



# “Overview on the Italian Rural Development system”

12th April 2011

*Outline of the presentation*

**1) Italian Rural Development institutional organisation: roles and responsibility**

**2) National Rural Network +**

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# 1- Italian rural development institutional organization: roles and responsibilities





## *2007-2013 Rural Development programming period:*

### **Institutions involved**

**MiPAAF:** Ministry of agricultural, food and forestry policies

**20 Regions**

**110 Provinces**

**8.101 Municipalities**

**373 Mountain Communities**

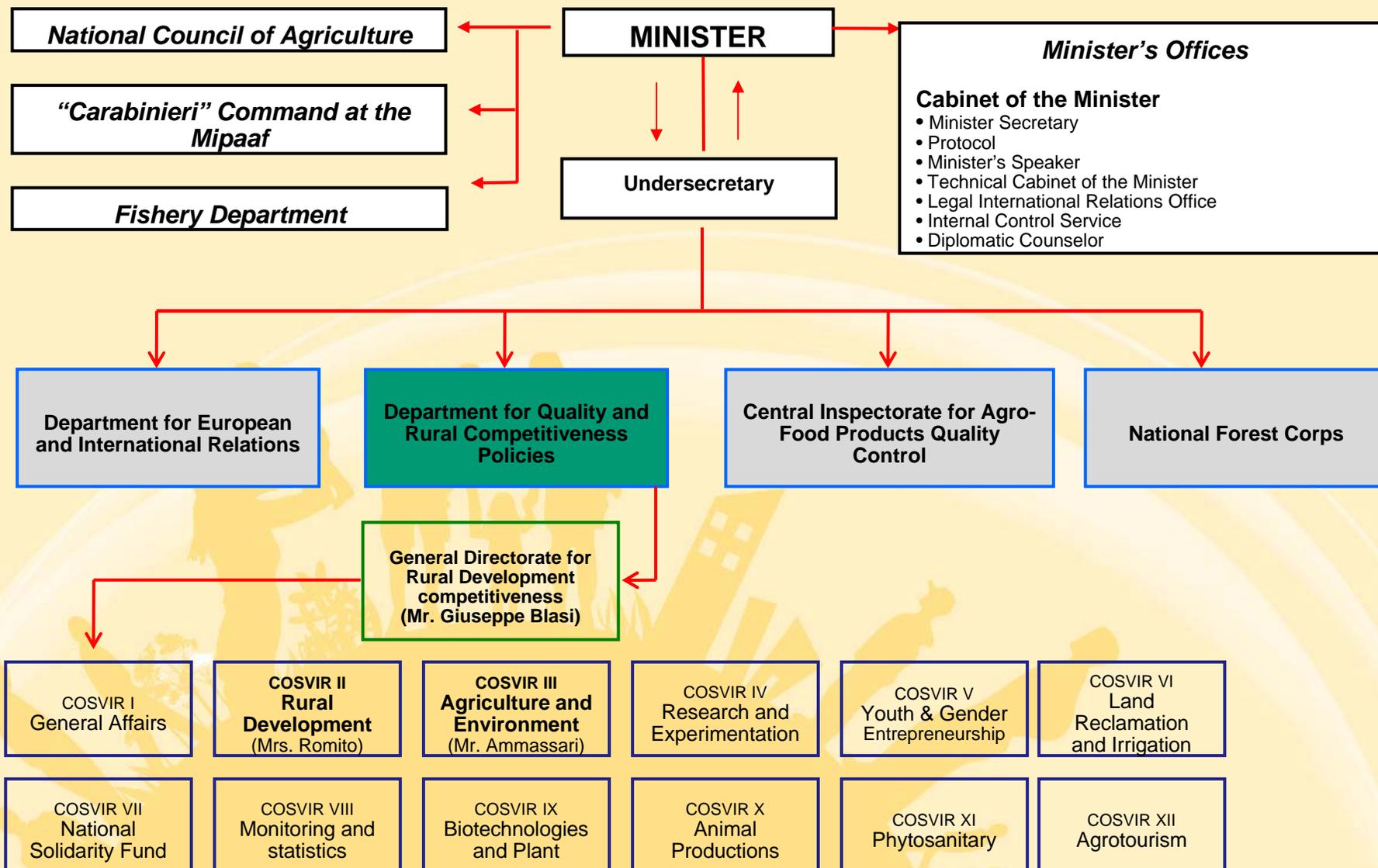
**1 State-Regions Permanent Conference**





