European Network for Rural Development

'Understanding the regional dimension of Rural Development Policy delivery'

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Outline

❖ ***Objective***, ***focus*** *and* ***methodology*** *of the analysis*

❖ ***Structures of NRNs/NSUs*** *and RD programming approaches with a focus on selected MSs*

❖ *NRNs'* ***activities*** *in selected MSs (examples)*

❖ ***Conclusions****: bottlenecks and opportunities for improvement*

Foreword – outcomes of previous analytical work

NRNs & information flows:

⊕ *NRNs foster the creation of **connections between different actors at local level***

⊕ ***Regional offices** can better adapt to institutional and societal changes*

⊕ ***Face-to-face contact** is the most effective in terms of reaching the local actors*

⊖ ***Excessive bureaucracy** in NRNs' organisations hampers their capacity to address regional and local stakeholders*

Objective, focus and methodology

- ***Objective***: *to understand the nature of the relationship between NRNs' organisational arrangements/activities and their capacity to improve and better influence the policy delivery*

  - ***Focus:*** *6 Member States*
  - *4 countries with regional programming approach:* ***France***, ***Germany***, ***Italy***, ***Spain***
  - *2 countries with national programming approach:* ***Poland*** *and* ***Slovakia***

- ***Methodology***: *desk work (analysis of relevant programming documents and monitoring reports) and interviews with key actors directly involved in the implementation of the RDPs*

Structures of NRNs/NSUs and programming approaches (1)

RD programming approach	NRN/NSU management
National programming approach (**one RDP**)	1. National NSU only (AT, BG, CY, DK, EE, EL, HR, IE, LT, LU, MT, SE, SI); 2. National and regional NSUs (PL) 3. National NSU and regional/local antennas (CZ, SK, RO, LV, HU, NL)
Regional programming approach (**multiple RDPs**)	1. National NSU only (ES, FI) 2. National and regional NSU (DE, FR, BE) 3. National NSU and regional/local antennas (IT, PT) 4. Regional NSU only (UK)

Structures of NRNs/NSUs and RD programming approaches (2)

- **MSs with regional RDPs** → **NRN regional offices**
  (BE, DE, FR, IT, PT, UK)
  - two exceptions: **Spain** and **Finland**
  - the **degree of autonomy** of regional offices varies

- **Different NSUs settings** ↔ **programming approach**
  (one RDP / multiple RDPs)
  - national **historical background**
  - **admin** organisation
  - management of **EU related programmes**

Overview on NRN organisational arrangement

Member State	No. of administrative regions	No. of RDPs	National Framework	Central NSU unit	Regional NSUs	EIP-AGRI	NSU budget for 2014-2020 (in million EUR of Public Expenditure)	NSU human resources (national + regional)
FRANCE	(27) → 18	28	yes	unit within MA + public bodies ARF and CGET	(27) → 18+1	central NSU and regional NSUs/MAs	43	10
GERMANY	16	14	yes	outsourced to public body BLE	4 + 4	central NSU	10	19
ITALY	20	23	yes	unit within MA + public bodies CREA and ISMEA	21	central NSU	114	80
SPAIN	17	18	yes	unit within MA + secretariat outsourced to external body TRAGSA	x	central NSU	15	7
POLAND	16	1	no	outsourced to public body CDR	16	central NSU and regional NSUs	60	124
SLOVAKIA	8	1	no	outsourced to public body ARVI	8	central NSU	6,7	25

NRNs' main activities

Main Objectives (Article 54(2) of Reg. (EU) No 1305/2013):

a)   Increase the involvement of stakeholders in the implementation of RDP

b)   improving the quality of implementation of RDPs

c)   Informing the broader public and potential beneficiaries

d)   fostering innovation

Successful examples (1)

'RDPs ONLINE APPLICATION'
SPAIN

- Application on NRN's webpage

- Aim
  - Increased cooperation between RDPs stakeholders
  - Improved implementation of RDPs

- Target group: regional MAs and RDP managers

- Launched in 2016

- Web content:
  - RDPs; call for tenders; news; forum; contacts; suggestions.

