



European Network for
Rural Development

ENRD 2017

ACTIVITY PLAN

- as supported by the Contact Point -

Draft 15th November 2016

Background and context

The ENRD is one of two European rural development policy networks under the auspices of the European Commission, DG AGRI, the other being the EIP-AGRI network. The networks have a common governance structure based on the Rural Networks' Assembly (RN Assembly).

At the strategic level, the activities of the rural networks are guided by the Assembly. The Steering Group of the Rural Networks plays a key role in guiding the operational activities of the networks and in assessing progress. This ENRD CP activity plan for 2017 should be seen in the context of this governance structure. For more information please see the ENRD website¹.

This document summarises the main activities and key outputs of the ENRD which are supported by the Contact Point. It covers all the ENRD's remit with the exception of RDP Evaluation, this part of the ENRD's remit is supported by the Contact Point's 'sister' ENRD network support unit, the Evaluation Help Desk². The ENRD CP's strategic framework of objectives is shown below.

ENRD Objectives (excluding RDP evaluation)	Operational Objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Increase the involvement of all stakeholders in the implementation of rural development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Understanding RD stakeholders and their needs ✓ Increasing stakeholder capacity for meaningful involvement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Improve the quality of RDPs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Increasing awareness of the opportunities and needs for improving RDPs ✓ Identifying promising approaches at EU level ✓ Consolidating and developing communities of practice for improving RDPs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Play a role in informing the broader public on the benefits of rural development policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Communicating the benefits of RDPs ✓ Disseminating and sharing the knowledge generated by the Networks

¹ Specifically, the Document 'EU rural networks strategic framework and governance bodies' and the reports on the meetings to-date of the Rural Networks' Assembly and Steering Group.

² To avoid repetition, no further mention is made in this document of the fact that it excludes the evaluation specific activities of the ENRD.

Within the context of the strategic framework, the Assembly and Steering Group identified ten priorities for the Rural Networks in 2015. Broadly, five refer to improving the capacity of different rural development stakeholders (the “how” of rural development) while five concern priority challenges or topics (the “what”).

In September 2016, the Cork 2.0 European Conference on Rural Development has paved the way for giving future European rural development policy a future orientation. During the RNs’ Steering Group meeting of October 2016, the Rural Networks priorities have been considered vis-à-vis the Cork Declaration. The colour coding of the graphic below shows the match between the two sets of priorities.

EU Rural Networks' Priorities

Cork 2.0 Declaration

1. Simplification	1. Promoting rural prosperity
2. Advisory services-knowledge transfer-innovation	2. Strengthening rural value chains
3. Local food- short supply chain-urban-rural, small farms	3. Investing in rural viability and vitality
4. Pillar 1- Pillar 2 linkages	4. Preserving the rural environment
5. Demographic change + social inclusion	5. Managing Natural resources
6. Multifund approaches	6. Encouraging climate action
7. Green economy, jobs + growth	7. Boosting knowledge and innovation
8. Starting up NRNs	8. Enhancing rural governance
9. Evaluating network activities	9. Advancing policy delivery and simplification
10. Climate change	10. Improving policy delivery and accountability