## 1.1 Ministry level







## The role of the Ministry in rural development

- ✓ Definition and implementation of **National strategic plan for rural development**
- ✓ **Financial coordination for 21 Rural Development Programs and 1 National Rural Network** - National Monitoring Committee (art. 77.3 Reg. 1698/05)
- ✓ Ensuring **complementary** and **coherence** among policies
- ✓ Implementation of “**National monitoring and evaluation system**” (art. 80 Reg. 1698/05)
- ✓ **Horizontal issues** (cross-compliance and baseline identification, rules on eligibility of expenditure, reductions and exclusion system, etc.)
- ✓ **National Rural Network** implementation



# National Strategy Plan (NSP)

Notification to EC – December 2006

Notification after EC observations – July 2007



**Ministry Ordinance**



Constitution of a National Partnership Table  
- institutional partnership;  
- economic-social-environmental partnership

**Meeting of partnership Table**



Agreement on:  
- organisational aspects  
- contents and strategy of NSP  
- meeting/seminars on strategic aspects

**NSP approval**



21 December 2006 in State-Regions  
Conference

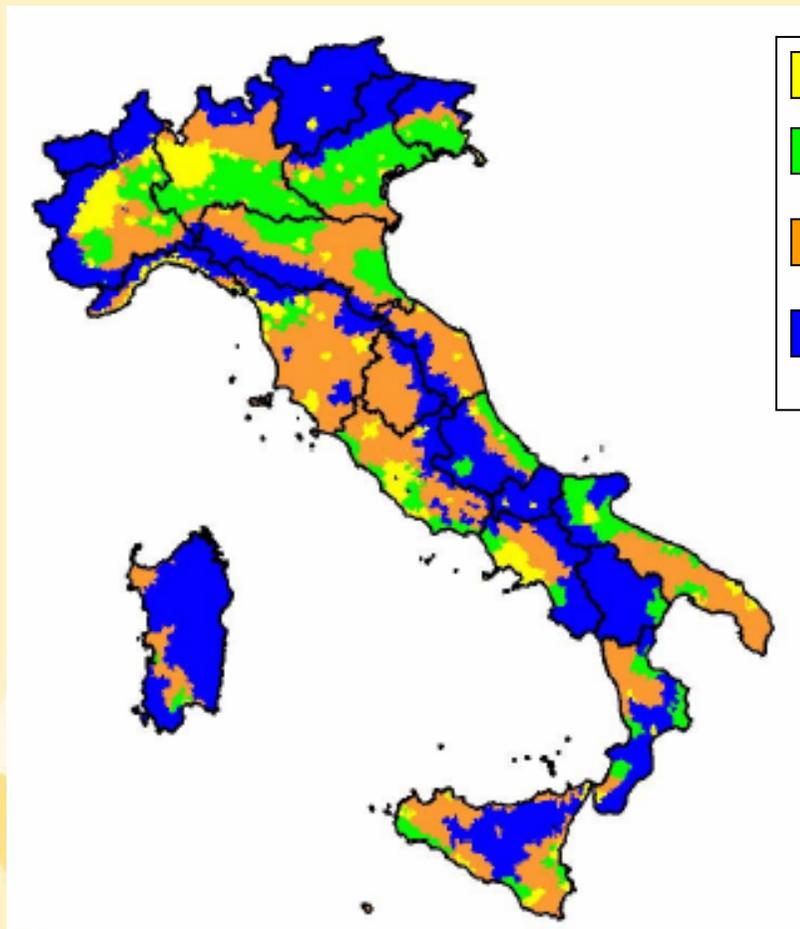


## NSP: The “key” actions

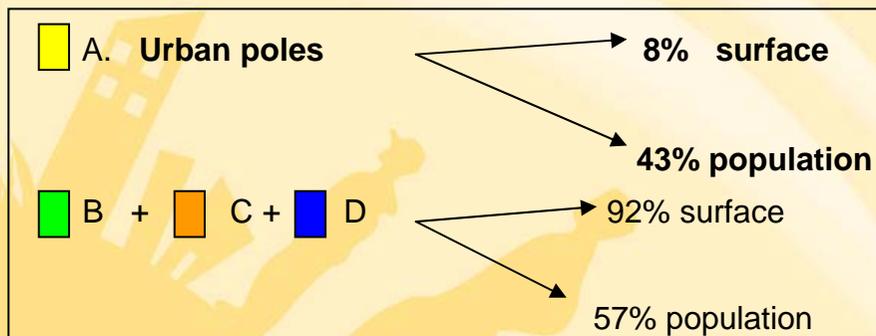
- Key actions selected inside each priority objective
- **NO compulsory for the regional RDP**, but important common reference
- the national key actions should be **adapted** to regional context
- ***Regional key actions must be clearly linked to European or national objectives.***
- Key “compulsory” actions in the environmental objectives.



## NSP : The Rural areas



-  A. Urban poles
-  B. Rural areas with specialised intensive agriculture
-  C. Intermediate rural areas
-  D. Rural areas with comprehensive development problems





## NSP : Territorial priorities

- The necessity to identify lines of intervention clearly retraceable to structural and territorial needs within each RDP
- *The **territorial priority delineated in the NSP with reference to the four area typologies** are of an **indicative nature** for the definition of regional strategies, included the opportunity for the Regions to outline other intervention guidelines.*
