



“The Walloon Rural Network encourages rural development by sharing good practice, ideas and information. We work with, and for, anyone who lives, works or has an interest in rural Wallonia”

NRN objectives

The Walloon Rural Network defined 6 main objectives.

- ➔ To facilitate the **efficient implementation** of the Rural Development Programme (RDP) and to add **value** across all sectors
- ➔ To organise **exchanges** and activate **cooperation** between all rural stakeholders
- ➔ To build and implement a **global strategy** for the coherent implementation of the RDP measures (by developing an integrated approach to rural development challenges)
- ➔ To **integrate EAFRD financed projects** into other territorial projects (linking LAGs to natural parks and others)
- ➔ To **reinforce good practices** in EAFRD implementation, by disseminating appropriate information.
- ➔ To foster **innovation** in agriculture, food processes, forestry and rural areas.

 Download: [Intervention Logic of the Walloon Rural Network \(FR\)](#)

Membership

Who the members are?

The members of the Walloon Rural network are mainly the beneficiaries of the Walloon Rural Development Programme (RDP).

To apply for membership, stakeholders need to fill in **the online application form** (available on the website). While applying to become a member, five categories are provided:

How to become a member?

1. **Beneficiaries** of the Walloon RDP (including farmers, foresters, associations, communes, enterprises, training organisations and others);
2. **Public services** of the Walloon Region (General Directorates for Agriculture, Forest, Natural Resources and Environment), and administrations related to the economy, employment, training and research, town and country planning, housing, energy and heritage as well as the administrations for tourism and culture, and the **French and German speaking** communities;
3. **The network Walloon LAGs** or LAGs;
4. **Organisations active in rural areas** (agricultural unions, representatives of foresters and local contractors (energy, food, etc.), associations for the environment and culture, representatives from local communities and small towns, local development and tourism agencies.

 Download: [Structure of the Walloon Rural Network \(EN\)](#)

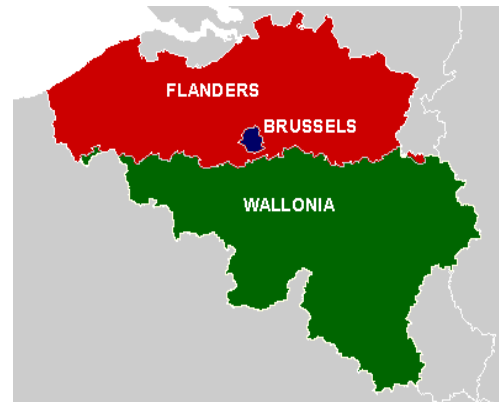
Two regional Network Support Units (NSUs) in Belgium

In Belgium there are **two regional NSUs**: the Walloon Rural Network and the Flemish Rural Network. The Flemish NSU also operates as the national NSU.

The Walloon and Flemish NSUs **meet on a regular basis** in order to follow up on each others' work and to identify possible **joint activities**. Occasionally, the two networks co-organise events and other activities.

Examples of joint activities of the Walloon and Flemish Networks are:

- a debate in 2011 on young farmers,
- field visits to farms in order to share good practices,
- co-organisation of an event for LAG coordinators



NRN Governance



The Walloon Network Assembly

The Walloon Rural Network's Assembly consists of **34 organisations**. The Assembly **meets every 3 months**.

The **roles and responsibilities** of the Assembly are to:

- ✓ **Steer** the work of the Walloon Rural Network;
- ✓ **Define** priority actions and work-plan for the network, based on the contributions of its members;
- ✓ **Monitor** the activities and developments in each Working group;
- ✓ Help **mobilising** stakeholders, **disseminating** information and identifying **best practices**;
- ✓ to submit proposals/opinions and suggest methodological or content changes of the RDP.

The **progress of activities** and ENRD developments are presented in each Assembly meeting.

The Assembly also seeks to develop a **transversal approach** to make the link between the areas covered by the RDP and other policies. The Assembly acts as a **forum for reflection** on rural development as a whole, with the aim of anticipating changes, proposing procedures and providing recommendations regarding different policy areas.

Working Groups

Under the control of the Assembly specific working groups follows a similar method of work: analysing the problem, providing expertise, benchmarking, providing recommendations.

 Download: [Structure of the Walloon Rural Network \(EN\)](#)

 Download: [Members of the Assembly \(EN/FR\)](#)

The NSU and RDP management

The NSU and the Managing Authority

- ✓ The Walloon NSU is **outsourced** to an external service provider (Tr@me Scrl).
- ✓ Regular implementation **meetings and weekly exchanges** of information between the contractor and the MA.

The NSU and the Monitoring Committee

- ✓ **Regular working relationship** between NSU and Monitoring Committee (MC).
- ✓ The NSU is member of the RDP MC and participates in various MC meetings

Communication

The Walloon Rural Network's Communication Plan has **three complementary areas**, aligned with the Network's Action plan:

1. **Informing** potential beneficiaries and the wider public on the Walloon RDP and its implementation achievements;
2. **Communicating** about the developments of the community within the Walloon Rural Network;
3. **Regularly assessing** the communication of the Walloon Rural Network.



During the first two years, the efforts will be put in ensuring an **information strategy** for potential beneficiaries, while establishing contact with beneficiaries in order to **monitor implementation developments**.

During the third year, "**results**" oriented communication (focus on implementation achievements) will be developed both to inform Walloon rural Network' members and the broader public.



Members of the Walloon Rural Network and other rural development actors will be mobilised in order to achieve better results from information activities.

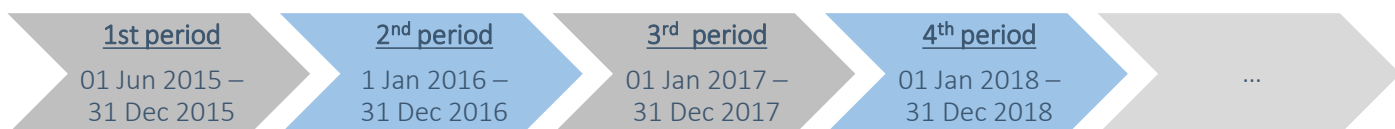
 Download: [Communication Plan of the Walloon RN \(FR\)](#)

NRN self-assessment



The network will implement both a **quantitative and a qualitative self-assessment** after each 3 years period (each of the phases.)

Timeline of NRN Workplans



NRN Resources

Financial resources (2014-2020)

Budget (€)

Total NRN public funds:	2.478.900 (Phase 1: 3 years)
Out of which national co-financing:	1.487.340
Out of which EAFRD:	991.560

Human resources (NSU)

No

Number of full-time equivalent (FTE) staff	4
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Main contacts

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