



Plan
Strategiczny dla
Wspólnej
Polityki
Rolnej
na lata 2023-2027



Ministerstwo Rolnictwa
i Rozwoju Wsi



Krajowa
Sieć
Obszarów
Wiejskich+

Dofinansowane przez
Unię Europejską



Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

Action Plan Polish Rural Network+

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1. List of acronyms and terms used

AKIS – Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System

ARMA, Agency, Paying Agency – Agency for Restructuring and Modernisation of Agriculture

beneficiary – beneficiary within the meaning of Article 3(13) of Regulation no 2021/2115

CDR – Agricultural Advisory Centre

ELARD – European LEADER Association for Rural Development

EIP – European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability

EU CAP, European CAP Network – European Common Agricultural Policy Network

intervention – intervention within the meaning of Article 3(13) of Regulation no 2021/2115

MA – Managing Authority for the Strategic Plan for the Common Agricultural Policy for 2023–2027, which is the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development

CU – Central Unit of PRN+

RU – Regional Unit of PRN+

thematic direction – general direction of the PRN+ activity in a given year adopted by the Steering Committee for PRN+ and approved by the Minister

Committee, Steering Committee – the Steering Committee for PRN+

MC CAP SP – Monitoring Committee for the Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plan for 2023-2027

PRN+, Network – Polish Rural Network+, which is the National Common Agricultural Policy Network as laid down under Article 126(1) of Regulation no 2021/2115, dealing with the first and second pillar of CAP

LEADER – method, approach on which Community-led Local Development is based

LAG – Local Action Group

LINC – LEADER Inspired Network Community

operation – operation within the meaning of Article 3(4) of Regulation no 2021/2115

PRN+ partner – an entity actively working for rural or agricultural development, registered in the database of PRN partners on the PRN+ website

operational plan – a document drawn up separately for each year in the period 2025–2029, containing operations within the meaning of Article 3(4) of Regulation no 2021/2115, based on which the entities that are part of the institutional make-up of PRN+ carry out activities defined in the plan;

Plan, CAP Strategic Plan, CAP SP – the Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plan for 2023-2027, drawn up by Poland, approved by the European Commission on 31 August 2022

PRN+ portal – website of PRN+ at <https://ksowplus.pl>

Regulation on strategic plans, Regulation no 2021/2115 – Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2 December 2021 establishing rules on support for strategic plans to be drawn up by Member States under the common agricultural policy (CAP Strategic Plans) and financed by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1305/2013 and (EU) No 1307/2013 (EU OJ L 435 of 6 Dec. 2021, pages 1–186)

SCAR – Standing Committee on Agricultural Research

SGD – Network of Demonstration Farms

SIR – Polish Innovation Network

Communication Strategy – a strategic document setting out communication measures aimed at information on, and promotion of the CAP Strategic Plan

EU, Union – European Union

CAP – Common Agricultural Policy

2. Introduction and legal basis, strategic documents for drawing up the plan.

PRN+ is part of the European Common Agricultural Policy Network¹ under which Common Agricultural Policy Networks of each EU Member State cooperate with each other.

PRN+ is set up to establish networking, at national and regional levels, between organisations and administrations, representatives of the agricultural sector, advisors, researchers, entities involved in the implementation of innovation and other actors working for agriculture and rural development.

PRN+ is a continuation of the Polish Rural Network (PRN) operating in Poland since 2009. Thanks to it, it will be possible to exploit the potential built up so far and the experience and knowledge acquired about PRN by continuing to work with the entities involved in the Network's activity. PRN+ has a broader scope than the PRN. The Network will cover the entire Common Agricultural Policy, i.e. issues related to the first and second pillar of the CAP, therefore it will undertake networking activities for all interventions defined in the CAP Strategic Plan and involve a wider range of stakeholders than the PRN.

One of the most important PRN+ tasks is to support the CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027 at the stages of its development, revision, implementation of particular interventions as well as assessment and evaluation. The basis for carrying out the Network's tasks is the PRN+ Action Plan for 2023-2027, implemented, inter alia, on the basis of annual operational plans containing key information on the operations conducted with the support of PRN+. PRN+ supports the sharing of knowledge and experience and peer-to-peer learning between actors involved in the implementation of agricultural and rural development policy, including public authorities, economic and social partners as well as organisations representing civil society.

The Network pursues its objectives by carrying out PRN+ activities. Through its activities the Network supports, inter alia:

¹ The European Commission launched the European Common Agricultural Policy Network (EU CAP Network) on 6th October 2022. More information on the European Network can be found at: https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/index_en.

- exchange of information, knowledge and experience as well as cooperation between stakeholders at regional, national and international levels;
- dissemination of effective solutions in support of agriculture and rural areas (the so-called good practices);
- capacity building and competence development of entities involved in the implementation of the CAP SP;
- measures and development of tools aimed at the monitoring and evaluation of the CAP SP implementation, including dissemination of its results;
- Local Action Groups, EIP Operational Groups and other territorial initiatives;
- empowerment of and search for partners to participate in national and international projects/events;
- information and promotion measures for the CAP SP in line with the Communication Strategy.

In order to better link science and practice, two thematic networks operate within PRN+: the Polish Innovation Network (SIR) and the Network of Demonstration Farms (SGD). PRN+ contributes to the acquisition and dissemination of information on innovative solutions introduced into practice in agriculture and rural areas. PRN+ also supports the Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System (AKIS). Support will involve, inter alia:

- 1) facilitating the exchange of knowledge and networking between system stakeholders (researchers, advisors, entrepreneurs, farmers and other stakeholders concerned);
- 2) providing a forum for knowledge sharing and cooperation, including within thematic groups or networks;
- 3) supporting the initiation of cooperation, the preparation and implementation of interactive projects, and the existing operational groups and their cooperation;
- 4) promoting good practices in achieving and adopting new or innovative solutions in agriculture and rural areas;
- 5) improving the knowledge and skills of the system stakeholders;
- 6) creating or running platforms / fora for knowledge and information exchange among stakeholders;

- 7) disseminating information on the actions carried out and innovative solutions.

The functioning of PRN+ is supported by the Steering Committee for PRN+, which acts as an advisory and consultative body of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development. Within the framework of PRN+ it will be possible to establish networks and thematic groups which will support the functioning of PRN+ in line with the themes assigned to them.

In addition to the Network's support units, its partners, i.e. entities actively working for agricultural and rural development will be engaged in the implementation of PRN+ activities.

PRN+'s internet portal (<https://ksowplus.pl>) is a tool for the effective transfer of information and knowledge about agriculture and rural development in Poland and the EU and for networking between all the parties concerned.

Legal basis and strategic documents based on which the action plan has been drawn up.

1. Regulation no 2021/2115.
2. CAP Strategic Plan.
3. Law of 8 February 2023 on the Strategic Plan for the Common Agricultural Policy for 2023–2027 (Dz. U. [Journal of Laws] item 412).

3. PRN+ objectives

3.1 Increasing involvement of all stakeholders in the implementation of the CAP Strategic Plan and, where appropriate, in its development.

The inclusion of stakeholders in the discussion on agriculture and rural development makes an invaluable contribution to the development and implementation of the CAP SP. An approach based on direct stakeholders' activity will contribute to taking into account the real needs of stakeholders while shaping the Common Agricultural Policy in a way that responds to real needs and in a form that is most effective for those who will be most affected by the CAP SP implementation.

