

Group A – Strategic framework for National rural networks
Meeting on “Capacity building for NRN”

The Italian Rural Network experience

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Slides content:

- Introduction: the Italian 2007 – 2013 RD financial perspective
- Strategic planning and definition of objectives
- NRN goals and added value
- Handling conflicts of interests of stakeholders
- Network strategies and grouping stakeholders
- How to measure the results and effectiveness of NRN

Italy: 2007 – 2013 RD financial perspective

21 Rural Development Programmes

1 National Programme RURAL NETWORK

16 RDP « Competitiveness»: 4,110 Billions of €
 5 PSR « Convergence »: 4,141 Billions of €
 1 National Rural Network: 0,041 Billions of €

Total EAFRD quota	8,292	Billions of €
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National Resources	8,395	Billions of € (*)
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Total resources	16,687	Billions of €
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(*) of which 1,487 Billions of € (8,9% of the total) come from REGIONAL RESOURCES



TOTAL NATIONAL RURAL NETWORK resources : 83 Millions of Euros

Strategic planning and definition of objectives (1)

EC approval C2007 n. 3824 of 13 August 2007

- *Improvement of governance*
- *Strengthening of the managerial and planning capacities*
- *Diffusion of good practices and knowledge*
- *Management of the Network*

Strategic planning and definition of objectives (2)

1st Set of measures

Improvement of governance

Supporting central, regional and local Administrations in the improvement of rural development programmes' performance, in terms of efficiency, efficacy and integration with other policies.

1.1.1 Horizontal support to Administrations engaged in the Rural Development Programme implementation

1.1.2 Support to the establishment of the national monitoring and evaluation system

Encouraging the connection of national, regional and local Institutions with horizontal and vertical partnership in the implementation of rural development policies and their coordination with other policies.

1.2.1 A national standing forum on partnership

1.2.2 Inter-regional workshops for development

2nd Set of measures

Strengthening of the managerial and planning capacities

Supporting the acquisition, updating and improvement of managerial and planning capacities of individuals involved in the implementation of Rural Development Programmes, also with a view to integration and coordination with the other policies.

2.1.1 Preparation of training programmes for Local Action Groups in the process of formation

2.1.2 Organisation of experiences and know-how exchange

2.1.3 Workshops on pilot ideas and integrated projects

Supporting partnership capacity between territories and actors involved in rural development.

2.2.1 Technical assistance to inter-territorial and trans-national cooperation

2.2.2 Technical assistance to cooperation among institutions

Strategic planning and definition of objectives (3)

3rd Set of measures Diffusion of good practices and knowledge	
Capitalizing, diffusing and transferring experiences, good practices and innovations	<p>3.1.1 Identification and analysis of transferable good practices/innovations and relevant information</p> <p>3.1.2 Transfer of good practices/innovations and relevant placement into different contexts</p>
Promoting and encouraging the diffusion of possibilities and results of rural development policies.	<p>3.2.1 Supporting the promotion of services in favour of rural actors</p> <p>3.2.2 Information on contents and results achieved by CAP and rural development policies</p>

4th Set of measures Management of the Network	
	<p>4.1.1 Implementation, management and operation of Network structures</p> <p>4.1.2 Communication Plan and publicity of interventions</p> <p>4.1.3 Monitoring and evaluation of the Network</p>

NRN goals and added value (1)

NRN Key element of national policy defined in NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN (NSP)

MAIN GOALS

- ✓ ***Widening the participation*** in Rural development Policies (RDPs address and NRN activities)
- ✓ ***Overcoming national differences*** (human resources' skills, RDP management, procedures, monitoring & evaluation)
- ✓ ***International dimension*** (exchange of experiences, good practises, innovations)

NRN goals and added value (2)

NRN ADDED VALUE

✓ **To enhance “National Strategic Plan” and “Rural Development Programmes” implementation:**

- PUBLIC POLICY EFFICACY (*quality programming; impacts*)
- FINANCIAL EFFICIENCY (*N+2 rule*)
- INTEGRATION AMONG POLICIES (*EU funds, national funds*)

✓ **Better Knowledge and Visibility of Rural Development (II° pillar of CAP)**

Handling conflicts of interests of stakeholders

THE CHALLENGE:

Organising all competences NRN Members and stakeholders can give to the growth of the Italian Rural Model in a productive manner

MANAGING NRN SUCCESSFULLY

means

precise IDENTIFICATION OF REAL NEEDS

- in rural policy management
- from the rural areas actors

Handling conflicts of interests of stakeholders

We believe in INCLUSIVE APPROACH

Through:

- ✓ Open and broad inclusion of stakeholders
- ✓ National Standing Forum on Partnership (action 1.2.1)
 - ✓ Thematic Task Forces
- ✓ Regional Antennas (Multi-Centric organization)

Network strategy and grouping stakeholders (1)

OPEN and INCLUSIVE approach

Identified partners according to art. 68 (1):

- ✓ **ALL administrations engaged in RD** (*national, regional, LAG, etc.*)
- ✓ **ALL organizations engaged in RD** (*professional, environmental, technical, cultural, chambers of industry-commerce, cooperatives, other networks; NGO's, national and regional Institutes of Research, consumers*)
- ✓ **European Rural Network and any other relevant international partners** (*International organizations, Think Tanks, NGO's, other NRN*).
- ✓ **LIST of 15 Networks having a role to play in rural areas** (*i.e Consumers, Universities, "Euro Info Centres", "National contact points of VI-VII° EU Research Programme", "EUROPE DIRECT" centres, etc....*)

