



# Starting a rural network step by step

Approaches and methods to build national rural networks

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# Phases when establishing a rural network

- Start up phase
- Initial running phase
- Maturity phase





# Start-up phase

- Identify important stakeholders
- Form the basic strategy for the network
- Involve the stakeholders to develop the strategy
- Decide on a governance structure
- Create an initial action plan and budget
- Write a communication strategy
- Establish a good connection with the ENRD





# Start-up - A basic strategy

- Target groups and how to reach them
- Main focus in the beginning and in the future (axes, type of questions etc)
- Activities
- Publications and web site
- Expected outcomes





# Start-up - Governance

- Steering committee with representation from the stakeholders
- How to elect representatives with a rotation
- What will be the competence of the Steering committee
- Outsourcing of services







# Initial running phase

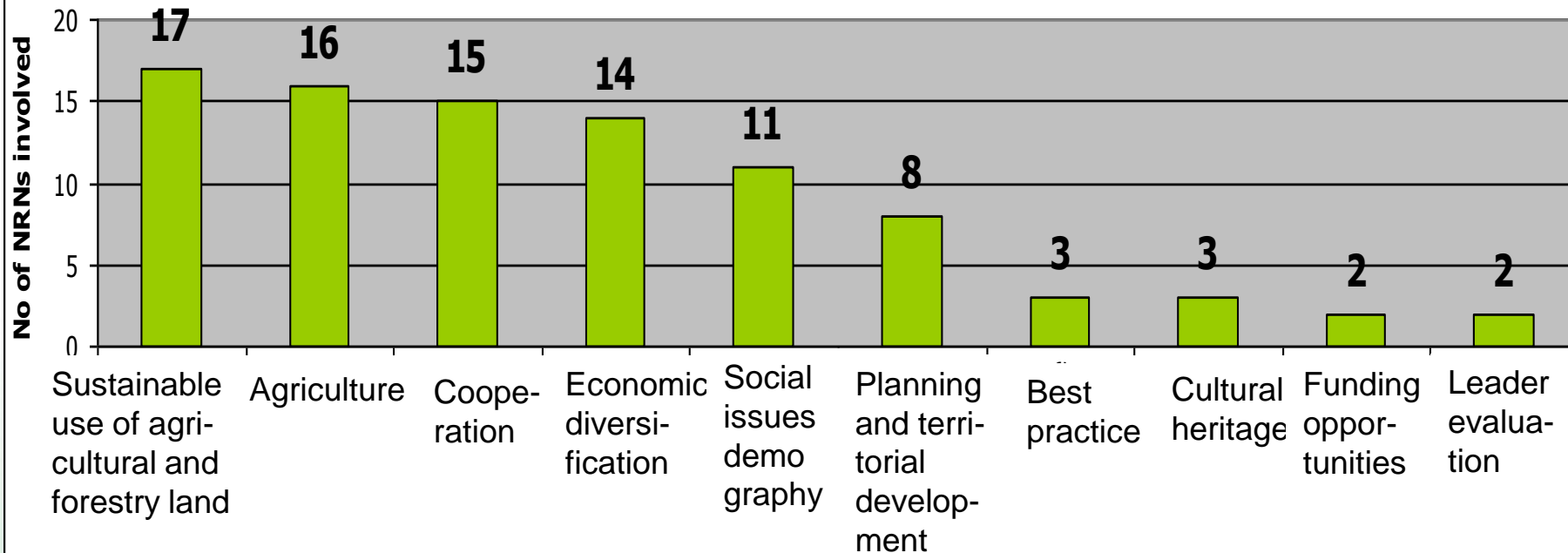
- Arrange a few activities to show results rapidly
- Attract more stakeholders
- Produce good basic information
- Offer basic training
- Get active in the ENRD
- Promote cooperation
- Get feed back from stakeholders about the RDP
- Evaluate your performance
- Rotate the representatives in the steering committee
- Make a new action plan and budget





## OVERVIEW OF NRN THEMATIC ACTIVITIES (Status May/June 2010, based on 25 replies)

Involvement of NRNs in thematic activities 2010



Thematic activites



# Maturity phase

- Further expansion of the number of stakeholders
- Expanding to cross axis activities
- Establish focus groups or working groups
- Engage in cooperation
- Involve constantly the stakeholders
- Be a tool for discussions of the next RDP program
- Think of the future







## NRN THEMATIC ACTIVITIES (1)

(Status May/June 2010, based on 25 replies)

<i>Thematic Initiative</i>	<i>Member States</i>
<p><b>Agriculture</b> (16 NRN) (Sustainable &amp; competitive agriculture Food processing, Future of CAP, Organic farming, Transhumance, Drought etc)</p>	<p>AT, BE-FL, BG, CY, CZ, DK, EE, FI, HU, LT, MT, NL, PL, ES, SI, UK-NIE</p>
<p><b>Sustainable use of agricultural and forestry land</b> (17 NRN) (Forestry, Agri-environment, Water protection and development, Biodiversity, Renewable energy, Environmental challenges/climate change etc)</p>	<p>AT, BE-FL, BE-WAL, CY, CZ, DE, FI, HU, IE, MT, NL, PT, ES, SE, SI, UK-SCO, UK-NIE</p>
<p><b>Cooperation and Leader</b> (15 NRN) (Trans-axis coop., Local/regional level coop., Leader, TNC etc)</p>	<p>AT, BE-FL, BE-WAL, BG, CY, CZ, EE, HU, LT, LU, PL, PT, SI, SK, UK-ENG</p>





## NRN THEMATIC ACTIVITIES (2)

(Status May/June 2010, based on 25 replies)

<i>Thematic Initiative</i>	<i>Member States</i>
<p><b>Economic diversification</b> (14 NRN) (Rural entrepreneurship, Innovation and know how, Tourism, Non-food local products etc)</p>	DK, EE, FI, HU, IE, MT, NL, PL, PT, SE, SI, SK, UK-SCO, UK-NIE
<p><b>Social issues and demography</b> (11 NRN) (Gender issues, Equal opportunities, Youth, Social integration, Combating poverty etc.)</p>	AT, BE-FL, DE, DK, EE, HU, LT, NL, PT, ES, SE
<p><b>Planning and territorial development</b> (8 NRN) (Territorial cohesion, - development, Integrated RD, Spatial planning, Community planning etc)</p>	BE-WAL, NL, PL, PT, ES, SE, SI, UK-SCO
<p><b>Culture, cultural heritage</b> (3 NRN)</p>	DE, DK, HU





## NRN THEMATIC ACTIVITIES (3)

(Status May/June 2010, based on 25 replies)

<i><b>Thematic Initiative</b></i>	<i><b>Member States</b></i>
<b>Best Practice</b> (3 NRN)	CZ, ES, SK
<b>Funding opportunities</b> (2 NRN) (Successfully combined different funding sources, Development of new support schemes)	DE, DK
<b>Leader evaluation</b> (2 NRN) (Evaluation of LAGs, Leader evaluation and territorial strategy improvement)	DK, EE