By 'all stakeholders' is meant anyone affected by the implementation of the CAP SP and its effects. These will include: residents of rural areas, farmers, businesses, agricultural advisors, representatives of interest groups (e.g. NGOs, farmers' unions, scientific entities) and institutions responsible for the preparation and implementation of the CAP SP.

Greater stakeholders' involvement in the development of the CAP SP may take place during the formulation, revision and implementation of this plan.

It can be achieved, among others, by:

- involving stakeholders in the Network's activity and facilitating interaction between them, thus initiating various forms of cooperation on the development and implementation of the CAP SP;
- informing on solutions that have proven to be the best in practice and creating a field for discussion on necessary modifications of the CAP SP.

Stakeholders' involvement in the implementation of the CAP SP will also take place through the activities of the PRN+ Steering Committee, the MC for the CAP SP and its working groups, participation in various thematic groups, participation in the evaluation and assessment of the CAP SP. An active role of stakeholders will also be possible thanks to, inter alia, social media and other online tools enabling cooperation, exchange of knowledge and experience of CAP SP topics at regional and national levels.

The objective is to achieve:

- cooperation, e.g. through meetings in the framework of PRN+, also between the administration responsible for the management and implementation of the CAP SP and entities interested in obtaining CAP SP funds;
- development of trust, awareness and a sense of empowerment among stakeholders;
- cooperation e.g. with farmers' organisations, LAGs, associations, rural NGOs, educational and scientific institutions, research institutes, business clusters, etc.;
- identification of opportunities for obtaining the intended results of CAP SP implementation.

The achievement of this objective will enable an increased role for stakeholders in the decision-making process for the preparation and implementation of the CAP SP.

The attainment of the objective should, first of all, foster the best possible results of CAP SP implementation, but also impact the revitalisation of social and economic life in rural areas, thereby improving its quality.

3.2. Supporting administrations of the Member State in the CAP SP implementation and transition to a performance-based delivery model.

The objective will be pursued through actions aimed at providing practical support to institutions involved in the preparation of modifications, management and implementation of the CAP SP to increase their administrative capacity necessary for the effective management and implementation of CAP SP interventions. Among others, such support will include, in particular: preparation, administration, implementation, coordination, monitoring, evaluation, communication as well as control and audit. The objective will also be achieved through the exchange and dissemination of knowledge of, and experience in applying the performance-based delivery model.

Support will involve:

- transfer of knowledge to public administration staff involved in the preparation, management and implementation of the CAP SP;
- enhancement of competences of public administration staff involved in the preparation, management and implementation of the CAP SP, in particular with regard to monitoring the achievement of indicators and the degree of attaining the objectives;

- exchange of knowledge and experience e.g. with other institutions, working groups, thematic networks, experts or other EU member states in key areas to effectively implement the CAP SP (e.g. simplification, environmental issues, monitoring of indicators).

The results of CAP SP implementation, i.e. data on the state of implementation of individual CAP SP interventions from monitoring, evaluation and analysis, will also be useful to achieve this objective. These data will contribute both to the improvement of the current implementation and to the proper future orientation.

The pursuance of the objective will increase the capacity of public administrations to effectively manage and implement the CAP SP, as well as to better direct their activities towards achieving the objectives of the CAP SP.

3.3. Contributing to enhancing the quality of actions aimed at implementing the CAP Strategic Plan.

The pursuance of the objective is expected to lead to an improvement of the quality and efficiency of CAP SP implementation, effectiveness in reaching the target groups and accuracy of identifying needs in the context of attaining the objectives of individual CAP SP interventions. This objective can also be achieved by proposing procedural solutions for the implementation of interventions.

The quality of implementing the interventions and the level of achieving the expected results can be improved, if actions are taken on the basis of the data collected and the conclusions, drawn from their analysis, concerning the quality of the prepared and submitted proposals for particular CAP SP interventions. Such conclusions should be collected and prepared by research and evaluation companies operating on the market, resulting from their own experience, analyses and studies.

The quality of the CAP SP implementation could also be improved, inter alia, by:

- creating better conditions for implementing the CAP SP, e.g. through simple and transparent procedures, guidelines and instructions, submission of proposals for simplification and reduction of bureaucratic burdens;

- sharing knowledge and experience between beneficiaries, the farming community and the Managing Authority, Paying Agency as well as implementing bodies on what works effectively and what needs to be improved;
- taking actions on the basis of the conclusions from the analysis of the needs and the proposed solutions to meet those needs;
- overcoming difficulties by adapting actions where necessary and where it will improve the quality and effectiveness of CAP SP implementation in the current implementation phase and future perspective;
- sharing knowledge and experience and peer-to-peer learning among implementing entities through dialogue involving experts.

The effect of the objective achievement will be an improved quality of implementation by the selection of the activities that will best contribute to the achievement of CAP SP objectives.

3.4. Informing general public and potential CAP beneficiaries about financing opportunities.

PRN+ is a tool that supports, at national and regional levels, the implementation of information and promotion measures for the CAP SP. The main task of PRN+ in the above mentioned context is to disseminate the knowledge of and information on the support offered under the CAP SP, the conditions to obtain it and to show visually the operations implemented.

The objective will be pursued in a manner described in the Communication Strategy, the main task of which is to provide reliable, up-to-date and transparent information on the support offered under the CAP SP and the visualisation rules (in accordance with the developed 'Visualisation Manual'). The Communication Strategy will include, among other things, the scope of information and promotion measures, a defined target group, communication tools and identification of entities responsible for the implementation of the above Strategy.

In order for information and promotion measures to be effective, they must be tailored as much as possible to the needs of particular target groups. The overriding principle applied in

the implementation of the above mentioned measures in the financial perspective 2023-2027 is to simplify the language of the message as much as possible.

The Communication Strategy involves:

- ✓ informing the public about the possibilities of receiving funding from the CAP SP;
- ✓ raising awareness among the general public of the role, value and benefits of European Union support for agriculture and rural development;
- ✓ ensuring appropriate visual identification of the CAP SP;
- ✓ informing the public about the new programming period.

The achievement of this objective will lead to gaining knowledge and raising awareness of the CAP and the possibilities of support under the CAP SP, including the rules of access to funds and the rules for financing, as well as the rules of EU support for agricultural and rural development.

3.5. Fostering innovation in agriculture and rural development, supporting peer-to-peer learning and involving all stakeholders in the exchange and development of knowledge and fostering interaction between such parties.

The objective is to foster innovation, cooperation and knowledge exchange in agriculture and rural areas, including that with a positive impact on the environment and climate.

This objective will be achieved through activities undertaken by all stakeholders, in particular representatives of science and agricultural practice, scientific and advisory bodies implementing innovations, Local Action Groups, especially under the SIR and SGD networks, and by participating in international projects or running knowledge exchange platforms.

Innovation should be understood as new or significantly improved solutions, or existing solutions adapted to local conditions.

Through its activities, PRN+ will enable:

- ✓ exchange of knowledge, networking and cooperation between all AKIS partners and other stakeholders;
- ✓ promotion of good practices in creating and implementing innovative solutions in agriculture and rural areas;
- ✓ improvement of the knowledge and skills of AKIS stakeholders;

- ✓ creation or running of platforms / fora for knowledge and information exchange between stakeholders
- ✓ dissemination of information on the activities undertaken and innovative solutions.