RED – Governance, policy simplification, integration & evaluation

BLACK – Competitiveness

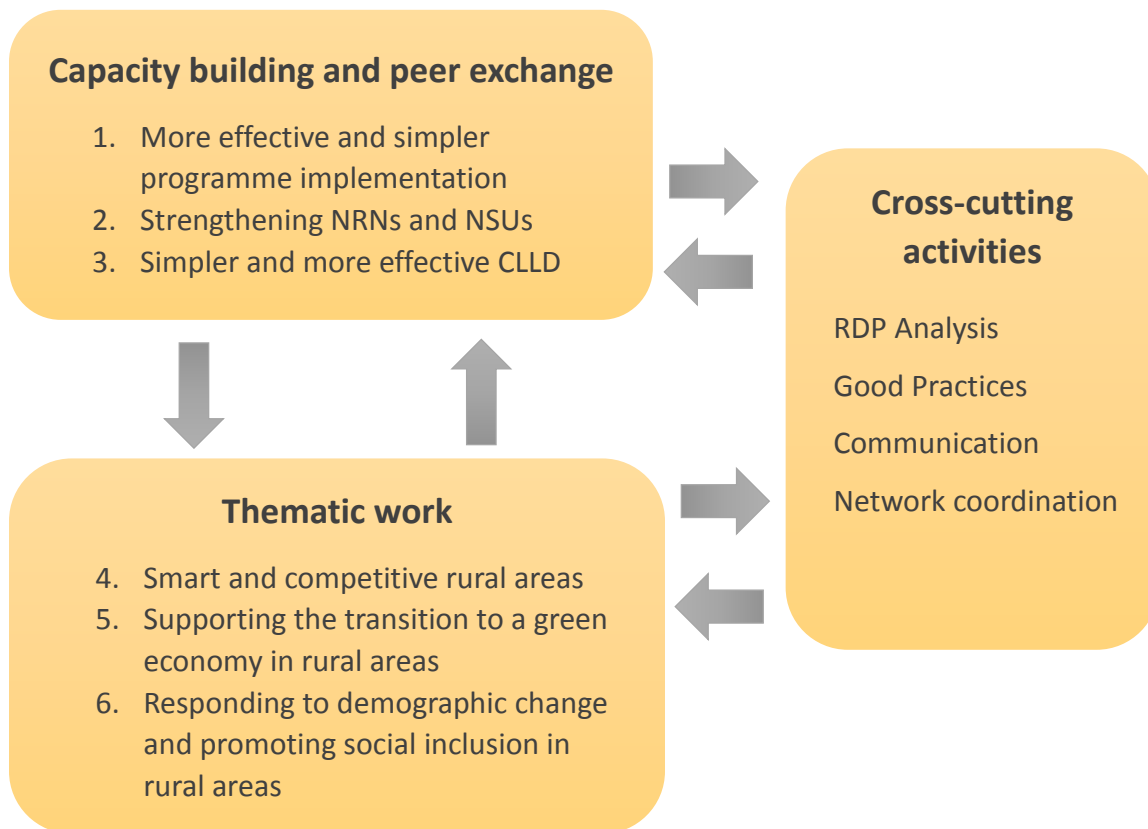
GREEN – Environmental

BLUE – Social

PURPLE – Innovation

2017 Activity Plan by priority

Operational objectives of the rural networks are implemented through the use of a wide range of tools and activity types³. The ENRD CP organises its work – and the use of these tools - through a series of capacity building and thematic priorities supported by cross cutting activities as shown below. Together they tackle all of the priorities⁴ identified by the Assembly.



This 2017 Activity plan is a 'living document' which will be updated periodically in order to reflect emerging priorities as they are identified and confirmed. *Specifically, in the second half of 2017, new Thematic and/or Capacity building priorities may be initiated and are not mentioned in the table below.* Additional / new outputs associated with such initiatives will then be incorporated into the activity plan.

³ Thematic groups; Analysis of RDPs; Good practices; Guidance/training; Website/social media; Publications; Events; Networking (NRNs, LAGs); Transnational cooperation.

⁴ Specifically relevant to the ENRD CP.

