



European Network for
Rural Development

Common Network Statistics

Y4 SUMMARY REPORT

November 2018

The summary report has been prepared by the ENRD Contact Point and its content does not reflect the official position of the European Commission.

Table of Contents

Context.....	3
Simplified survey.....	3
Process and Submissions	3
Analysis of Y4 results	4
Q1 Events and participations.....	4
Q2 Publications	5
Q3 Good practices.....	6
Q4 Thematic initiatives	7
Q5 Cooperation and contribution to ENRD & EIP activities	8
Q6 Training activities.....	9
Q7 Cooperation events	10
Proposal for Y5 data collection.....	10
Conclusion	10

Context

The submission of Common Network Statistics was agreed with Network Support Units (NSUs) in 2016 to collect statistics from each of the NSUs for each calendar year. The purpose of collecting the data is based on the following:

- collecting and raising awareness of the achievements of NRNs;
- benchmarking;
- identification of useful NRN activities/examples across Europe;
- regular and systematic tracking of progress within a separate NRN.

An initial data collection was conducted in 2016 for the Y1 (2014 data) and Y2 (2015 data). In the process of collecting and analysing the CNS Y3 (2016 data), several difficulties became apparent. The ENRD CP together with the NSUs therefore simplified the survey for Y4. As a result, from the total number of 122 fields to be completed in the previous surveys, 39 were removed, 44 became optional and 39 were retained.

These amendments were proposed to DG AGRI and then to NSUs at the NRN meeting in November 2017 in Cyprus. The proposal was accepted, and additional feedback was given by the NSUs. Based on these comments, a new version of the CNS Y4 survey was developed and the test version circulated among the volunteer members of a CNS trial group.

Simplified survey

Thanks to the development the following changes were made:

- questions were deleted or made optional as discussed and agreed in Cyprus;
- the breakdown of the priorities was changed as recommended (Priority 1 - Priority 6 + other);
- mass or public relations events were separated from other activities by creating a new group for expos & fairs;
- the 'number of participants' term was modified to 'participations',
- through changed settings, it is possible to share work and save the online survey before completion; and
- as requested, the ENRD CP has undertaken the task of sending a confirmation email with a copy of the submitted responses as an attachment once the survey has been completed.

Further to this, NSUs had the option to give the following answers:

- 0 = the network did not carry out the activity in a given year;
- 00 = no data. The network carries out such activities, but precise data was not collected for these (e.g. number of TNC requests sent to the NSU were not counted/recorded);
- 000 = not applicable. This type of activity/indicator does not apply for the relevant network (i.e. the network does not plan such activities).

Process and Submissions

The CNS survey for the Y4 (2017 data) was created and distributed in January 2018. Both a link and an excel template were sent to all NSUs on 19th January 2018, with responses requested by the end of March 2018. A total of 24 submissions were received during this period. After the deadline several reminders were sent, and NSUs were contacted by telephone to complete the survey.

Through direct contact and discussion, 31 out of 32 NSUs responded by 13rd November 2018. The Bulgarian NSU¹ provided no data for activities in 2017.

The survey was prepared in excel and online survey format. Each NSU could select which format they prefer to use for reporting. From the 31 responses, 19 surveys were completed in excel and 12 submitted via Survey Monkey.

Collecting the data for Y4 was a smoother process than in previous years as NSUs were already familiar with the questions and have recognised the added value of this exercise. However, the collection process took longer time than foreseen because of two absent responses that were finally delivered in October and November 2018 respectively after several repeated reminders.

