

# **National Rural Networks – Common Network Statistics**

**Synthesis Report (Final Draft) – June 2013**



## Introduction

---

‘Networks’ and ‘networking’ are widely recognised and adopted as key tools for supporting and promoting sustainable rural development around the world. There are many different types of rural development networks, driven by a great variety of goals and objectives. Importantly, there is no single definition of what a ‘network’ means in the context of rural development. Networks actually exist to support the process of networking - where the process of ‘networking’ is clearly defined<sup>1</sup> as “...the sharing, exchange or flow of ideas, information, knowledge, practice, experience (and sometimes resources) between people and around a common interest, or opportunity, to create value”. Indeed, it is often emphasised that it is not networks themselves that are important, but the information and inter-relationships that flow through them. The challenge for any assessment is how this ‘quiet power’ of networks can be measured.

*“Rural Networks provide a means to mobilise intangible intellectual assets through learning, innovation and the building of human and social capital”.*

The work of the National Rural Networks (NRNs) is diverse, complex and due to its nature often difficult to quantify. In an attempt to collect headline quantitative information on the activities carried out by NRNs, a series of common network statistics were established and gathered from as many of the Networks as possible.

The purpose of this report is to provide interested stakeholders with an overview of some of the more ‘tangible’ and quantifiable aspects of networking. It is hoped that this quantitative information, in conjunction with the qualitative Added Value of Networking stories, provides a robust set of materials, which begin to illustrate the nature, breadth and results of networking activities undertaken by the NRNs across member states. At the same time, it is expected that the combination of quantitative and qualitative information and data collected can contribute to a better assessment of the results and achievements of networks, as well as to a better understanding on how to improve network performance in the future.

## The survey

---

An initial framework was developed based on the six key elements of networking (that broadly reflect the proposed operational objectives of networks in the next programming period), to ensure that the most relevant types of activity undertaken by the NRNs were included in the data collection. These elements were identified as:

1. Effective stakeholder engagement
2. Building common understanding of common policies
3. Collection, analysis and dissemination of good practice, success stories and relevant experience
4. Exchange of relevant experience and know how amongst stakeholders
5. Capacity building and training
6. Support for cooperation and joint actions

---

<sup>1</sup> Gilchrist, A. (2009) - *The Well-Connected Community: A Networking Approach to Community Development*. Policy Press, Bristol, UK.

A total of fourteen questions were asked, which looked to explore these six elements of networking in more depth with results requested from January 2007 to December 2012 (see survey questionnaire appendix 1).

## Results

Of the twenty nine NRNs active for a significant enough period of time to complete the survey, data was returned by seventeen (see list of member states who returned questionnaires in appendix 2), representing a completion rate of over 55%.

### ***Key element one: Effective stakeholder engagement***

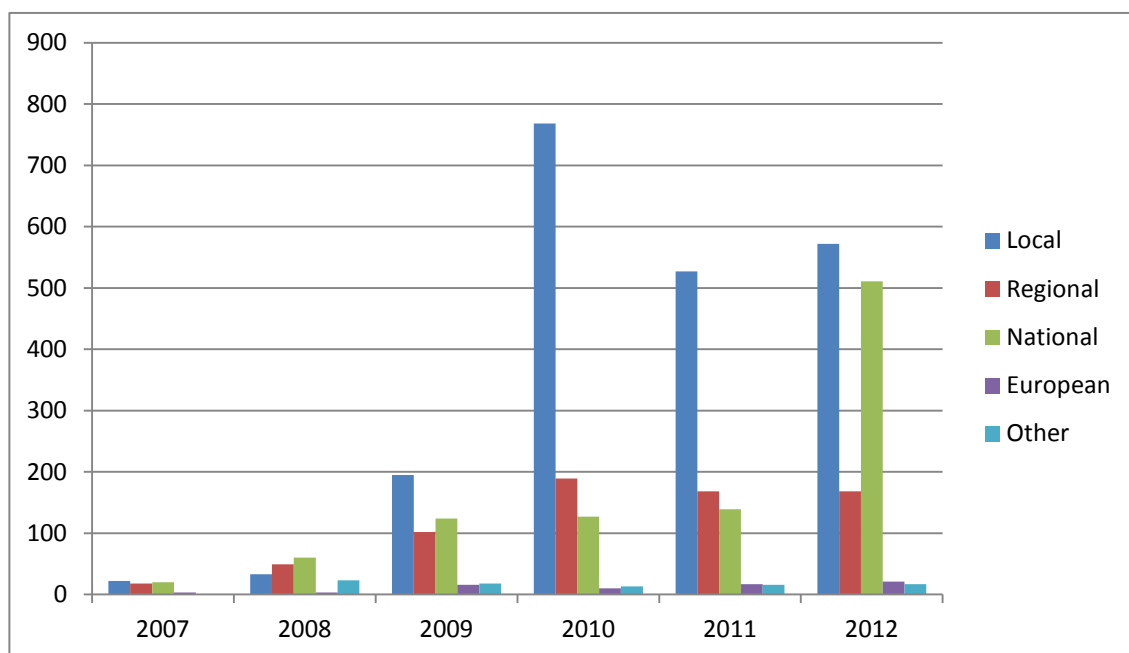
#### **Network meetings**

The first two questions sought to identify:

- the **number of network meetings** held at local, national and EU levels, which had supported participants to learn more about their work, to network together, to engage groups in specific activities or to encourage participants to become involved with the NRN and the Rural Development Programme in their country;
- the **number of participants** for each type of event.

Since 2007 the NRNs who responded had held a total of 3,949 network meetings, rising from 63 in the first year to a total of 1,289 during 2012. Just over half of these were held at a local level, 25% were national meetings, 18% regionally and 2% were held at a European level. These results are broken down further in Chart 1 below.

