



GUIDELINES

Evaluation of National Rural Networks 2014-2020

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Content



- NRN – common and programme specific elements
- Evaluation of NRN: why and how?
- Reporting on NRN evaluation
- Evaluation of NRN 2014-2020 – the role of NSU
- Working Group



Common NRN elements

NRN groups the organisations and administrations involved in rural development

NRN common objectives

- **increase the involvement** of stakeholders in the implementation of rural development;
- **improve the quality of implementation** of rural development programmes;
- **inform** the broader public and potential beneficiaries on rural development policy and funding opportunities;
- **foster innovation** in agriculture, food production, forestry and rural areas.

[Article 54 of Reg. (EU) No. 1305/2013]

NRN common groups of actions

- **collection of examples** of projects covering all priorities of the RDP
- facilitation of **thematic and analytical exchanges**
- **provision of training** and networking activities for LAGs (TNC)
- networking activities for **advisors and innovation support services**
- sharing and dissemination of **monitoring and evaluation findings**
- **communication plan** including publicity and information concerning the rural development programme
- participation in and contribution to the activities of the **European network for rural development**



Common NRN evaluation elements

3 output indicators

O.24 – Number of thematic and analytical exchanges set up with the support of NRN

O.25 – Number of NRN communication tools

O.26 – Number of ENRD activities in which the NRN has participated

[Annexes IV & V of Reg. (EU) No. 808/2014]

Common evaluation question

To what extent has the National Rural Network contributed to achieving the objectives laid down in Art. 54(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013?

No common result indicators, only specific. To be designed depending on the programmes specific objectives/results expected

Better planning/design facilitates monitoring, evaluation, self-assessment...



A question for the audience

Have you complemented the common NRN elements with **NRN specific:**

- objective
- group of activity
- evaluation question
- indicators



Please place your relevant dot/s on the EU map



Evaluation of NRNs: Why and how?

Purpose

NRN stakeholders	Outside world
Assess the achievement of NRN objectives	Demonstrate achievements
Improve quality of implementation	Increase transparency
Enhance NRN governance	Justify the use of public funds

Forms

- Stand-alone evaluation / as part of the RDP evaluation / thematic evaluation

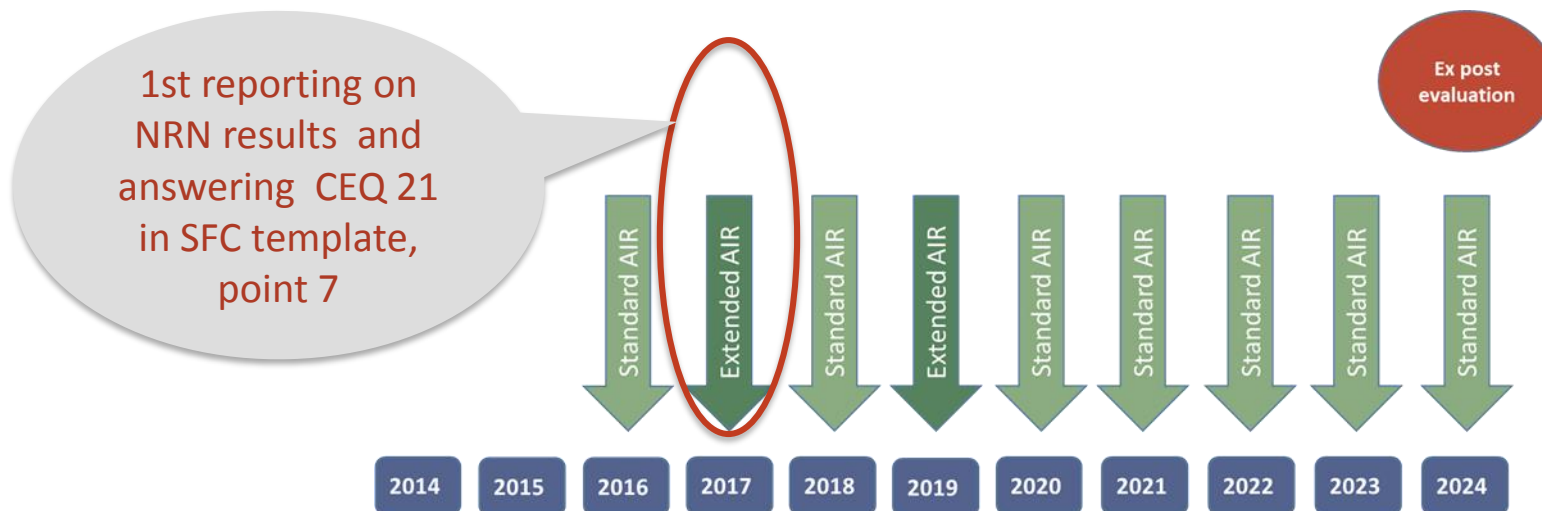
NRN self – assessment

- Self-assessment should be interlinked with NRN evaluation



Reporting on the NRN evaluation

Standard AIRs	Extended AIRs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For NRN in the RDP - reporting on the activities in relation to NRN evaluation For NRNP – reporting on the implementation of the NRNP evaluation plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Answering the NRN related evaluation questions and assessment of NRN. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> results in 2017 impacts in 2019



