

# National Rural Network for Malta

## e-newsletter

National Rural Network Malta,  
Ministry for Resources and Rural Affairs, Managing Authority,  
Block A, Luqa Road, Qormi, QRM 9075, Malta  
Tel: 00356 25904 269 • Email: [rdd.mrra@gov.mt](mailto:rdd.mrra@gov.mt)

[www.mrra.gov.mt/ma](http://www.mrra.gov.mt/ma)



Dear All,

Welcome to the first newsletter of the National Rural Network for Malta (NRNM)! In this issue we shall introduce the NRNM and its objectives. NRNM will be taking stock of the current policy and trying to identify whether it adequately addressed the present and future challenges facing Malta's rural areas. Through this newsletter we are targeting interested stakeholders and the general public since Rural Development affects everyone directly or indirectly. From now on, we intend to come back to you with updated information every few weeks.

NRNM is part of the European Network for Rural Development (ENRD) and our team works closely with other National Rural Networks of other Member States. Through the NRN meetings held in various Member States, NRNs exchange ideas and network amongst themselves. NRNM has been taking part in NRN meetings since the launching of the ENRD in 2008.

The Rural Development Managing Authority has launched a new, more user-friendly and informative website, [www.mrra.gov.mt/ma](http://www.mrra.gov.mt/ma). This is an effective communication tool to promote NRNM's information on activities and events with all interested parties. The aim of this newsletter is to make everybody's voice heard by actively contributing to its content. Only by working together can we make this newsletter a success. Hence, we are inviting you to inform us about relevant news, campaigns, initiatives, etc. in your area/region.

You will find more news on NRNM and its activities below.

The NRNM team

## Management of Rural Development

Rural Development in Malta is managed by the Ministry for Resources and Rural Affairs through the Managing Authority and the Paying Agency for the management and implementation of the EU Rural Development Programme.

Malta's Rural Development policy is defined in its National Strategy Plan (NSP) for Rural Development and a single Rural Development Programme (RDP) covering the whole country.



## The Rural Development Programme for Malta 2007-2013

The three main objectives of the Rural Development Programme for 2007-2013 are:

- Enhancing the economic viability through investment and modernisation
- Preserving the rural environment and the countryside;
- Support the wider rural economy and quality of life in rural areas.

The overall objective of Malta's Rural Development Programme is to promote multifunctional agriculture within a wider framework of integrated rural development so as to achieve the sustainable development of rural areas in Malta. The main focus is to explore the potential of the agricultural and rural sectors, the diversification of the rural economy while ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources and preservation of the environment.

The MA website is constantly being updated with information about the various calls under different Axis. For more information go to:

[www.mrra.gov.mt/ma](http://www.mrra.gov.mt/ma)

## The National Rural Network for Malta

The Maltese National Rural Network (NRN) was officially set up in July 2009. The purpose of the National Rural Network (NRN) for Malta is to bring together parties that are either involved or interested in the actions and operations financed by the Rural Development Programme (RDP).

The main role of the NRN is the development and enhancement of channels of communication through information activities and exchanges of experiences and methodology, with the aim of stimulating dialogue and improving the overall performance and success of the RDP on a local, regional, national and international basis.

The NRN acts as a consultative platform wherein a bottom-up consultation and dialogue is instigated. This allows rural actors develop a strong and effective strategy with, clearly defined priorities for the next programming period. You can find out more about its work programme and structure under the following link: [www.mrra.gov.mt/ma](http://www.mrra.gov.mt/ma)



# NRN Activities

The Maltese NRN is particularly instrumental in promoting the RDP Axis and Measures. NRNM played an important role in the setting up and the developing of the Leader approach in Malta. It is continuously working to involve and include the participation of all rural actors and stakeholders on horizontal thematic areas.



**5th March, 2010** - A seminar was held to officially establish the operational framework along with the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders involved in NRN. All Producer Groups, Associations, Farmers Cooperatives, private entities, NGOs and LAGs as well as other entities actively involved in Rural Development were invited to attend.



On **May 11th 2010**, the Maltese NRN organised a consultation meeting about the future of the Common Agricultural Policy after 2013 and focussed on Rural Development Policy. The Consultation meeting was carried out as part of the public debate launched by the Commission to discuss the future challenges of the CAP. Read more on: [http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/cap-post-2013/debate/report/summary-report\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/cap-post-2013/debate/report/summary-report_en.pdf)



The 2010 '**Mnarja**' event traditionally held on 29th June included the participation of National Rural Networks representing 19 Member States. The Ministry for Resources and Rural Affairs through the Managing Authority for Rural Development presented a showcase of financed projects as well as information on funding opportunities. The event was part of a 4 day European Rural Network Conference which also included the 9th NRN Meeting, organised by the European Commission and hosted by the Maltese National Rural Network within the Ministry for Resources and Rural Affairs.

**NRNM is constantly working in parallel with DG AGRI and ENRD. Throughout the year NRNM organises Steering Committee and Coordination Committee meetings to discuss the current situation of Rural Development in Malta and ways forward for the agricultural sector. NRNM representatives also attend and participate in NRN meetings organised by the different Member States.**



**Xlokk Action Group Road show**

Event: Ricotta Village Fest  
 Date: 20- 22nd May, 2011  
 Locality: Kirkop, Malta



**Majjistral Action Group Road Show**

Event: Agri Fest  
 Date: 15th May, 2011  
 Locality: Dingli, Malta



**Gozo Action Group Road Show**

Event: Lejliet Lapsi  
 Date: 3-5th June, 2011  
 Locality: Rabat, Gozo



Event: Mellieha LC Open Day  
 Date: 22nd May, 2011  
 Locality: Mellieha, Malta

In upcoming issues, NRNM will start focussing on rural localities, events, programmes and projects. Inform us about any experiences, past or upcoming events in rural development in your locality, region by sending us an email on [rdd.mrra@gov.mt](mailto:rdd.mrra@gov.mt)

**Get INVOLVED in the Maltese National Rural Network**



**Step 1**

**Spread the word about NRN:**  
 Inform and encourage other stakeholders to be added to our mailing list by sending us an email on [rdd.mrra@gov.mt](mailto:rdd.mrra@gov.mt)

**Step 2**

**Share information about Rural Development:** Send us a brief description plus the link of any initiatives, campaigns, projects for us to promote on our website and newsletter

**Step 3**

**Make the National Rural Network for Malta more known:**  
 Post a link to the MA website, [www.mrra.gov.mt/ma](http://www.mrra.gov.mt/ma), on your website