- **Axis I:** the need emerges for intervention using the tools provided in all four macro-categories, with special emphasis on **areas affected by the crisis of the sector caused by changed market conditions or EU policy** (in particular, **Tobacco and Sugar CMO**). Therefore, Axis I can also represent sector or thematic priorities.
- **Axis II:** territorial priorities are to be identified within each of the four area categories with reference to **zoning** provided for by specific Community regulations (e.g. **less favoured areas, SCI and SPA, NVZ, etc.**).
- **Axis III & IV:** The interventions provided for these Axes will be mainly addressed to **areas category C and D.**



## NSP : Internal coherence and strategy effectiveness

Different types of integration for different needs of the businesses and the territories

- ❑ packages of measures for the business
- ❑ Integrated filière projects
- ❑ Integrated territorial projects

- ⊙ Package for quality
- ⊙ Youth Package
- ⊙ Package for Women
- ⊙ ... other
- ⊙ es. Energy package

- ⊙ PIT
- ⊙ PIAR
- ⊙ Axis III local strategy
- ⊙ Leader
- ⊙ APQ

- ⊙ PIF
- ⊙ Measure for cooperation
- ⊙ .....

These modalities are not alternative to the approach in terms of *single funding applications* and are **to be used jointly** and also employed in complementary fashion at the thematic and/or territorial level in order to improve their effectiveness



## 1.2 Regional level





# The regional level

- ✓ Each Region is responsible for the definition of the regional strategy and for the implementation of its own Rural Development Programme (**Managing Authority**)
- ✓ Some Regions manage RDPs with a centralized method. Other Regions manage RDPs following a decentralized method (involvement of local authorities: Provinces and Mountain Communities)



## 2007 – 2013 RDPs implementation

### 21 Rural Development Programmes

-  Competitiveness
-  Convergence
-  Phasing out
-  Phasing in

-  16 RDP Competitiveness
-  5 RDP Convergence



### 1 National Rural Network Programme

**Total Rural Development  
Budget 2007 – 2013**

**17. 6 Billions of Euros**  
*(of which 8.9 coming from  
FEASR)*



# Italian Paying Agencies



## Since 2002



## Since 2004





## “State – Regions Permanent Conference”

- ✓ Coordination of all agricultural and rural development policies between Ministry and Regions.
- ✓ *Technical conference*: inside the Permanent Conference. The T.C discusses at technical level all main issues concerning rural development policies.