Analysis of Y4 results

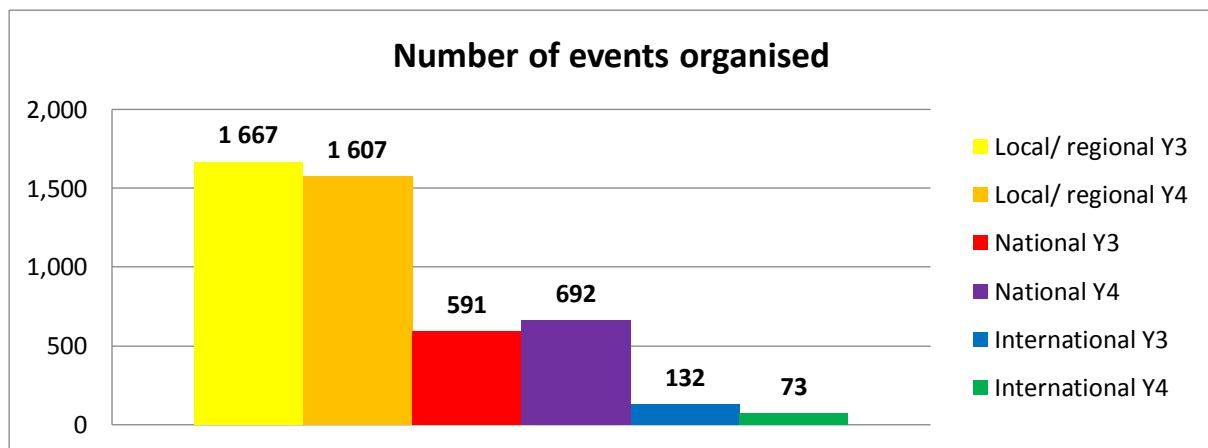
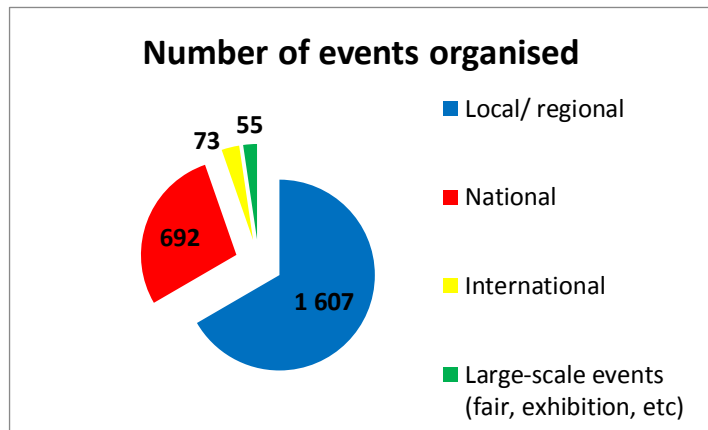
From the submissions received in 2018, the analysis across all the categories gave a picture of network activities throughout the EU. The number of replies different than zero for each obligatory question varied from 15 to 31. For optional questions the number of replies different than zero ranged from 10 to 20.

When possible the data from Y3 and Y4 are compared. In some cases the comparison was not possible due to incomplete data or different formulation of questions in two collections.

Q1 Events and participations

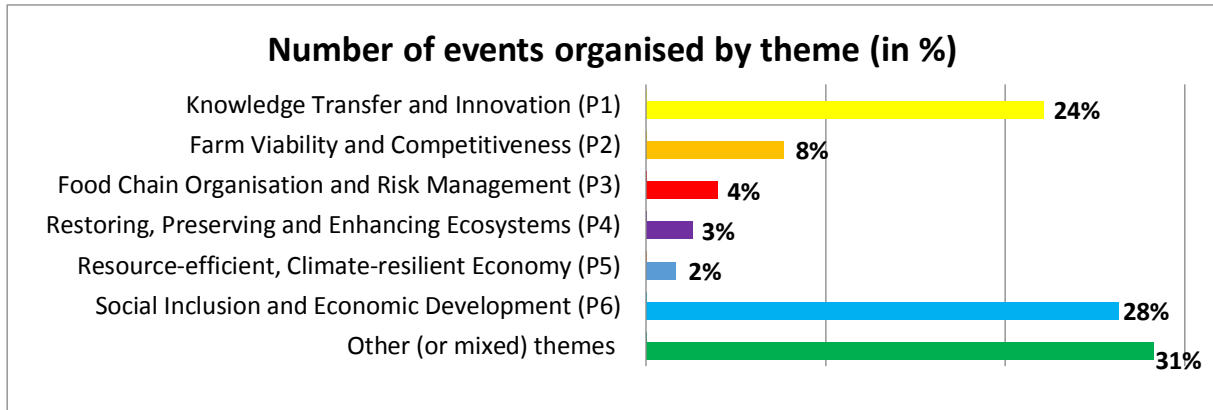
For the events organised in 2017, 31 responses were received.

