

## Working Group 2:

# 'Simplification and capacity-building'

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ENRD workshop  
'Improving rural policy delivery: the regional dimension'  
Rome, 13 February 2018

## Simplification

Reducing administrative burden  
and cutting the time and costs

Helping in reducing errors

Efficient distribution of  
administrative efforts

### - Effect on Beneficiaries

Simpler rules easily understood by  
the actors involved : are reinforcing  
Legal certainty and participation of  
the potential beneficiaries

### - Effect on Policy

Smoother delivery of the policy and  
positive impact on the results

## Capacity Building

It is mostly about  
human resources

“process by which  
individual and  
organizations obtain,  
improve, and retain the  
skills and knowledge  
needed to do their jobs  
competently”

## Clear objectives for the Networks

### *Role for Networks in 2014 – 2020 :*

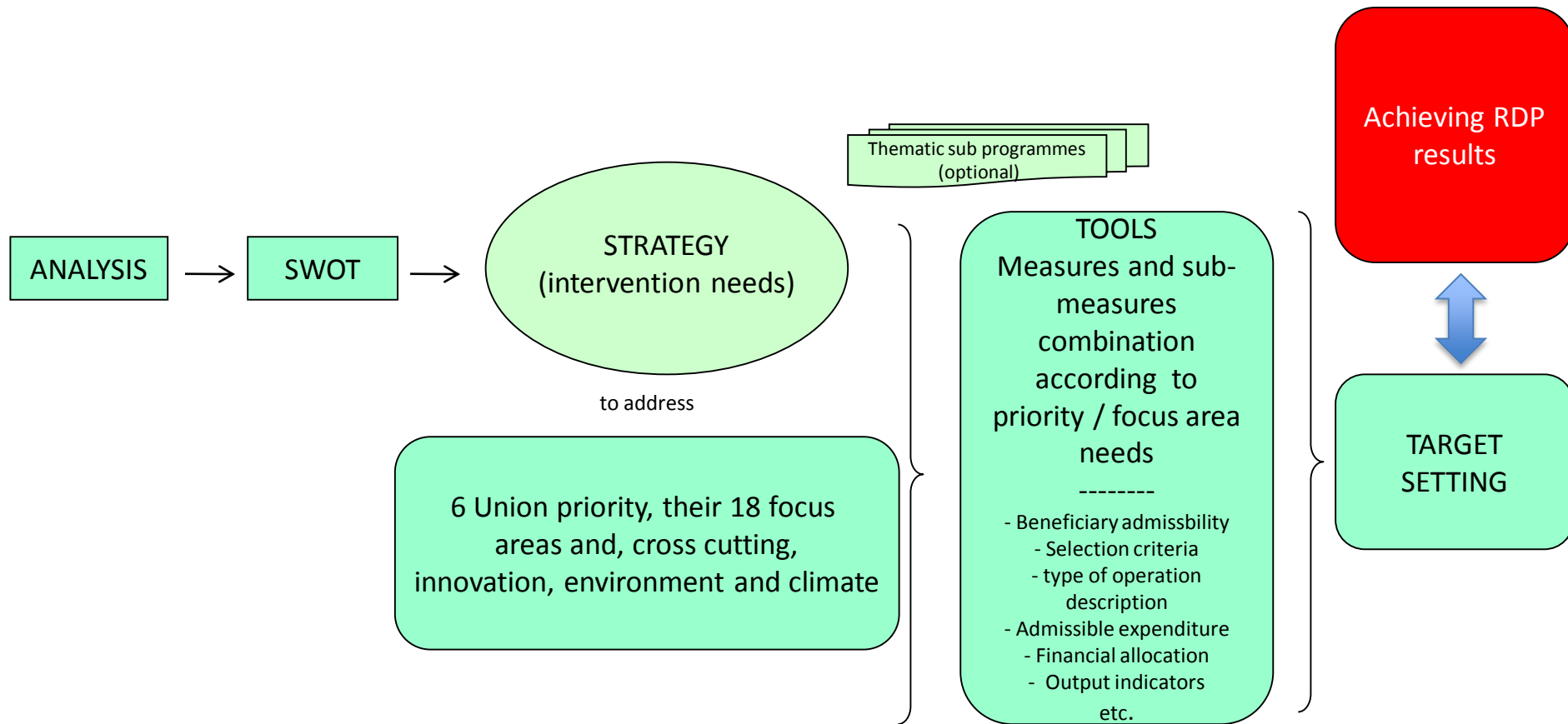
#### *ENRD (EU Reg. 1305/2013 art. 52,2)*

