

# Demonstrating the added value of networking

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# EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (ENRD)

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## ADDED VALUE OF NETWORKING

### Demonstrating the Added Value

The value of networking to rural development policy is widely acknowledged with a growing body of informed opinion agreeing on the effectiveness of rural networks at engaging stakeholders and promoting the implementation of Rural Development Programmes (RDPs).

#### Joint NRN Action

National Rural Network's (NRN) have pooled their resources to develop this web-based resource illustrating the current state of knowledge regarding the added value of networking in rural development policy. The common methodology proposed by the ENRD focuses on: a) common network statistics; and b) network success stories. The purpose of this straightforward approach is to give an insight into what the NRNs are doing and how the relative success of these activities is understood by managers of Network Support Units.

The following information will be regularly updated.

In addition, the [NRN self-assessment tool-kit](#) allows NRNs to present and exchange information about the range of different approaches, techniques and practical tools used to monitor progress and assess performance of networking activities.

#### The common network statistics initiative

The common network statistics initiative was launched to provide insight into the quantitative outputs used and developed by NRNs. In April 2012 the first set of data was received from participating NRNs. It focuses on four of the six key elements of networking - effective stakeholder engagement through network communications, exchange of relevant experience and know-how, capacity building and training, and support for cooperation and joint actions. These quantitative results highlight the high levels of stakeholder engagement and development achieved by the NRNs.



[Summary of Results on Common Statistics \[PDF en\]](#)

- NRN INFORMATION
- NRN CLUSTERS
- EU ORGANISATIONS
- FARNET
- EUROPEAN EVALUATION NETWORK
- EU CANDIDATE / POTENTIAL COUNTRIES
- NRN SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOL KIT
- ADDED VALUE OF NETWORKING**
- NRN TOOL KIT

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## What is out there on ‘added value of networking’?

- The **Common Network Statistics**: insight into the quantitative output indicators used by NRNs
- **NRN mapping report**: different types of NRN structures (clusters of networks) & **Working paper on NRN programmes** (EEN) to support exchange about evaluation
- **Literature review** (demonstrating the added value of networking)
- **Added value of networking** – Experiences from networks
- **Case studies**

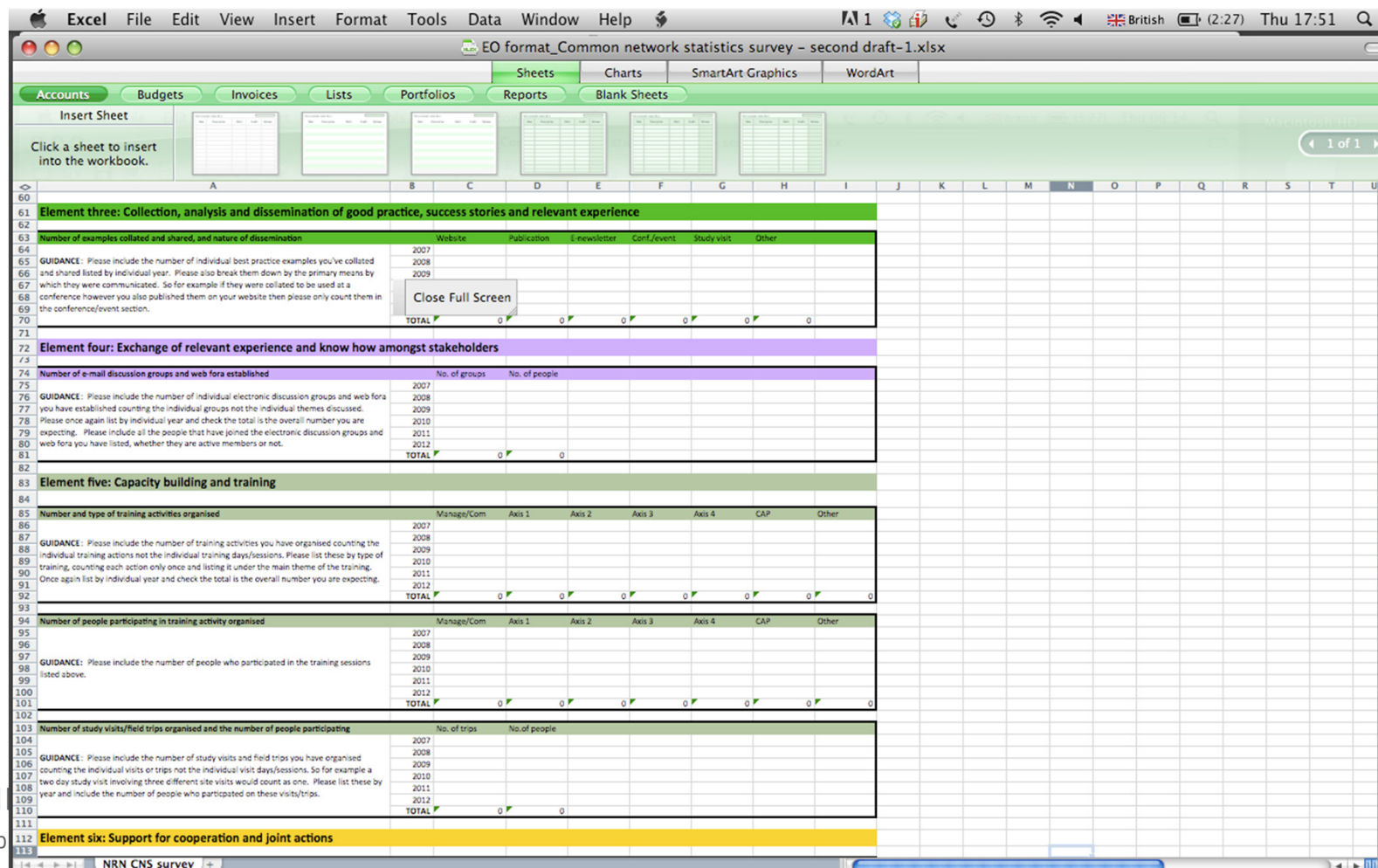
# I will tell you more about...

