



# Added Value of Networking

## Success Story

Success Story title	<i>Ameliorating the implementation of biodiversity areas on Austrian farms</i>		
Theme	<i>Knowledge exchange; Cooperation</i>		
NRN	<i>Austria</i>	Coordinator	<i>Netzwerk Land (Austrian NRN/NSU)</i>
Partners	<i>Agricultural ministry, agricultural chamber, farmers, environment departments of the federal states environmental experts, environmental NGOs</i>		
Period	<i>2009-2011</i>	Resources	<i>Material costs: 1800€/workshop</i>
Geo-location	<i>Austria</i>		
Beneficiaries	<i>Agricultural ministry, agricultural chamber, farmers, environment departments of the federal states environmental experts, environmental NGOs</i>		

### Background

The Austrian Agri-environmental Programme includes a measure which asks farmers to implement biodiversity areas on their agricultural land in order to stop biodiversity loss. Many farmers in Austria applied for this measure, however the implementation of these biodiversity areas posed practical problems for many farmers whilst environmental experts identified that the biodiversity areas were not always implemented in a way which benefited the environment.

The aim of the Austrian Network for Rural Development was to organise workshops involving all stakeholders concerned to work on the existing concept of biodiversity areas within the Austrian Agri-environmental Programme, to develop new ideas for the coming period from 2014-2020 and to raise awareness of the importance of biodiversity areas for the environment.

### Main activities

Five workshops were organised between 2009 and 2011, where stakeholders from the agricultural ministry, agricultural chambers, farmers, environment departments of the federal states, environmental experts and NGOs discussed the actual situation, identified the main problems and formulated new concepts. Three of the workshops were combined with a field visit, giving the workshop participants concrete examples to discuss.

### Main results/benefits

The Agri-environmental measure concerning biodiversity areas and the obligations for farmers was slightly changed in order to better meet the challenges of farmers and to increase the positive environmental effects delivered.





#### Contribution of the partners

The partners identified that the problem needed to be discussed and supported the NRN in the organisation of the field trips. In the workshops they presented their points of view and actively participated in the discussions.

#### Success factors

All stakeholders affected by the Measure on biodiversity areas were involved, participating in serious and objective discussions and accepting the others' points of view. There was a strong ambition to understand the other stakeholders regardless of their background and to cooperate in order to develop a common solution to existing problems.

#### Additional information

Presentations, Pictures and Minutes (in German) from the workshops 2009:

<http://www.netzwerk-land.at/umwelt/veranstaltungen/biodiversitaetsflaechen-im-intensiven-gruenland>

<http://www.netzwerk-land.at/umwelt/veranstaltungen/biodiversitaetsflaechen-im-intensiven-ackerbau>

Presentations, Pictures and Minutes (in German) from the workshop 2010:

<http://www.netzwerk-land.at/umwelt/veranstaltungen/biodiversitaetsflaechen-im-intensiven-gruenland-und-auf-gemischten-betrieben>

Presentations, Pictures and Minutes (in German) from the workshops 2011:

<http://www.netzwerk-land.at/umwelt/veranstaltungen/veranstaltungsueckblick/biodiversitaetsflaechen-im-gruenland-und-im-acker>