The highest number of events, 1 100, was reported by Poland. This number includes 812 local/regional events, 262 national, 15 international and 11 large-scale events. From other countries, Latvia reported 394 events, Finland 104, and the Czech Republic 92.



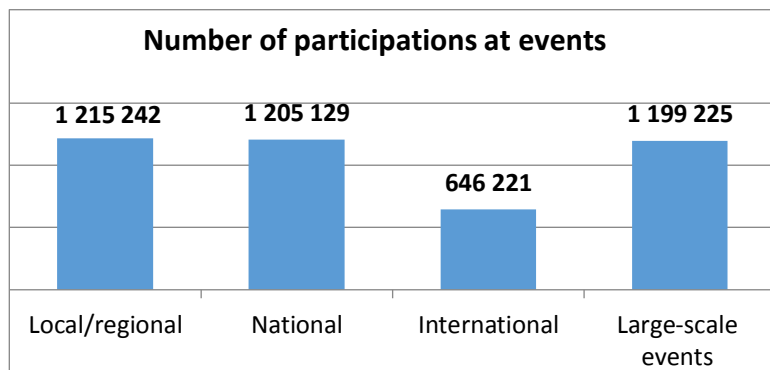
¹ The Bulgarian network began delivering NRN activities in 2018

NSUs were asked to group events under a specific priority only if it had a strong focus on that thematic category or it was targeted at a specific group. In the 'Other' Category, responses included CAP, LEADER and CLLD, M&E, self-assessment, livestock, nature parks, 'Day of Europe' with ESIF, field trips, fairs, informal meeting of RD Directors, Rural Parliament, MA/PA capacity building, regional antennas, communication, and NRR management.



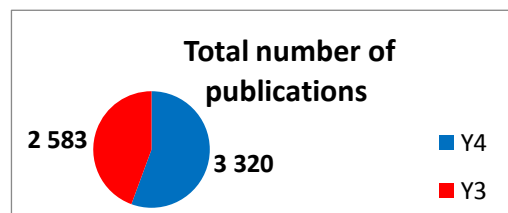
In total, 4 265 817 participations took place at local/regional, national, international and large-scale events. Without large-scale events this number is 3 066 592.

The highest number of participations was reported by Poland (3 651 147) with 1 193 079 local or regional, 1 169 419 national, 582 869 international and 705 780 large-scale participations. UK-Wales reported the second highest number of participations (240 565) from which 240 000 was listed under the large-scale event group.



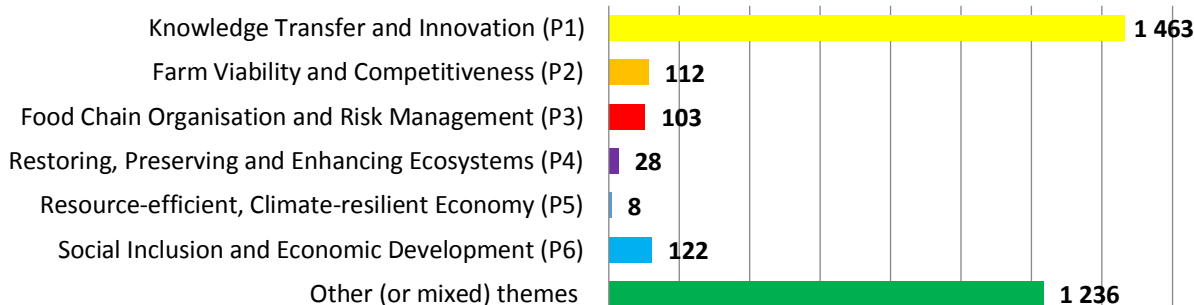
Q2 Publications

NSUs reported production of 3 320 publications during Y4 activity. Comparing to the previous Y3 activity when they reported 2 583 publications it is evident that MSs were more active in this regard.



