



National Rural Network



“The Network’s ambition is to maximise the impact of the Rural Development Programme by bringing it into the lives of as many people and communities as possible, and by communicating its key opportunities and outputs to all relevant stakeholders”.

NRN objectives

The overall aim of the National Rural Network is **to build and sustain a membership-based network** that maximises the beneficial outcomes of the rural development programme. This aim will be achieved through the following objectives:

- ➔ Raising **awareness of key issues** of rural concern identified by the RDP and identifying best practice models within a national and international context that can be disseminated to relevant stakeholders
- ➔ Creating a **collaborative process** between relevant stakeholders to enhance the delivery and quality of the RDP
- ➔ Establishing a supportive **themed working group system** which will act on key themes emerging from the Rural Development Programme
- ➔ Facilitating **communication of the RDP-outputs** to targeted stakeholders and groups
- ➔ **Supporting the Managing Authority** in its networking, dissemination and communication objectives
- ➔ Gathering **best practice** in all relevant areas and communicating and disseminating to all key stakeholders and groups;

Membership

The National Rural Network membership **is open to everyone**. Anyone with an interest in the Rural Development Programme is eligible for membership.

Who can join the network?

How to get involved

The NSU have identified a number of governing themes for which interested members can receive specific and relevant information. The **first five themes** will be:

- (1) Knowledge Transfer & Advisory Services
- (2) Agri-environment & Climate Change
- (3) Biodiversity & Organic Farming
- (4) LEADER
- (5) Viability & Competitiveness of the Farming Community

The NSU and the Managing Authority

There is one national Network Support Unit, which is outsourced to an external service provider.

- The NSU and Managing Authority **regularly meet on a quarterly basis** to discuss progress made and potential actions for the upcoming quarter.
- The Managing Authority has provided the NSU with a **contact list** specifying who are responsible for the various schemes under the RDP.
- The NSU has made initial contact with the **individuals responsible** for the different schemes and have plans to **regularly coordinate** over the course of the RDP.



NRN Governance

Coordination body

The Consortium coordinating Group (CCG) is the decision-making group, which conducts its business in the spirit of **collegial and professional problem-solving** amongst equals. The CCG has agreed to meet every month for the first six months, then meets every two months for the remainder of the first year. After the first year, the CCG will meet every quarter thereafter.

Members




The Consortium Coordinating Group (CCG) is comprised of the **four organisations** which formed the consortium to deliver the National Rural network project from 2015 – 2020: Irish Rural Link, NUIG, Philip Farrelly & Co and The Wheel. It is chaired by the Chairman of Irish Rural Link.

Tasks

- ✓ Oversee and direct the **creation** of a National Rural Network in Ireland, which will meet its purpose and aims.
- ✓ Oversee and direct the creation and implementation of **action plans**, for the setting up and running of the NRN.
- ✓ Ensure that the consortium works in a **cohesive, coherent and value-adding** manner over the lifetime of the project.
- ✓ To oversee **the financial management** of the project budget (acknowledging the primacy of the board of directors of Irish Rural Link in this regard).
- ✓ To act as a **sounding board** / provide advice to the project implementation team where needed.

Communication

The strategic long-term goal of the National Rural Network (NRN) is to ‘[inform the broader public and potential beneficiaries on rural development policy and funding opportunities](#)’ (as per Article 54(2) of the RDR). Building on this goal, the objectives of this Communications and Publicity Plan are to:

Objective	Description
INFORM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a comprehensive information service to groups and organisations and inform potential beneficiaries of the measures/sub-measures under the 2014-2020 RDP for Ireland on available funding, eligibility criteria for each support, etc.
PROMOTE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the RDP to the broader public by communicating its key opportunities and outputs. Raise awareness of best practice and in all relevant areas by gathering and disseminating examples and case studies to relevant target audiences. Keep the media and public interest groups informed of relevant RDP activities, milestones, opportunities and achievements.
ENGAGE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage all relevant stakeholders in the exchange of information by creating opportunities, spaces and tools to facilitate networking and the interactive (horizontal) flow of information.

NRN self-assessment

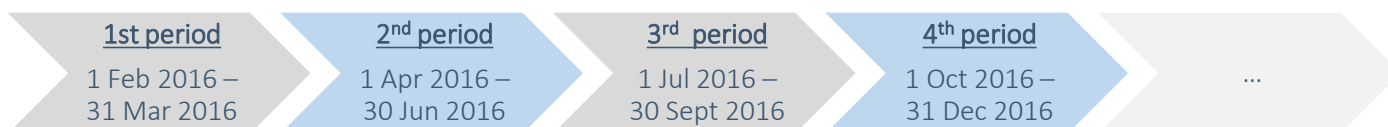


- The NRN will measure the success of the communications and publicity activities by setting **baselines** and then [monitoring and evaluating a list of key performance indicators](#) as indicated in the table below.
- This list will be refined through our [continuous improvement process](#) throughout the lifetime of the programme to reflect actual results, adapt to changing requirements and take advantage of opportunities that present.



Download: [Monitoring & evaluation indicators of the Irish Rural Network \(IE\)](#)

Timeline of NRN Workplans



NRN Resources

Financial resources (2014-2020)	Budget (€)
Total NRN public funds:	3,000,000
Out of which national co-financing:	1,410,000
Out of which EAFRD:	1,590,000

Human resources	No
Number of full-time equivalent (FTE) staff	4


Contacts ✉


Phone number: +353 (03) 9064-82744

Website: www.nationalruralnetwork.ie

General e-mail: info@nationalruralnetwork.ie



 Download: [NSU organigram \(EN\)](#)

Function	Contact Person 	Email
Communication	James Claffey	james@irishrurallink.ie
LEADER/CLLD	Maura Farrell	maura.farrell@nuigalway.ie
Innovation/EIP	Maura Farrell	maura.farrell@nuigalway.ie
NRN self-assessment/ evaluation	Deirdre Garvey	deirdre@wheel.ie
Best Practice	Maura Farrell	maura.farrell@nuigalway.ie
Biodiversity	Philip Farrelly	philip@pfarrelly.com
EU LIFE	Seamus Boland	seamus@irishrurallink.ie
Climate Change	Philip Farrelly	philip@pfarrelly.com