## **Rural development measures (EC regulation 1698/2005)**

**Measures included in a Rural Development Plan are grouped in four axis, plus technical assistance**

**Axis one: *Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector*** (e. g., farm modernisation, adding value to agricultural and forestry products, setting up of young farmers; advisory services, participation of farmers in food quality schemes)

**Axis two: *Improving the environment and the countryside*** (e.g., payments to farmers in mountain areas, agro-environmental payments, first forestation of non-agricultural land)

**Axis three: *The quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy*** (e. g., diversification into non-agricultural activities, basic services for the economy and rural population, village renewal and development)

**Axis four: *Leader approach*** (bottom-up approach; Local Action Groups)

**Technical assistance**



## EAFRD Measures by Axis and Policies (millions euro, including national cofinancing)

AXIS	Public expenditure and %	Main measure of the Axis (%)	On the whole		
					<b>tot 17.643</b>
I (Improving the competitiveness of agricultural and forestry sector)	6.851 (37.33%)	Modernisation of agricultural holdings (37%) Adding value to agric. and forestry products (19%) Setting up of young farmers (12%)	14% 7% 5%	Diversification, quality of life, Leader (311, 312, 313, 321, 322....) Forestry policy (122, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227)	2760 1861
II (Improving the environment and the countryside)	7.356 (42.78%)	Agro-environment payments (53%) Natural handicap (mountain area) payments (12%)	22% 5%	agro-environmental policy (211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216) food quality (131, 132, 133)	5342 402
III (Quality of life in rural areas and diversification of rural economy)	1.594 (9.34%)	Diversification into non agricultural activities (42%)	4%	Structural policies (121, 123, 124, 125, 126)	4468
IV (Leader)	1.371 (7.77%)	Implementing local development strategies (66%)	5%	demographic policies (112, 113)	858
V (Technical assistance)	468 (2.77%)			Vocational training, advisory services (111, 114, 115, 511)	914
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17.643</b>		<b>100%</b>		



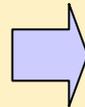
## 2) National Rural Network





## NSP : the challenges

**Coordination and  
common work**



Agreement on common rules (i.e. integrated production, controls, M&E, ....)

**Simplification**



Implementation rules, managing and control rules

**Knowledge system**



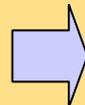
training, information, monitoring and evaluation

**Concentration**



Ensure critical mass – increasing of effectiveness

**Integration**



Thematic/sectoral/territorial – increasing of effectiveness



## NRN : The Challenges

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

### **MAIN Challenges:**

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



## NRN: Strategic planning and definition of objectives

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*



## NRN: Strategic planning and definition of objectives

1st Set of measures Improvement of governance		2nd Set of measures Strengthening of the managerial and planning capacities	
Supporting central, regional and local Administrations in the improvement of rural development programmes' performance, in terms of efficiency, efficacy and integration with other policies.	<p><b>1.1.1</b> Horizontal support to Administrations engaged in the Rural Development Programme implementation</p> <p><b>1.1.2</b> Support to the establishment of the national monitoring and evaluation system</p>	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.	<p><b>2.1.1</b> Preparation of training programmes for Local Action Groups in the process of formation</p> <p><b>2.1.2</b> Organisation of experiences and know-how exchange</p> <p><b>2.1.3</b> Workshops on pilot ideas and integrated projects</p>
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.	<p><b>1.2.1</b> A national standing forum on partnership</p> <p><b>1.2.2</b> Inter-regional workshops for development</p>	Supporting partnership capacity between territories and actors involved in rural development.	<p><b>2.2.1</b> Technical assistance to inter-territorial and trans-national cooperation</p> <p><b>2.2.2</b> Technical assistance to cooperation among institutions</p>



## NRN: Strategic planning and definition of objectives

3rd Set of measures Diffusion of good practices and knowledge		4th Set of measures Management of the Network	
Capitalizing, diffusing and transferring experiences, good practices and innovations	<p><b>3.1.1</b> Identification and analysis of transferable good practices/innovations and relevant information</p> <p><b>3.1.2</b> Transfer of good practices/innovations and relevant placement into different contexts</p>		<p><b>4.1.1</b> Implementation, management and operation of Network structures</p> <p><b>4.1.2</b> Communication Plan and publicity of interventions</p> <p><b>4.1.3</b> Monitoring and evaluation of the Network</p>
Promoting and encouraging the diffusion of possibilities and results of rural development policies.	<p><b>3.2.1</b> Supporting the promotion of services in favour of rural actors</p> <p><b>3.2.2</b> Information on contents and results achieved by CAP and rural development policies</p>		