Common evaluation question (title and number): NO 21: “TO WHAT EXTENT HAS THE NATIONAL RURAL NETWORK CONTRIBUTED TO ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES LAID DOWN IN ART. 54(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1305/2013?”

1. Intervention logic of the NRN

Common objectives and linked group of activities (both common and NRN specific):

- Group of activity:

NRN specific objectives and linked groups of activities (both common and NRN specific):

- Group of activity:

2. Link between judgment criteria, common and additional result indicators used to answer the CEQ

Judgment criteria

Additional NRN specific result indicator

Number and types of stakeholders involved in RDP implementation has increased

Number of stakeholders (by type) participating in the implementation of the RDP due to activities of the NRN (including those through LAGs)

The quality of implementation of the RDP has been improved through the activities of the NRN, e.g.

- Improved capacity of RDP beneficiaries
- Improved evaluation awareness

• Lessons from evaluations are taken into account in programme implementation

Number of RDP modifications based on evaluation findings and recommendations from thematic working groups organized by the NRN

Broader public and potential beneficiaries are aware of the rural development policy and funding opportunities through activities of the NRN

% of RDP implemented projects encouraged by NRN(P) activities
Number persons that have been informed about the rural development policy and funding opportunities through the NRN communication tools

Innovation in agriculture, food production forestry and rural areas has been fostered by the NRN opportunities

% of innovative projects encouraged by NRN out of the total number of innovative projects supported by the RDP(s)

3. Methods (quantitative, qualitative)

4. Quantitative values of indicators and data collection

Indicator	Absolute value	Ratio value	Calculated gross value	Calculated net value	Data and information sources
Output					
Additional					

5. Problems encountered influencing the validity and reliability of evaluation findings

6. Answer to CEQ

7. Conclusions and recommendations

Conclusions	Recommendations
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What can MA do to facilitate the evaluation and reporting?

- **Planning** activities for NRN evaluation in Evaluation plan
- Establishing the **NRN intervention logic** specific for the RDP
(complete common NRN elements with programme specific NRN elements);
- Defining **programme-specific evaluation elements**:
 - Drafting NRN specific evaluation questions;
 - Developing NRN indicators (result, impact);
- **Providing access** to existing data and information;
- **Coordinating and managing** the assessment of NRN progress, results and impacts and achievements towards objectives,

Collaborating with
NSU is important !!!



Evaluation challenges and guidance

Challenges for 2014-2020

- NRN intervention logic
- NRN programme specific evaluation questions and indicators
- Sufficient and high quality data and information
- Assessment of NRN progress and achievements, results and impacts
- Management and governance of NRN evaluation

Existing guidance

2007-2013

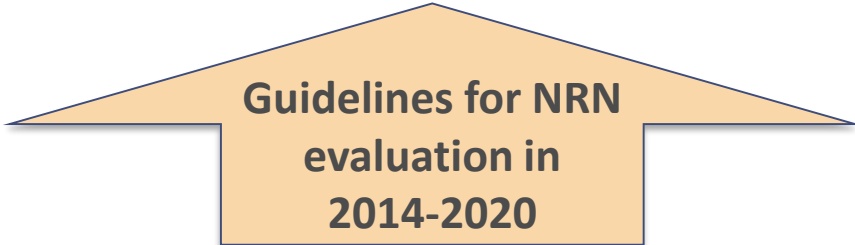
Evaluation guidance document for MTE of NRNP (example of indicators, intervention logics...)

