



Report of the Outcomes of the 11th NRN Meeting

27 April, 2011
Bad Schandau, Germany

Compiled by the ENRD Contact Point



Connecting Rural Europe

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Agenda Item	Opening of the Meeting
Presentation	<p>The Mayor of Bad Schandau, plus representatives of the Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Rural Development of Saxony and the German NRN welcomed the participants. The Mayor introduced the area and highlighted the challenges the region faces, including a 10% population loss in the last 10 years, dependence on tourism sector, need to improve the education services, and the heavy reliance on state funds. He stressed the achievements the region has made in order to overcome these difficulties.</p> <p>The great opportunity to combine three events at the same time in Bad Schandau was emphasized (namely the German LAG event, the 11th NRN meeting and the LINC transnational cooperation event) whereby participants were provided with the unique possibility of getting in touch with rural development practitioners of all levels (local, regional, national and EU level).</p> <p>DG AGRI also welcomed the participants of the meeting and invited them to do a 'Tour de Table' in order to get to know each other.</p>
Agenda Item	Introduction to the ENRD RDP Projects Database
Presentation	<p><i>Introduction to the ENRD RDP Projects Database</i> by Luca Arnaudo (ENRD CP)</p>
Discussion Points	<p>Luca Arnaudo briefly introduced the RDP Projects Database with a presentation of its main features. He highlighted the power and simplicity of the database, but stressed the need for an on-going commitment from the NRNs to continue contributing project examples. He therefore also invited all NRNs present to participate in a short training session on the My Projects upload tool that is available via My ENRD for the NRNs to use.</p> <p>Mark Redman took the opportunity to thank all NRNs that have so-far contributed a total of 158 projects to the database, but pointed out that there are still some 'gaps' in the geographical coverage of the database where a few NRNs have not contributed project descriptions. Work is now proceeding with uploading and preparing all contributed projects for publication in the database.</p>
Action Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ENRD CP to launch RDP Projects Database – action: ENRD CP to launch live on public website by 20/05/2011• All NRNs to continue contributing RDP project descriptions/postcards via the new My Projects upload tool – action: all NRNs to provide a minimum of 5 additional project descriptions in English (including those project examples committed to support the Rural Entrepreneurship Thematic Initiative) by 30/06/2011
Agenda Item	Strengthening Rural Entrepreneurship NRN Thematic Initiative (I, II and III)
Presentations	<p><i>State of Play</i> by Pascale Van Doren (ENRD CP)</p> <p><i>Rural Gateway</i> by Judit Török (ENRD CP)</p> <p><i>Emerging Sectors of the Local Economy</i> by Christophe Buffet (FR NRN)</p> <p><i>Social Aspects of Rural Entrepreneurship (1)</i> by Cécile Schalenbourg (BE-WAL)</p> <p><i>Social Aspects of Rural Entrepreneurship (2)</i> by Riccardo Passero (IT NRN)</p>

[Overcoming Obstacles to Rural Entrepreneurship](#) by Thomas Norrby (SE NRN)

Discussion Points

The ENRD Contact Point provided a brief overview of the Rural Entrepreneurship Initiative state of play, including a presentation of the draft Rural Entrepreneurship Gateway.

Proposals from four NRNs (BE-WAL, FR, IT and SE) for possible joint actions were presented during the introductory plenary session as follows:

1. Emerging sectors of the local economy – *Christophe Buffet (FR NRN)*
2. Social aspects of rural entrepreneurship – *Cécile Schalenbourg (BE-WAL)* and *Riccardo Passero (IT NRN)*
3. Overcoming obstacles to rural entrepreneurship –and *Thomas Norrby (SE NRN)*

Three parallel workshops on the specific themes of 'Short supply chains', 'Social aspects of Entrepreneurship' and 'Local financing' were then organized based upon the interactive World Café method (www.theworldcafe.com). The parallel workshop sessions were followed by a report back and wrap-up with all participants.

All presentations can be downloaded and viewed using the links above. The action plan proposals from each workshop are included in Annexes 1-3 of this report.