**Chart 1: The number and type of network meetings held from 2007 - 2012**



These results reflect the national nature of NRNs; however, interestingly also highlight the significant work carried out to support networking and involvement of communities at a local level. Unsurprisingly only a small proportion of this type of activity is delivered at a European level, suggesting that the role of the NRNs and the role of the European Network for Rural Development remain separate and complimentary.

An average of 450 people attended each national meeting. The same figure is 31 for European level and 28 for local events. This suggests that national networking meetings are held at a much bigger scale to all other types of networking meetings.

Although records for the total number of participants were not kept for all these meetings, the data available demonstrates a minimum of 530,522 people attended. Over 440,000 of these attended national meetings with nearly 59,000 additional participants at local events. An average of 28 people attended each local meeting, 39 regional meetings, and 450 national meetings, dropping down to 31 for European-level meetings. This would suggest that national meetings are held at a much bigger scale to all other types of networking meetings undertaken. If these results are extrapolated to include all NRNs it would suggest that **potentially some 967,000 people have participated in NRN network meetings** across Member States.

### Networking tools

With regard to networking tools the survey requested information on:

- The **networking communication tools developed** by NRNs which are directly related to networking and used by their stakeholders. NRNs were asked to count individual telephone help lines, whole websites rather than website pages, single publications, the number of social media accounts they held and any other promotion tools not included in the previous options.
- The **number of recorded users** of each of these tools.

The seventeen NRNs who responded listed a total of 1,066 different networking communication tools that had been used over seven million times. The most frequently used communication tool was **publications** with 659 different brochures, reports, leaflets and other documentation produced

Publications and websites are by far the two largest forms of communication tool used by networks with over 3 million publications distributed and 3.5 million website home page hits.

with 3,394,769 total copies distributed. The NRNs also reported developing 172 different **websites** that in total had received 3,648,227 hits to their home pages. Publications and websites are by far the two largest forms of communication tool used with websites having marginally more 'users' than the number of publications

distributed. As access to the Internet is still limited in many rural areas, the importance of both of these tools to disseminate information should not be underrated and they will continue to be complimentary in nature.

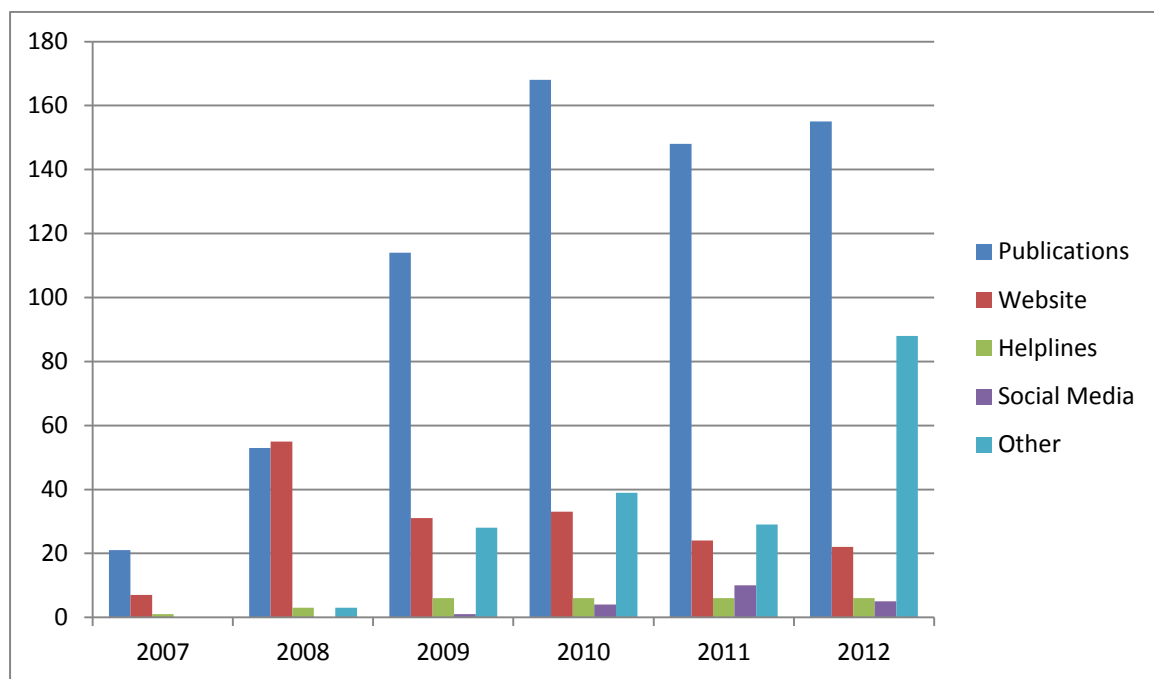
**Helplines** had been set up by five of the seventeen NRNs who responded; however, of these only one had data available on the number of calls made to the main helpline number. This one helpline had received a total of 296 calls over the four years it was active. With only a small amount of data it is impossible to draw any conclusions; however, anecdotal evidence suggests that many NRNs

provide advice and guidance over the phone; however, this has not been delivered through a dedicated telephone helpline service.

The use of new **social media** was also explored with nine NRNs having established a Facebook page, nine holding Twitter accounts and two with pages on LinkedIn. Some utilised all three social media communication tools; however, surprisingly the majority were using only one of the three vehicles. The nine Facebook pages have a combined total of 3,530 followers with the Twitter accounts having attracted a similar 3,218 followers. No data was available for the LinkedIn pages. This would suggest that **each social media account maintained attracts an average of 375 stakeholders.**

Several NRNs also listed tools under 'other'. These were primarily YouTube, video clips utilised through other medium and road shows undertaken in specific rural areas.

**Chart 2: The number of communication tools utilised by NRNs by year first established**



The data is laid out on an annual basis in Chart 2 above. During 2007 the only communication tools utilised were publications, websites and one telephone helpline had been established, receiving a combined total usage of just over 220,000. By 2012 social media had been introduced by a number of NRNs with the combined total usage of all the communication tools having risen to over two million, hits, reads and follows. If extrapolated once again the results from the seventeen respondents would suggest that **NRNs communication tools have potentially been used over thirteen million times** between 2007 and 2012.

