



Europees Landbouwfonds
voor Plattelandsontwikkeling:
Europa investeert in zijn platteland.

“Strategic framework for National rural networks” Group A
Meeting on “Capacity building for NRN”
Brussels, March 30-31, 2009

Suggestions from
National Rural Network Netherlands

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PLATTELAND

Getting partners together, acting, animating and
support to rural initiatives

Issues for sharing

1 Network and Strategy

- Added Value of the NRN to the National Strategy Plan
- Stakeholder involvement
- How to M&E the success of networking

2 Grouping stakeholders

- Grouping socio-economic sectors
- Networking between sectors: examples

3 Thematic priorities

- Linking to National Strategies
- Thematic priorities

4 NRN organization

5 Concluding suggestions



1 Find added value of the Network to the RD Program

key-issue seminar

- Do basic tasks well
- Relieving constraints in National Strategy
- Get stakeholders involved
- M&E

constraints RDP > NRN contributions

some examples

- Sector institutions have problems to implement integrated RDP 
 - Area focus + linking axes + actors
 - Regional Development Funds
- Recently established LAGs 
 - Professionalize LAGs
 - Guidance in TNC
- Bureaucracy 
 - Policy signals
 - Building trust in GO
 - Inspiration and passion
- Slow improvement of Governance 
 - Municipal capacity
 - Regional self-organization
 - Public Private Partnership
- Outdated planning 
 - Social innovation in financial + economic crisis (Leader!)

... get stakeholders involved

- react fast on questions
- focus on themes
- support LAGs as specific target group
- address felt bottlenecks
- 30% of NNU budget to network partners
- develop your own style or 'core issue'



M&E criteria

Operational criteria

- numbers of visitors on website, of realized events, of publications, etc
- satisfaction of the participants in meetings and on products and services

Result criteria

- improved professionalism of network participants
- successful Transnational Cooperation projects
- competence pool to support municipalities and LAGs
- effective regional networks
- active Communities of Practice on relevant themes

Impact criteria

- improved quality of RDP: better projects or more RD-co-funding
- less burn-out of civil servants
- inhabitants take care of their region
- civil participants are positive about public-private cooperation and Governance
- NNU continuity after 2013 is supported by some stakeholders



2 Grouping Stakeholders?

so many interests in 1 network?

- grouping socio-economic sectors?
 - No sector grouping!
 - but interaction and integration
 - so work on themes
- stakeholders in committees or working groups?
 - use existing platforms for advice
 - only if direct action is possible
 - use appropriate approaches (f.e. CoP)
- *yes, bring different interests together: innovation is inspired by unexpected , new connections*



networking between axes/sectors

- Connect beyond sectors: examples
 - *‘rurality near the city’*
 - *farmers and landscape*
 - *social domain in economic crisis*
- Support broad regional networks only
- Involve education institutes in RD-practice
- ‘Round Table’ of various Rural Advisors
- Connect with inter-sectoral networks
 - e.g. TaskForce Multifunctional Agriculture

