



European Network for
Rural Development

ENRD 2016

ACTIVITY PLAN

- as supported by the Contact Point -

Draft 15 January 2016

Background and context

The ENRD is one of two European rural development policy networks under the auspices of the European Commission, DG AGRI, the other being the EIP-AGRI network. The networks have a common governance structure based on the Rural Networks' Assembly (RN Assembly).

At the strategic level, the activities of the rural networks are guided by the Assembly. The Steering Group of the Rural Networks plays a key role in guiding the operational activities of the networks and in coordinating their thematic work. This ENRD CP activity plan for 2016 should be seen in the context of this governance structure. For more information please see the ENRD website¹.

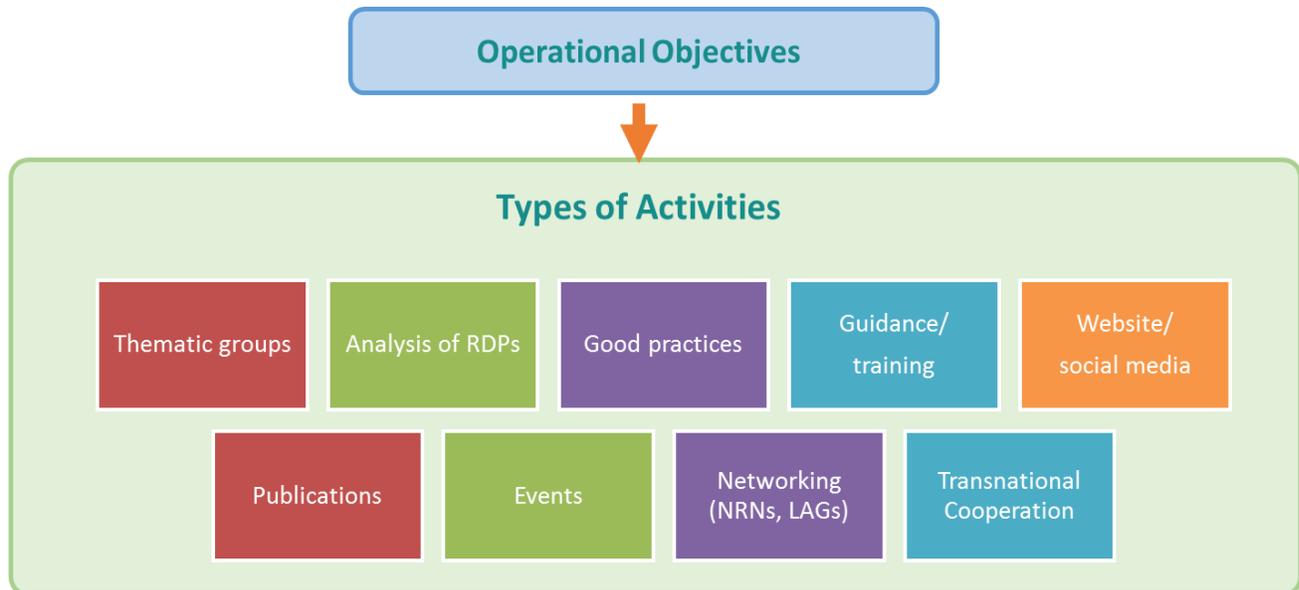
This document summarises the main activities and key outputs of the ENRD which are supported by the Contact Point. It covers all the ENRD's remit with the exception of RDP Evaluation, this part of the ENRD's remit being supported by the Contact Point's 'sister' ENRD network support unit, the Evaluation Help Desk². The ENRD CP's strategic framework of objectives is shown below.

ENRD Objectives (excluding RDP evaluation)	Operational Objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Increase the involvement of all stakeholders in the implementation of rural development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Understanding RD stakeholders and their needs ✓ Increasing stakeholder capacity for meaningful involvement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Improve the quality of RDPs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Increasing awareness of the opportunities and needs for improving RDPs ✓ Identifying promising approaches at EU level ✓ Consolidating and developing communities of practice for improving RDPs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Play a role in informing the broader public on the benefits of rural development policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Communicating the benefits of RDPs ✓ Disseminating and sharing the knowledge generated by the Networks

¹ Specifically, the Document 'EU rural networks strategic framework and governance bodies' and the reports on the meetings to-date of the Rural Networks' Assembly and Steering Group.

² To avoid repetition, no further mention is made in this document of the fact that it excludes the evaluation specific activities of the ENRD.

The work of the ENRD CP for the 2014-2020 programming period commenced in 2014. 2015 was the first full calendar year of operation. The range of tools used by the ENRD CP are shown below.



