

ENRD webinar

# 19th NRN Meeting

## Highlights report

The 19th NRN meeting, co-organised with the Luxembourg Network Support Unit (NSU), took the form of a webinar on 11 February 2021.

The meeting focussed on discussing the role of NRNs in supporting and promoting the transnational cooperation (TNC) action of Local Action Groups (LAGs) and the cross-border cooperation of EIP-AGRI Operational Groups (OGs).

The event also provided space for exchange on forthcoming rural networking activities and the ongoing development of national CAP networks.

An overview of how NRNs have so far contributed to the development of the Long-Term Vision for Rural Areas (LTVRA) was presented. NRNs then discussed how they could be involved in the upcoming ENRD Rural Vision Week on the LTVRA at the end of March 2021.

### Event Information

**Date:** 11 February 2021

**Location:** Webinar

**Organisers:** ENRD Contact Point and the Luxembourg NSU

**Participants:** 92 NRN representatives from 25 Member States

**Outcomes:** NRN proposals for supporting cooperation between both LAGs and OGs, update on rural networking activities and contributions to Rural Vision Week

**Web page:** [https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/news-events/events/19th-nrn-meeting\\_en](https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/news-events/events/19th-nrn-meeting_en)

## Setting the Scene

John Grieve, ENRD Contact Point and Helen Williams, DG AGRI introduced the topics of the meeting. The aim was to update on CAP network preparation at the national level, consider ongoing involvement of NRNs in the LTVRA and discuss cooperation between LAGs as well as between OGs. The meeting was opened with a welcome by Francoise Bonert from the [Luxembourg NSU](#) followed by a [virtual field trip](#) showcasing all five LAGs in Luxembourg and their TNC projects.

## The role of NRNs in supporting cooperation

### LEADER Trans-National Cooperation



After an outline of the [ENRD support to TNC](#) by Peter Toth, including reference to the [CLLD Partner Search tool](#) and [TNC publications](#), participants discussed proposals to support cooperation between LAGs, concentrating on three aspects: NRN actions, innovative approaches and lessons learned. These are summarised in the graphic below.

	GROUP 1	GROUP 2	GROUP 3	GROUP 4	GROUP 5
ACTIONS	France (with 339 LAGs) needs a specific support unit and actions to foster cooperation, including a helpline and promotion of cooperation, a newsletter and a network between the regions	Providing networking possibilities such as speed-dating, bilateral but also EU networking meetings for LAGs, ideally in person	Event organisation and participation e.g. South Estonia LEADER conference Assisting preparatory meetings with potential TNC partners.	Study trips, online forms etc - support from LAGs on match-making	Polish NRN organised a competition on cooperation projects to identify 32 projects. Video competition (IE)
INNOVATIVE APPROACH	LEADER Cooperation days with site visits	Virtual field trip as part of the networking/introduce the LAG	Organise meetings to involve NRNs in TNC procedures	In Sweden they coded LDS by main theme - easier to find partners - use lead partner which has easiest rules	Webinars organisation-focus on local actions as a priority (specially after COVID pandemic)
LESSONS LEARNED	Foster cooperation early on in the programme	Promotion of TNC and communicating its added value	Reduce administrative procedures	NRNs need to be proactive and take supportive role in match making	Coordinating rules at EU level - timing and eligibility



## Cooperation between EIP-AGRI Operational Groups

Turning towards the future, and developing new cooperation, Inge van Oost of DG AGRI presented the [role of NRNs & CAP networks post 2020 in encouraging cross-border cooperation of EIP-AGRI Operational Group projects](#). This was followed by an example presented by Reve Lambur of how a proposal initiated by the [Estonian NRN](#) with neighbouring Finland has developed the first transnational OG cooperation.

## State of play and forthcoming activities

The EU rural networks provided a brief update. David Lamb presented the forthcoming activities of the [ENRD Contact Point](#), Myles Stiffler the upcoming activities of the [ENRD Evaluation Helpdesk](#), and Magdalena Mach of DG AGRI gave an update on [EIP-AGRI](#) network activities.