- **improve the quality** of rural development programmes

#### *National Rural Networks (EU Reg. 1305/2013 art. 54,2)*

- **improve the quality of implementation** of rural development programmes

# 2014-2020 a **“Result-oriented”** : EU Rural development

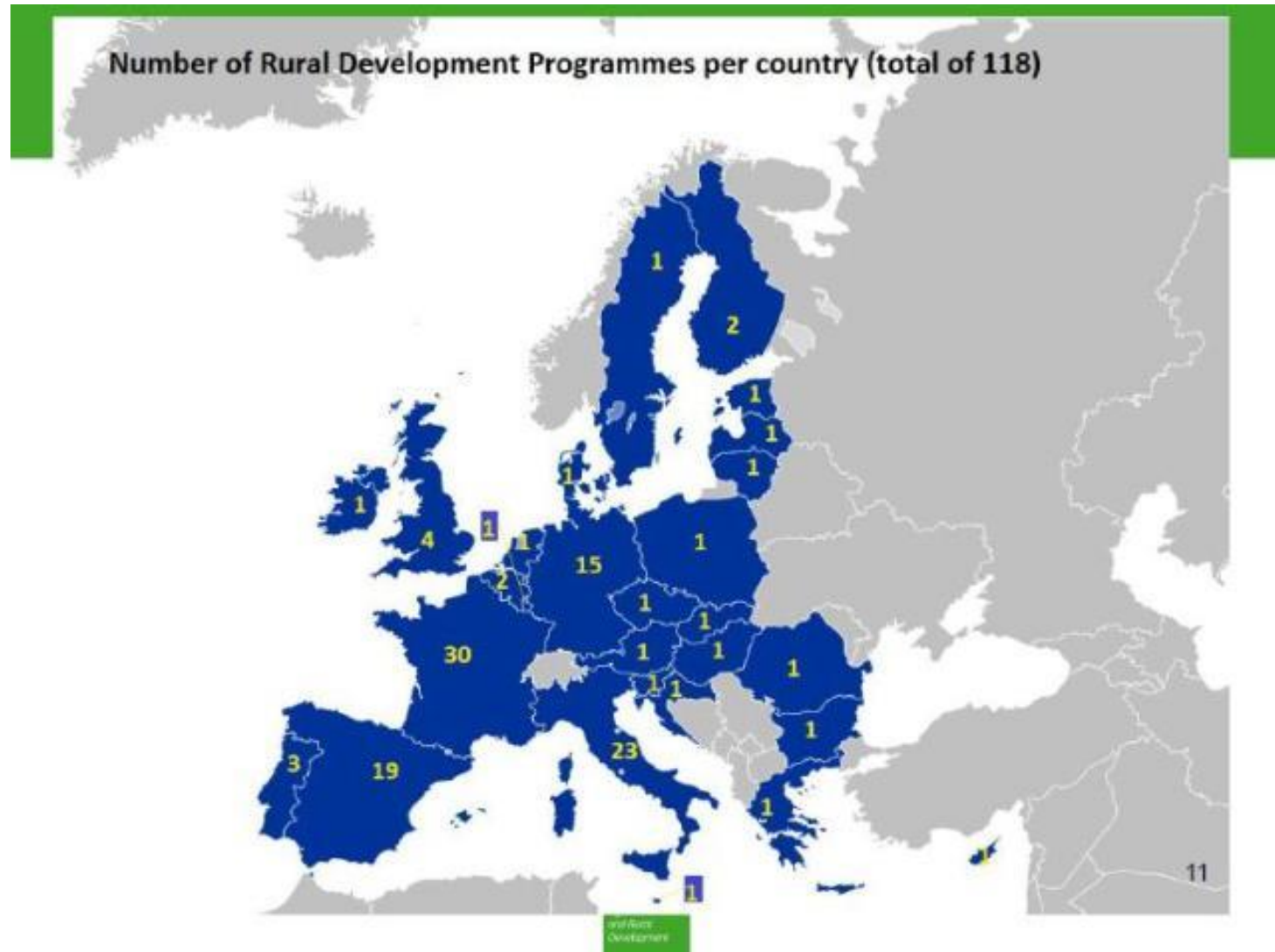


## Ex-ante evaluation

Context features (ie, “ex-ante conditionalites”)