Network strategies and grouping stakeholders (2)

NATIONAL STANDING FORUM ON PARTNERSHIP (action 1.2.1)

Aims:

- ✓ Overseeing the whole rural development policy in Italy
- ✓ Addressing RDPs intervention
- ✓ Sharing the consensus on public policy
- ✓ Enlarging the participation of **NEW STAKEHOLDERS** in comparison to **2000 – 2006** (especially from NGO's and civil society)
- ✓ **OPERATIVE APPROACH: stakeholders propose activities and implement them**

Network strategies and grouping stakeholders (3)

THEMATIC TASK FORCES “THE ENGINE OF THE NETWORK”

T.T.F IMPLEMENT ALL NRN ACTIVITIES

It is important to point out:

- ✓ **Ministry and Regions officials WORK TOGETHER with Stakeholders in small / operative groups**
- ✓ Inclusion of Network Members having an interest in a specific issue
- ✓ New skills and human resources are attracted
- ✓ Better identification of needs of intervention (*bottom up approach*)

Network strategies and grouping stakeholders (4)

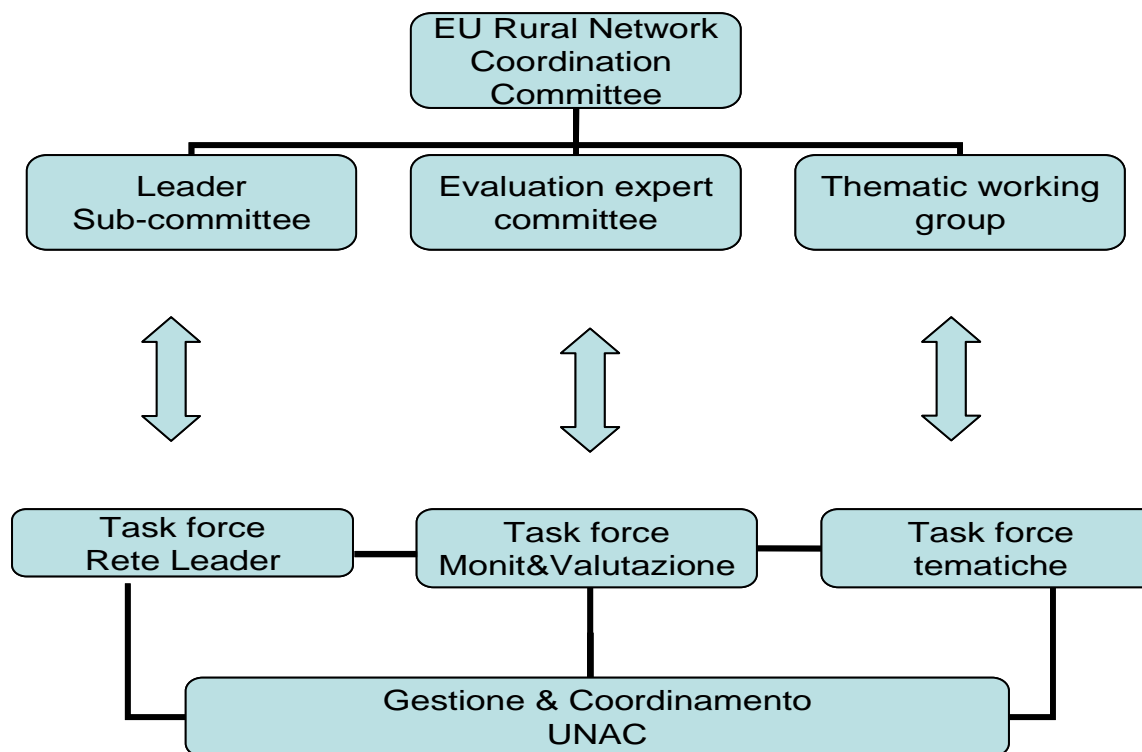
1. Main Thematic Task Forces set up in the Italian NRN

- ✓ *Leader Approach*
- ✓ *Monitoring And Evaluation*
- ✓ *Farm Competitiveness*
- ✓ *Environment And Cross Compliance* (Soil, Water Resources, Climatic Change, Agro-energies, Biodiversity)
- ✓ *Integrated Programming* (Among Measures, Food Chains)
- ✓ *Integration Among Rd And Other Policies*
- ✓ *Young Farmers And Equal Opportunities*

2. Integration NRN with other networks (national / international, official and not) → in order to expand NRN activity results

Network strategies and grouping stakeholders (5)

Strutture della Rete Rurale Europea e della Rete rurale nazionale



Network strategies and grouping stakeholder (6)

21 Regional Sites

- ✓ **Independence and demarcation from proper RDP Technical Assistance** (concerning activities and human resources)
BUT strong coordination with RDP Managing Authorities
- ✓ Regional Sites have **to implement at least Art. 68 mandatory actions and national strategic actions** (targeting NSP objectives)
- ✓ **Free choice in implementing actions at requests**
- ✓ **Bilateral agreements “Ministry – Regions”** on Regional sites organization in terms of human resources and structures involved (*3 options: full; partial; minimal implementation of Regional Sites*)

How to measure the results and effectiveness of NRN

As annex to the NRN Programme (approved by EC Commission):

SET OF INDICATORS ABLE TO MEASURE FOR EVERY ACTION:

- ***Expected Outputs***
- ***Expected Results***
- ***Expected Impacts***

Thank you for attention

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