Action Points

- ENRD CP to collate all workshop action proposals and disseminate to all NRNs for feedback and commitment (see Annexes for specific proposals from the NRNs workshops) – **action:** ENRD CP to disseminate by 09/05/2011 (completed with this report)
- Responses from NRNs to workshop action plans – **action:** NRNs to respond with their commitments/counter proposals etc. to the ENRD CP by 20/05/2011
- All documents to be made available through 'My ENRD' and individual forums launched on 'My ENRD' to support individual initiatives – **action** – ENRD CP to launch new forums on 'My ENRD' by 20/05/2011
- All NRNs to contribute to Rural Entrepreneurship Gateway (framework proposal available on the ENRD website and My ENRD) by sending feedback, relevant documents/tools and web links to the ENRD Contact Point for inclusion – **action:** NRNs to provide inputs by 11/05/2011
- ENRD CP to prepare initial Rural Entrepreneurship Gateway for release on public website – **action:** ENRD CP to launch gateway by 30/05/11

Agenda Item **Monitoring and Evaluation of Networking**

Presentation

[Presentation of NRN Self-Assessment Toolkit](#) by Mark Redman (ENRD CP)

Discussion Points

Mark Redman presented progress to-date with the web-based NRN Self-Assessment Tool-Kit. He introduced the structure of the tool-kit and gave a guided tour of its draft contents. This includes a range of materials collected directly from the NRNs and other sources that offer clear examples and clear guidance on the principles and practice of NRN self-assessment.

Mark explained that there is a clear distinction between informal and ongoing self-assessment activities for the purpose of understanding and improving network

performance and the obligations as regards formal evaluations. Nonetheless there is still an overlap between the techniques and approaches used for both purposes. Consequently an important source of inspiration and guidance for the collection of self-assessment tools has been the 2010 Mid-term Evaluation (MTE) reports – many of have been collected and screened whilst building-up the content of the Self-Assessment Tool-Kit.

Mark gave a brief overview of the comments on networking collected from various MTE reports, including the very comprehensive documents prepared for the four programme NRNs. He then invited comments from the NRNs present in the meeting about their experiences and observations about the mid-term evaluation process. Despite some positive feedback, there were concerns that the “added value” of networking was not fully identified and explained by the external evaluators. It was suggested that NRNs themselves should maybe get more involved with articulating (and promoting) the value of networking and the Finnish NRN suggested to organize an NRN meeting/event in spring/summer 2012 on “demonstrating the value of networking”.

Action Points

- All NRNs to send more tools and related documents to the ENRD Contact Point for inclusion in the on-line NRN Self-Assessment Tool-Kit – **action:** Contributions up to end May to be included in initial toolkit launch in June; thereafter on-going for all NRNs
- ENRD CP to finalise on-line NRN Toolkit based on NRN feedback – **action:** ENRD CP to prepare and launch toolkit on public website by 15/06/11
- Finnish NRN to confirm proposal to host an NRN meeting/event in spring/summer 2012 on “demonstrating the value of networking” – **action:** Finnish NRN proposal by 09/06/2011 (proposed date of next Co-ordination Committee)
- Latvian NRN to promote to all NRNs its international conference entitled “Efficiency of Rural Development Measures” scheduled for 09/06/2011. This conference covers a number of themes, including the evaluation of efficiency and effectiveness of National Rural Networks – **action:** Latvian NRN to notify NRNs as soon as possible
- ENRD CP/DG AGRI to develop a draft proposal/concept note for a simple set of 'common network monitoring indicators' for the NRNs to jointly collect during 2011-2012 – **action:** ENRD CP to prepare draft for review by 09/06/2011 (proposed date of next Co-ordination Committee)

Agenda Item

Possible Future ENRD/NRN Joint Activities

Presentation

[*Consultation Process and First Ideas for Year 4*](#) by Gaëlle Lhermitte (DG AGRI) and Adrian Neal (ENRD CP)

Discussion Points

Gaëlle Lhermitte and Adrian Neal presented a comprehensive overview of initial proposals for the 4th year of ENRD activities (beginning from 10/07/2011). The full presentation can be downloaded and viewed using the link above. Key messages to emerge were the proposed emphasis in Year 4 upon:

- Collecting and telling more “rural stories”;
- Sharing more knowledge and experience, and;
- Ensuring, demonstrating and measuring the “value-added” of the ENRD.

An additional important theme was consultation - both in terms of i) building Year 4 activities upon an understanding of the current level of satisfaction with the ENRD

(various surveys have been launched) and ii) consulting with the NRNs about the Year 4 proposals (a consultation process will shortly be launched).

A provisional calendar of events for the remainder of 2011 was also presented and several NRNs contributed further events and dates to this.