The pursuance of this objective will lead to better cooperation between actors involved in the exchange of knowledge, good practices and innovations in agriculture and rural areas, including thanks to a greater use of practical training forms, increased participation of stakeholders in the implementation of innovative solutions in agriculture and rural areas and wider access to information on innovative solutions and good practices. The achievement of this objective will also contribute to strengthening the flows of agricultural knowledge and innovation (AKIS).

3.6. Contributing to the development of the capacity and actions aimed at monitoring and evaluation.

This objective will be pursued through actions aimed at improving the monitoring and evaluation capacity. Obtaining complete and reliable data on the results of the CAP SP implementation from monitoring and evaluation of such implementation will facilitate proper management of CAP SP implementation and disbursement of its funds, increase the level of disbursement of these funds, improve the quality of the CAP SP interventions implemented and achieve the CAP objectives set.

The objective will be pursued in particular by supporting the monitoring and evaluation of implementing the agricultural and rural development policy, particularly with regard to issues covered by the CAP SP. The interpretation of the results of the CAP SP implementation will be based on the identification of drivers for success, best practices as well as challenges and obstacles encountered. Drawing conclusions from these results will enable adjustment of activities, where necessary, and will improve the quality and effectiveness of CAP SP implementation in the current implementation phase and in the future financial perspective.

The achievement of the objective will lead to the development of the skills of, first and foremost, the institutions responsible for the formulation and implementation of the CAP SP, whose task is to monitor the implementation of the CAP SP on an ongoing basis, as well as to make periodic evaluation of the state and quality of its pursuance.

The effects of achieving this objective will be:

- ✓ enhanced efficiency and ability to provide useful information to all stakeholders;
- ✓ improved management systems (including monitoring and evaluation);
- ✓ faster response to the problems identified;
- ✓ identification of the most effective ways to achieve the objectives set for the CAP interventions.

3.7. Disseminating the results of the CAP Strategic Plan

The objective is intended to disseminate information on the results of CAP SP implementation, to present the effects of CAP SP implementation with the possibility of using examples of specific operations and good practices in the area of a given intervention, and to familiarise all stakeholders / recipients of information and promotion measures with the results of CAP SP implementation.

The results will come from the monitoring, evaluation and analyses of the state and quality of the operations carried out under CAP SP interventions. The obligation to disseminate such results rests with the institutions responsible for the development and implementation of the CAP SP that carry out monitoring, evaluation or analyses of CAP SP implementation, in cooperation with the Network's support units. The recipients of these data will be the general public, farmers and 'farming community' rural residents, non-governmental organisations, agricultural advisory services, scientific bodies, as well as the European Commission and other institutions interested in the results of the implementation of CAP SP interventions.

In order to ensure access to up-to-date information, the results should be communicated periodically. The results of CAP SP implementation can be disseminated using any communication tools that will ensure the achievement of the objective, however, taking into account the type of audience – tools to reach the public different from those used to fulfil the information obligation towards the competent authorities and institutions.

The effect of presenting externally the achievements and legitimacy of the use of funds under the CAP SP will be, first of all, increased transparency of the CAP SP interventions implemented.

4. PRN+ activities

4.1. Activity 1: Collection, analysis and dissemination of information on the actions and good practices implemented or supported under the CAP SP²

The activity consists of two parts.

The first involves the identification, analysis, collection and dissemination of information on broadly defined good practices, which not only include examples of interesting projects implemented under CAP SP interventions that effectively support agriculture and rural areas, but also innovative solutions that can be used in agriculture and rural development. Good practices should also be understood as examples of environment- and climate-oriented projects. Good practices are examples of undertakings, initiatives and solutions that are financed by the CAP SP or may be co-financed by this plan and which may inspire farmers, agricultural entrepreneurs and residents of rural areas and small towns to come up with and implement their own ideas.

This part of the activity is intended to spread effective solutions to support agriculture and rural areas among potential beneficiaries and beneficiaries of the CAP SP. Thanks to this activity, farmers and rural residents will be able to familiarise themselves with the ideas that have been implemented and with the effects of the solutions already adopted. The activity should also inspire and encourage the use of these solutions as proven in practice.

The dissemination of good practices may take place using any communication tools, in particular: videos, publications, the Internet, including social media, competitions, meetings and conferences, study visits, which will ensure reaching the right target group. These tools must, however, take into account the specific nature of the target audience and the effectiveness of the message.

The second part of the activity involves collecting information, organising research and carrying out analyses of changes in agriculture and rural areas, disseminating the results of

² The full title of the activity according to the CAP SP is as follows: *Collection, analysis and dissemination of information on the actions and good practices implemented or supported under the CAP Strategic Plan as well as analyses of changes in agriculture and rural areas relevant to the specific objectives laid down in Article 6(1) and 6(2) of the Strategic Plan Regulation.*

research, analyses or expert opinions that are to foster the achievement of the following CAP SP objectives:

- 1) to support viable farm income and resilience of the agricultural sector across the Union in order to enhance long-term food security and agricultural diversity as well as to ensure the economic sustainability of agricultural production in the Union;
- 2) to enhance market orientation and increase farm competitiveness both in the short and long term, including greater focus on research, technology and digitalisation;
- 3) to improve the farmers' position in the value chain;
- 4) to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, including by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing carbon sequestration, as well as to promote sustainable energy;
- 5) to foster sustainable development and efficient management of natural resources such as water, soil and air, including by reducing chemical dependency;
- 6) to contribute to halting and reversing biodiversity loss, enhance ecosystem services and preserve habitats and landscapes;
- 7) to attract and sustain young farmers and new farmers and facilitate sustainable business development in rural areas;
- 8) to promote employment, growth, gender equality, including the participation of women in farming, social inclusion and local development in rural areas, including the circular bio-economy and sustainable forestry;
- 9) to improve the response of Union agriculture to societal demands on food and health, including high-quality, safe and nutritious food produced in a sustainable way, to reduce food waste, as well as to improve animal welfare and to combat antimicrobial resistance;
- 10) to modernise agriculture and rural areas by fostering and sharing of knowledge, innovation and digitalisation in agriculture and rural areas and by encouraging their uptake by farmers, through improved access to research, innovation, knowledge exchange and training.

The analyses are mainly intended to be used by the Managing Authority, the implementing authorities and other entities and stakeholder groups (e.g. members of the MC of the CAP SP) that have impact on the further development of the CAP SP. They should facilitate the

adaptation of the CAP SP itself (including mainly the interventions designed in it) and the solutions and tools applied in its implementation to the current changes and demands in agriculture and rural areas. The results of the research, analyses and expert opinions will be disseminated primarily on the PRN+ portal, websites of the Network's support units, in social media, in publications, trade press and at various conferences and meetings.

4.2. Activity 2: Development of competences of the administration and other entities involved in the CAP SP implementation³

The activity is intended to develop the competences of representatives of institutions involved in the preparation, management, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and promotion of the CAP SP. The activity aims to support the improvement of skills and knowledge relevant to the CAP SP implementation. The activity is also intended to disseminate and share experience and knowledge of the effective CAP SP implementation and the related processes (including introducing simplification and reducing the administrative burden), taking into account the exchange of knowledge and experience with other EU Member States.

