



Rural Development Networks in EU and their importance for accessing countries – Croatia

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According to Article 68 of Regulation (EC) n. 1698/2005, each Member State has to establish a National Rural Network (NRN) which groups the organisations and administrations involved in rural development. Every national network must have its own action plan which must covers at least the following tasks:

- **Identification and analysis of good transferable practices and information about them;**
- **Organisation of exchanges of experiences and know-how;**
- **Training programmes for Local Actions Groups in the process of formation; and**
- **Technical assistance for inter-territorial and transnational cooperation.**



The European Network for Rural Development (EN RD) has been established to create a network among EU rural development actors. This involves a wide variety of EU rural development stakeholders such as the National Rural Networks and other organisations or administrations active in the field of rural development. According to Article 67 of Regulation (EC) n. 1698/2005, the aim of the EN RD is to:

- **collect, analyze and disseminate information on Community rural development measures;**
- **collect, disseminate and consolidate at Community level good rural development practices;**
- **provide information on developments in the Community's rural areas and in third countries;**
- **organise meetings and seminars at Community level for those actively involved in rural development;**
- **set up and run networks with a view to facilitating an exchange of expertise and supporting implementation and evaluation of the rural development policy; and**
- **support the national networks and transnational cooperation initiatives.**



Structure of the EN RD :

- **a Coordination committee:** the body that assists the Commission in the preparation and implementation of the activities of the EN RD. It ensures the coordination between the EN RD, the National Rural Networks and organisations active in rural development at Community level
- **a Leader subcommittee:** that contributes to the work of the Coordination committee. This committee advises the Commission on the annual work programme of EN RD concerning the Leader axis and contributes to the choice and coordination of thematic work in this field
- **thematic working groups:** whose members are designated by the Commission taking in account proposals made by the Coordination committee. The groups' mission is to focus on and analyse key issues (themes) concerning EU rural development policy
- **an evaluation expert committee:** it will follow the work undertaken by the European Evaluation Network for Rural Development which promotes the exchange of expertise and the establishment of best practice on evaluation of EU rural development policy.



Within the PHARE 2005 project "Institutional Capacity Building and Support for Implementation of SAPARD / IPA-RD Programme in Croatia" was carried out preparatory activities for the establishment of the Network for Rural Development of Republic Croatia:

- there held workshops and training for the potentially Networks stakeholders (representatives of national and regional organizations / institutions / agencies, whose work can contribute to overall rural development of the Republic of Croatia) during December 2008. - May 2009.**
- on address of the 200 stakeholders representing almost all organizations / institutions / agencies related to rural development, sent a questionnaire / survey on the proposed Network**
- made the proposal of the concept of Network**



In November 2009. was established The Committee for drafting the Ordinances of Network for Rural Development of Republic Croatia in order to the Network could be formally established.

In July 2010. the final version of Ordinance has completed and approved by Minister.

In August 2010. the Ordinance published in Official Gazette.



Ordinances of Network for Rural Development

Legal status

The NRD in Croatia will be operated under non-profit legal acts, but there will be not special status of Network.

Secretariat will be in Ministry

Network members

Ministry will be opened public notice for applications for membership in Network. Members of the Network may be: governmental institutions, specialized institutions in agriculture and rural development, local and regional government, local and regional development agencies, agricultural holdings, education and scientific institutions from the field agriculture and rural development, associations and chambers of farmers, producers, industry organizations, chambers ... from agriculture and rural development, local action groups, all other individuals and organisations from the field of agriculture and rural development.



Importance of Network for Rural Development

The main aim of the Network is to promote cooperation and support between organizations and individuals involved in rural development involved at various level.

The main objective of the Network is to ensure appropriate representation of rural interests and effective information exchange on rural development policy and activities:

- inter-territorial cooperation**
- networking**
- sharing of good practice**

Network also supports and provides feedback on the implementation of rural development policy and encourages the increased transparency of rural development policy and measures



Members rights

- 1. To participate in General Assembly meetings**
- 2. To elect and be elected on the consultative bodies of the Network**
- 3. To participate in the dicussion and the indentification of solutions to issues of common interest**



General Assembly

General Assembly is the supreme body of the Network and elect representatives for Bord of Directors.

Member will be divided in 14 main categories, for election of representatives in the Bord of Directors and for easier/more quality work in Network.

Bord of Directors

Bord of Directors will be consist of 21 member, with mandate on 3 years (or till Croatia join EU).

President of the Bord will be from Ministry.

21 member will represent the main categories of rural actors



Croatian Rural Development Network (HMRR)

The Croatian Rural Development Network (HMRR) is a civil society organization (NGO) committed to enhancing rural development of Croatia.

The Network has been founded in early 2006 by seven civil society organizations linked in the wish to jointly contribute to improving conditions for integrated development and good quality of life in rural areas.

Activities of the HMRR are based on good European practice and LEADER approach. At the moment the network includes 12 member organizations.

HMRR will be a member of the Network for Rural Development.



Future activities

- ☐ **Publication of public notice for membership in Network (2011)**
- ☐ **Provision of technical conditions for the functioning of the Secretariat (office, staff).**
- ☐ **Constitution of the General Assembly**
- ☐ **Election of Bord of Directors**
- ☐ **Draftig Action plan of the Network**



Directorate for Rural Development / Managing Authority for SAPARD/IPARD Programme
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION !

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