



Euroopan maaseudun
kehittämisen maatalousrahasto:
Eurooppa investoi maaseutualueisiin.

15th NRN meeting Ähtäri, Finland

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Welcome to Finland



Dear colleagues from
European Commission,
ENRD Contact Point,
Managing Authorities,
Network Support Units
and Evaluators

You are all most welcome
to Ähtäri!

Contents

- benefits of rural networking in this programming period
- hopes for rural networking in the next programming period
- short insight into the rural development programs in Finland



The strategical model of Finnish Network Unit



- In Finland Network Support Unit is part of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.
- It is situated in the heart of rural Finland, in Seinäjoki.
- This is seen as a functional working model and has brought added value for networking.
- Future model of networking in Finland for the next programming period will be planned during this year according to European and national objectives.

Added value of networking

- ENRD Contact Point has been a good channel of information between the Commission and member states.
- Working groups on European level have been effective creating new initiatives.
- Networks have learned from each others` best practises - networks have been learning organizations.

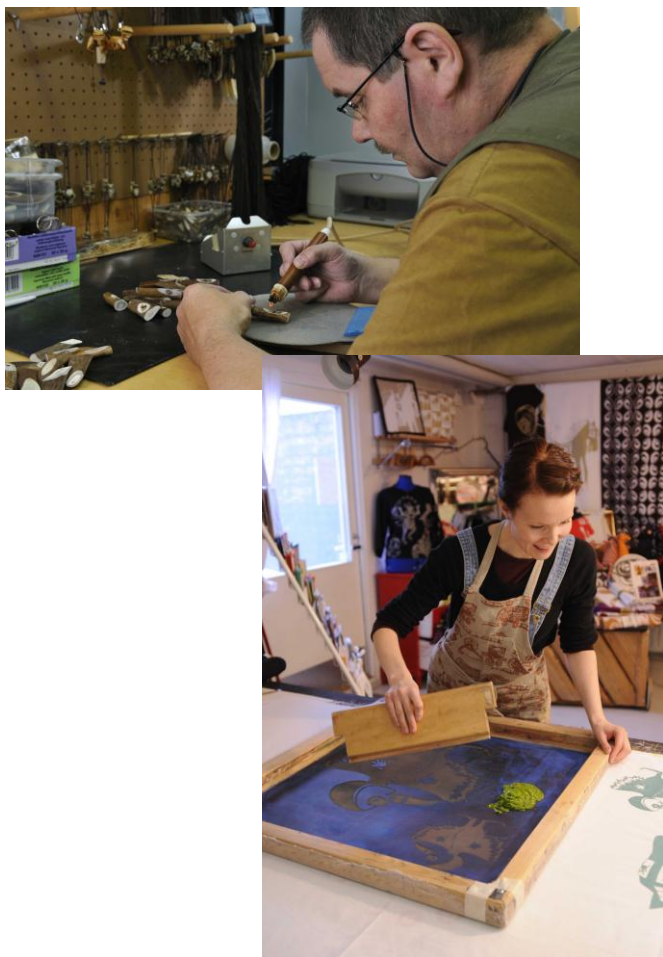


Added value of networking

- Diverse set of actors playing different roles and having different goals are actively involved in discussions and action throughout the RDP .
- Vast expertise and knowledge in the network is a huge possibility.



Future challenges for NRNs



- Rural networking has been a new function for this programming period.
- Bottom-up versus top-down or something between
- What is strategic role of Network Support Unit?
- One model can't serve for all the NRNs.
- Further thinking on how can different actors better understand values and possibilities of rural networking.

Rural Development Programs of Finland

- The implementation of RDP`s are in good level.
- Financial resources will be used nearly as planned.

Future:

- Rural development is an important part of the CAP preparation.
- In the new programming period rural development remains very important for Finland and rural networking will be an essential part of rural development.

I hope for active and
successful
discussions
and wish a pleasant
stay in Ähtäri.

Thank you!

