Assessing Rural Networks

At the EU level

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European Rural Development Networks 2014-2020

EU level

The "EU RURAL NETWORKS"
Common governance structure

ENRD - European Network for Rural Development

EIP - AGRI European Innovation Partnership network

Different Support Units:

ENRD Contact Point **Evaluation Helpdesk** **EIP Service Point**

National level

General and specific objectives of EU Rural Networks (NEW)

General Objectives

Enhance participation

Specific Objectives

A. **Stakeholders' involvement** in rural development

B. Dialogue between **farmers and research** community

C. Inclusion of all stakeholders in the **knowledge exchange process**

Improve the policy quality

D. **Exchange** of expertise and good practice

E. Improve the **quality of RDPs**

F. Support the **evaluation of RDPs**

Increase awareness

G. **Informing the broader public** on the benefits of rural development policy

2014-2020

EU Rural Networks Tasks

Analysis and Information on rural development and EIP-AGRI

Support to **Local Action Groups**

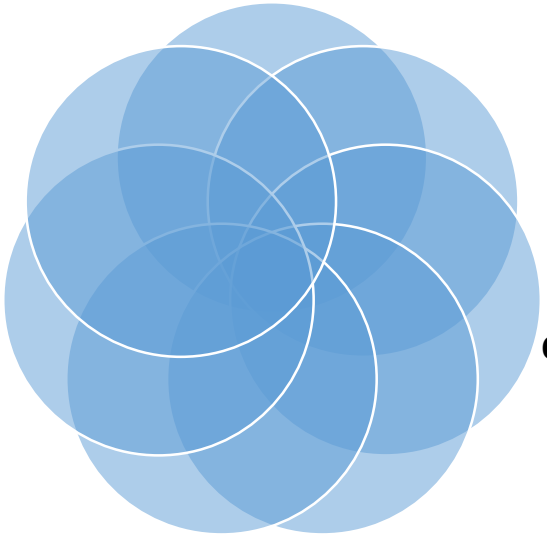