Implementation features (ie, milestones/targets settings in relation to performance reserve, local development – CLLD )

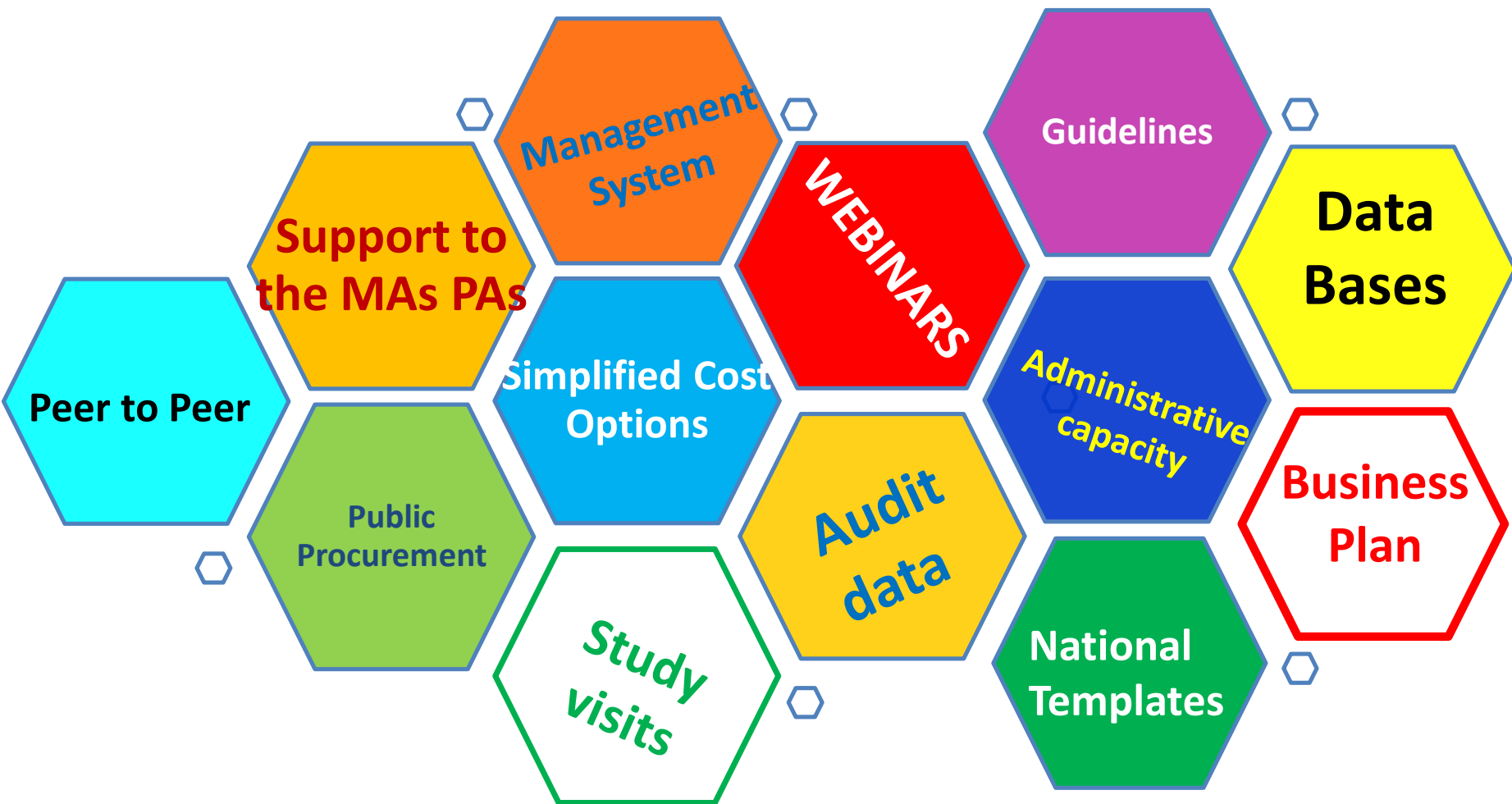
- **1 common European policy for Rural development**
- but we have **118 RDP Managing Authorities (and several Paying Agency)**
- The **European Added Value** is in sharing good practises and experience, or in developing of solutions to common problems