Ex post evaluation guidelines 2007-2013 – each chapter has sections on NRN

2014-2020

Ex ante evaluation guidelines – separate chapter on ex ante evaluation of the NRN

Evaluation plan guidelines - separate chapter on planning NRN evaluation



**Guidelines for NRN
evaluation in
2014-2020**



Introduction

Part I
Managing NRN
evaluation

Part II
Methodolog.
Handbook

Part III
Toolbox

Guidelines Evaluation of National Rural Networks 2014-2020



<https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/en/evaluation/european-evaluation-helpdesk-rural-development/evaluation-helpdesks-publications/guidance>



Evaluation of National Rural Networks 2014-2020 The role of the NSU

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NRN evaluation – the stakeholders

- **Managing authority** responsible for preparation, resourcing, management and implementation of the evaluation plan and for quality, punctuality and communication of NRN results
- **Network Support Unit** supports the MA and can be responsible for self assessment and stand alone evaluation
- **Paying Agency** is important as data provider
- **Monitoring Committee** responsible for monitoring the programme's performance and its implementation;
- **Network members** can participate in surveys, focus groups and evaluation workshops
- **Evaluator** functionally independent carries out evaluation activities



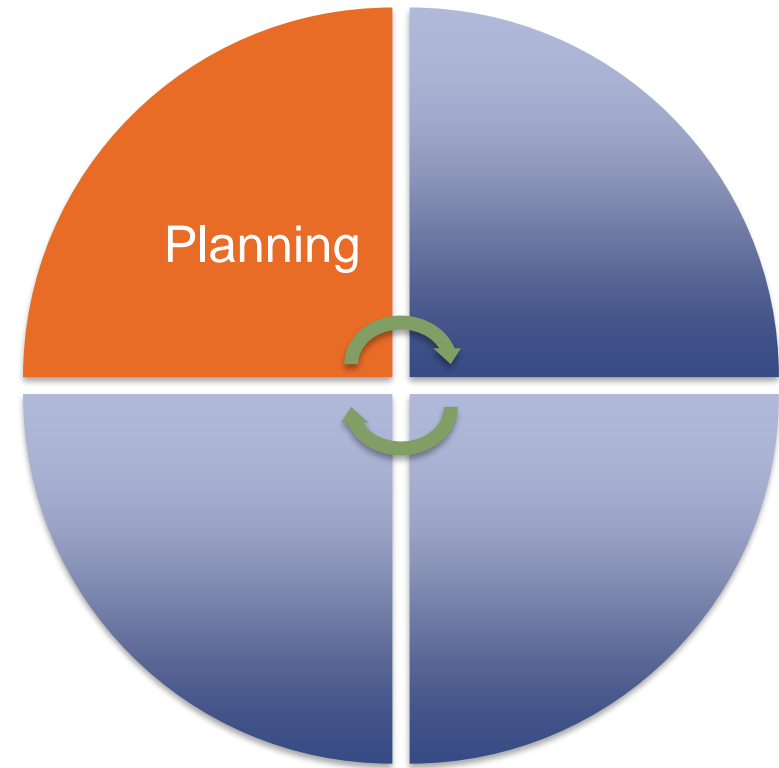
The NRN evaluation process





The role of NSU in the evaluation of the NRN - Planning

- Identification of evaluation needs and information needed
- Deciding on the form of the evaluation (part of the RDP, stand alone)
- Participating in planning the evaluation process and timetable
- Drafting the communication and capacity building plans





The role of NSU in the evaluation of the NRN - Preparing

Participating in:

- Construction of the NRN intervention logic
- Revisiting/formulating NRN related evaluation questions and indicators and checking their consistency with the NRN intervention logic
- Selection of preferred evaluation approach
- Screening of information and data needs and potential sources
- Tendering and selecting the external evaluator