During 2015 work was informed by the first RN Networks’ Assembly held in January and refined by Steering Group meetings in February, June and October. Ten priorities were identified, five of which referred mainly to improving the capacity of different rural development stakeholders (the “how” of rural development) while five concerned priority challenges or topics (the “what”). These are shown below.

1 Simplification (for all, in order to achieve the relevant objectives)	6 Multi-fund approaches
2 Empowering advisory services – Knowledge transfer – Broader innovation	7 Green economy related to jobs and growth
3 Local food – Short Supply Chain – Rural-urban partnership – Small farms	8 Starting-up the NRNs;
4 Pillar 1-Pillar 2 linkages	9 Evaluation of networking activities – NRNs
5 Demographic change & social inclusion	10 Climate change

Throughout the year, activities were progressed on a ‘step-by-step’ basis, in order to maximise ENRD stakeholder involvement. As a result the CP organised its support to ENRD activities around three broad capacity building priorities and two integrated work themes each fed by a series cross cutting activities.

The second Rural Networks’ Assembly was held in November 2015 and broadly confirmed the themes identified earlier in the year and the current priorities that the ENRD CP is working on.

2016 Activity Plan by priority

The ENRD CP implements its activities through a series of capacity building and thematic priorities supported by cross cutting activities. Together they tackle all of the priorities³ identified by the Assembly.

This 2016 Activity plan is a 'living document' which will be updated periodically in order to reflect emerging priorities as they are identified and confirmed. *Specifically, in the second half of 2016, new Thematic and/or Capacity building priorities may be initiated and are not mentioned in the table.* Additional / new outputs associated with such initiatives will then be incorporated into the activity plan.

Key:

- Planning phase
- ❖ In progress
- ✓ Achieved

	Main priorities	Key outputs
Capacity building and peer exchange	P1. Support to more effective and simpler programme implementation <i>Priority is targeted mainly at programme managers (EC Desk Officers, National and Regional MAs, Paying Agencies and Auditors). The specific topics tackled are those identified as being where the most impact on implementation can be made taking into account the current stage of the programming period.</i>	<u>Conference</u> (supported by the ENRD CP) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ 'Unlocking the potential of the RDPs', 01 Feb 2016 <u>Workshops</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ 'Funding opportunities for investment projects in rural areas (EFSI/EIPP/EIAH)', 23 Feb 2016 ❖ 'Selection criteria', March 2016 (TBC) <input type="checkbox"/> "EFSI", April (TBC) <input type="checkbox"/> 'Measure 16', May 2016 (TBC) <u>EU Rural Review</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Issue 21 'Improving results – meeting needs', by Feb 2016
	P2. Strengthening NRNs and NSUs <i>Facilitating information exchange between EU-level and MS and regional networks and between MS networks. Responding to MS expressed needs and</i>	<u>NRN Meetings</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ 4th meeting, Bled, Slovenia, 29 Feb-01 Mar 2016 ❖ 5th meeting, Amsterdam, Netherlands, 11-12 May 2016

³ Specifically relevant to the ENRD CP.

Main priorities	Key outputs
<p><i>recognising that these needs differs significantly.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 6th meeting, (TBC), Sept-Oct 2016 <p><u>Outputs from surveys and other activities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Approximately 75 Member State (MS) missions conducted ❖ MS needs and opportunities identified (including through 'Ruralabs', missions and ad hoc workshops/meetings) and reported on, by June 2016 ❖ NRN 'toolkit' updated, by June 2016 <input type="checkbox"/> NRN mapping report completed (TBC), by June 2016 <input type="checkbox"/> NRN fiches completed (TBC), by June 2016
<p>P3. Support to simpler and more effective rolling out of CLLD and LEADER</p> <p><i>Specific support to LEADER and CLLD. Mapping the cooperation landscape and developing an understanding of the success factors for TNC. Responding to MS expressed needs.</i></p>	<p><u>LEADER / CLLD Sub-group meetings</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ 3rd sub-group meeting, 16 Feb 2016 <input type="checkbox"/> Further sub-group meeting(s), (dates TBC) <p><u>Workshops</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ 'Simplified cost options in CLLD/LEADER', 19 Jan 2016 <input type="checkbox"/> 'Social inclusion', 17 Mar 2016 (TBC) <input type="checkbox"/> 'Transnational cooperation' June 2016, (TBC) <p><u>Outputs surveys and from other activities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ LEADER/CLLD 'toolkit' restructured and updated, by June 2016 ❖ MS cooperation fiches, by June 2016 (TBC) ❖ TCN guidance available in all EU languages (TBC), by June 2016 ❖ LAG database, by June 2016 (TBC) ❖ Cooperation 'partner search tool', by June 2016 (TBC) ❖ Support to 'task force(s)', communities of practice