The most popular theme was Priority 1: "Knowledge transfer and innovation (P1)" with 1 463 publications while the lowest number of publications was created in relation to the priority "Resource-efficient, Climate-resilient Economy (P5)", with only 8 in total. In the 'Other' category, responses included RDP, facts relating to rural development, M&E, LEADER/CLLD, information on conferences/meetings, rural tourism, biodiversity, enquiry on social media, NRR flyer and info graphic, and regional antennae.

Publications by theme



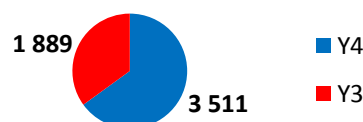
Q3 Good practices

In total, 3 511 good practices (GPs) were collected and disseminated in 2017, as reported by 25 NRNs, compared to Y3 when 22 NSUs reported 1 889 GPs.

The highest numbers were reported by Finland (812), followed by the Czech Republic (448), UK-Wales (282), Estonia (251), Austria (249) and Germany (231). Finland, Austria, Estonia and Germany seem to have a strong focus on GPs, as they were also ranked highest in the CNS Y3.

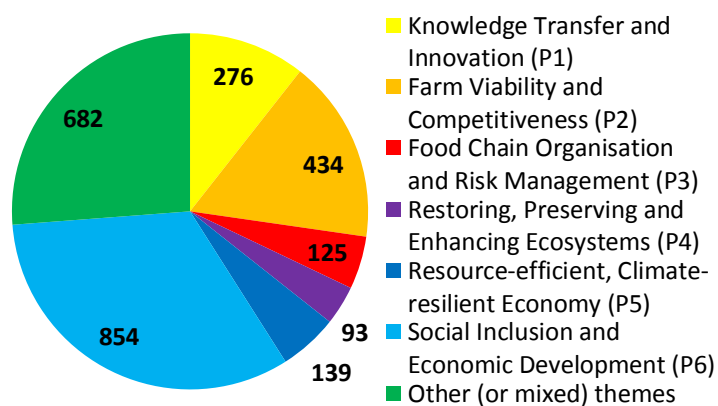
Most of the GPs were related to Priority 6 “Social Inclusion and Economic Development (P6)”, a total of 854, out of which 201 in Austria, 174 in Czech Republic, 152 in Estonia, and 117 in Germany. The Czech Republic reported 191 examples under the topic “Farm Viability and Competitiveness (P2)”. Finland supplied no data for the breakdown by theme.