### Engaging hard to reach groups

NRNs were asked to provide information on:

- The **activities delivered in order to engage hard to reach groups** who otherwise might not participate in the programme. This included specific workshops, conferences or training

initiatives or an innovative activity undertaken to involve a specific group. NRNs were asked to include the actual number of initiatives delivered, and;

- the **number of participants** from each group.

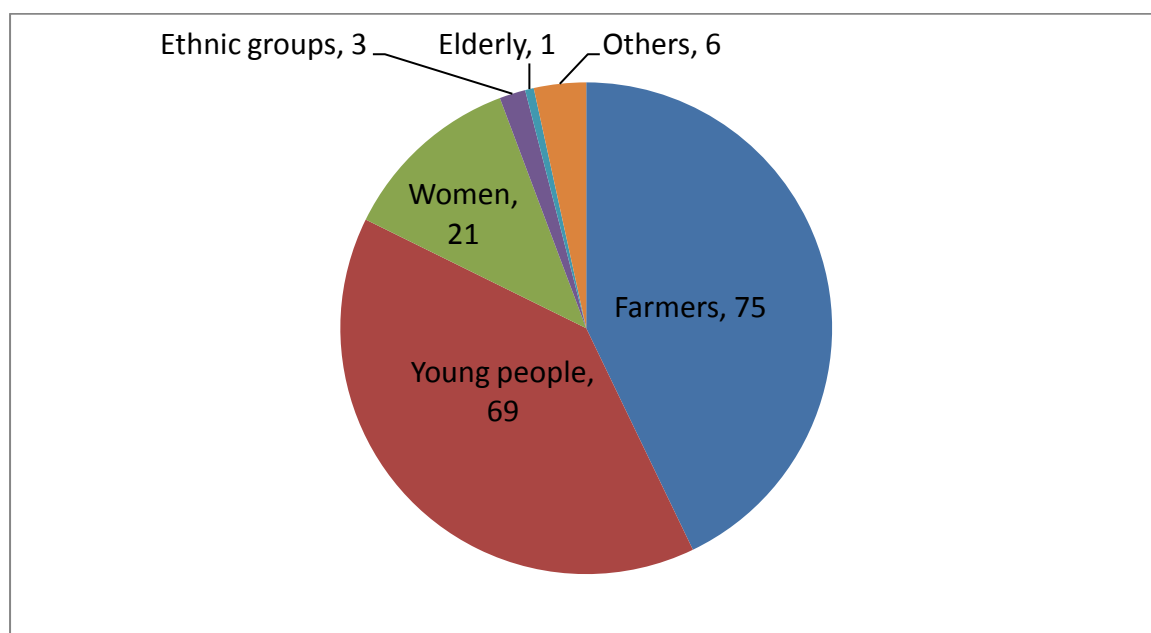
Many of the NRNs have delivered specific initiatives focused on **engaging groups** within their countries which have been historically harder to involve with the NRN and the opportunities available to them through Rural Development Programmes. This area of activity did not fit within the remit of all the NRNs who responded, with three of the seventeen not involved in delivering these types of initiatives. Of the remaining fourteen some appear very heavily involved with a variety of hard to reach groups, while others have seemingly focused on one particular area, commonly young people.

175 initiatives have been developed to engage hard to reach groups, working with the farming community, young people, women, ethnic groups and to support equal opportunities. The majority of these initiatives engaged with farmers and young people.

A total of **175 different initiatives have been developed over the six-year period** working with a number of different groups. At seventy five the largest number of initiatives has been aimed at the farming community, while 69 focused on activities to engage youth in rural areas. Interestingly however, despite having a larger number of initiatives, those focused on the farming community have directly engaged with 4,477 farmers; whilst youth initiatives have engaged with 21,652 young people. This may suggest that farming initiatives are more bespoke in nature and so work with smaller groups at any one time.

Although less significant, a total of 21 initiatives were developed to engage women, with 936 women participating. Only three NRNs reported on initiatives developed specifically to engage with ethnic groups, whilst only one activity had been established focusing on older people. One NRN reported an additional six activities that had been specifically established to deal with the issue of equal opportunities in rural areas, engaging with 115 people. These results are laid out in Chart 3 below.

**Chart 3: The number of activities delivered to engage with hard to reach groups**



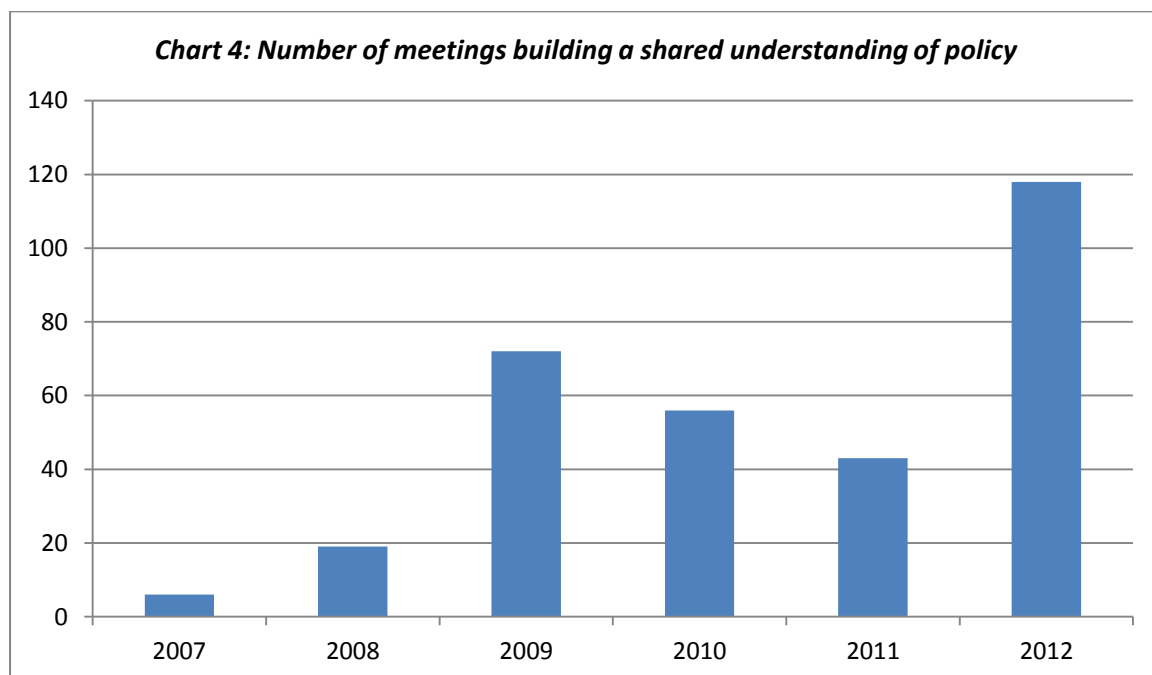
## ***Key element two: Building common understanding of common policies***

