



Ltd "Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre"

LATVIAN RURAL NETWORK CO-OPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT



EUROPE INVESTING
IN RURAL AREAS

The National Rural Network is established to facilitate the co-operation between rural population and the various organizations and administrative bodies involved in the implementation of the Rural Development Programme for Latvia.

The key function of the Latvian Rural Network is to inform rural inhabitants, enterprises and organizations on the opportunities available via the Rural Development Program for Latvia.

The Unit of the National Rural Network identifies the needs of rural inhabitants and directs the attention of the policy-makers involved in the Programme for Rural Development to the needs in rural areas.

RURAL NETWORK IN LATVIA

In order to present the positive examples of the Rural Development Programme for Latvia from all over Latvia and comparable examples in other EU Member States, the National Rural Network holds **experience exchanges** in order to develop the competencies of rural inhabitants and promote the study of good and transferable practice.

Rural inhabitants are provided with the opportunity to **attend workshops and courses** providing expertise in various issues related to rural development.

A **guide** has been prepared with the support of the Unit for the National Rural Network to assist the applicants of LEADER projects.

The home page of the National Rural Network www.laukutikls.lv, is regularly updated with the **latest news** on rural development. The visitors can discuss and express their opinion on the future of rural areas of Latvia and other relevant issues. Latest information on rural development is published monthly in the publication of the Rural Network, the *Lauku tikla Lapa*, and is available via the rural development specialists at the local offices, as well as on the Web page www.laukutikls.lv.

National Rural Network implements measures making use of the **LEADER approach**, and, in addition, of the **Axis 1** of the Rural Development Programme, channelling funds to measures supporting the promotion of agricultural and forestry production, **Axis 2**, involving payments to less-favoured areas and the development of organic farming, and **Axis 3**, channelling funds to measures for the diversification of rural (non-agricultural) business, as well to rural municipalities for renewal and development of rural areas.



RURAL NETWORK IN EUROPE

The Unit of the National Rural Network takes active part in the activities of the European Network for Rural Development and has established co-operation with national rural networks of other EU Member States. The established co-operation contributes significantly to the **search of partners for co-operation** and to **exchange of information** on various issues related to the Programme Rural Development both on a local and on an **EU-wide scale**.

If you are in need of a partner to help you succeed in the implementation of a project, the experts at the Unit of the National Rural Network will provide you with contact details of sector representatives engaged in various sectors of agriculture and rural development.

In order to introduce the positive examples of the European rural development policy abroad, the National Rural Network arranges a variety of **experience exchanges**.

The Unit of the National Rural Network is actively involved in the **organization of international conferences** in Latvia.

The activities of the Rural Network are supervised by the Ministry of Agriculture. The Co-operation Council, consisting of representatives of various ministries and public authorities, as well as sector representatives at national level, performs an advisory role.

The operational activities of the National Rural Network are performed by the Unit of the National Rural Network. In accordance with paragraph 25.1 of the Regulations No. 268 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Latvia dated April 17, 2007, *Procedure for the administration and supervision of national and European Union aid to agriculture, development of rural areas and fisheries, and procedure for the publication of information on the aid beneficiaries*, the functions of the Unit of the National Rural Network are performed by Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre, a state-owned limited liability company.

The head office of the Unit, situated in Ozolnieki region, employs four staff members, while the 8 regional experts of the Rural Network ensure day-to-day operation of the Network throughout Latvia.

Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre Ltd. serves also as a temporary contact point for the Fisheries Network.

The establishment and operational activities of the National Rural Network are governed by Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD).

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