Number of GPs



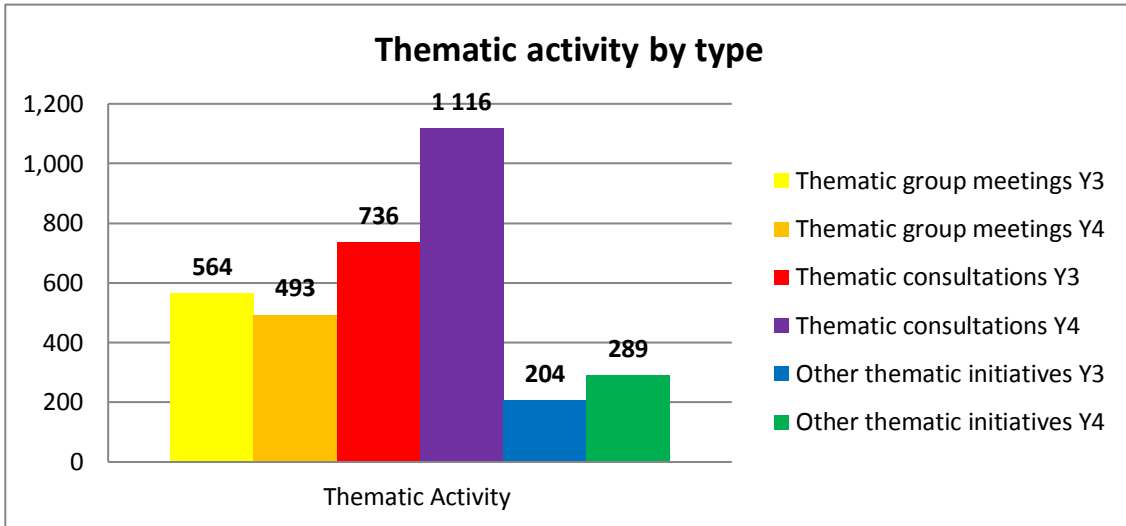
NSU	NO. of GPs
Finland	812
Czech Republic	448
UK - Wales	282
Estonia	251
Austria	249
Germany	231
UK - Scotland	192
France	176
Hungary	154
Ireland	120
Poland	112
Slovakia	109
Latvia	91
Be - Flanders	90
Sweden	74
Be - Wallonia	34
The Netherlands	22
Slovenia	20
UK - England	10
UK - NI	9
Italy	9
Portugal	7
Luxembourg	5
Denmark	3
Romania	1