### **Bringing people together over policy**

The NRNs were asked to provide data on the following questions:

- the **number of meetings or events** they held, which supported participants to work together to understand and learn more **about a specific policy** or work together to refine, develop or build upon that policy.
- the **number of people** participating in these meetings.

All but one of the NRNs who replied had delivered work in this area, providing support to a range of stakeholders and facilitating a process, which enabled them to work more effectively together. A total of 314 meetings have been held by the sixteen NRNs who responded to this question. These meetings have **engaged with 16,876 stakeholders**, an average of 54 per meeting. The numbers attending rose quite significantly between 2007 and 2009, where they plateaued before taking a very sharp climb to reach 6,894 in 2012, laid out in Chart 4 below. This may suggest that the greatest need for this type of networking falls around the first few years of a Programme's development as 'policy makers' and 'practitioners' work together on delivery challenges and during the final year to enable analysis and understanding to support the development of the new Programme policies.



**Key element three: Collection, analysis and dissemination of good practice, success stories and relevant experience**

**Sharing examples**

The survey next explored the number and means of dissemination of a range of useful examples drawn from activity within the Rural Development Programmes:

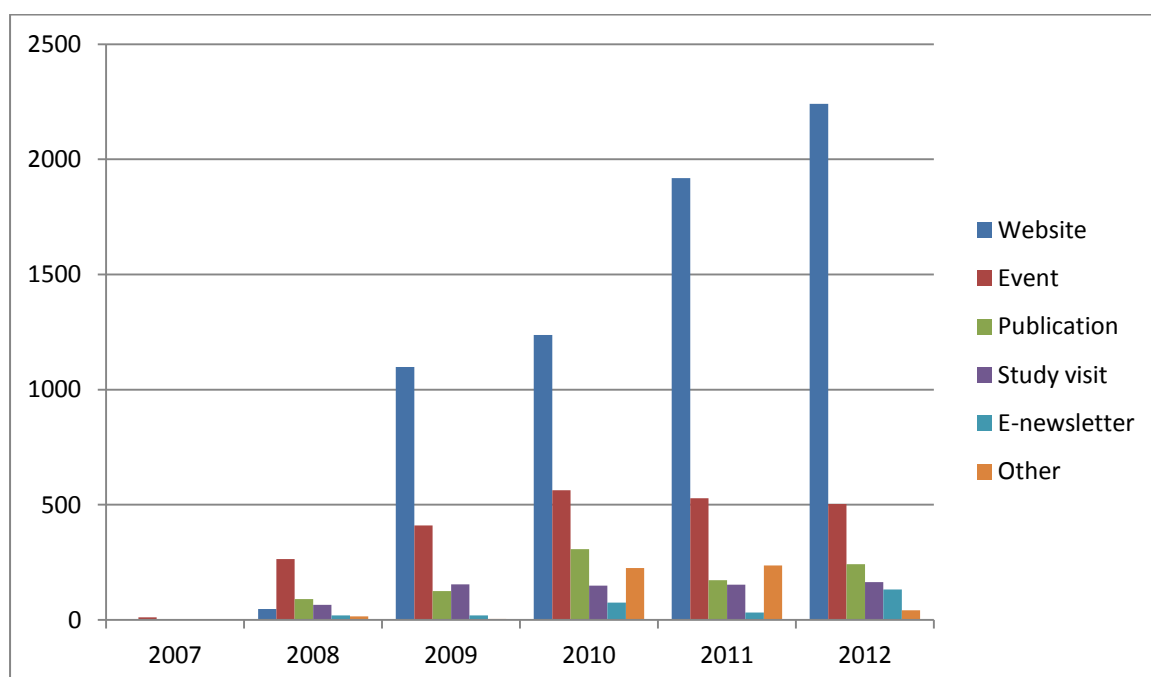
- the **number of individual best practice examples, success stories and relevant experiences** NRNs had collated and shared; broken down by the **primary means by which they were communicated**. So for example if they were collated to be used at a conference however were also published on a website then they were only counted in the conference section.

All but one of the NRNs who responded were able to provide information for this question. The results showed that the sixteen NRNs had **collected, analysed and disseminated 11,253 examples** from across the Rural Development Programmes of their countries. This averages 100 examples per NRN per year.

NRNs collected some 100 examples per year on average. Over half of these examples were disseminated through websites, with 2,280 delivered through conferences and events, 939 in publications and 685 for study visits.

By far the most frequently used form of dissemination was via websites with 6,545, or over half of these examples, being made available through this vehicle. A further 2,280 examples were primarily distributed through conferences or events demonstrating the significant role sharing good examples plays at these types of activities. A total of 939 examples were collected for use in publications with 685 prepared in relation to study visits organised. The remaining 524 were listed under the category of ‘other’ and where further information was provided these included those posted on YouTube, short films distributed via DVD and those collected to be used during NRN road shows. These results are laid out in more detail below.