The Network will support the development of tools supporting the monitoring and evaluation of CAP SP implementation, research methods in this regard and cooperation of the Network's support units with research institutes and entities engaged in studies and evaluation. Projects will be launched under the Network (e.g. training courses, seminars, thematic meetings) aimed at capacity building and competence development of entities involved in the monitoring and evaluation of CAP SP implementation. The Network will also fund the commissioned analyses and expert opinions on the progress in CAP SP implementation. Through its communication tools and methods, PRN+ will also enable the sharing of monitoring and evaluation results (e.g. dissemination of relevant information on websites, in the media or during thematic events).

³ The full title of the activity according to the CAP PS is as follows: *Contribution to building the capacity of Member State administrations and other entities involved in the implementation of the CAP Strategic Plan, including monitoring and evaluation processes.*

The activity will also include the development of expert opinions, studies and analyses oriented at supporting CAP SP management and implementation (including monitoring of indicators and evaluation of CAP SP implementation).

4.3. Activity 3: Exchange of experience and peer-to-peer learning between stakeholders⁴

The activity is intended to foster the exchange of knowledge and experience between stakeholders, i.e. beneficiaries and potential beneficiaries of the CAP as well as entities and institutions involved in agricultural and rural development. It aims to strengthen networking, relations between persons and entities interested in agricultural development and improvement of the quality of life of inhabitants of rural areas and small towns.

The tools to implement the activity are debates and exchanges of ideas, peer-to-peer learning by entities with different experience and perspectives on, inter alia, the following issues: farm holdings, processing sector, food security, the environment, climate and biodiversity, the strengthening of the socio-economic structure of rural areas. The essence of the measure is networking, i.e. cooperation and establishing relationships, laying foundations for joint activities for agricultural and rural development in Poland that will facilitate experience sharing and peer-to-peer learning, in particular between agricultural advisory units, research institutes and other scientific entities, agricultural schools and the farming community.

This activity can be pursued using all forms and tools that facilitate networking, exchange of information, joint work and conversations, adapted to the capabilities and needs of the audience. It may include both online and face-to-face actions, such as meetings, conferences, training courses, study visits, as well as running platforms and fora for sharing knowledge, conducting and disseminating research and analyses, and producing publications.

Cooperation and knowledge and experience exchange with networks of EU Member States and third countries may also be supported under this activity.

⁴ The full title of the activity according to the CAP SP is: *creation of platforms, organisation of fora and events to facilitate the exchange of experience between stakeholders and peer-to-peer learning, including the possibility of exchange with networks in third countries.*

4.4. Activity 4: Support for cooperation and networking between EIP Operational Groups and LAGs or similar structures⁵

The objective of the activity is to facilitate networking between particular EIP Operational Groups, Local Action Groups or similar local structures. The activity is aimed at searching for national and international partners for inter-territorial and international cooperation and at establishing relationships and networks of individuals and entities supporting the activity of EIP Operational Groups, LAGs or similar local structures.

The activity is also designed to encourage cooperation, including at international level, between, inter alia:

- Local Action Groups - to support groups in the exchange of experience as well as to improve competences, knowledge and skills necessary for the implementation of their tasks, in particular those related to the local development strategies (LDS);
- Local Action Groups and rural residents, local community in the implementation of the LDS;
- Local Action Groups and the entities operating in the area of the LDS or the entities from another LDS area to implement projects in partnership;
- EIP Operational Groups – to share knowledge, experience or implement joint projects;
- EIP Operational Groups and potential users of the solutions they have worked out;
- EIP Operational Groups and stakeholders supporting / interested in the further development of the innovative solutions worked out;
- EIP Operational Groups and other partners interested in implementing multi-sectoral (partnership) projects or exchanging experience (e.g. Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe thematic networks, hubs, partnerships, lighthouses).

⁵ The full title of the activity according to the CAP SP is as follows:

- *Collection and facilitation of information dissemination as well as networking within the financed structures and projects such as LAGs and EIP Operational Groups and equivalent structures and projects;*
- *Support for cooperation projects between EIP Operational Groups and LAGs or similar local development structures, including international cooperation.*

Under the activity measures will be taken to collect and disseminate information on Local Action Groups, EIP Operational Groups, as well as on projects implemented by them. A database of Local Action Groups and EIP Operational Groups will be run.

The activity will support the transfer of information and the improvement of skills of the Local Action Groups and EIP Operational Groups' members.

The activity involves participation in European meetings and initiatives on the LEADER and EIP approach as well as those organised at national and regional levels. The measures implemented may cover all forms of support for cooperation, networking and dissemination of information, including, inter alia, training, meetings, conferences and seminars, study visits, studies, expert opinions and analyses, publications, videos, creation of databases.

Under this activity, PRN+ will actively support Local Action Groups and other territorial initiatives. The support is aimed at enhancing cooperation between LAGs and other initiatives. It will be provided for, inter alia, organising LAGs' meetings to exchange knowledge and experience, delivering training for LAGs to improve their knowledge and skills, as well as arranging meetings of the thematic group on LEADER and running a database of LAGs on the PRN+ portal. Tools for the exchange of knowledge and information on territorial initiatives will be supported and good practices related to the projects implemented under LEADER and territorial initiatives will be promoted. As part of its tasks, the Network will also ensure the participation of LAG representatives in European meetings on LEADER (ELARD, LINC, etc.) to raise their awareness of the benefits of international cooperation.

Support for EIP Operational Groups will be provided, in particular, by:

- establishing relationships during networking events dedicated to Operational Groups, where they will have the opportunity to present their projects and the results thereof, to share lessons learnt and, above all, to establish relationships with entities operating in a similar thematic area, including at international level;
- networking and matchmaking of EIP Operational Groups and their projects with potential users of these projects' results, e.g. using tools such as meetings, conferences, seminars, workshops and other events on specific themes.

4.5. Activity 5: Development of links with other strategies or networks financed by the Union.

The long-term vision for rural development up to 2040 indicates that sustainable development of rural areas, as an attractive place for residents, requires measures and policies complementary to the CAP, in particular the Cohesion Policy and the Recovery and Resilience Facility. It is planned to use funds from outside the CAP to finance a range of investments in rural areas related to, among other things, the development of the agri-food sector and short supply chains, infrastructure in rural areas, the development of small-scale retention and water management. In addition, non-CAP funds will be focussed on the development of innovation and digitalisation.

The activity is intended to support establishing links between the CAP and other EU-funded strategies, programmes and networks that are relevant to agricultural development and the improvement of the quality of life of residents of rural areas and small towns.

The activity is aimed to foster networking and exchange of knowledge and experience between stakeholders of strategies (programmes) that have or may have an impact on agricultural and rural development.

While carrying out the activity, relationships between, inter alia, representatives of PRN+ and the entities responsible for other sources of funding may be developed and maintained. They may also participate in the events organised by each other.

The activity may also support cooperation with corresponding networks at international level, including participation in international programmes / projects.

4.6. Activity 6: Contribution to further CAP development⁶

The activity is intended to achieve two objectives:

- 1) the preparation of the CAP SP for the new programming period 2028-2035;
- 2) the development of the CAP and its future.