	Main priorities	Key outputs
Capacity building and peer exchange	<p>P1. Support to more effective and simpler programme implementation</p> <p><i>This priority is targeted mainly at programme managers (EC Desk Officers, National and Regional MAs, Paying Agencies and Auditors).</i></p> <p><i>The specific topics tackled are those identified by stakeholders as being where the most impact on implementation can be made taking into account the current stage of the programming period.</i></p>	<p><u>Workshops</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provisional topic: ‘Specific challenges of financial management and simplification’, Feb/March 2017 (TBC) <input type="checkbox"/> Provisional topic: ‘Development of practical packages to increase the resilience of farm businesses’, April/May 2017 (TBC) <input type="checkbox"/> Third workshop, topic to be defined, Oct 2017 (TBC) <input type="checkbox"/> Fourth workshop, topic to be defined, Nov/Dec 2017 (TBC) <p><u>Products</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletters, FAQs, factsheets, case studies
	<p>P2. Strengthening NRNs and NSUs</p> <p><i>Facilitating two-way information exchange between EU-level and national networks and among national and regional networks.</i></p> <p><i>Supporting rural networks to reach out and engage stakeholders more effectively</i></p> <p><i>Identifying and responding to MS needs and recognising that these needs differ significantly.</i></p>	<p><u>NRN Meetings</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 7th meeting, Azores, Portugal, March 2017 <input type="checkbox"/> 8th meeting, Finland, June 2017 <input type="checkbox"/> 9th meeting, (location TBC), Sept-Oct 2017 <p><u>Workshops</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> ‘Generational change’, Jan 2017 <input type="checkbox"/> ‘Regionalised networking, May 2017 (TBC) <input type="checkbox"/> Possible third workshop, topic to be defined, Oct/Nov 2017 (TBC) <p><u>Outputs from other activities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Approximately 75 Member State (MS) missions conducted <input type="checkbox"/> MS needs and opportunities reported on, by July 2017 <input type="checkbox"/> NRN ‘toolkit’ updated, by July 2017 <input type="checkbox"/> Common network statistics updated, by July 2017
	<p>P3. Support to simpler and more effective rolling out of CLLD and LEADER</p> <p><i>Support to MAs and LEADER groups to regenerate the LEADER method and enable it to respond to new rural challenges.</i></p> <p><i>Support to make LEADER simpler and more flexible.</i></p> <p><i>Support to demand-led initiatives on cooperation and other.</i></p> <p><i>Improving linkages between LEADER and other initiatives (Operatiounal groups, advisors, multifunding, ESF and ERDF).</i></p>	<p><u>LEADER / CLLD Sub-group meetings</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 4th sub-group meeting, Feb 2017 <input type="checkbox"/> Further sub-group meeting(s) (TBC) <p><u>Workshops</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> ‘Local smart specialization and innovation strategies’, Feb 2017 <input type="checkbox"/> ‘Transnational cooperation’, May/June 2017 (TBC) <input type="checkbox"/> Possible third workshop, topic to be defined, 4thQuarter 2017 (TBC) <p><u>Outputs from other activities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> LEADER/CLLD ‘toolkit’ updated by July 2017 <input type="checkbox"/> MS cooperation fiches unupdated by July 2017 <input type="checkbox"/> LAG database and associated cooperation partner search tool enhanced, by July 2017 (TBC) <input type="checkbox"/> First recommendations from the Practitioner-led working group on cooperation, by July 2017 (TBC)

Main priorities		Key outputs
Thematic priorities	<p>P4. Smart and competitive rural areas</p> <p><i>Work on this thematic priority commenced in 2015 and covers a broad spectrum of sub-themes crucial for the economic survival and prosperity of rural areas, farms, rural businesses, services and villages.</i></p> <p><i>In mid-2016 the CP commenced support to a Thematic Group (TG) on Smart and competitive rural businesses. The TG feeds into and from the events and publications and other communication channels of the ENRD.</i></p> <p>N.B. The TG will be continued or re-oriented fom July 2017. Outputs associated with this phase of the work are not yet specified.</p>	<p><u>Thematic Group: ‘Smart and competitive rural businesses’</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 2 further meetings, Jan-June 2017 <input type="checkbox"/> Final Report, by July 2017 <p><u>EU Rural Review</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Significant contribution to issue 24, ‘Smart rural businesses’, by July 2017 <p><u>EAFRD Projects Brochure</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Significant contribution to the Project’s brochure to be completed by July 2017 (TBC) <p><u>ENRD Seminar</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> ‘Smart and sustainable rural businesses’, March 2017 (TBC) <p><u>Products</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Dedicated web-content; case studies and factsheets
	<p>P5. Promoting the transition to a green economy in rural areas</p> <p><i>Work on this thematic priority also commenced in 2015. It primarily concerns the new opportunities for creating jobs and viable activities as a result of the transition to a low carbon ‘green’ economy.</i></p> <p><i>In mid-2016 the CP commenced support to a Thematic Group (TG) on ‘Promoting a resource efficient rural economy’. The TG feeds into and from the events and publications and other communication channels of the ENRD.</i></p> <p>N.B. The TG will be continued or re-oriented fom July 2017. Outputs associated with this phase of the work are not yet specified.</p>	<p><u>Thematic Group: ‘Promoting a resource efficient rural economy’</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 2 further meetings, Jan-June 2017 <input type="checkbox"/> Final Report, by July 2017 <p><u>EU Rural Review</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Significant contribution to issue 25, within 2017 (TBC) <p><u>EAFRD Projects Brochure</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Project’s brochure on ‘Green economy’ to be completed by March 2017 <p><u>ENRD Seminar</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> ‘A resource efficient rural economy’, May 2017 (TBC) <p><u>Products</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Dedicated web-content; case studies and factsheets
	<p>P6. Responding to demographic change and promoting social inclusion in rural areas</p> <p><i>This subject became a discrete thematic priority in 2016 as a result of the interest resulting from the influx of refugees and the resulting increasing need to promote and ensure social inclusion.</i></p>	<p><u>Workshops</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> ‘How to use RDPs to integrate refugees and migrants’, Feb 2017 <input type="checkbox"/> Possible further workshops, topics to be defined, April-Dec 2017 (TBC) <p><u>Products</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Dedicated web-content; case studies and factsheets