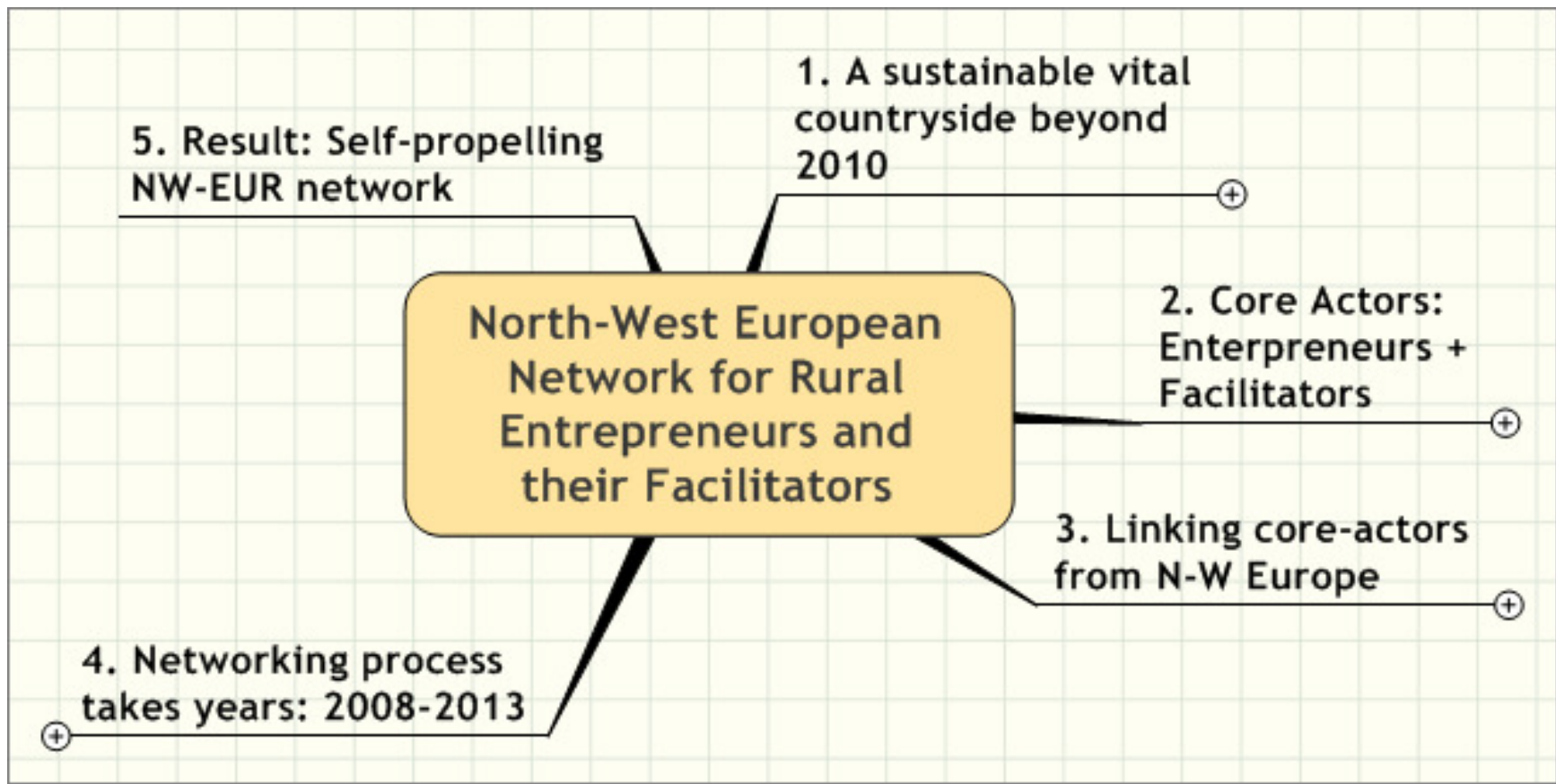


3 thematic priorities of NRN

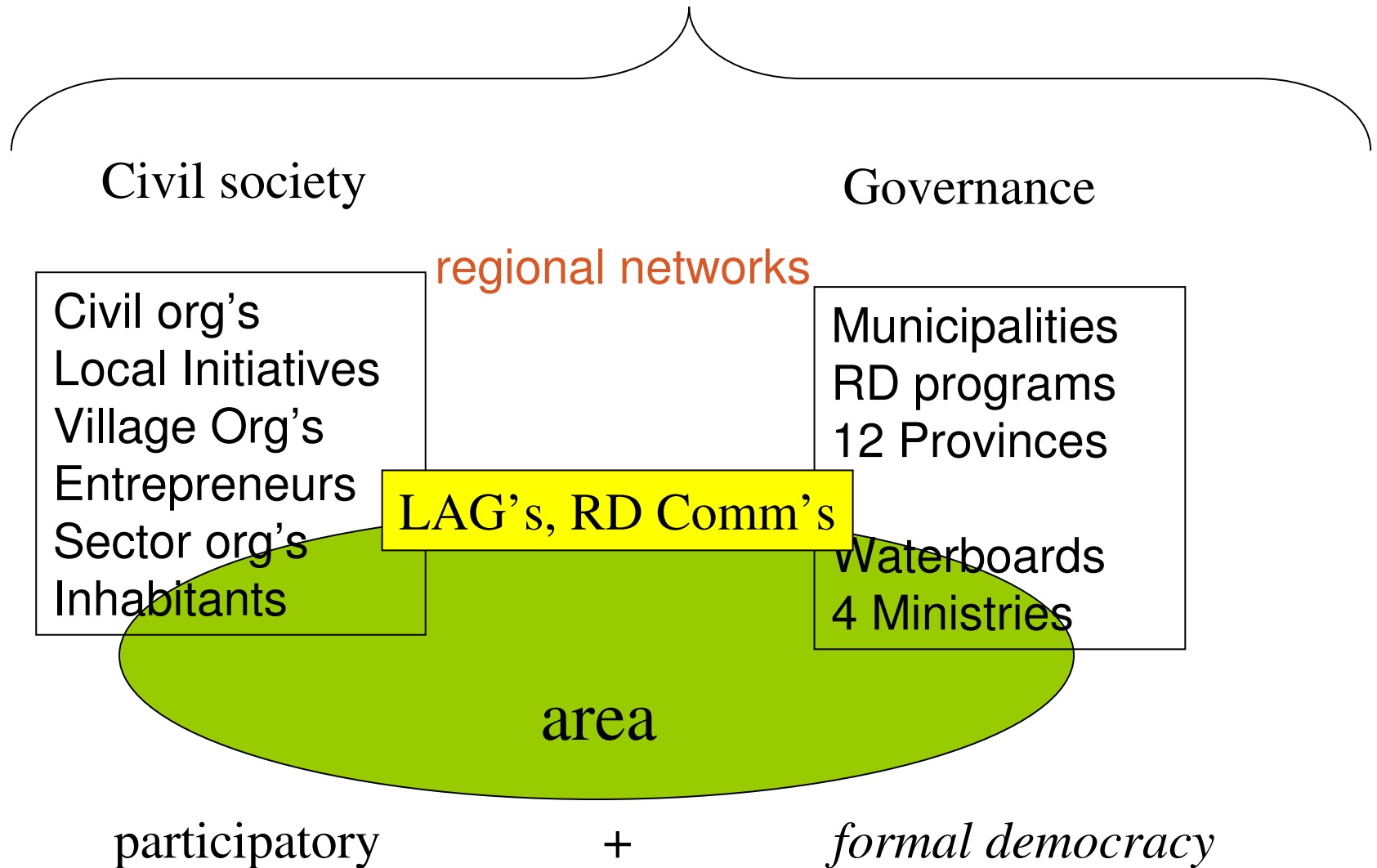
select priority themes / target groups related to needs (*to address expectations*) f.e.

- regional development funds
 - to integrate different sector program budgets + private
- urban - rural interaction
 - to mobilize urban demand for rural services/products
- capacity building local ministers
 - peer learning on front line issues-not-yet-documented
- social innovation beyond services
 - local response to financial crisis in regional economy (Leader!)
- international business for entrepreneurs + facilitators
 - enterprises capitalizing on regional quality and identity, with their 'supporters' in public authorities

North-West European Network for Rural Entrepreneurs and their Facilitators



4 the network + nnu [+ ERDN]



position NNU *and links to strategy*

independent professional NNU team facilitates the Network

- paid by MoA + 12 provinces +EC
- contract with MoA, managed by ETC
- 3 fte (8 staff part time), 1% of RD budget [7 yr € 4 Mio]
- *progress briefings MoA: 3-6 / yr*
 - *standing invitation in meetings of 12 provinces*
 - *yearly consultation RD-platform*
 - *Member State Committee endorses NNU year plan by*
- *invite them in meetings and conferences*
- *policy signals and advice to all government levels*



5...lessons...suggestions...

for success : stakeholders co-fund NNU >2013

- know where to add value to RDP => 'core issue'
- relate priorities to needs, not to policy
- share budget with network partners
- no sector grouping! but interaction + integration
- stakeholders in committ's only for direct action