The objectives will be pursued through the exchange of experience, practices and knowledge between people, organisations and institutions involved in agricultural and rural

⁶ The full title of the activity according to the CAP SP is as follows: *Contribution to the further development of the CAP and the preparation of the CAP Strategic Plan for the next programming period.*

development. This will be done through projects aimed at assessing progress in achieving the set objectives and indicators, analyses, audits and studies on the basis of which conclusions can be drawn on the quality and status of CAP SP implementation.

The activity also includes all initiatives, meetings and consultations with beneficiaries and potential beneficiaries of the CAP that will provide a bottom-up voice in the discussion on agricultural and rural development.

Through the Network's communication tools and methods the activity also enables the dissemination of the results from CAP SP monitoring and evaluation among all stakeholders.

In addition the activity is designed to support the institutions involved in the preparation of the CAP SP for the next programming period by implementing measures necessary to draw it up, in particular to carry out studies, consultations, research, to draw up expert reports, etc.

4.7. Activity 7: Participation in the European CAP Network's actions⁷

Through cooperation with the European CAP Network and Member States' networks, the activity is intended to support the formulation of agricultural and rural development policy at European level and the dissemination of solutions and good practices developed.

The European Common Agricultural Policy Network enables the exchange of information on the practical functioning and ways of improving policies, programmes, projects and other initiatives related to agricultural and rural development. It provides a platform for the exchange of knowledge, experience and good practices on the CAP implementation in particular Member States. The main stakeholders of the European CAP Network include national rural networks, Managing Authorities, Paying Agencies, Local Action Groups, EIP Operational Groups, scientific bodies and other organisations interested in rural development from the EU perspective.

The activity will allow, on the one hand, to present to the Member States the Polish point of view on agriculture and rural areas and, on the other hand, to look at agricultural and rural issues from a European and a particular Member State perspective.

⁷ The full title of the activity according to the CAP SP is as follows: *Participation in actions and contribution to the activity of the European CAP network.*

The activity includes the dissemination of good practices and experience of the CAP implementation in Poland as well as the take-up of experience and examples of projects carried out in other countries. The European Network currently promotes actions to support a resilient agricultural sector, improve the environment and climate and strengthen communities in rural areas, including LEADER.

The aim of the activity is to establish relationships and cooperation with representatives of national networks of other EU Member States, inter alia, through direct contact, participation of implementing bodies and Network partners in events at European level, including participation of representatives of scientific units and national experts in fora established within the European CAP Network, such as focus and thematic groups, SCAR working groups or thematic networks. Under this activity support may be provided for tasks related to the participation of Polish representatives in the activities of the European CAP Network bodies.

4.8. Activity 8: Information on and promotion of the CAP Strategic Plan⁸

Within the framework of PRN+, information and promotion measures will be implemented in accordance with the Communication Strategy developed by the MA, defining, inter alia, information and promotion measures for the CAP SP. The objective of the Communication Strategy will be, inter alia, to ensure dissemination of information on the CAP Strategic Plan, by informing potential beneficiaries and all stakeholders about the opportunities offered by the CAP Strategic Plan and the rules for accessing funding under the Plan, as well as by informing beneficiaries and the general public about the European Union's support for agricultural and rural development through the CAP Strategic Plan.

This document (and any amendments thereto) will be drawn up by the Managing Authority on the basis of the Union's specific provisions on the requirements to be met for information, promotion and appropriate visual identification of operations – in cooperation with the Network's support units.

The Communication Strategy will lay down in particular:

- ✓ objectives, actions and target groups of the measures taken;

⁸ The full title of the activity according to the CAP SP is as follows: *Implementation of information and promotion measures in accordance with the Communication Strategy of the CAP SP for 2023-2027.*

- ✓ institutions involved in information and promotion measures;
- ✓ rules for implementing information and promotion measures;
- ✓ communication channels and tools;
- ✓ the source of funding;
- ✓ the budget foreseen for the whole programming period 2023-2027;
- ✓ the participation of the European Commission, as well as cooperation with the institutions implementing the Communication Strategy for other EU programmes and instruments with regard to the implementation of information and promotion measures.

The channels through which the information and promotion measures will be implemented will be, in particular:

- ✓ information points;
- ✓ traditional media with wide reach, e.g. TV, radio, press, the Internet;
- ✓ social media: own channels and campaigns on paid channels;
- ✓ information and promotion events;
- ✓ outdoor advertising;
- ✓ publications and audio-video materials;
- ✓ PRN+ portal.

Information obligations of the CAP Strategic Plan beneficiary, including proper visual identification of the implemented operation (in particular by marking the place where the operation is conducted and using appropriate logotypes) will be defined in the 'Visualisation Manual of the CAP Strategic Plan' written by the Managing Authority.

The effect of implementing the Communication Strategy will be ensuring the dissemination of information about the CAP SP by informing the general public and potential beneficiaries about the opportunities offered by the CAP SP, including access to funds and funding rules. The effect of the above mentioned Strategy implementation will also be ensuring proper visualisation of operations co-financed by the CAP SP.

5. Institutional makeup of PRN+ and responsibilities of its constituent bodies.

1. The institutional makeup of PRN+ is as follows:

- 1) Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development as the Managing Authority;
- 2) CDR as the Central Unit;
- 3) voivodship [regional] governments and voivodship regional agricultural advisory centres as regional units;
- 4) Agency for Restructuring and Modernisation of Agriculture – as an entity implementing information and promotion measures.

2. Responsibilities of the PRN+ constituent bodies.

2.1. The Managing Authority.

The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development performs tasks of the Managing Authority with the assistance of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

2.1.1. The Managing Authority ensures the functioning of PRN+, in particular:

- 1) draws up, in cooperation with the constituent bodies, the Action Plan and the Communication Strategy and modifications thereof;
- 2) issues guidelines for the CU, RUs and ARMA on the functioning of PRN+;
- 3) approves the Operational Plan and the manual on submitting operations to the Operational Plan;
- 4) gives its opinion on the Network's annual activity reports;
- 5) implements operations under the operational plan;
- 6) identifies good practices supporting agricultural and rural development and provides the CU with examples thereof;
- 7) provides PRN+ partners with opportunities for involvement in the Network's activity;

- 8) may carry out controls of the CU, RUs and ARMA in the field of PRN+ functioning with the view to compliance with the provisions of the Plan, commonly applicable laws, MA guidelines, Action Plan and Communication Strategy;
- 9) may demand that the CU, RUs and ARMA submit information on the functioning of PRN+ and make documents available in this respect;
- 10) proposes thematic directions for operations to be conducted within the framework of the Operational Plan, which it forwards to the CU.

2.1.2. The guidelines are binding on the entities to which they are addressed and may not contain a decision on the substance of an individual case.

The guidelines may set out:

- 1) the conditions to be met by the PRN+ partners that would participate in the implementation of operations or the criteria for evaluating their potential;
- 2) the way of settling the operation implemented with the participation of a PRN+ partner;
- 3) other issues related to the functioning of PRN+.

2.1.3. The provisions on controls in government administration, defining the rules and procedures for carrying out controls, apply *mutatis mutandis* to the controls.

2.1.4. The Managing Authority carries out tasks aimed to exchange or share knowledge, information or experience on all thematic areas related to the implementation of the CAP Strategic Plan. Not all thematic areas related to the CAP SP interventions are implemented by the Managing Authority every year, as their implementation depends on the thematic directions proposed by the PRN+ Steering Committee.