Action Points

Surveys and consultations with ENRD stakeholders

- ENRD CP to finalise survey of Coordination Committee (CC) members and summarise results to the CC meeting – **action:** all CC members to respond by 15/05/11; ENRD CP to analyse results and present findings on 9/06/2011 (proposed date of next Coordination Committee)
- ENRD CP to continue consultation with the NRNs on proposed Year 4 activities, including launch of an on-line forum – **action:** ENRD CP to launch forum by 15/05/11
- ENRD CP to undertake user surveys re: publications and website – **action:** ENRD CP to launch surveys by 15/05/11

Communication and next NRN meeting

- ENRD to work on information and communication on the second pillar of the CAP. During May - June 2011 preparation for this initiative will involve three specific actions:
 - a) collection of RDP communication activities from NRNs (/ MAs) – **action:** NRNs (/ MAs) to provide examples of communication activities by 30/05/11
 - b) identification/agreement on examples to be used for joint forum – **action:** Willing NRNs to propose presentation of specific communications tools by 09/06/11 (linked to draft agenda proposed for 12th NRN meeting)
 - c) dedicated NRN meeting in Brussels to review status of the initiative and discuss communication issues – **action:** ENRD CP/DG AGRI to prepare and organise meeting on 22/06/2011 (date to be confirmed)

ENRD databases and tools

- TNC Guide Information tools: some NRNs to provide completed TNC Fiches on rules and procedures, information on calls and contact details of TNC managers following instruction guidelines previously provided by ENRD CP – **action:** Concerned NRNs to submit by 30/05/2011
- DG AGRI to begin development of EU LAG map for website – **action:** DG AGRI to launch request to NRNs to provide data on LAGs by 15/05/11
- NRNs / Participants who do not have access to 'My ENRD' to request login and password – **action:** NRNs to submit requests for new login and passwords to the ENRD CP by 30/05/2011

NRN events

- All NRNs to notify ENRD CP of events planned for 2011 which they want to be included in the ENRD Events Calendar – **action:** all NRNs to notify ENRD CP as soon as possible

NOTE: All Annexes included in this report provide a summary of specific proposals from the NRNs workshops on sub-topics for the Rural Entrepreneurship thematic initiative – these proposals should be considered as working documents, subject to further elaboration and agreement amongst the participating stakeholders.

ANNEX 1: Action Plan Proposals from Workshop 1 on "Short Supply Chains"

Initial proposal by Francis MORIN /Brigitte MIDOUX/ Christophe BUFFET - French National Rural Network

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Interested networks: FI, DK, PT, IT, EE, LU, FR, BE-FL Denmark, Portugal, Italy, Estonia, Luxemburg, France and the Flemish Network

During the 11th National Rural Network Meeting, that took place in Bad Schandau, Germany, on the 27th of April 2011, there was held a workshop on short supply chains. Following the proposal made by the French Rural Network to work on this topic, several other networks showed interest in this theme and took part in the workshop.

Thanks to this meeting, several major questions and issues concerning local production and markets were raised and all networks agreed that the following ones should be considered more in detail:

- ✓ **Knowledge on Short Supply Chains:** first of all, there is real need to define what exactly short supply chains are. In fact, it seems that the definition differs from one country to another. Then, it would be interesting to collect all surveys, statistics and legislations existing on the topic, in order to have an exact "picture" of the situation in the different countries. Finally, to identify existing projects (completed or not) would be a way to know more about short supply chains in various countries (see comments below about collecting relevant experiences for the ENRD RDP Projects Database).
- ✓ **Information actions:** all networks agreed that it is essential to raise awareness concerning this theme. It would be interesting for the networks to gather guidelines but also to exchange best practices concerning trainings (to farmers) and "education" (to consumers, public and private actors). As a first example of what can be done, here is the link to the Finnish platform that enhances the visibility of producers: www.aitojamakuja.fi.
- ✓ **Promotional tools:** linked to the previous issue, the question of how to promote short supply chains is important. The use of ICT is now a real opportunity and to work on this more in depth seems essential. Moreover, it could be interesting to organize a "European day of local products". Such an initiative could reinforce local products but would also be a way to promote the diversity of Europe.
- ✓ **Markets:** it seems also crucial to work on the ways to commercialize local productions and to explore new channels. The issue of supermarket access for local products is in this regard essential. However, it seems that to take action in this field is more relevant at national level, even though exchanging experiences between networks on this subject can be very useful.
- ✓ **Adding value:** there seems a need to work on how to add value to local production. It could be interesting to see how could be linked production, transformation and marketing in order to create value.

In order to deal with all of these questions, the creation of a Working Group has been decided by the networks.

So far, the following NRNs are interested to join this group: Finland, Denmark, Portugal, Italy, Estonia, Luxemburg, France and the Flemish Network

The aim of this group will be at first to clearly define the topic and to exchange best practices concerning local production/local markets. Then, further actions, such as field trips or the organization of a 'European Day of Local Products' could also be taken.