**Chart 5: Number of stories collated and shared, and nature of dissemination**





## ***Key element four: Exchange of relevant experience and know how amongst stakeholders***

### **Electronic discussion groups**

The survey then requested information on:

- the number of individual **electronic discussion groups and web fora** the NRNs had established, counting the individual groups not the individual themes discussed,
- the **number of people** that had joined these groups.

Only six of the seventeen NRNs who responded had established electronic discussion groups, however, where they had been set up they appeared to be proving a successful form of networking.

Electronic 'discussion' groups are not commonly used by the NRNs; however, they have still facilitated discussions amongst 5,213 individuals on both specific and general topics.

In total the six NRNs had established 52 different e-mail discussion groups or web based fora engaging 5,213 participants in the discussions. This gives an average of **100 participants per group**. In the notes provided by some of the NRNs it is clear that not all these groups run indefinitely as many are established to discuss a specific

issue or challenge and so are only in existence for a limited period of time. This data would however suggest that this form of networking has proved useful with good numbers of stakeholders participating where these types of groups are available.

## ***Key element five: Capacity building and training***

### **Training activities**

The NRNs were then asked to provide information on:

- the number of **training activities organised** counting the individual training actions not the individual training days or sessions, listed by the main theme of the training delivered,
- the **number of people participating** in the training.

Not all of the NRNs have training delivery within their remit and this was the case for four of the seventeen who responded to the survey. The remaining thirteen had however delivered **2,936 training activities between them to nearly 122,000 people**, an average of approximately forty-one people per activity.

When broken down by type 26% of the training activities were delivered around the areas of **management and communication** to groups averaging 24 in size. The next most frequently delivered training theme was associated with Axis 4 accounting for 14% and an average group size of 38. Axis 1 and Axis 3 training accounted for 13% and

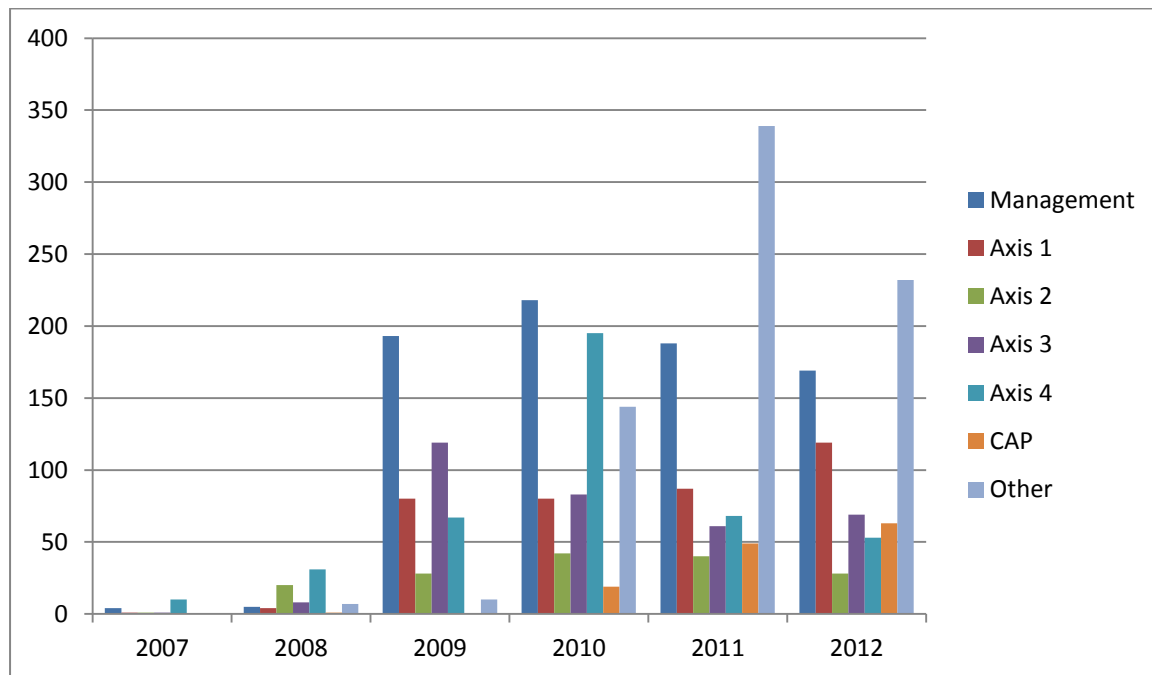
11% respectively with average group sizes of approximately 28 people. Five percent of the training delivered was focused on the theme of Axis 2 with an average group size of forty three. Finally, a

One of the most common themes for training organised by NRNs was 'management and communication'. Training with a focus on the four axes, commonly covered axis 1, 3 & 4.

further 5% of training activities were associated with the Common Agricultural Policy with much larger group sizes of 144.

NRNs also listed 732 training activities in the category of 'other' which were attended by over 41,000 participants. Where additional information was provided the training themes mentioned within this category included participatory processes and encouraging innovation. This data is broken down annually in Chart 6 below.

**Chart 6: Training activities delivered, by theme, from 2007 - 2012**



### Study visits

The survey then requested data on:

- the number of **study visits and field trips** organised by the NRNs counting the individual visits or trips rather than the individual visit days or sessions,
- the **number of people participating** on these visits was also included.