Successful examples (2)

'COLLEAGUE ADVICE'
GERMANY

- Form of advisory in small groups of 3-5 persons

- Aim
  - Supporting new LAG managers through training
  - Exchanging practical know-how between experienced managers and newcomers

- Target group: LAG managers

- Self-organisation:
  - Grouping of experienced and less-skilled LAG managers
  - Arranging location, accommodation and meal
  - Funding provided by national NSU

Successful examples (3)

'BUSINESS PLAN ONLINE'
ITALY

- Application on NRN's webpage
- Aim
  - helping project promoters to prepare and submit their project
- Target group: project promoters in regions
- Adopted by 10 regions for investments measures
- Methodology developed by ISMEA together with Italian Banking Association
- Possibility to analyse the viability and financial feasibility of the project

Successful examples (4)

'ENGAGING TOGETHER FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT' (MCDR)
FRANCE

- Grant scheme

- Aim
  - Supporting to national and interterritorial partnerships and synergies

- Target groups:
  - agricultural organisations, NGOs, research institutes and universities, unions, foundations, business federations, public agencies and other actors

- Until now three calls :
  - 2015 (€450 334), 2016 (€1 313 464) , 2017 (€1 448 618)
  - 16 projects (26 members) selected in the first two calls

RéseauRural
Français
2014 - 2020

Successful examples - summary

Specific features:

o Developing links between regional/local RDP stakeholders

o Exchanging knowledge

o Disseminating information

o Supporting RDP implementation

Improved rural policy delivery

Key target groups of NRNs' activities (1)

'Coordination' approach

(IT, ES and **FR)**

Main target groups	Focus
Institutional actors (MAs, regional administrations, LAGs)	**Technical issues** to improve the overall implementation of the RDPs

'Pure networking'

(DE, PL, SK and partly in **FR)**

Main target groups	Focus
Project promoters, local stakeholders	Networking as such, supporting involvement of local actors and **disseminating information** about opportunities offered by RDP

Key target groups of NRNs' activities (2)

'Coordination' approach
(IT, ES and FR)

VS

'Pure networking'
(DE, PL, SK and partly in FR)

✓ Strong intermediate organisations

✓ Second networking approach

✓ Focus on **technical issues**

✓ Addressing **institutional actors**

⊖ **Risk that networking is somewhat underestimated, with low level of involvement of local stakeholders**

✓ Weak intermediate organisations

✓ First networking approach

✓ Focus on stakeholders' involvement and on **dissemination of information**

✓ Addressing **local stakeholders**

⊖ **Potential lack of coordination on technical issues and duplication of efforts**

Funded by the

Conclusions: bottlenecks and opportunities for improvement

- **One single approach** (such as food supply chain; LEADER…) might decrease the full potential of the network

- **Balance** between policy **'coordination'** and **'pure networking'**

- **Lack of knowledge** of MAs and local stakeholders about the opportunities offered by the NRNs

- **Networking works better when it is multilateral**: MAs in MSs with multiple RDPs should fully engage in the network instead of waiting only for services
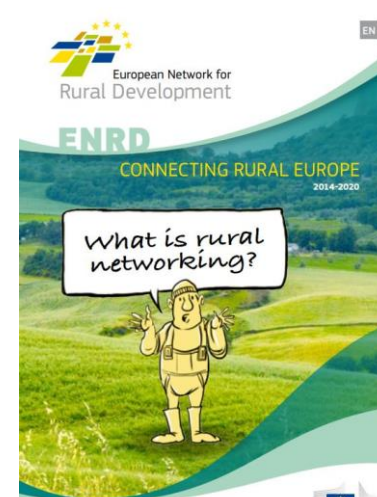
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