2.2. Central Unit.

CDR performs the function of the Central Unit. The tasks of the Central Unit include ensuring the functioning of PRN+ at national level and, to the extent not within the competence of regional units, at voivodship level.

2.2.1. To ensure the PRN+ functioning at national level, the Central Unit, in particular:

- 1) draws up a manual setting out the conditions for submitting operations to the operational plan;
- 2) develops and implements operations under the operational plan;

- 3) verifies operations submitted to the operational plan with the view to their compliance with the manual and monitors their implementation with regard to their compliance with the operational plan approved by the MA;
- 4) develops the operational plan and submits it to the Managing Authority for approval;
- 5) draws up annual reports on the Network's activity and submits them to the Managing Authority for its opinion and, after a positive opinion, to the Steering Committee;
- 6) identifies PRN+ partners active at the national level by registering them on the PRN+ portal, enables PRN+ partners to become involved in the implementation of PRN+ tasks, encourages them to undertake activities and runs the database of PRN+ partners on the PRN+ portal;
- 7) provides the PRN+ Steering Committee with support services;
- 8) may set up thematic groups for the performance of Network's tasks, and if they are set up – supports the implementation of these groups' tasks;
- 9) coordinates and supports the performance of the tasks of the thematic network of demonstration farms;
- 10) coordinates and implements the tasks of the thematic network of innovation in agriculture and rural areas;
- 11) may support the establishment of thematic networks other than those mentioned in points 9 and 10 above, and when they are established, coordinates and supports the implementation of their tasks;
- 12) facilitates cooperation and information flow between the Managing Authority and other units that are part of the PRN+ institutional makeup, PRN+ partners and other entities actively working for rural and agricultural development;
- 13) cooperates with the units that are part of the PRN+ institutional makeup in pursuing the Network's objectives,
- 14) cooperates with the European CAP Network;
- 15) identifies good practices supporting agricultural and rural development and shares examples thereof;
- 16) with the approval of the MA, may issue guidelines for regional units on the implementation of tasks at voivodship level to ensure the functioning of PRN+ in accordance with PRN+ objectives and activities;

17) proposes thematic directions for the operations to be implemented under the operational plan;

18) disseminates information on PRN+ on the PRN+ portal.

2.2.2. The Central Unit carries out tasks at national level involving exchange or sharing of knowledge, information or experience of all thematic areas related to the CAP SP implementation. Not all thematic areas related to CAP SP interventions are implemented by the CU every year, as their implementation depends on the thematic directions proposed by the PRN+ Steering Committee.

2.3. Regional units.

2.3.1. Regional units are the voivodship governments and the voivodship agricultural advisory centres.

2.3.2. The responsibilities of the regional unit involve ensuring the PRN+ functioning in the voivodship and implementing operations under the operational plan.

2.3.3. Voivodship governments.

Voivodship governments carry out tasks related to rural development, in particular in accordance with the action plan, the guidelines of the Managing Authority and the Central Unit and the manual on submitting operations to the operational plan. The voivodship government may entrust the tasks of the regional unit to another entity on the basis of an agreement.

2.3.3.1. To ensure PRN+ functioning at national level and in respect of rural development, the voivodship government in particular:

- 1) prepares operations at voivodship level and submits them to the operational plan in accordance with the manual developed by the CU, and then implements the operations that are finally included in the plan;
- 2) draws up an annual report on the Network's activity in the voivodship with regard to the tasks implemented;
- 3) identifies PRN+ partners operating at voivodship level, enables PRN+ partners to become involved in the implementation of the Network's tasks and encourages them to operate at voivodship level;

- 4) may set up thematic groups and when they are established – supports the implementation of their tasks;
- 5) may participate in implementing the tasks of thematic networks supported by the CU;
- 6) in accordance with the Communication Strategy takes information and promotion measures concerning CAP SP interventions implemented by it, including information on the rules and procedures for granting and paying aid and on the obligations of beneficiaries resulting from the granting of this aid;
- 7) cooperates with local information points of the European Funds, reporting to the Minister in charge of regional development, with regard to information on existing possibilities of supporting rural development from the CAP SP funds;
- 8) identifies the needs of the voivodship with respect to the measures necessary to be taken for rural development;
- 9) facilitates cooperation and information flow between PRN+ partners and other entities actively working for rural development at voivodship level;
- 10) cooperates with other Network support units, in particular with the agricultural advisory service in its voivodship;
- 11) identifies good practices supporting rural development related to the interventions implemented by the voivodship government and disseminates examples thereof, as well as submits them to the CU;
- 12) proposes thematic directions for the operations to be implemented within the framework of the operational plan and forwards them to the CU;
- 13) disseminates information on PRN+ on its website.

2.3.3.2. At voivodship level the voivodship governments carry out tasks involving, in particular, the exchange or dissemination of knowledge, information or experience with regard to:

- renewable Energy sources and improvement of energy efficiency (second pillar of the CAP);
- infrastructure in rural areas, including smart villages (second pillar of the CAP);
- land consolidation including post-consolidation management (second pillar of the CAP);
- food quality schemes, organic food and short supply chains (second pillar of the CAP);
- LEADER/Community-Led Local Development (second pillar of the CAP);

➤ entrepreneurship development in rural areas (second pillar of the CAP);

Not all of the above thematic areas are implemented by voivodship governments every year, as their implementation depends on the thematic directions proposed by the Steering Committee for PRN+.

2.3.4. Voivodship Agricultural Advisory Services.

The Voivodship Agricultural Advisory Services carry out tasks related to agriculture and rural development, in particular in accordance with the action plan, the guidelines of the Managing Authority and the Central Unit and the manual on submitting operations to the operational plan.

2.3.4.1. To ensure PRN+ functioning at voivodship level, the voivodship Agricultural Advisory Service in particular:

- 1) prepares operations at voivodship level and submits them to the operational plan in accordance with the manual developed by the CU, and then implements the operations that are finally included in the plan;
- 2) draws up an annual report on the Network's activity in the voivodship with regard to the tasks implemented;
- 3) identifies PRN+ partners operating at voivodship level, enables them to become involved in the implementation of the Network's tasks and encourages them to operate at voivodship level;
- 4) may set up thematic groups and when they are established – supports the implementation of their tasks;
- 5) carries out the tasks of the thematic networks of agricultural and rural innovation and demonstration farms;
- 6) may participate in implementing tasks of other thematic networks supported by the CU;
- 7) in accordance with the Communication Strategy implements information and promotion measures for the CAP SP interventions, including information on the rules and procedures for granting and paying aid and on the obligations of beneficiaries resulting from the granting of this aid;

- 8) cooperates with local information points of the European Funds, reporting to the Minister in charge of regional development, with regard to information on existing possibilities of supporting rural and agricultural development from the CAP SP funds;
- 9) participates in identifying the needs of the voivodship with respect to the measures necessary to be taken for agricultural and rural development;
- 10) facilitates cooperation and information flow between PRN+ partners and other entities actively working for rural development and agriculture at voivodship level, including research institutes;
- 11) cooperates with other Network support units, in particular with the voivodship government in its voivodship;
- 12) identifies good practices supporting agricultural and rural development and disseminates examples thereof, and submits them to the CU;
- 13) proposes thematic directions for the operations to be implemented within the framework of the operational plan, and forwards them to the CU;
- 14) disseminates information on PRN+ on its website.