The seventeen NRNs had organised a total of 628 study visits and field trips enabling 17,874 participants to visit projects first hand both at home and overseas. Annual data provided demonstrates that no visits took place until 2008 with the numbers peaking in 2011 before dropping down in 2012. When the figures are extrapolated they suggest the **total number of participants involved in these types of networking activity has been approximately 33,000.**

### **Key element six: Support for cooperation and joint actions**

#### **Cooperation and joint action events organised**

In the final section of the survey NRNs were asked to provide information on:

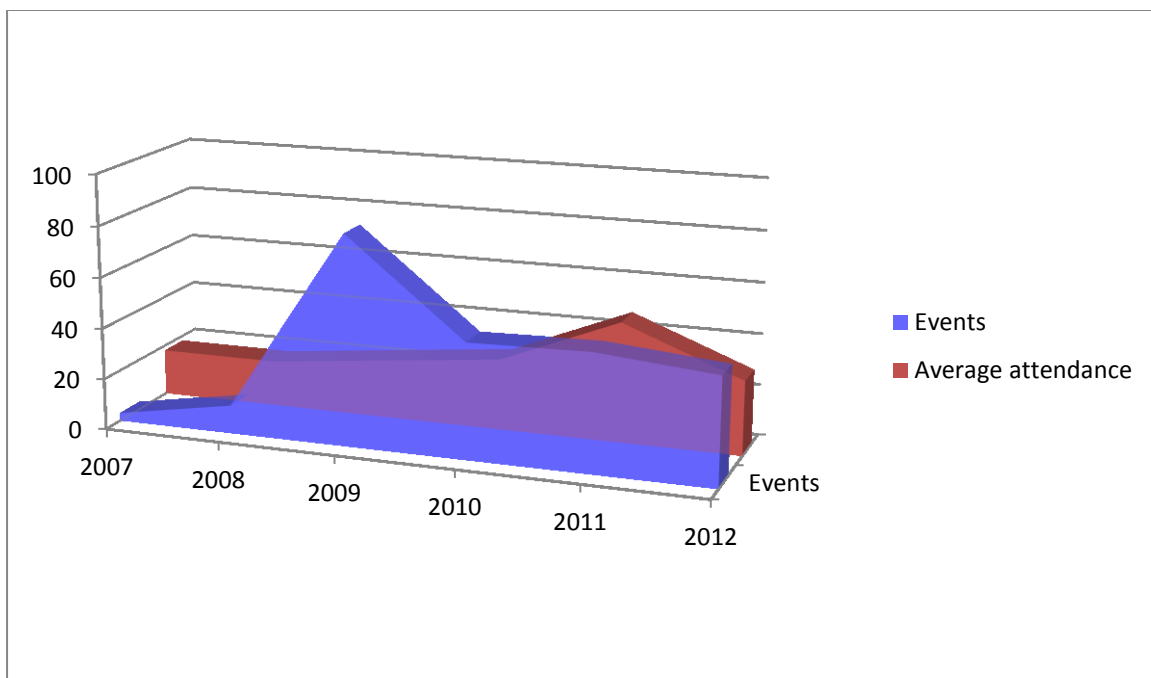
- the number of events they had organised to **promote cooperation** and to support groups to find potential cooperation partners. It was suggested that these could be events specifically developed to encourage cooperation and joint actions as well as workshops or other activities delivered within other events,
- the **number of people** who participated in these events.

Although NRNs organised events to promote cooperation as early as 2009; attendance (in terms of number of participants) peaked in 2011.

Three of the NRNs were unable to provide data for this question however the remaining fourteen had delivered a combined total of **229 events engaging 6,809 participants**. Interestingly the number of events held peaked in 2009 at eighty-nine; however, attendance at

these events was at its highest during 2011. This may suggest that the NRNs chose to provide this networking activity early on in the Programme period however many of the groups endeavouring to develop joint actions were not active in this area until later on in the Programme. These results are laid out in Chart 7 below.

**Chart 7: Number of cooperation and joint action events and average attendance from 2007 to 2012**



### Cooperation projects

The NRNs were then asked to identify:

- the number of **cooperation projects and joint actions which were developed with their support**. This could for example have been through an event they organised, a workshop they facilitated or by providing contact and other information directly to groups. There were however asked to only include those projects where they felt they could clearly identify an NRN input.

Many of the NRNs felt that it was impossible to capture this information accurately as in the large majority of cases they do not have the resources to follow up on the development of contacts and facilitation work they carry out. Nine NRNs were able to provide some data and identified seventy nine projects where their intervention had been instrumental in the development of a joint action or cooperative project. This provides an average of nearly nine per NRN and if extrapolated this incomplete data would suggest that a minimum of **279 join actions and cooperation projects were developed** because of an intervention by the NRNs.

## Conclusions

---

The survey received a 55% return rate and although much follow-up activity was undertaken to increase the number of responses, this still represents a significant proportion of the NRNs currently active. A good cross section of responses was received, with those NRNs returning data covering both northern and southern Europe and new and old Member States. **Data collected has allowed the development of an indication of the scope and magnitude of activities carried out by National Rural Networks.**

The results from the survey have highlighted a number of **general findings** including:

- NRNs delivered a significant number of network meetings at a local level, directly engaging local communities with networking activities and raising awareness of the opportunities available to them through the Rural Development Programmes.
- The main network communication tools used by NRNs are websites and publications.
- The use of social media has grown throughout the Programme period.
- The most common hard to reach groups, which NRNs engage with are the farming community and women.
- NRNs have engaged participants for policy events throughout the Programme period with peaks of activity during 2009 and 2012.
- On average each NRN collects and analyses 100 examples of good practice, success stories or relevant experience every year, and are most likely to disseminate these through websites and at events.
- Electronic discussion groups are not widely used by NRNs, however have proved to be successful for those Networks who have established them.
- NRNs deliver a range of training activities, however the most frequently delivered training theme is management and communication.
- A high number of study visits have been delivered by NRNs to share best practice and develop joint actions inter-regionally and transnationally.
- NRNs are delivering activities to support the development of cooperation projects and joint actions early in the Programme period although average attendance increases later on.

Even with the data collected through this exercise **the true value of the work of the NRNs remains somewhat elusive** as there are no common systems of data collection for quantitative information, so much is lost within the confines of commonality. More significantly however, much of the NRNs role is focused on networking, facilitation and enablement, which results in many indirect benefits that cannot be quantified and captured through this process.

