnaire on perceived changes/effects.

Every year an **additional online-survey amongst all network stakeholders** is planned. This should unveil outcomes that need time to occur and cannot be measured directly after an event etc.




For all web-related measures "**pop-up-feedbacks**" will be integrated to illustrate the usefulness.



Besides the (rather complex) monitoring of outcomes, more straightforward approaches are used on **the output level** (e.g. number of workshops on topic XY, number of people participating, etc.). Especially these statistics are closely connected to the "common network statistics" provided by the ENRD.

### Timeline of NRN Workplans



 Download 'Planning cycle of the Austrian NRN'

NRN annual work programme:

<http://www.zukunftsraumland.at/index.php?inc=page&id=23>

## Communication



Website: News, events,  
documentation



Database with relevant practice  
examples for rural development

The Austrian NRN is  
using a number of key  
communication tools



### Publications:

- A **quarterly magazine** is produced and published (disseminated to 4 000 stakeholders until end of May 2016).
- A **monthly online newsletter** is produced with important information, including the dates of upcoming events (6 000 contacts subscribed to the newsletter until end of May 2016).

## NRN Resources

Financial resources (2014-2020)	Budget (€)
Total NRN public funds:	5 950 000
Out of which national co-financing:	3 008 915
Out of which EAFRD:	2 941 085
<b>Human resources (NSU)</b>	<b>No</b>
Number of full-time equivalent (FTE) staff	3.4



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### Main contacts

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