2.3.4.2. The Agricultural Advisory Centres carry out, at voivodship level, the tasks involving exchange or dissemination of knowledge, information or experience with regard to:

- farm income support based on farm size and production, including support for young farmers (first pillar of the CAP);
- climate, environmental and animal welfare measures – eco-schemes (first pillar of the CAP);
- support for the fruit and vegetable sector and the beekeeping sector (first pillar of the CAP);
- organic farming (second pillar of the CAP);
- interventions related to the environment, climate, protection of biodiversity, conservation of endangered plant and animal genetic resources, afforestation, agro-forestry systems (second pillar of the CAP);
- support for investments in agricultural holdings that increase competitiveness (second pillar of the CAP);

- renewable energy sources and improvement of energy efficiency (second pillar of the CAP);
- development of cooperation in the value chain (second pillar of the CAP);
- establishment and development of producer organisations and agricultural producer groups, including improving the position of farmers in the value chain (second pillar of the CAP);
- food quality schemes and the creation of short supply chains (second pillar of the CAP);
- on-farm risk management, including insurance (second pillar of the CAP);
- modernisation of the agricultural sector by fostering and sharing of knowledge, innovation and digitalisation in agriculture and rural areas and by encouraging their uptake, by EIP Operational Groups, smart villages, demonstration farms (second pillar of the CAP) .

Not all the above mentioned thematic areas are implemented by the Voivodship Agricultural Advisory Centres every year, as that depends on the thematic directions proposed by the PRN+ Steering Committee.

2.4. Agency for Restructuring and Modernisation of Agriculture.

The Agency for the Restructuring and Modernisation of Agriculture performs the tasks set out in the Communication Strategy and identifies projects supporting agricultural and rural development (the so-called good practices), in particular with regard to interventions implemented by ARMA, and disseminates examples thereof, which it forwards to the CU. The Agency provides the Managing Authority and the Central Unit, at their request, with the data necessary for the implementation of PRN+ Activity 1 “Collection, analysis and dissemination of information on the activities and good practices implemented or supported under the CAP Strategic Plan”, and proposes thematic directions for the operations to be implemented under the Operational Plan, which it forwards to the CU.

6. Steering Committee for the Polish Rural Network+.

1. Role

The Steering Committee for PRN+ is a consultative and advisory body of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development with regard to the functioning of PRN+.

2. Composition

The Committee consists of representatives of public administration, science, agricultural advisory services, PRN+ partners, non-governmental organisations (i.e. social and industry organisations in agriculture and rural areas), as well as socio-economic partners.

3. Tasks.

The Committee tasks include in particular:

- 1) presenting to the Minister proposals for the thematic directions of PRN+ activities that would be implemented through operations included in the operational plan (except for operations under activity 8, the thematic scope of which will result from the Communication Strategy) and, once they have been approved by the Minister, forwarding them to the CU to draw up a manual on submitting operations to the operational plan;
- 2) receiving reports on the Network's activity, submitted by the CU;
- 3) making recommendations with respect to the implementation of PRN+ tasks based on reports on the Network's activity;
- 4) enabling the exchange of knowledge and experience between the Network's support units, PRN+ partners and other entities actively working for the development of rural areas and agriculture, in particular by:
 - a) opening up the possibility to recommend to the Network's support units the establishment of permanent and ad hoc advisory thematic groups for addressing a particular issue, course of action or theme,
 - b) inviting to meetings and organising meetings with the participation of representatives of PRN+ partners and other entities actively working for rural and agricultural development, as well as experts in the given field,
 - c) consulting the representatives and experts referred to in point (b) about the documents.

7. Role of partners and their involvement in the implementation of Network's tasks

7.1. Role of partners.

In addition to the Network's support units, its partners, i.e. entities actively working for agricultural and rural development, including those implementing innovations or developing innovative solutions, will engage in PRN+ activities. The main objective of involving partners is to increase their participation in planning, improving implementation (both at institutional level and during project implementation by beneficiaries), monitoring and evaluation, which should enhance the quality and efficiency of the CAP SP.

A PRN+ partner may be, in particular, a public institution, an economic and social entity, an organisation representing civil society and an individual (e.g. a farmer). A partner may also be another network, provided that it is involved in the broadly understood development of agriculture and rural areas and expresses its willingness to actively cooperate with the Network, inter alia, by registering in the PRN+ partner database on the PRN+ portal. An additional function of this database is the possibility of networking, i.e. searching for partners for cooperation and implementation of joint projects.

Partners will be involved in the activities of the Network in various ways, inter alia, by:

- 1) participating in the work of the Steering Committee, thematic groups, working groups and teams and other consultative and advisory bodies operating both within the Polish Rural Network + and the European CAP Network;
- 2) participating in consultations and surveys on programming documents, the CAP Strategic Plan and other activities for the development of agriculture and rural areas;
- 3) submitting proposals for thematic directions on which the Network should place particular emphasis in the near future;
- 4) co-participating in the projects implemented by the Network's support units by providing substantial input;
- 5) participating in national and international events organised by the Network.

The Network's support units can engage partners in the operations conducted in any way they wish. Most often this will involve searching for partners with the appropriate capacity to participate in the operation the idea for which originated in a particular unit.

In addition, partners, at the request of the Network's support units, will be able to submit to these units proposals for operations (that fit into the thematic directions defined by the Committee and other areas in line with the objectives and activities of PRN+), which, after approval, can be implemented by these units themselves or in cooperation with a partner.

The catalogue of forms of cooperation / partner engagement is not closed and may be expanded depending on needs.

On its PRN+ portal and in social media, the Network will help partners to disseminate their initiatives aimed at agricultural and rural development, including innovative, organic farming and environmentally-friendly solutions.

A PRN+ partner is the entity that actively works for agriculture and rural areas. To confirm its Network's partner status, it must be registered in the database of PRN+ partners on the PRN+ portal. Registration takes place by filling in a form developed by the CU, available on the PRN+ portal. In the form, the partner should provide information on its activity / involvement in agricultural and rural development. The data contained in the form is verified by the CU.

The role of the partners is to support the entities that are part of the institutional makeup in carrying out Network's tasks. Their active participation in the implementation of these tasks should contribute to improving the quality of the CAP SP implementation. The engagement of partners will have a positive impact on involving general public in activities aimed at agricultural and rural development.

8. Thematic Networks and Groups (including SIR and SGD)

8.1. Thematic networks.

There will be at least two thematic networks under PRN+, i.e. SIR and SGD, which are part of PRN+ and whose activities will be supported by the CU. The CU will be able to support the establishment of new thematic networks, which will be integrated into the PRN+ structures.

The objectives of SIR, pursued under PRN+, are as follows:

- to facilitate networking between farmers, advisory bodies, scientific entities, agri-food entrepreneurs and other actors supporting the implementation of innovation in agriculture and rural areas;
- to help to set up EIP Operational Groups and assist in preparing and implementing projects of EIP Operational Groups;
- to facilitate the exchange of expertise and good practices in agricultural and rural innovation;
- to increase the capacity of the existing EIP Operational Groups, in particular by networking between them at national and international levels, supporting their participation in national and European projects and programmes, activating their cooperation with other partners interested in implementing, inter alia, multi-sectoral projects, promoting these groups and disseminating information about the projects delivered.