Quantification remains an important element in understanding the value of the Networks as it presents an indication of what has been achieved to provide supporting evidence to highlight the outputs of the NRNs, it can help networks to see how other networks operate and understand their scale of activity and also help clarify what can be measured to support their own evaluations. It does however, provide only minimal insight into the medium to long term results and outcomes of the NRNs work and what their networking activities have really achieved. These quantitative results therefore have to be seen in the wider context alongside qualitative information, which explores these elements of networking in more depth and within the specific framework of individual NRNs.

Some of the common lessons which can be drawn from this data-collection exercise include:

- National Rural Networks are active in carrying out some **'typical' activities** that are common to the work of most networks and can offer **useful lessons with regard to the next programming period**. These activities are in line with the proposed key network functions.
- Setting quantifiable indicators for the 'typical activities' of networks can help to better understand the **scope of individual network's operations, as well as their 'cumulative' achievements at the European level**. For instance, it can help to establish the main scope of networking activities and allow for comparisons with the scope of activities of similar networks. Data will also allow wider conclusions to be drawn for instance on how, when and why the network aimed to address its stakeholders with certain types of activities, in order to achieve its stated objectives.
- Quantitative data can serve as **indications for the overall achievements of the network** and can be used as **supporting evidence** in terms of the network achieving its initial objectives. For instance, if the network set as an objective to 'contribute to better exchange among key rural stakeholders'; quantification of the number of events may provide one possible indicator on how far this objective has been achieved. However, quantitative output indicators are generally not sufficient to support the main findings on the results achieved by networks. For this networks **need to support quantitative findings with qualitative evidence** such as case studies, focus groups and surveys.
- The assessment of quantitative data is most relevant in the light of 'stated objectives', i.e. **the purpose of using quantitative data is to understand if the activities carried out by the network contributed to the stated objectives of the network**. Therefore, it is suggested that more speculative, wider conclusions are drawn from the quantitative information, whenever it is reasonable and justifiable, with regard to the achievement of the results of the network. In this sense **the assessment of quantitative data is rather a tool than a 'purpose' in itself**.

In conclusion, the results of this survey have helped to identify the **nature and type of the work of the NRNs, demonstrating their pivotal role in engaging stakeholders in the Rural Development Programmes**. The work of NRNs has been instrumental in ensuring the spread of good practice as well as enabling stakeholders to share their experience and knowledge, building their skills and capacity and facilitating opportunities for the development of joint cooperation projects.

These essential ingredients of networking have gone a long way to supporting the successful delivery of the individual Rural Development Programmes, through a broad range of support to a diverse set

of varied stakeholders. The nature of networks implies that many of the results of their work are intangible, increasing the need for qualitative evidence to complement the quantitative collected.

The data collected has however provided a brief insight into the importance of the work of the NRNs and the need for this to continue, properly resourced and evaluated, into the next Programme period.

**Appendix 1: Survey**

<b>Element one: Effective stakeholder engagement</b>								
<b>A. Number of network meetings held</b>		<b>Local</b>	<b>Regional</b>	<b>National</b>	<b>EU</b>	<b>Other</b>		<b>Total</b>
GUIDANCE: This should include all the meetings you've held which have supported participants to learn more about your work, to network together, to engage groups in specific activities or to encourage participants to become involved with the NRN and RDP. Please list these by individual year and please also categorise these by the 'level' at which they were held.	<b>2007</b>							<b>0</b>
	<b>2008</b>							<b>0</b>
	<b>2009</b>							<b>0</b>
	<b>2010</b>							<b>0</b>
	<b>2011</b>							<b>0</b>
	<b>2012</b>							<b>0</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>B. Number of people participating in network</b>		<b>Local</b>	<b>Regional</b>	<b>National</b>	<b>EU</b>	<b>Other</b>		<b>Total</b>
GUIDANCE: Please include all the people that have participated in the meetings you have listed above. Once again please do not use cumulative totals, list totals by individual year.	<b>2007</b>							<b>0</b>
	<b>2008</b>							<b>0</b>
	<b>2009</b>							<b>0</b>
	<b>2010</b>							<b>0</b>
	<b>2011</b>							<b>0</b>
	<b>2012</b>							<b>0</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	

<b>C. Type of communication tool developed</b>		<b>Help lines</b>	<b>Website</b>	<b>Publications</b>	<b>Twitter</b>	<b>Facebook</b>	<b>LinkedIn</b>	<b>Other</b>
GUIDANCE: These are all the communication tools you have developed which are related to networking and used by your stakeholders. Please count individual help lines, whole websites rather than website pages, single publications, the number of social media accounts you hold and any other promotion tools not already counted.	<b>2007</b>							
	<b>2008</b>							
	<b>2009</b>							
	<b>2010</b>							
	<b>2011</b>							
	<b>2012</b>							
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>D. Number of people using communication tool</b>								
		<b>Help lines</b>	<b>Website</b>	<b>Publications</b>	<b>Twitter</b>	<b>Facebook</b>	<b>LinkedIn</b>	<b>Other</b>
GUIDANCE: Please include the number of people you know have used these tools - number of calls to the help line, number of visits to the website home page, number of new followers on social media and the number of publications distributed.	<b>2007</b>							
	<b>2008</b>							
	<b>2009</b>							
	<b>2010</b>							
	<b>2011</b>							
	<b>2012</b>							
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>E. Number of initiatives developed to engage with</b>								
		<b>Women</b>	<b>Farmers</b>	<b>Youth</b>	<b>Elderly</b>	<b>Ethnic</b>	<b>Others</b>	
GUIDANCE: This should include activities you have delivered in order to reach groups who otherwise might not engage in the programme. It could be specific workshops, conferences or training initiatives or an innovative activity you've undertaken. Please include the actual number of initiatives by each hard to reach group rather than the number of individual people.	<b>2007</b>							
	<b>2008</b>							
	<b>2009</b>							
	<b>2010</b>							
	<b>2011</b>							
	<b>2012</b>							
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>



