

Name of Rural Network

Réseau Wallon de
Développement Rural (RwDR)



Réseau wallon
de Développement Rural

Contact Details

Address: Rue de Liège 83, B-4357 Limont, Belgium

Telephone number: 00 32 19 54 60 51

Website: www.reseau-pwdr.be

Contact: Mr Xavier Delmon

Email: x.delmon@reseau-pwdr.be

Mission Statement and Strategic Objectives of the Rural Network

- The main objectives of the Wallonia rural network include:
 - To organise exchanges and active cooperation between all rural stakeholders, to facilitate the efficient implementation of the Rural Development Programme (RDP) and to add value across all sectors;
 - To build a global strategy for the coherent implementation of measures by developing an integrated approach to rural development challenges;
 - To integrate/insert EAFRD financed projects in territorial projects (LAG, natural parks and others);
 - To reinforce good practices in EAFRD implementation by disseminating appropriate information.

Participants in the Rural Network:

- There are four categories of network members:

Beneficiaries of the Walloon RDP, including farmers, foresters, associations, communes, enterprises, training organisations and others;

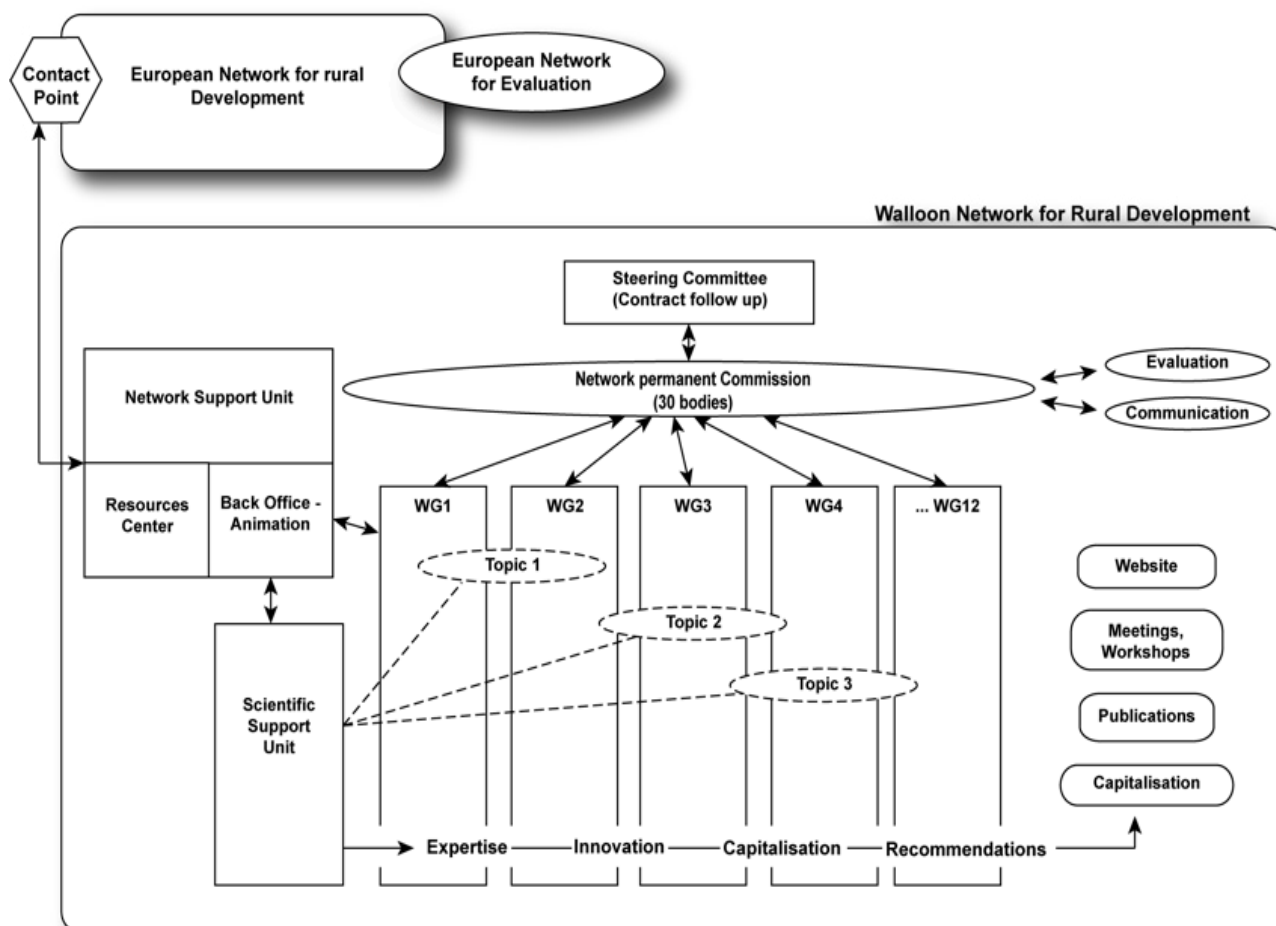
- Associations and other entities active in rural areas;
- The public services of the Walloon region - General Directorates for Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment (nature and forest department included), and administrations related to the economy, employment, training and research, town and country planning, housing, energy and heritage as well as the administrations for tourism and culture, and the French and German speaking communities;
- The network of LAGs: all organisations active in rural areas are encouraged to participate in the Walloon network. These include agricultural unions, representatives of foresters and local contractors (energy, food, etc.), associations for the environment and culture, representatives from local communities and small towns, as well as local development and tourism agencies.

