

# NRNs going local - Workshop

## Findings of the 2017 NRN mapping exercise on the NRNs approach to regional/local networking

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# Background and objective

The ENRD and the NRNs are



bottom-up

top-down

**Mapping and exploring how the NRNs approach regional networking and ultimately local networking,**

**&**

**to identify examples on regional and local networking and how it can be improved.**



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# Sources of information

1. **NRN Profiles** [https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/networking/nrn-profiles\\_en](https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/networking/nrn-profiles_en)
2. **SurveyMonkey questionnaire** on the 17<sup>th</sup> of February 2017 (reminder 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 2017)
3. **Interviews in six Member States:**
  - ✓ *2 MSs with regionalised RDPs: **France, Italy***
  - ✓ *2 large MSs with larger EAFRD funds which have one RDP and a regionalised rural network structure: **Poland, Romania***
  - ✓ *2 MS NRNs that use novel / interesting methods to exchange with 'local stakeholders': **Belgium (Flanders, Wallonia), Slovakia.***



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# General background

The aim of the National Rural Network (NRN) is to:

- Increasing stakeholder involvement
- Improving the quality of RDP involvement
- Informing the broader public
- Fostering innovation

NRN Objectives

Based on the **EAFRD Regulation No. 1305/2013** the NSU should prepare and implement an action plan covering at least the following activities, also known as

NRN TASKS:

1. Collection of examples
2. Facilitating thematic and analytical exchange
3. Training and networking for LAGs and cooperation
4. Networking for advisors and innovation support services
5. Sharing and disseminating of monitoring and evaluation findings
6. Communication including publicity to broader public
7. Contribution to the ENRD

NRN Tasks



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# Results of the mapping work - 1.

A total number of 28 questionnaires were completed in 19 countries.

## NSU Structure in the 19 NSUs (including 4 regional NSUs)



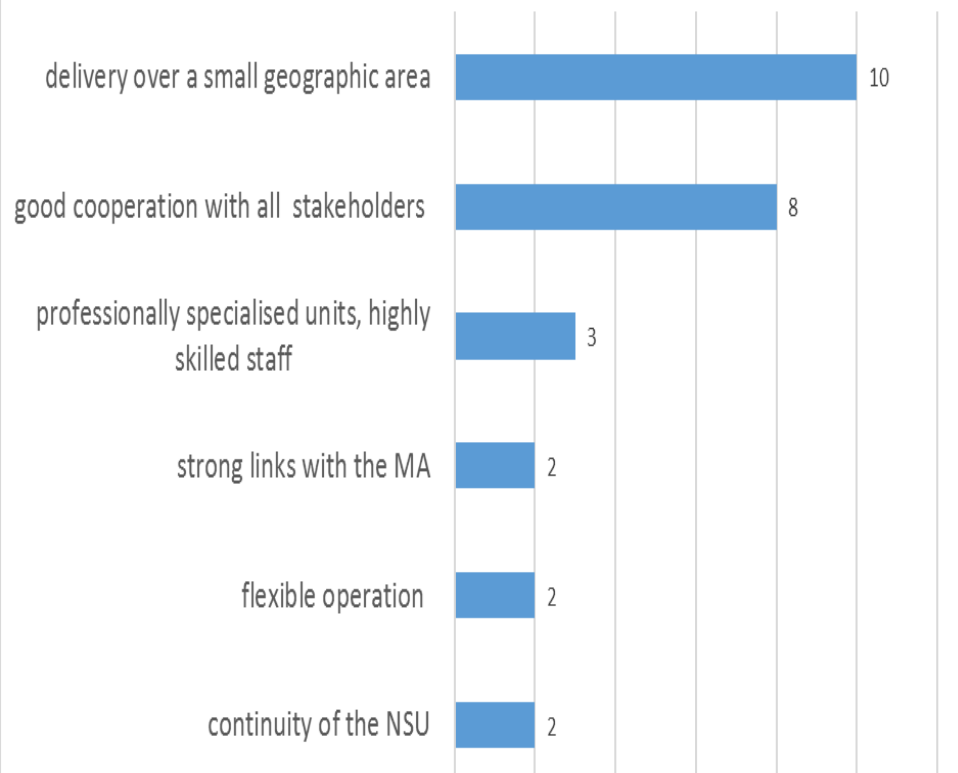
- Only national NSU
- Only regional NSU
- National & regional NSUs
- National NSU and regional/local antennae



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# Results of the mapping work - 2

## Number of EU MS / NSU strengths listed



*NRNs/NSUs are able to collaborate with stakeholders across the RDP, from local to EU level in a way that others in the RDP (e.g. Delivery Bodies) might not.*

*NRNs/NSUs that can work more autonomously are able to engage and operate a “network of networks” in a unique way and by owning resources from TA it is able to act as independent broker.*



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# Results of the mapping work - 3

## Number of EU MS / NSU bottlenecks listed



## Number of EU MS / NSU strategies listed



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# In-depth work results - 1.

## Matrix results

A total of **97 examples** were received:

- ✓ Communication including publicity to broader public (25 examples)
- ✓ Training and networking for LAGs and cooperation (20 examples)
- ✓ Collection of examples (14 examples)
- ✓ Networking for advisors and innovation support services (14 examples)
- ✓ Facilitating thematic and analytical exchanges (13 examples)
- ✓ Contribution to the ENRD (6 examples)
- ✓ Sharing and disseminating of monitoring and evaluation findings (5 examples)



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# In-depth work results - 2

## The autonomy of the regional structures

Regional NSUs are usually autonomous in various actions/projects and related budget, but following an operational plan approved by the central NSU or MA

Their tasks are mostly related to:

- communication
- training
- collection and dissemination of information
- collection and sharing invitation to events at regional/local level



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# In-depth work results - 3

## “Two-way flow” approach

- Best method through face to face contact – time and energy consuming
- Survey - direct involvement of the stakeholders in determination of topics for the following year
- Steering groups, working groups
- Social media
- **Important**  
The regular and mutual flow of **systematic and consistent information** from the EU through NSUs to final local beneficiaries is very important for the effectiveness of the policy at the local level and building of the mutual trust



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# In-depth work results - 4

## Synergies

**Creating synergies at regional and local level is important product of the NRNs activities.**

Closer cooperation with:

- regional/local organisations
  - municipalities
  - regional authorities/institutions
  - various associations of producers
- 
- utilisation of measures such as M19 LEADER/CLLD, M16 Cooperation etc.



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# In-depth work results 5

## Policy-related issues

### Positive

- Having huge potential for rural networking and interconnecting various stakeholders

### Challenges

- Harder to apply for funding
- Large number of different planning tools makes the activities difficult to put in practice
- Significant delays in the effective start of the programming period
- Some necessary processes and tools have been missing
- Bureaucracy (complicated or long procedures/administration)



NSUs cannot devote enough attention to the effective networking at regional/local level



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# Key questions

- Can the implementation procedures for NSUs be further simplified to enable and empower delivery?
- How do we make measures' delivery mechanisms less demanding on the formal aspects and more results-oriented?
- How do we provide clearer guidance, roles and create collective understanding?
- How can we improve regional autonomy?
- How do we share examples of innovation?



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# Thank you for your attention!

[www.enrd.ec.europa.eu](http://www.enrd.ec.europa.eu)

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