Number of good practices by theme

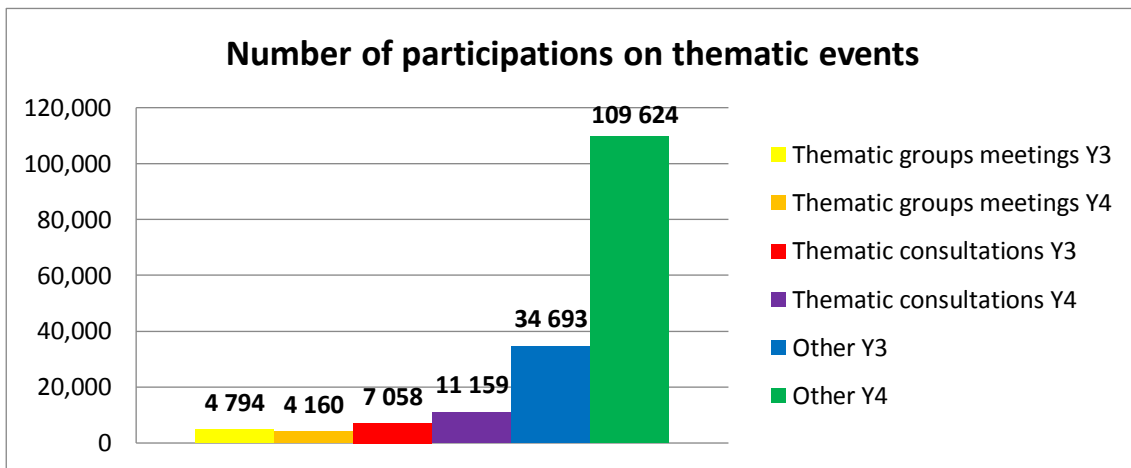


Q4 Thematic initiatives

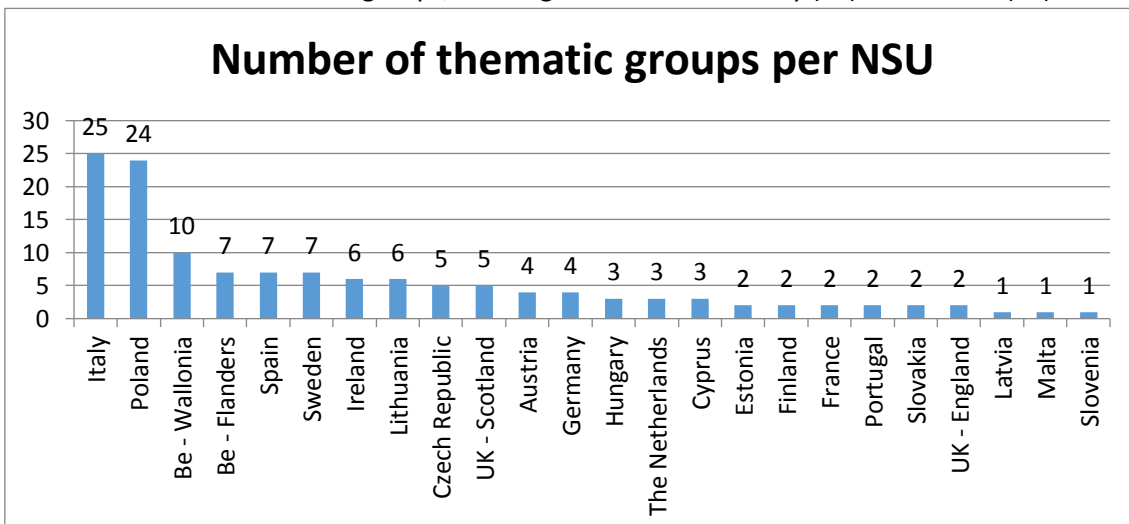
Based on the responses from 24 NSUs, the most frequently mentioned activity was thematic consultations (1116), followed by thematic group meetings (493), and other thematic initiatives (289).



For the number of participations, 'other initiatives' were the most visited (109 624 participations).



In total there were 134 thematic groups, with highest numbers in Italy (25) and Poland (24).



For the thematic distribution of groups, data (on this optional question) was received from 21 NRNs.

The most popular category covered by the highest number (14) of NSUs is Priority 1 “Knowledge Transfer and Innovation”, followed by Priority 6 “Social inclusion and economic development” (13).

In the “Other” Category, responses included LEADER, self-assessment, M&E, entrepreneurship, EIP-AGRI, nature, RDP, regional antennae, communication, NRN management, cooperation, and good practices.

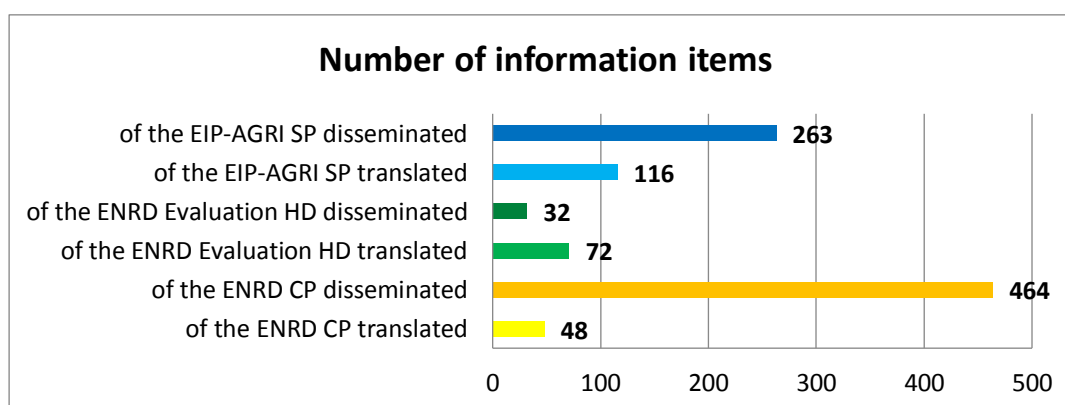
Number of thematic groups by thematic focus (optional)							
	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	Other
Be - Flanders	x	x				x	x
Be - Wallonia	x			x	x	x	x
Czech Republic	x	x		x		x	x
Cyprus	x	x	x				x
Estonia						x	
Finland		x				x	
France	x						x
Hungary	x		x			x	
Ireland	x	x		x	x	x	
Italy	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Latvia		x					
Lithuania						x	
Malta							x
Poland	x					x	x
Portugal					x		x
Slovakia	x						x
Slovenia							x
Spain	x			x		x	
Sweden	x	x				x	
UK - England	x	x	x	x		x	
UK - Scotland	x						x
No. of NSUs	14	9	4	6	4	13	12

Q5 Cooperation and contribution to ENRD & EIP-AGRI activities

For the 22 NRNs that provided a response on information items (presentations, publications and case studies) provided to ENRD and EIP-AGRI in 2017 by NSUs, the numbers ranged between 1-23 items, with Finland and France (23 items) and Estonia (22 items) being the ‘top contributors’.