Network Structure

- The Managing Authority (MA) is the General Directorate for Agriculture, Natural Resources and the Environment of the region of Wallonia, and comprises a team of four people.
- However, the Walloon rural network is an independent structure organised around several bodies, whose role is clearly defined (see organogram).
- The Permanent Commission is composed of 30 representatives of the network, nominated by the MA.
- Network coordination is contracted to the Trame SCRL, which runs the Network Support Unit (NSU) and is composed of eight staff members: coordinator, 3 facilitators, a person responsible for communication and cooperation with LAGs, administrative assistant;

a head of technical communication and a person responsible for the resource centre.

- The Scientific Committee is composed of four academic partners. The "Leader Interface" brings together the Walloon Rural Foundation (www.frw.be) and the Rural Economy Centre (www.cergroupe.be)
- At national level, a contact point managed by the Flemish Rural Network ensures coordination between the two Belgian networks and the EU.



Network Management

- The monitoring of operations is undertaken by the MA and is assessed by the Permanent Committee. Network animation and implementation is ensured by the NSU.
- The action plan of the network is approved by the Permanent Committee who meets at least three times a year.
- The Scientific Committee provides thematic and transversal expertise for the network. It is also invited to provide strategic reflections about rural development in Wallonia, supports thematic groups and LAGs in terms of innovative methodology, and contributes to the analysis of good practices.
- The Leader Interface provides technical assistance to the LAGs, for project design, monitoring, and financial management. It also provides training opportunities and administration support to monitor and implement axis 4 of the Walloon RDP.
- Twelve thematic workshops are in place. The participants are members of the network, scientific committee and invited experts. The NSU ensures interaction between workshops.

Cooperation Interests of the Rural Network

- Cooperation interests are linked to the network's working group themes. The working group themes are:

- WG 1 - The rational use of energy and renewable energy in agriculture
- WG 2 - Erosion, mud-flows and floods (On hold)
- WG 3 – Young farmers and multi-functional agriculture
- WG 4 – Eco-systemic services, public goods, and territorial metabolism
- WG 5 - Agro-forestry
- WG 6 – Multifunctional forestry
- WG 7 – Food production and territory (On hold)
- WG 8 – Tourism and recreation
- WG 9 – New forms of mobility
- WG 10 – Cooperation between local communities and data sharing on the territory
- WG 11 – Prospective – Future of Walloon rural areas
- WG 12 – Economic activity in a rural context and diversity

- Complete description of the working groups is available on: <http://www.reseau-pwdr.be/menu-de-gauche/groupes-de-travail.aspx>.

Network Budget for the period 2007–13

Network budget		€	Budget breakdown		€
Total network funds (Public Cost)		5.000.000	Total Network funds (Public Costs)		5.000.000
National co-finance		2.500.000	Work plan resources		4.000.000
EAFRD		2.500.000	Network running costs		1.000.000
EAFR Co-financing %		50 %	Others (if appropriate)		/