Main priorities		Key outputs	
Cross-cutting	<p>RDP analysis and good practices</p> <p><i>The analysis of EAFRD programming, principally the RDPs, and the monitoring of implementation are key for the ENRD, underpinning many other activities and of direct usefulness to a range of stakeholders.</i></p> <p><i>Good practice examples feed into and out of thematic work and are also directly useful to a wide range of stakeholders. Many practices are identified in coordination with NRNs. Both project and methodological examples are included.</i></p>	<p><u>RDP analysis</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Completion of RDP Measure fact sheets at EU level, by April 2017 (TBC) <input type="checkbox"/> Summary analysis of amendments of RDPs, by July 2017 (TBC) <input type="checkbox"/> Updated RDP fiches, by July 2017 (TBC) <input type="checkbox"/> Production of RDPs monitoring indicator information sheets, by July 2017 (TBC) <p><u>Good practices examples</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 100, by Dec 2017 <p><u>EAFRD Projects Brochure</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Primary information source for all editions of the EAFRD Projects brochure 	
	<p>Communications</p> <p><i>The cross-cutting communications activities enable a wide range of stakeholders to keep up to date with diverse ENRD activities and EU rural policy developments – and to direct those interested to sources of further and more detailed information.</i></p> <p><i>The ENRD website is the single most important communication channel for the ENRD and development will continue throughout the year. Enhanced use of social media channels will continue to be given a high priority.</i></p> <p><i>The main cross-cutting ENRD publications are the regular monthly newsletter and bi-annual magazine. Being linked to specific priorities, the ENRD Rural Review and EAFRD Projects publications are presented in the appropriate sections above.</i></p>	<p><u>ENRD Website</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Fully up to date ENRD Website content including FAQs <input type="checkbox"/> Enhanced website functionalities as required and feasible within the overall EC IT environment <p><u>Social media</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Continuing outreach through Twitter, Facebook LinkedIn and YouTube channels <p><u>Monthly ENRD newsletter</u> (in three languages: EN, DE, FR)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 12 editions <p><u>ENRD Magazine ‘Rural Connections’</u> (in six languages: EN, DE, ES, FR, IT, PL)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Spring 2017 Issue, by April 2017 (TBC) <input type="checkbox"/> Autumn 2017 Issue, by Nov 2017 (TBC) 	
	<p>Support to RNs’ governance, coordination with other networking activities and self-assessment</p>	<p><u>Support to Rural Networks Governance meetings</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 7th Steering Group, May 2017 (TBC) <input type="checkbox"/> 8th Steering Group, Oct 2017 (TBC) <input type="checkbox"/> 4th Assembly, Nov/Dec 2017 (TBC) 	