# Simplification and capacity building : examples of NRN activities

*The Italian NRN experience*

# Main topics



# Simplified Cost Options

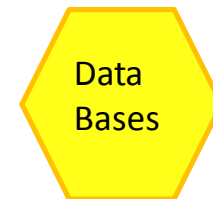
Simplified  
Cost  
Options

## Support to Simplified Cost Options (SCOs) implementation

- Encouraging Regions to use simplified costs, in order to reduce administrative burden and errors in the deliverance of rural policies
- Project started in 2014 – two types of actions
  1. Information activities (meetings, seminars, reports of meetings or workshops in Brussels, etc.)
  2. Establishment of Simplified Costs
    - 2016 – M4 standard scales of unit costs for tractors and combines
    - 2017 – M4 standard scales of unit costs for setting up of fruit crops (establishment costs)
    - for 2018 – update and improvement (optional) of SC for tractors and combines, guidelines for implementation and control, SC for M2



## Promoting exchange of information concerning ECA and DG Rural Development audit



Improving administrative capacity and **reducing error rate** in Rural Development policies by **Identifying root causes and preventive corrective actions.**

- The project started in 2011
- Information activities:
  - participation to conferences and workshops in Brussels and reporting;
  - analytical documents
- **Implementation on-line of a national database on Rural Development audits:**
  - Accessible for consultation by MAs and PAs and regularly updated
  - DB contains the documents concerning different procedural steps of rural development audit
  - Classification by type of major error, region, auditor, etc.

# Business Plan On Line

## web platform for writing business plan



<http://www.reterurale.it/bpol> Accessible via a web application in the NRN website.

RDP: legislation requires the farm to present a business plan from which the **economic and financial sustainability of the proposed investment emerges** and, more generally, **the global performance improvement as a result of the investment attributed to a RDP support.**

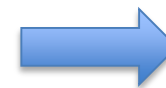
BPOL: The scope of the tool is to help project applicant to prepare and submit their applications and to improve evaluation of their project idea.

The service provides: **a web application for guided preparation of the business plan**, according to the methodology developed by ISMEA in collaboration with the Italian Banking Association (ABI). The web application allows the user to **translate their business idea into a business plan document** that meets the minimum requirements of a business plan and **enables an analysis of the viability and financial feasibility of the project, using appropriate criteria for the agri-food sector.**

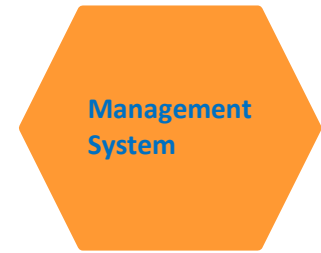
**The BPOL service allows simplification of the application procedures and ensures uniformity in the evaluation of proposed business projects + Improvement of the quality of projects submitted, providing beneficiaries with realistic data on the viability of their projects**

**This tool can be used by project applicant to apply for funding in those regions that have decided to adopt this system for the investments measure M4.**

- RDP Veneto
- RDP Piemonte
- RDP Basilicata
- RDP Campania
- RDP Friuli Venezia Giulia
- RDP Abruzzo
- RDP Lazio
- RDP Molise
- PSR Calabria
- PSR Valle d'Aosta



For RDP measures  
**4.1, 4.2, 6.1, 6.4, 8.6**



## Activity

Design and **development of a management system** for the Managing Authorities with the aim of:

- increase the efficiency and effectiveness of its processes
- ensure the strengthening of administrative capacity
- achieve procedural simplification
- disseminate common tools and methods of work within the organization.