It was agreed by workshop participants that it is essential to use existing web-based facilities to share experiences and to support the Working Group. **The ENRD website can be used as a resource base** (i.e. library) for all participants. For example, relevant experiences can be collected for the new ENRD RDP Projects database and documents can be uploaded to the new Rural Gateway on the ENRD website.

The next step is to organize the first Working Group meeting (exact date, location and agenda to be announced).

ANNEX 2: Action Plan Proposals from Workshop 2 on “Young Farmers and Social Services”

Workshop output 1: Joint NRN Framework Programme on social aspects of Rural Entrepreneurship

Initial proposal by Riccardo PASSERO – Italian Rural Network

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Interested networks: IT, BE-FL, ES, PL, BE-FL

On the basis of EN RD 2010 initial [survey on “Social agriculture”](#), BE-FL, SE, IE, AT, FI, IT, UK and also NL, BE-WAL have interesting social farming examples which constitutes a relevant joint starting point to launch this proposal. The proposal concerns a “working methodology” aimed to capitalize the previous experiences developed in the context of EN RD in order to strengthen NRNs cooperation through the involvement of national stakeholders (farmers, “communities of practice”, RDP managers) for the implementation of common activities with a European added-value and perspective.

Rationale

Taking into account:

- the need to **better involve the stakeholders** (association of farmers, communities of practices, RDP managers) **in the activities at the European level (European Network for Rural Development)**;
- the need to **avoid “single and spot events”** with no real follow-up;
- the necessity “to not duplicate but to integrate” the activities already implemented by stakeholders and “communities of practice” in the national contexts;
- the necessity to be more technical with a detailed approach i.e to narrow the subject and not to be generalist.

Overall objective and scope

The objective should be to create a **strengthen cooperation among interested National Rural Networks** (i.e. 5-6 advanced National Rural Networks) on social farming & young-female entrepreneurship areas.

By the end of 2011, it could be agreed a **Framework Programme of activities for the period 2012 – 2013**.

The Programme could be articulated in sub-topics, such as:

- **Rural kindergartens in farms;**
- **Therapeutic agriculture and services for disadvantaged people** (disable people; mental deficiencies);
- **Female entrepreneurship;**
- **Rural areas attractiveness for younger generation and support for Young farmers** (encouraging of generation renewal in agriculture);

For each of the sub-topic we could list 2-3 activities to be implemented in the entire 2012-2013 period. These activities have to be implemented with a **common approach among Member States and with the support of the ENRD CP**:

- possible "**common activities**": study trips, exchange of experiences for stakeholders, workshops, etc
- possible "**joint products**" among Rural Networks : dissemination products such as promotion brochures, promotion videos, guidelines e.g. training guides for social entrepreneurs, thematic reports, definition of new farm models; proposal of new contract arrangements; survey/questionnaire, indication for the post-2013 programming period; proposals on how to better integrate rural development and welfare, etc.

The NRNs which are not ready for initially participating to this process could benefit from this initiative by consulting results and products of this initiative through the EN RD website.

Generally speaking could participate to this Initiative the NRNs having concrete examples to share and **active stakeholders** in the field of social farming, female entrepreneurship - young farmers (in order to have a proper mutual exchange and learning).

Maybe at the end of 2013 a seminar in Brussels with the participation of opinion leaders, EC Commission, also the press, could be organized in order to show the role of social agriculture namely in providing for social services. This subject is quite unknown to the general public as well as the role of female entrepreneurship in agriculture and young farmers. The seminar could also emphasize the EN RD and NRNs activity within that context.

Advantages of this approach:

- To set up a clear medium-term with a European perspective for cooperation;
- To engage NRN to cooperate in an organised way;
- **To better communicate and to better mobilize national stakeholders with clear objectives and a real motivation to cooperate** (since they see concrete results and a clear networking strategy according to their real needs);
- To establish joint activities with a high added-value, not expensive and easy to implement;
- The possibility to create new relationships among national stakeholders, originated by the initial NRNs activity;
- Creation of a group of experts and "stakeholders" constantly working together in the 2012-2013 period (there is a need for a capitalisation of contacts and stronger networking)
- To communicate to the European public opinion the role of agriculture for social inclusion, innovation, new business opportunities for young and female entrepreneurs, services for the disadvantage people and rural communities (providing examples and a reference to concrete activities set up by the ENRD and NRNs).