<b>F. Number of people participating in initiatives developed to</b>								<b>Women</b>	<b>Farmers</b>	<b>Youth</b>	<b>Elderly</b>	<b>Ethnic</b>	<b>Others</b>	
GUIDANCE: Please include all the people that have participated in the activities delivered in Question 1E above. Please only count individuals once and where they have been involved in a long term initiative please count them in the year their participation first began.	<b>2007</b>													
	<b>2008</b>													
	<b>2009</b>													
	<b>2010</b>													
	<b>2011</b>													
	<b>2012</b>													
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>						
<b>Element two: Building common understanding of common policies</b>														
<b>Number of meetings or events held focused on building a</b>		<b>No. of</b>	<b>No. of people</b>											
GUIDANCE: This should include all the meetings or events you've held which have supported participants to work together to understand and learn more about a specific policy and/or to refine, develop or build upon that policy. Please list these by individual year and then also include all the people that have participated in the meetings you have listed.	<b>2007</b>													
	<b>2008</b>													
	<b>2009</b>													
	<b>2010</b>													
	<b>2011</b>													
	<b>2012</b>													
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>											

**Element three: Collection, analysis and dissemination of good practice, success stories and relevant experience**

<b>Number of examples collated and shared, and nature</b>		<b>Website</b>	<b>Publication</b>	<b>E-newsletter</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Study</b>	<b>Other</b>	
GUIDANCE: Please include the number of individual best practice examples, success stories and relevant experience you've collated and shared listed by individual year. Please also break them down by the primary means by which they were communicated.	<b>2007</b>							
	<b>2008</b>							
	<b>2009</b>							
	<b>2010</b>							
	<b>2011</b>							
	<b>2012</b>							
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Element four: Exchange of relevant experience and know how amongst stakeholders**

<b>Number of e-mail discussion groups and web fora</b>		<b>No. of groups</b>	<b>No. of people</b>					
GUIDANCE: Please include the number of individual electronic discussion groups and web fora you have established counting the individual groups not the individual themes discussed. Please once again list by individual year and then include all the people that have joined the electronic discussion groups and web fora you have listed, whether they are active members or not.	<b>2007</b>							
	<b>2008</b>							
	<b>2009</b>							
	<b>2010</b>							
	<b>2011</b>							
	<b>2012</b>							
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>					

<b>Element five: Capacity building and training</b>								
<b>Number and type of training activities organised</b>		<b>Manage /</b>	<b>Axis 1</b>	<b>Axis 2</b>	<b>Axis 3</b>	<b>Axis 4</b>	<b>CAP</b>	<b>Other</b>
GUIDANCE: Please include the number of training activities you have organised counting the individual training actions not the individual training days/sessions. Please list these by type of training, counting each action only once and listing it under the main theme of the training. Once again list by individual year and check the total is the overall number you are expecting.	<b>2007</b>							
	<b>2008</b>							
	<b>2009</b>							
	<b>2010</b>							
	<b>2011</b>							
	<b>2012</b>							
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Number of people participating in training activity</b>		<b>Manage /</b>	<b>Axis 1</b>	<b>Axis 2</b>	<b>Axis 3</b>	<b>Axis 4</b>	<b>CAP</b>	<b>Other</b>
GUIDANCE: Please include the number of people who participated in the training sessions listed above.	<b>2007</b>							
	<b>2008</b>							
	<b>2009</b>							
	<b>2010</b>							
	<b>2011</b>							
	<b>2012</b>							
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Number of study visits/field trips organised and the</b>		<b>National</b>	<b>No. of</b>	<b>International</b>	<b>No. of</b>			
GUIDANCE: Please include the number of study visits and field trips you have organised counting the individual visits or trips not the individual visit days/sessions. Please list these by year, whether they took place in your country (national) or wholly or	<b>2007</b>							
	<b>2008</b>							
	<b>2009</b>							
	<b>2010</b>							
	<b>2011</b>							

partly in another country (international) and include the number of people who participated on these	<b>2012</b>							
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>			
<b>Element six: Support for cooperation and joint actions</b>								
<b>Number of cooperation events organised and</b>		<b>No. of events</b>	<b>No. of people</b>					
GUIDANCE: Please include the number of cooperation events you have organised. These could be events specifically developed to encourage cooperation and joint actions or could be workshops etc. delivered within other events. Please list these by year and include the number of people who participated.	<b>2007</b>							
	<b>2008</b>							
	<b>2009</b>							
	<b>2010</b>							
	<b>2011</b>							
	<b>2012</b>							
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>					
<b>Number of cooperation projects developed with the</b>		<b>Projects</b>						
GUIDANCE: Please include the number of cooperation projects and joint actions which were developed with your support. This could be through an event you organised, a workshop you facilitated, by providing contact and other information directly to groups. These should only be those projects you can clearly identify an NRN input into the development of.	<b>2007</b>							
	<b>2008</b>							
	<b>2009</b>							
	<b>2010</b>							
	<b>2011</b>							
	<b>2012</b>							
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>						

## **Appendix 2: Survey methodology and National Rural Networks who responded**

Once completed the survey was piloted with six NRNs, suggested amendments made, and the survey was then issued to all thirty one NRNs. Of these, two felt unable to respond as one had only recently been established and another had ceased operation.

Not all NRNs answered all the survey questions as in some cases the data was not available or had been collected in a different format from that requested. Equally, not all of the NRNs were active for the entire period data was requested for.

The results have then been analysed by the key networking element they were designed to explore.

Those NRNs who returned part of wholly completed surveys

- Austria
- Belgium – Flanders
- Belgium – Wallonia
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- Germany
- Greece
- Latvia
- Poland
- Portugal
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- UK – England
- UK – Northern Ireland
- UK – Scotland

Those NRNs who were unable to complete the survey due to their current situation

- Bulgaria
- Romania