## Human resources involved in NRN activities

- Ministry and Regional officials: involved in specific activities (TTF)
- Human resources coming from Ministry's Technical Assistance Institutes (INEA; ISMEA; SIN).
- For specific know-how → further national and international human resources
- Outsourcing of some actions or activities (calls) : when special support is needed



## NRN goals and added value

### 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

### 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 strategy and grouping stakeholders (2)

### “NATIONAL STANDING FORUM ON PARTNERSHIP” (*action NRN 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 strategy and grouping stakeholders (3)

### THEMATIC GROUPS IMPLEMENT NRN ACTIVITIES

#### It is important to point out:

- ✓ **“Ministry-Regions” officials and Technical Institutes (INEA; Ismea; SIN) 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 strategy and grouping stakeholders (3)

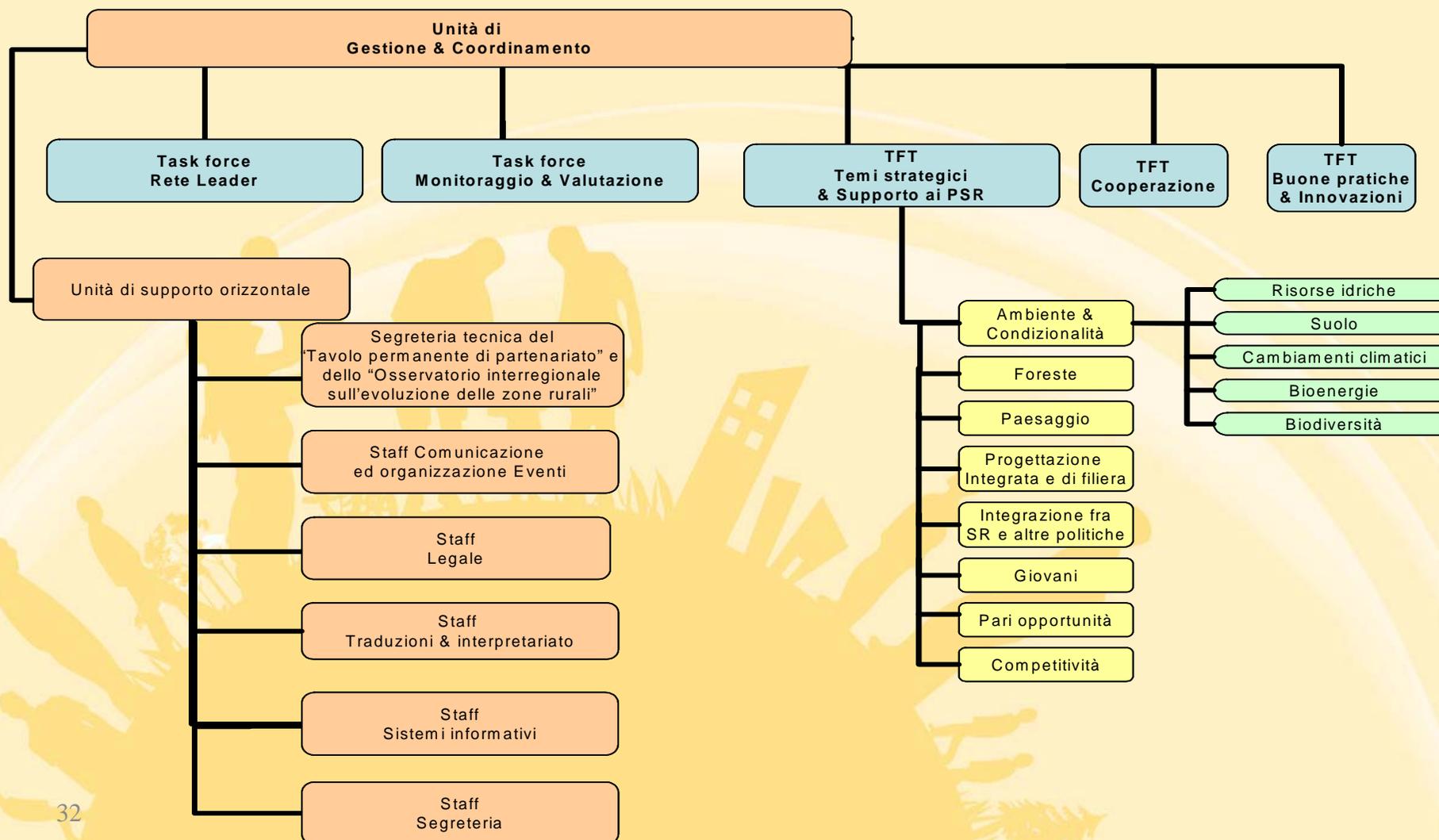
### 1. Main Thematic Groups set up in the Italian NRN

