

***BULGARIAN NATIONAL
RURAL NETWORK***



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BULGARIAN NATIONAL RURAL NETWORK

Purpose: To support and accelerate the implementation of the Rural Development Program

Participants: All organizations and public authorities engaged in rural development, including the Local Action Groups on Axis 4 of RDP



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The activity is coordinated now by the Rural Development Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food

But: In the future the Managing Unit (Secretariat) will be outsourced



MAIN TASKS OF THE NATIONAL RURAL NETWORK

- Promoting information exchange and experience sharing
- Identification of good practices
- Organization of seminars, trainings and other meetings for exchange of information
- Representation of the Bulgarian rural community abroad
- All of the above will facilitate absorption of EU funds



SOME HISTORICAL FACTS:

- First initiatives started in 2005
- In 2005-2010 – organizational issues and communication
- In 2008 – a temporary coordinator (Foundation for Local Government) drafted the action plan
- In February 2010 – another temporary coordinator created the webpage of the National Rural Network
- A tender for choosing a Managing Unit is under way



THE NATIONAL RURAL NETWORK HAS 3 WORKING GROUPS:

- Improving the quality of life (Axis 3) – 19 April 2010
- Sustainable and competitive agriculture and marketing (Axis 2 and 3) – 26 April 2010 and
- LEADER approach



THE NATIONAL RURAL NETWORK WORKING GROUPS

Each working group has maximum 20 members.

Membership is voluntary and free

Meetings are held every 2 or 3 months

Every participant in the National Rural Network is informed about the meetings of the Working groups and can provide his/her opinion on the discussed issues.

The minutes from the meetings are published on the website of the National Rural Network and are open to the public.



FUNDING

The National Rural Network is funded from the Technical Assistance Measure of the Rural Development Program

Total budget allocated for the support of the Network
EUR 7.0 million, of which
EUR 1.75 million for the running costs of the Managing unit



ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURES

- Operating functioning of the Managing unit
- Preparation of action plans
- Setting up of integrated data base and Internet portal
- Organization of seminars, workshops, trainings etc.