In Italy two projects (Case-Studies) have been launched in Managing Authorities of Emilia-Romagna and Liguria and now are starting activities in other Managing Authorities.

## Target

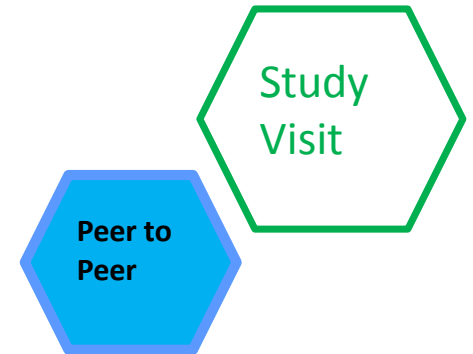
Regional RDPs Managing Authorities and rural stakeholders.

## Timing

The projects have an average elapsed of 12-18 months.

The Italy NRN is ready to start further activities in this area.

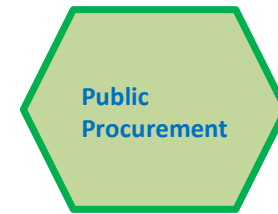
## Study visits for RDP MAs



### International cooperation (2 examples):

1. The Netherlands (28<sup>th</sup> February – 03<sup>rd</sup> March): study visit to the Netherlands for an Italian delegation (MiPAAF - CREA - ISMEA - 5 Regions) on the theme of **collective approaches for agri-environmental measures**
2. (6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017): study visit to Italy by a delegation from the Polish Ministry of Agriculture on the experience of planning rural development policies at regional level.

## Public procurement



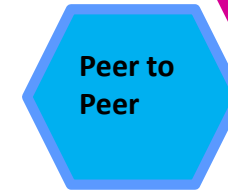
- 3 Series of Webinars on : "**Procurement legislation and implementation of the RDP measures with municipalities as the beneficiary : general framework, main critical issues and findings**"

The initiative addressed to the RDP Measure managers as well as to regional and national structures responsible for carrying out the controls on investments that imply the application of the public procurement legislation; technical staff of the Municipalities who are confronted every day with operations that provide for the execution of works, services, supplies by public bodies and bodies governed by public law

- **The assignment of evaluation services for the 2014-2020 RDP**

The document intends to offer support to MAs in defining the terms for the assignment of the independent evaluation services of the RDPs 2014-2020.

## Other examples



- **EIP National templates** on : *Partnership Agreement, Project presentation, Rules of procedures for the partnership, Basic monitoring info on OGs.*

- Cycle of **five Webinars** on the **baseline for RDP agri-environmental payments**

- Analysis report on the complementarities between the **CMOs and the RDP** for the Livestock sector, the Oil sector and the Fruit and Vegetables sector.

Further Guidelines/support on :

- **Broadband**
- **Ex ante conditionalities**
- **Evaluation – “performance reserve” - AIRs**
- **Territorial indicator for the national strategy on internal areas**
- **M19 Leader Vademecum**
- **Leader Cooperation**

## Questions

- 1) What are the main obstacles to simplification in the functioning of NRNs to improve the delivery of the Policy at the local level?***
- 2) What simplification processes/good practices could the NRNs and the ENRD adopt or help introducing?***
- 3) What is/should be the role of the Networks in strengthening capacity building of the subjects involved in the management of the RDP to improve the delivery of the policies? Which innovative tools could be introduced by Rural Networks?***

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- *What is/should be the role of the Networks in strengthening capacity building of the subjects involved in the management of the RDP to improve the delivery of the policies? Which innovative tools could be introduced by Rural Networks?*