Support on RDP **evaluation processes**

EU level **good practices**

Exchange of expertise through **thematic groups/workshops…**

Support to **Operational Groups**

Cooperation with national networks in EU and in third countries

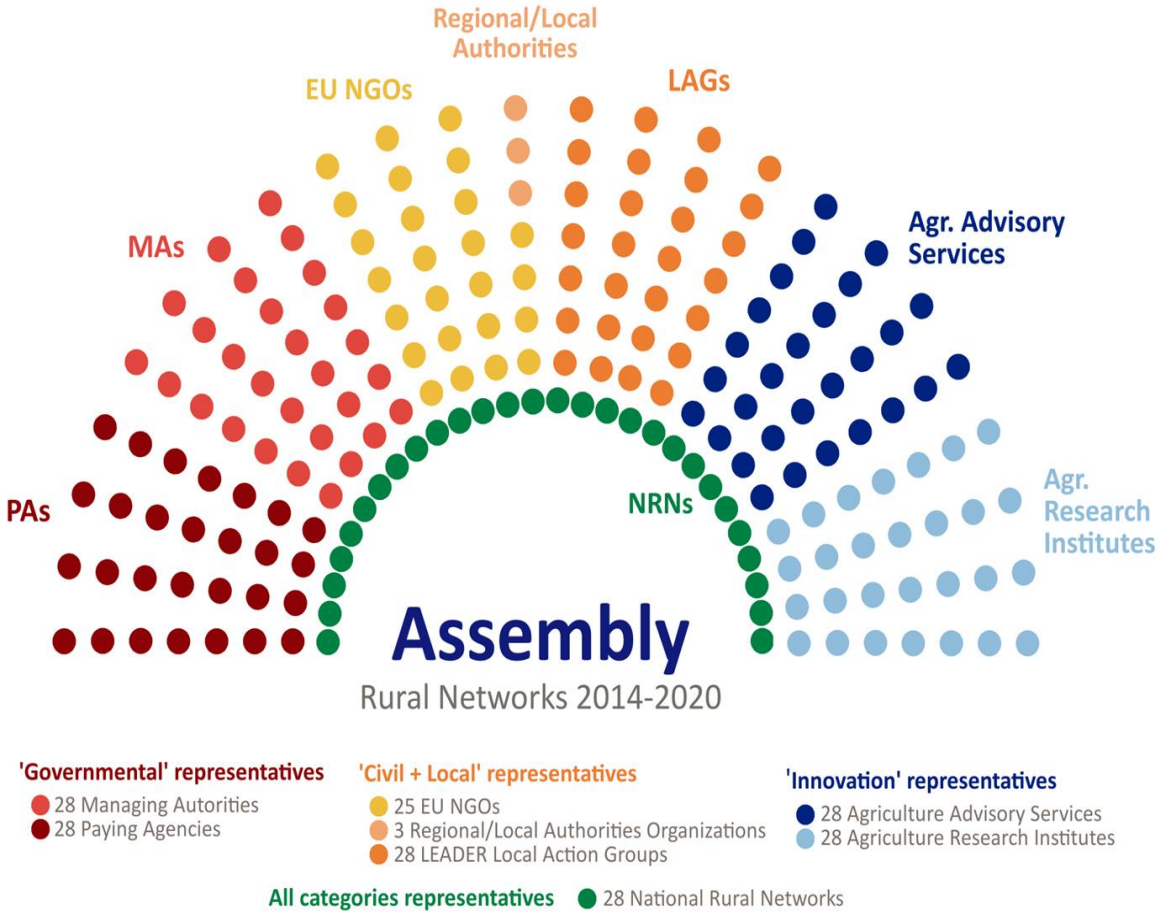


Tools of the networks

Operational Objectives

Types of Activities

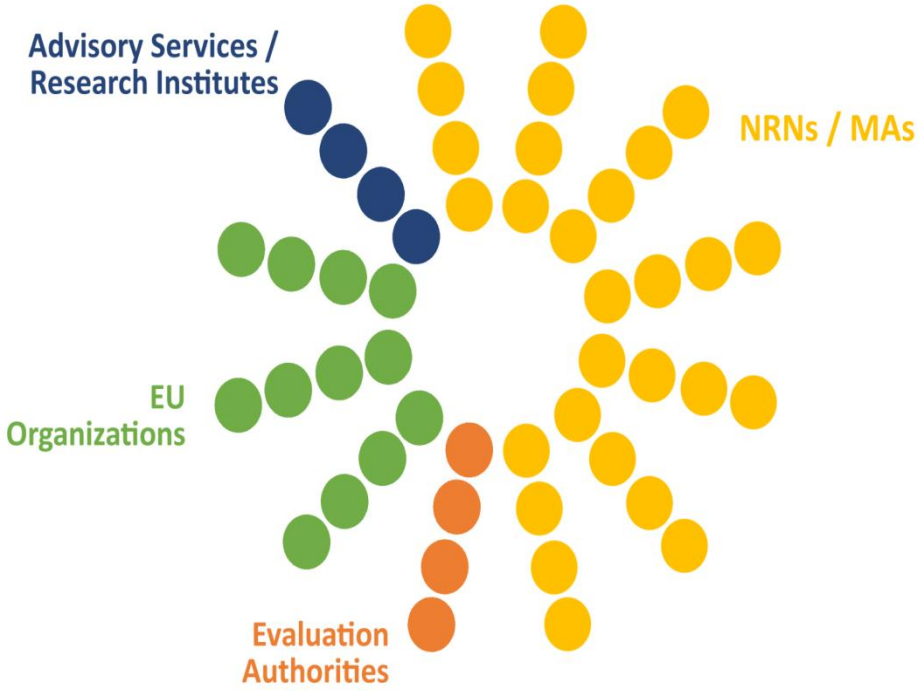
- Thematic groups/focus groups
- Analysis on RD and Innovation
- Good practices
- Guidance/ trainings
- Websites/ social media
- Publications
- Events
- Networking (NRNs, LAGs, OGs)
- Transnational Cooperation



Assembly shall

ensure appropriate monitoring and assessment of the activities of the ENRD and EIP network

with regard to the objectives and the tasks set up in the Regulation



Steering Group

Rural Networks 2014-2020

- 28 National Rural Networks / Managing Authorities
- 4 Authorities in charge of evaluation
- 12 EU Organizations
- 4 Agriculture Advisory Services / Research Institutes

The Steering Group shall

assess on an ongoing basis the effectiveness and efficiency

of the activities of the ENRD and of the EIP network

What should be assessed?