Following this, there was a discussion on the development of national CAP Networks. Maria Gustafsson from the [Swedish NRN](#) and Marianne Selkainaho (MA) and Juha-Matti Markkola (NRN) from Finland presented their outline of anticipated progression to a National CAP Network, focussing on actions in the transition period.

## NRNs and the LTVRA

Veronika Korcekova from the ENRD Contact Point presented an [overview of the inputs](#) received from the stakeholder engagement process using the LTVRA Workshop Package. In total, more than 160 contributions were submitted from 19 Member States and giving voice to more than 2900 rural citizens as illustrated by the chart.

NRNs played a major role in promoting the LTVRA Workshop Package as well as facilitating the process through supporting stakeholders, organising workshops and aggregating their results. In total 16 NRNs submitted their, much appreciated, contribution to the process.

Different approaches and key findings were outlined in a panel discussion with four different NRN representatives – Sara Herrero from the Spanish NRN, Simona Radecka from the Slovak NRN, Zanda Dimanta-Svilpe from the Latvian NRN and [Pawel Krzeczunowicz](#) from the Polish NRN. Each speaker presented three key outcomes related to the desired futures and the three most important actions stakeholders identified for achieving them. Among these recurring suggestions were solutions to environmental and climate challenges, supporting the engagement of local communities and the role of digitalisation and improved accessibility of rural areas.

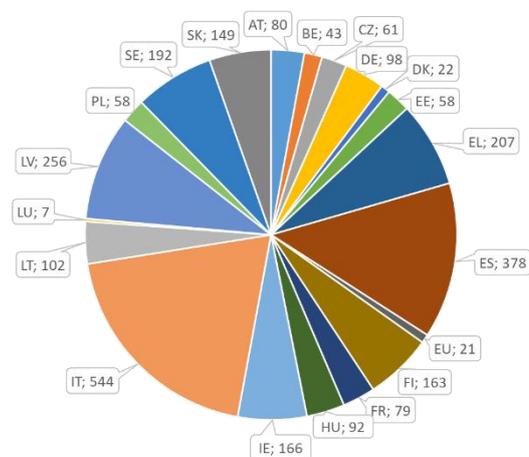


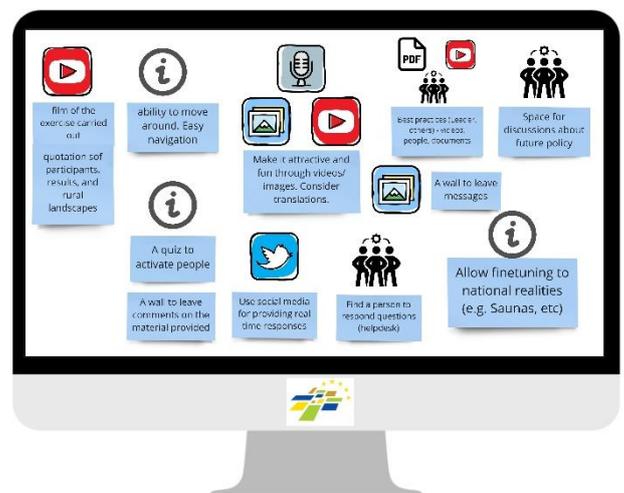
Chart 1: Number of participants involved in the LTVRA Stakeholder engagement process by MS



## Involvement in Rural Vision Week

ENRD Contact Point Team Leader John Grieve then presented the outline of the ENRD's upcoming event '[Rural Vision Week: Imagining the future of Europe's rural areas](#)' and the anticipated input by NRNs.

The discussion in breakout groups that followed was centred around one of the components of the Rural Vision Week, 'Our Rural' Marketplace. In an interactive exercise, NRNs were asked to design an imagined virtual stall populated using the options for web material such as videos, documents, podcasts, pictures etc. One of the group examples is shown here.



## Conclusions and next steps

NRNs were keen to keep exchanging and building on many of the ideas for encouraging increased cooperation between LAGs and OGs. The feedback from the sessions on 'Rural Vision Week' indicated their high enthusiasm for participation and involvement in the event. Many of the issues raised in the meeting will give scope for further cooperation and development, including peer-to-peer exchanges between NRNs.