

United Kingdom-Wales

Name of Rural Network

Wales Rural Network



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Contact Details

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Mission Statement and Strategic Objectives of the Rural Network

- The Wales Rural Network exists as a hub for everyone involved in the design, management and implementation of the Rural Development Programme (RDP). It enables members (at policy, local and/or organisational level) to identify and share ideas, experience and examples of good practice and ensures that members benefit from this involvement, thereby making a real contribution to the RDP and helping to add value to the available funding.
- The Network facilitates the exchange of good practice and experience between the four Axes of the RDP, based on engagement between public, private and third sector stakeholders at local, regional, national and European levels and between the policy design, programme management and implementation elements of the Regional Development Programme.

Participants in the Rural Network

- Membership of the Wales Rural Network is open and wide-ranging.
- Membership is open to all key stakeholder organisations associated with the delivery of the Regional Development Programme and rural development throughout Wales.
- Membership is not open to individuals.
- Involvement is monitored by the Wales Rural Network's Steering Group. It covers all four axes and includes local bodies such as all 18 Local Action Groups (LAGs); partnerships and organisations for agriculture, food and forestry sectors and farming associations. It also includes agri-environment technical and scientific institutions such as the Institute of Biological, Environmental and rural Sciences, Wales Environment Link, Food Centre Wales, Organic Centre Wales, the Welsh Language Board and other non-governmental organisations.

Network Structure

- The Welsh Government is the Managing Authority (MA) and hosts network delivery.
- It has set up a dedicated team to manage and run the rural network. The Wales rural Network sits within the Welsh Government's Rural Policy Division, a part of the Countryside Policy Division in the Business, Enterprise, Technology and Science Department.
- The current team of four comprises a senior manager, two managers and a support officer who provide support and co-ordination as well as facilitating such activities as are detailed in the annual action plan.
- The Wales Rural Network is governed by a Steering Group which is made up of fifteen rural stakeholders, each representing a key sector/interest. The Chair of the Steering Group is also a member of the RDP Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC), which helps ensure consistency in communication and monitoring between the groups.
- The Wales Rural Network is part of the UK National Rural Network which links the networks for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and serves as the main interface with the European Commission.

Network Management

- Annual Action Plans and outputs/results for the Wales Rural Network are developed by the network team, based on stakeholder consultation, which are then discussed and agreed with the Steering Group. These outline specific activities set against qualitative and quantitative indicators and timeframes.
- The Steering Group discusses and approves the Action Plan, oversees its development and delivery and monitors performance against objectives. Action Plans are reviewed and updated quarterly at meetings between the Network team and the Steering Group. Quarterly reports are submitted to the RDP PMC, where representatives of the Steering Group attend to provide information on implementation against the set indicators and timescales. The views of the Steering Group and a progress report on the content of the Action Plan are discussed at UK National Rural Network teleconferences and meetings. The Wales Rural Network identifies a variety of other means through which it can facilitate communication amongst its stakeholders, including Annual Conferences with guest speakers and workshops, regular thematic meetings and via regular articles contained within the Welsh Government's 'Gwlad' magazine.
- Information available on: Link to 'Gwlad' - <http://gwladonline.org/?lang=en>

Network Budget for the period 2007–13

Network budget	€	Budget breakdown	€
Total network funds (Public Cost)	1.850.167	Total Network funds (Public Costs)	1.850.167
National co-finance	925.083,50	Work plan resources	462.542
EAFRD	925.083,50	Network running costs	7.387.625
EAFR Co-financing %	50 %	Others (if appropriate)	/