The activities of the ENRD and EIP network

(slide 5)

N.B.: this does not mean assessing the Network Support Units

Contact Point, Evaluation Helpdesk and Service Point are service providers in charge of animating the networks.

Even if they animate most networking activities they are not the subject of the assessment

Difference between network and NSU

Network:

web of interactions and links between different actors

Networking:

process of sharing and exchanging of information, practices, experiences, ideas and resources. Networks do not become operational without networking processes

Network Support Unit (NSU):

the structure needed for running the network to facilitate the networking process and the engagement of stakeholders

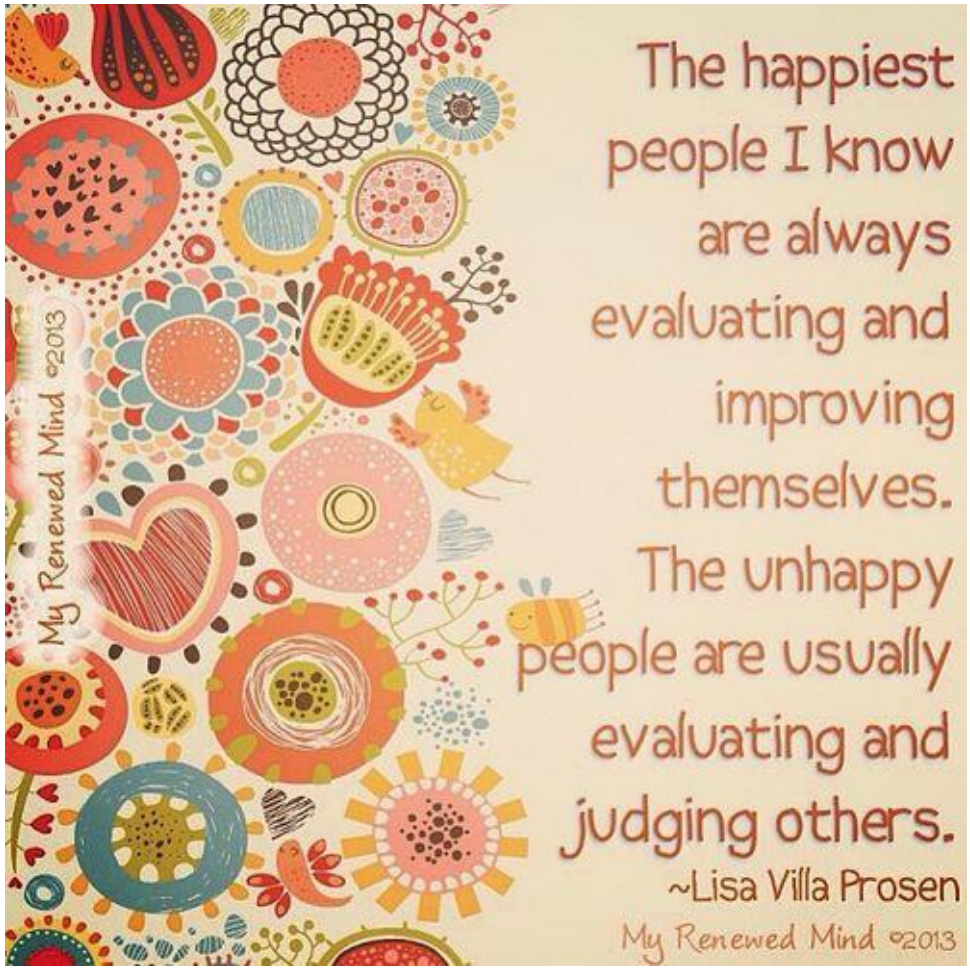
Evaluation or Self-Assessment?

Evaluation and self-assessment serve different purposes.

As all other EU policies, Networks are subject to **external evaluation** - by independent experts selected through public calls - in order to demonstrate their contribution to the RD, CAP and wider EU objectives.

Through **self-assessment,** networks assess their own operations on an on-going basis, with the aim of drawing lessons learnt and to continuously adapt their rolling plan and improve their activities.

It is very important to distinguish formal evaluation from self-assessment



Where should we start from?

"Likewise evaluation, on-going self-assessment starts with developing an **intervention logic** for the network, with setting clear objectives and indicators, and then goes on with continuously monitoring the progress and feeding results back into the work of the network."

Thank you for your attention