- ✓ **Leader Approach**
- ✓ **Cooperation**
- ✓ **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 (3)

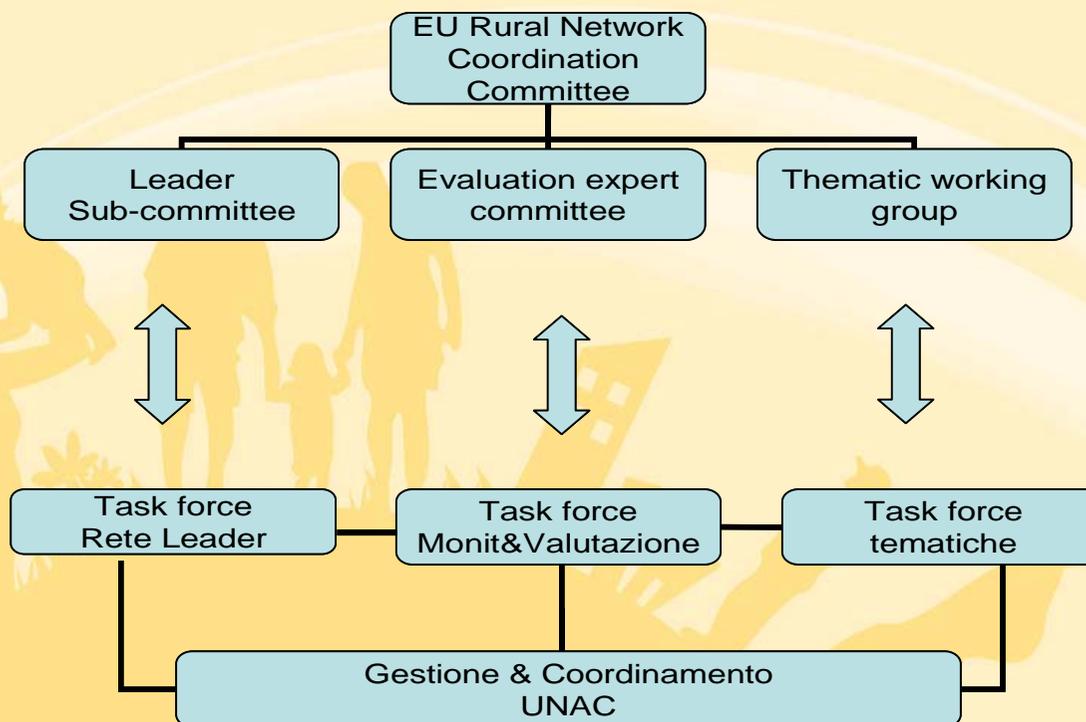
### Organizzazione UNAC – Rete rurale nazionale





## Network strategy and grouping stakeholders (3)

Strutture della Rete Rurale Europea e della Rete rurale nazionale





## Network strategy and grouping stakeholder (4)

### Regional Sites (*Postazioni regionali*)

- ✓ **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 your attention

For further information:

[www.politicheagricole.it/svilupporurale](http://www.politicheagricole.it/svilupporurale)

[www.reterurale.it](http://www.reterurale.it)