Altogether 200 items (87 items more than in Y3) were provided - 110 good practice examples/case studies by 17 NSUs, 60 articles for ENRD/EIP-AGRI publications by 16 NSUs and 30 other information items by 6 NSUs. The classification by organisations is as follows: ENRD CP received 109 information items, the ENRD Evaluation Helpdesk 10 and the EIP-AGRI Service Point 23.

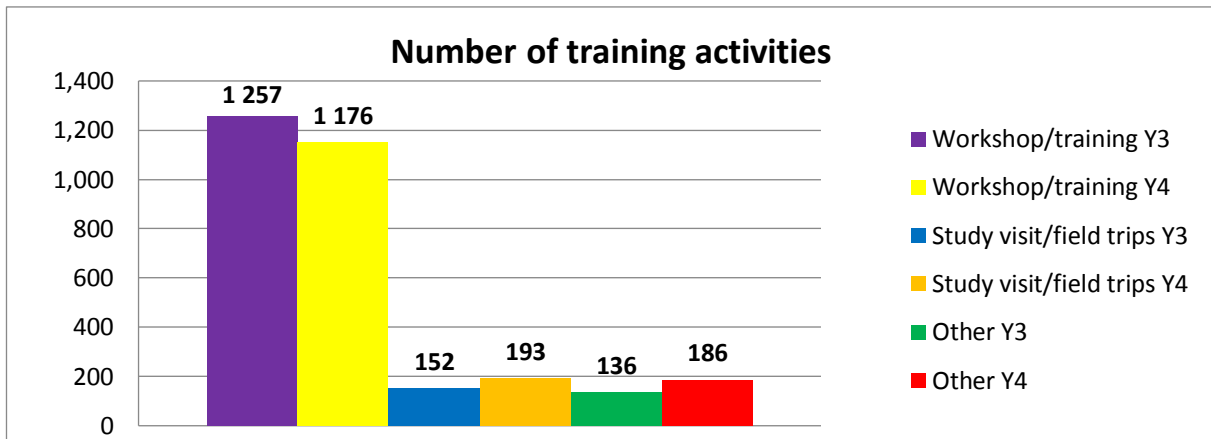
Information items published by the EIP-AGRI Service Point, the ENRD Contact Point and the Evaluation Helpdesk were mainly disseminated by NSUs while their translation was also frequent.



Q6 Training activities

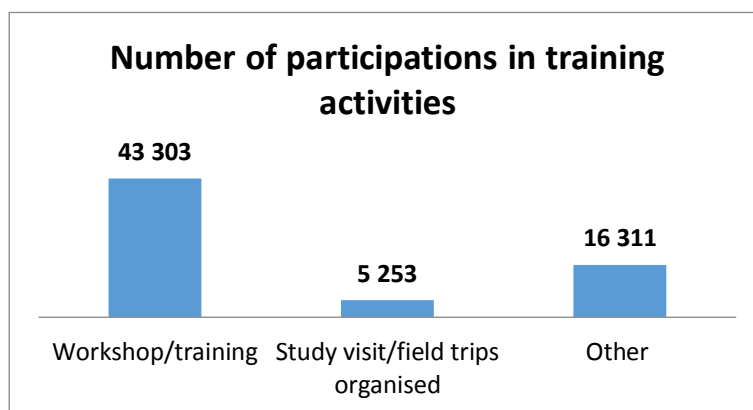
Comparing Y4 data with Y3, there were more study visits and field trips and other training activities, but fewer workshops and trainings.