The objectives of SGD, pursued under PRN+, are as follows:

- to improve knowledge transfer between practice and science and to facilitate the exchange of experience and good practices at farm level;
- to facilitate networking between farmers, advisory bodies, research entities, demonstration farms and other actors interested in the running, development or use of on-farm demonstrations;
- to improve the knowledge and skills of demonstration farm holders;
- to promote demonstration farms;

- to enhance market orientation and increase farm competitiveness, both in the short and long term, including greater focus on research, technology and digitalisation.

The thematic networks are aimed to exchange knowledge and experience of agricultural and rural development, improve the quality of CAP SP implementation and facilitate cooperation between PRN+ partners and other entities actively working for rural and agricultural development with regard to the issues covered by their activity. The objective of the thematic networks is also to identify needs and main areas of activity that are in line with the matters they deal with.

The thematic networks should, in principle, be permanent and operate throughout the implementation of the Strategic Plan. If necessary, the CU will be able, with the consent of the MA, to initiate the establishment of new thematic networks to be integrated into the PRN+ structures. The CU will coordinate and support the implementation of the tasks of the thematic networks.

The regional units will be able to participate in the implementation of the thematic networks' tasks. As regards the already functioning thematic networks of innovation in agriculture and rural areas and of demonstration farms, their tasks at voivodship level will be carried out by the voivodship agricultural advisory services.

8.2. Thematic groups.

The CU and RUs may establish thematic groups, both permanent, functioning throughout the period of CAP SP implementation, dealing with the topics of key importance for its implementation, and ad hoc, set up depending on the existing needs. The unit that establishes the group will define the purpose of its activity, the tasks, the scope and manner of cost reimbursement and the scope of the group's activity report.

The groups' aim is to exchange knowledge and experience of agricultural and rural development, improve the quality of CAP SP implementation and facilitate cooperation between PRN+ partners and other entities actively working for rural and agricultural development on the topics covered by their activity. The groups' aim is also to identify needs and main areas of activity with regard to the matters they deal with.

The groups will be composed of representatives from different milieus who can provide substantial input, taking into account the matters the group deals with.

Specific rules for groups' operation will be laid down in the rules of procedure for the groups, drawn up and adopted at their first meeting. The groups will submit reports on their activity to the unit that has established the group, containing in particular a diagnosis (findings) and recommendations on how to contribute to the improvement of the Strategic Plan implementation with regard to the matters the group deals with.

The groups will be able to invite external experts to their meetings, if necessary. In addition, thematic groups may, if necessary, form working teams to identify the emerging problems and work out solutions to them. The teams will be composed of experts in the field and the result of their work will be a report containing a diagnosis and recommendations for further action.

The secretariat (organisation of meetings, reimbursement of travel expenses, etc.) of the groups operating at national level will be provided by the CU, while for those operating at voivodship level – by RUs.

9. Operational Plan.

9.1. Mode of development and revision, deadlines.

The PRN+ Action Plan will be implemented until 30 June 2029 on the basis of, inter alia, the Operational Plan. The Operational Plan contains key information on the operations planned in a given year to be implemented with the support of PRN+ funds from Scheme Two of technical assistance.

The entities eligible to submit operations are the following: MA, CU, RUs and ARMA; they submit proposals for operations to the CU electronically.

The CU collects and verifies, with the view to the compliance with the manual, the operations submitted, and then develops the operational plan on their basis and submits it to the MA for approval. The MA may make observations on the plan. Once these are agreed on / clarified, the MA approves the operational plan. The plan is approved electronically. The CU posts the operational plan approved by the MA on the PRN+ portal.

The operational plan may be revised once a quarter:

- 1) at the initiative of the Central Unit;
- 2) at the request of the Managing Authority, Regional Unit or Paying Agency, submitted to the Central Unit.

The revised operations, after being verified by the CU, are approved by the MA in the electronic system on an ongoing basis.

The CU specifies the following in the manual on submitting a proposal for an operation:

- 1) thematic directions recommended by the Steering Committee and approved by the Minister;
- 2) the scope of the required information on the operations implemented with the support of PRN+ funds, of which the operational plan is composed;
- 3) the manner and deadline for submitting proposals for operations;
- 4) the conditions to be met by the operations conducted under the operational plan;
- 5) in which case modifications to the operational plan should be proposed.

9.2. Mode of preparing thematic directions.

The CU collects proposals for thematic directions from RUs and ARMA, whereas the MA – from MARD (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development) departments. The MA forwards proposals from MARD departments to the CU. Proposals from the RUs, ARMA, MARD departments and the CU are sent by the Secretary of the Steering Committee, who is a representative of the CU, to its members for their opinion. A Committee member may propose a different thematic direction. Thematic directions are not set for activity eight ‘Information on and Promotion of the CAP Strategic Plan’, as its implementation is based on the Communication Strategy for the CAP Strategic Plan.

On the basis of the submissions made, the Committee at its meeting adopts thematic directions to be implemented in the following year in the framework of the operational plan. The Chairperson of the Committee submits the adopted directions to the Minister for approval. The Minister approves the thematic directions by 30 June or makes observations. After the Minister’s approval, the Committee Chairperson forwards the directions to the Central Unit to develop the manual on submitting operations to the operational plan. The thematic directions to be implemented at national level may vary from those to be implemented at regional level. They may also differ at regional level, taking into account the specific characteristics and needs of the region. Thematic directions may be defined separately for voivodship authorities and voivodship agricultural advisory services.

The Network’s support units may submit operations to the operational plan that do not fall within the thematic directions approved by the Minister, provided that they are in line with the Network’s objective and activity. The costs of implementing such operations may not represent more than 25% of the eligible costs of all the operations of a particular unit specified in the operational plan for the year in question. To calculate the 25% limit, the budget for a given year for activity eight – ‘Information on and Promotion of the CAP Strategic Plan’ will not be taken into account. It is up to the CU to assess whether the proposed operation is in line with the objective and activity of PRN+.

10. Reporting.

10.1. Annual report on the Network's activity contains in particular:

- information on the achievement of PRN+ objectives, in financial and quantitative terms, in particular the number and value of operations carried out in the year in question, as of 31 December of the year concerned;
- the effects of action plan implementation in quantitative and financial terms;
- information on the thematic directions implemented;
- information on the forms in which the operations were implemented;
- information on the target groups of the operations;
- information on the participation and role of partners in the operations
- information on controls of the functioning of PRN+ carried out (findings and recommendations);
- information on the activity of the Steering Committee, thematic groups and networks;
- information on other activities and initiatives undertaken by the Network's support units to achieve PRN+ objectives.

Annual reports on the PRN+ activity in 2023-2027 are submitted electronically. The Network's support units shall submit the annual report to the CU within 30 working days from the date on which the report is drawn up.

The CU forwards the annual report on the PRN+ activity to the MA for its opinion within 50 working days from the date on which the report is drawn up.

After the Managing Authority's opinion is given, the CU forwards the report to the PRN+ Steering Committee for information. The annual report is posted on the PRN+ portal.

10.2. Annual report to the European CAP Network

The annual report to the European CAP Network will be submitted electronically. The report is submitted on the form specified by the European CAP Network. The Network's support

units transmit the report to the CU by the deadline set by the CU, but not less than 30 calendar days from the date on which they received the information from the CU.

The PRN+ Central Unit will submit the report to the European CAP Network and to the MA for information by the deadline set by European CAP Network.