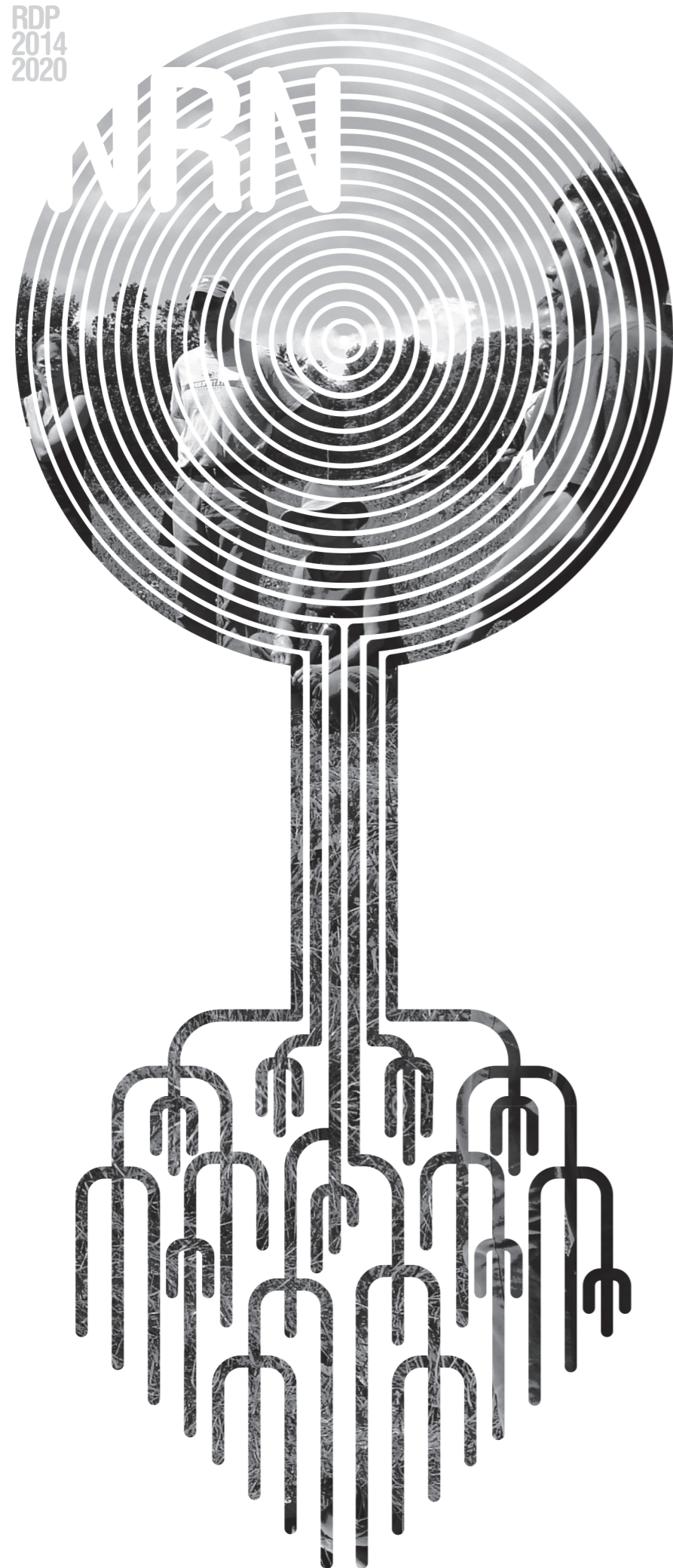


RDP  
2014  
2020



NATIONAL RURAL  
NETWORK OF THE  
GREEK RURAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
PROGRAMME  
2014-2020  
NETWORKING  
AND COOPERATION  
OF ACTORS  
INVOLVED  
IN RURAL  
DEVELOPMENT

MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD  
GENERAL SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURAL POLICY  
AND MANAGEMENT OF COMMUNITY FUNDS  
Managing Authority of Rural Development Programme  
Networking and Publicity Unit  
Leoforos Athinon 58, GR - 104 41 Athens  
T: +30 210 5275100, email: ead@mou.gr  
[www.agrotikianaptixi.gr](http://www.agrotikianaptixi.gr) | <https://ead.gr>





## NETWORKING

Networking is widely recognized and adopted as a key tool for supporting and promoting sustainable rural development. The main added value of networking is to provide solutions to the problems faced by rural areas through **sharing knowledge and information** and **encouraging the dialogue between the stakeholders**.

Within the framework of the European Rural Development Policy, National Rural Networks have been established in the Member States, in order to pursue the best possible results for Rural Development Programmes, financed by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD).

At European level, the **European Network for Rural Development (ENRD)** supports the effective implementation of EU Member States' Rural Development Programmes (RDPs) by generating and sharing knowledge, as well as through facilitating information exchange and cooperation across rural Europe. The ENRD works alongside a second European rural network: the **European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability (EIP-AGRI)**, whose aim is to foster innovation and bring together all relevant stakeholders including the research and innovation community, farmers, advisors and agri-businesses.

At national level, the **Greek National Rural Network**, already established from the previous programming period, continues to support the effective implementation of the Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2014 - 2020 and the networking of RDP stakeholders.

The **Network Support Unit** (Networking and Publicity Unit), within the Managing Authority of RDP 2014-2020, is responsible for the networking and the operation of the NRN, acting as the coordinating link for both rural networking issues and innovation promotion in rural development.

## NETWORKING OBJECTIVES

**Networking through the National Rural Network aims to:**

- **improve** the quality of RDP implementation;
- **increase** the involvement of stakeholders in the implementation of rural development;
- **inform** the broader public and potential beneficiaries on rural development policy and funding opportunities;
- **foster** innovation in agriculture, food production, forestry and rural areas;
- **facilitate** the exchange of knowledge and relevant practices on rural development issues.

## NRN MEMBERSHIPS

The NRN members are organizations and administrations involved in rural development: members of the RDP Partnership, regional, local and other public authorities, economic and social partners, bodies representing the civil society, including environmental partners, non-governmental organisations, and bodies responsible for promoting equality and non-discrimination, educational and research institutions, and RDP Monitoring Committee members.

The NRN structure includes:

- **The Assembly**
- **The Coordination Committee**
- **The Innovation Subnetwork**
- **The Local Action Group Subnetwork**
- **The Thematic Working Groups (TWG)**

The Coordination Committee supports the NRN structure and has a leading and advisory role in the implementation of the NRN activities. It may propose topics for Thematic Working Groups, as well as the gathering of the Assembly and the Subnetworks.

## NRN PRIORITIES

The Action Plan has the following priorities, which are broken down into detailed activities:

- **Highlighting** and **disseminating** relevant projects and practices covering all priorities of the RDP.
- **Facilitating** thematic exchanges between rural development stakeholders, **sharing and disseminating** the findings.
- **Networking** of Local Action Groups (training, support for inter-territorial and transnational co-operation, simplification of the procedures).
- **Sharing** and **disseminating** monitoring and evaluation findings.
- **Fostering** innovation and cooperation between the agri-food sector and the scientific and research community.
- **Informing** the members of NRN and the broader public on rural development topics.
- **Participating** and **contributing** to the ENRD (European Network for Rural Development) and the EIP-Network (European Innovation Partnership for agricultural productivity and sustainability) activities, cooperation with other NRNs and Networks of EU member states.
- **Preparing** the rural development stakeholders for the next programming period.