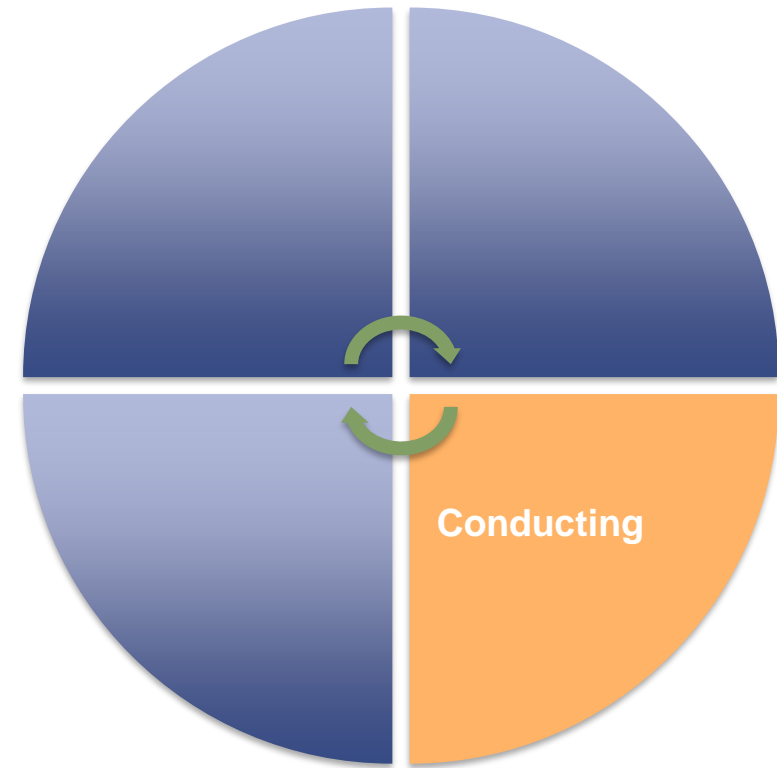


The role of NSU in the evaluation of the NRN - Conducting

Facilitating the evaluation process:

- regular communication with evaluators
- participating in the evaluation, e.g. providing and collecting data and information through participatory evaluation and monitoring

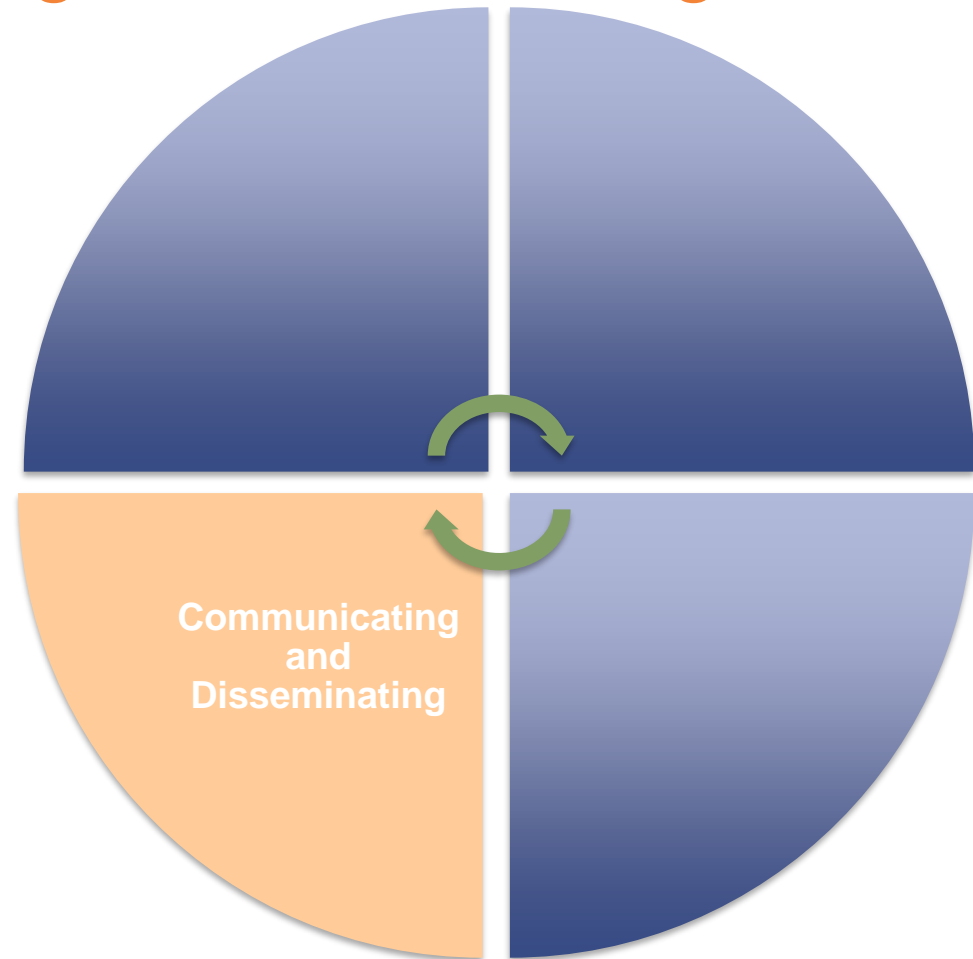
Providing access to self-assessment findings for evaluation





The role of NSU in the evaluation of the NRN – Communicating & Disseminating

- Communicating evaluation findings
- Dissemination
- Following-up of evaluation findings





Working Group

6th NRN meeting, Senec (SK), 8-9 November 2016

POWERED BY





Discuss current practices of involvement of NSU in planning, preparing, conducting communicating and disseminating the evaluation of NRN

- Work in small groups
- Discuss the question
- Note your answers on harvest sheet
- Harvesting in plenary



Thank you for your attention!

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