



# Added Value of Networking

## Success Story

Success Story title *1<sup>st</sup> Greek Rural Network Meeting*

Theme *Network communications*

NRN *Greece* Coordinator *Greek NRN*

Partners *Three experts*

Period *07 July 2011* Resources *32,357.52 Euro*

Geo-location *Athens, Greece*

Beneficiaries *All NRN members*

### Background

The NSU of the Greek NRN was activated in April 2011. The Greek NRN consists of 79 members among whom there are organizations and administrations involved in rural development as well as LAGs. A first meeting was organized by the Network Support Unit and took place in Athens on the 7<sup>th</sup> of July, 2011 and it was strongly supported by the Managing Authority for the RDP and the Special Secretary of the Ministry for Rural Development and Food, while the majority of the members participated through their representatives.

### Main activities

The scope and the main objectives of the NRN were to inform all members and bodies involved in rural development about the benefits of networking. In order to achieve that the NSU invited representatives of the ENRD along with representatives of two successful NRNs, the Italian and the Swedish, to present their own experience of networking. Moreover, the meeting offered the members an opportunity to get acquainted, make contacts and exchange ideas for the future actions of the NRN. In order to achieve that and ensure as well that there would be a follow up, three thematic working groups took place during the meeting. The subjects of the working groups were "Smart development (research – innovation)", "Sustainable management of natural resources and public goods" and "The policy for rural development under the regional development".

### Main results/benefits

The result of the 1st Meeting was the motivation of its members, who proved very eager to participate in networking activities having estimated the value of networking and the benefits that can derive from this kind of actions. That was proved true through the participation of the more active members in NRN events following the 1st Meeting, as the Thematic Working Groups meetings, seminars etc. A concrete example is the work of the Thematic Working Group titled "The policy for rural development under the regional development", which has been successfully completed through meetings and consultation offering a typology of the rural areas in Greece. The meeting represented the opportunity to start working in partnership and hence initiate and give space for an open dialogue.





#### Contribution of the NSU

The NSU organized the Meeting by setting the agenda, inviting and motivating its members, confirming participations, reserving the appropriate location, providing the necessary stationery, organizing workshops which operated as the start up of three Thematic Working Groups, inviting experts as well as representatives of other NRNs to participate and present their experience.

#### Contribution of the partners

The scientific support of the Thematic Working Groups demanded the participation of three experts who coordinated the corresponding workshops. The experts, one for each workshop, provided the background of the conversation, coordinated the participants and helped the group reaching at conclusions.

#### Success factors

- That was the first time that so many bodies involved in rural development were met together
- The networking between the members of the Greek NRN
- The strong participation of the NRN members