- **Networking stories – Qualitative:** stories about what networks do, how they add value, and the role of NSUs in this
- **Network statistics - Quantitative:** enable a more comprehensive assessment (synthesis) of the benefits of networking at a Member State and European level in order to see the bigger picture
- **Both are structured under 6 main headings:** (1) effective stakeholder engagement, (2) building common understanding of common policies, (3) dissemination of good practices, (4) exchange of relevant experience, (5) capacity-building and training', (6) support for cooperation



# Network Statistics

- Simple excel format with clear guidance
- Consistent data for all networks that allows synthesis



The screenshot shows an Excel spreadsheet with the following structure:

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

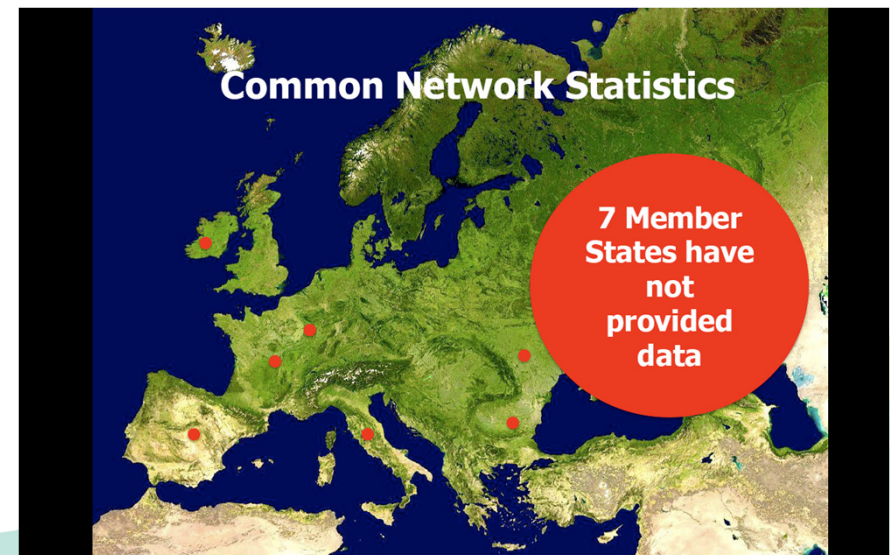
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	TOTAL
Website							0
Publication							0
E-newsletter							0
Conf./event							0
Study visit							0
Other							0
- Element four: Exchange of relevant experience and know how amongst stakeholders**

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	TOTAL
No. of groups							0
No. of people							0
- Element five: Capacity building and training**

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	TOTAL
Manage/Com							0
Axis 1							0
Axis 2							0
Axis 3							0
Axis 4							0
CAP							0
Other							0
- Element six: Support for cooperation and joint actions**

# Contribute because...!

- It helps to get a broader picture on the outcomes of networking across Member State
- It is a good **reference point** for you also for the future (e.g. setting baseline indicators for the next period, overview on what other networks are doing, assessment of partnership principle in the future)
- Take account (self-assessment)/of what you've achieved
- ...You don't want to make your network look as it didn't do anything
- **Coming-up in April 2013**



# Stories on added value of networking

- Background
- Main activities
- Success factors or areas of improvement
- **Added value of networking**
- **Contribution of the NSU**
- Contribution of partners
- Additional information

# Added value of networking

The farmers got to know each other better

Participants are exposed to other views

Farmers were very happy to see that their job and the difficulties they're facing were shown like that.

The regular meetings of the NSU, MA and LAGs continue to be an excellent networking forum

Analysed the possibilities of transferring or adapting the projects to different regions.

Participants were able to share their experience and discuss the future of Leader

Explored the opportunities for cooperation between partners in the field



## Contribution of the NSU

- The NSU was the engine behind the initiative
- The NSU coordinated the whole activity
- The NSU chose the topic and experts for workshop
- The NSU fosters exchange of good practice examples and communication between stakeholders and ministries
- The NSU initiated the discussion involving leading agri-economists
- The NSU provides advice and support on all elements of programme communication
- ~~The NSU was not involved in the project~~
- **This was a request already in Feb-March 2013, but your contribution at this stage is still important**

## Contribute, because ...!

You can share your own experience with other networks and those interested in the work of NRNs

# You can learn about what other NSUs do...

Stories are true, pictures are illustrative...



## Good practice in communication

How the Northern Ireland Network managed to get the Managing Authority and LAGs in one room?