	Main priorities	Key outputs
Integrated work themes	<p>P4. Smart and competitive rural areas</p> <p><i>This Integrated Work Theme commenced in 2015 and has a Thematic Group (TG) at its core. The TG feeds into and from the events and publications and other communication channels of the ENRD. Through these means, Assembly and Steering group members and other ENRD stakeholders are encouraged to participate in progressing this priority theme.</i></p>	<p><u>Thematic Group: 'Smart and competitive rural areas'</u> (commenced in 2015)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ 2-3 further meetings, Feb-June 2016 ❑ Final Report, by July 2016 <p><u>EU Rural Review</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Issue 22, 'Smart and competitive rural areas', by June 2016 <p><u>ENRD Seminar</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ 'Smart and competitive rural areas', May 2016 (TBC) <p><u>Web based tools</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Case studies and other tools to help stakeholders implement the findings through the RDPs
	<p>P5. Promoting the transition to a green economy in rural areas</p> <p><i>This Integrated Work Theme commenced in 2015 and has a Thematic Group (TG) at its core. The TG feeds into and from the events and publications and other communication channels of the ENRD. Through these means, Assembly and Steering group members and other ENRD stakeholders are encouraged to participate in progressing this priority theme.</i></p>	<p><u>Thematic Group: 'Promoting the transition to a green economy'</u> (commenced in 2015)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ 2-3 further meetings, Feb-June 2016 ❑ Final Report, by July 2016 <p><u>EU Rural Review</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Issue 23 'Green economy', by Oct 2016 (TBC) <p><u>ENRD Seminar</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ 'Green economy', June 2016 (TBC) <p><u>Web based tools</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Case studies and other tools to help stakeholders implement the findings through the RDPs

	Main priorities	Key outputs
Cross-cutting	<p>RDP analysis and good practices <i>The analysis of EAFRD programming, principally the RDPs, and the monitoring of implementation are key for the ENRD, underpinning many other activities and of direct usefulness to a range of stakeholders.</i></p> <p><i>Good practice examples feed into and out of thematic work and are also directly useful to a wide range of stakeholders. Many practices are identified in coordination with NRNs. Both project and methodological examples are included.</i></p>	<p><u>RDP analysis</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Completion of fiches for all 112 RDPs⁴, by June 2016 ☐ Priority focus area and Measure fact sheets at EU level, by June 2016 ☐ Start of monitoring indicator data collection ☐ Screening and analysis of key RDP features <p><u>Good practices examples</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ 100, by Dec 2016 <p><u>EAFRD Projects brochure</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Yr2 Nr.1 edition, 'Smart and competitive rural areas', by April 2016 ☐ Yr2 Nr.2 edition, 'Green economy', by June 2016 ☐ 1 further edition, topic(s) TBC
	<p>Communications <i>The ENRD website is the single most important communication channel for the ENRD and development will continue throughout the year. Enhanced use of social media channels will continue to be given a high priority.</i></p> <p><i>ENRD publications include regular news and topical publications and also ones that are thematic/project based⁵</i></p> <p><i>All feed into and out of the ENRD's thematic work and seminars and are geared towards different ENRD stakeholder groups.</i></p>	<p><u>ENRD Website</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ ENRD Website 'V2.0', by June 2016 ❖ FAQs incorporated systematically into the website ❖ Continuing enhancement of 'myENRD' groups <p><u>Social media</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Continuing development of and outreach through Twitter, Facebook LinkedIn and YouTube channels <p><u>Monthly ENRD newsletter</u> (in three languages: EN, DE, FR)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ 12 editions <p><u>ENRD Magazine 'Rural Connections'</u> (in six languages: EN, DE, ES, FR, IT, PL)</p>

⁴ Excludes NRN and national framework programmes.

⁵ Publications which specifically relate to an individual ENRD CP priority are presented in the appropriate 'priority section' of this document.

Main priorities	Key outputs
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Spring 2016 Issue, by April 2016 ❑ Autumn 2016 Issue, by Nov 2016 (TBC) <p><u>ENRD Presentation booklet</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Revised 1st Edition, by Mar 2016
<p>Support to RNs' governance, coordination with other networking activities and self-assessment</p> <p><i>Rural Networks' Assembly and Steering Group meetings. These meetings also coordinate links with other networks and the on-going assessment activities of the ENRD.</i></p>	<p><u>Support to Rural Networks Governance meetings</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ 4th Steering Group, 04 Mar 2016 ❑ 5th Steering Group, 16 Jun 2016 (TBC) ❑ 6th Steering Group, 13 Oct 2016 (TBC) ❑ 3rd Assembly, 24 Nov 2016 (TBC)