From 27 NRNs that responded to the question, Poland had the highest number of training activities delivered in 2017 (955) just as in Y3 when it delivered 776 training activities. In Y4 they were followed by Latvia (105) and Italy (101).



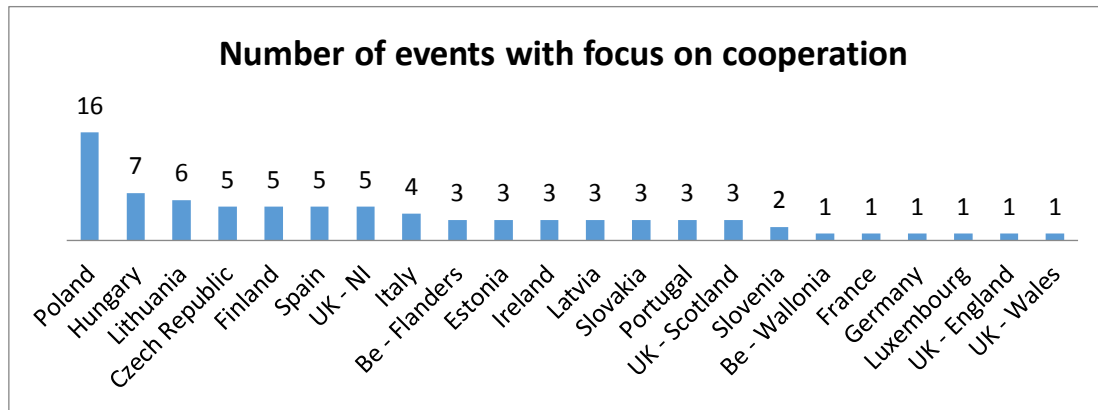
The 'top 3' themes identified across countries were: knowledge transfer with 614 training activities (the main focus for Sweden, Slovakia and Poland); social inclusion with 340 trainings (the main focus for Estonia, Ireland and Italy) and other (or mixed) themes with 124 activities. In the 'Other' Category, responses included RDP, M&E, indicators, LEADER/CLLD, MA and PA capacity building, regional antennae, communication, NRN management, and public procurement.

The total number of participations in training activities organised in 2017 ranged from 32 548 (Poland) to 4 (Spain). Altogether, in 25 NRNs a total of 50 507 participations were reported. Workshops and trainings were the most highly attended with more than 86% of the total.



Q7 Cooperation events

22 NRNs reported activity in the organisation of cooperation events in 2017. 82 events were organised Europe-wide with the participation of almost 3 227 participants, out of which more than 800 participants were from other MS and more than 350 from other regions of regionalised MSs.



Proposal for Y5 data collection

Thanks to the simplification of the previous **CNS format**, NSUs have shown greater willingness to complete the survey for Y4. Based on the process of data collection and feedback from the NRNs there is no need to change the questions for the Y5 data collection. The guidance note was clear and comprehensible while any problematic questions were consulted on an individual basis.

In respect of **timing**, launching of the CNS Y4 data collection at the beginning of the year with the deadline at the end of March was partially successful – only half the responses were delivered by this deadline. Several NSUs delivered their response after repeated reminders. In some cases (e.g. Italy) the data was provided in June as their input was aligned with the Annual Implementation Report submission. Reflecting this particular issue, the deadline for CNS reporting could be synchronised with other reporting duties of NSUs and postponed from 31 March to 30 June. The analytical work and reporting would then be undertaken within the second half of the calendar year.

Conclusion

The analysis of the data available gives a good picture of NSU activities and themes. As time progresses, comparative analysis allows a bigger picture on the progress of the wide range of networking activities. The context of the CNS related to the added value of data collection needs to be further articulated and the cumulative results can be promoted at networking events such as NRN meetings or relevant workshops.

The ENRD CP will continue to provide benchmarking, share understanding of the data and provide guidance for the NRNs in how the data is collected.