Planning

	Activities	Timeframe	Objective
1	"Proper" consultation process with National Stakeholders to be launched by NRNs in their Country (bottom up approach).	May – July 2011	Collection of national stakeholders' needs for intervention; clear indication for activities to be established with other Member States; to identify national best practices and existing experiences to be exchanged abroad
2	Working Meeting in Brussels	September 2011	Joint analysis of the different national requirements in the 4 sub-topics; matching and planning of the future joint activities between NRNs
3	Finalisation of the 2012-2013 Framework Programme among NRNs	November 2011	Allocation of national and European resources for the scheduled activities in 2012.

The ENRD could support the National Rural Networks along the entire process (especially for giving indication on how to structure the 3 process phases listed above; matching and planning of future activities and participation to the scheduled events).

Workshop output 2: Video about Young Farmers

Initial proposal by Cécile SCHALENBURG – Walloon Rural Network

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Interested networks: GR, ES, FR, IT, FI, EE, CY, BE-FL, BE-WAL, PT

Walloon Context

After a work session with farmers' representatives (Young Farmers Federation), it appears that needs for training and support increase during installation phase. The process of installation as farmer is reduced to a technical and economical study. Social needs are not taken into account. Similarly, training opportunities (after installation) need to be updated to reflect changes and evolutions in farmer profession: a new panel of training sessions need to be set up.

A second aspect is how young farmers face announced changes: climate change, environment, energy and multi-functionality. How do they adapt their practices and way of thinking? Are they pro-active? What do they still develop?

European context (workshop 27 April – Bad Schandau)

European countries live a diversity of situations. But the common red line is that the question of young farmers is included in all RDPs.

In some countries (Poland, Greece, Spain), rural areas are less attractive for young farmers and entrepreneurs: bad infrastructures, no Internet access, no specific services for young family or young farmers. In agriculture, the family tradition is quite strong and changes go slowly. In some cases (Poland, Estonia), young farmers are still convinced that productivity means cultivation of a large area. In Finland, farming structures scale is quite important and young farmers have high difficulties to start or continue a farming activity, to manage with heavy investments. The market is quite closed to new activities, diversification and small scale farms. In Estonia, a contrario, a lot of small scale farms and very small

productions are majority. Collective initiatives and local markets become solutions for farmers “non-eligible to RDP measures”.

About financing of activities: in Spain, young farmers access with difficulty to funding because of the high level of requirements (high capital needed for start, high investments,...) and the lack of support. In Belgium (Flanders), young farmers have a lot of ideas but no time and no money to start diversification. Female young farmers are not specifically reached/accompanied by support structures.

Interests at European level:

- How to raise / increase the efficiency of small scale farming, of multifunctional farms? How to develop high added value productions? Which market? Which training for improving technical aspects, better knowledge of EU context and regulations?
- What support to innovation, to improvement of processes and practices?
- How to develop collective initiatives and groups of producers? How to (re)create links between young farmers and citizens?
- Why is it necessary for young farmers to share experiences, to go out of their farms, and in some cases, to take time for themselves (leisure, visits, conferences, etc)?
- How to access funding for innovation, small scale diversification? Alternative solutions to classic loans?

Content for interviews

In participating networks, what are interesting practices, relevant experiences that could illustrate these topics:

- **To start or continue a farming activity** (included for young people out of family farming): what motivations, levers and difficulties, life project and career.
- **Multifunctional agriculture and small scale farming**: what interests for young farmers to develop a multifunctional farm: to produce, to process, to sell, to open a farm? Why? Which challenges do they meet? What social demand? How to raise / increase the efficiency of small scale farming, of multifunctional farms? How to develop high added value productions? What market? What training for improving technical aspects, better knowledge of EU context and regulations?
- **Innovation**: What support to innovation, to improvement of processes and practices?
- **Environment and energy**: how do Young farmers face energy and environment challenges? Are they receptive? What impact on their farm development, on the general perception of agriculture? Is it more expensive to produce with green-friendly methods? Is environment conflicting with productivity? Living observation, management of soils and water, improvement of farming practices and controlling the flows,... are they ready to integrate these dimensions in their daily life ? Are they ready to enter in future CAP new dimensions?
- **Networks**: young farmer evolves in a social network (neighbours, village, activity in rural area, maintain of essential functions for people,...), in a territorial network (interactions with the life of a territory, use and production of local resources,...), a professional network (others farmers, training sector, providers, banks, local developers,...). How to develop collective initiatives and groups of producers? How to (re)create links between young farmers and citizens?
- **Learning and exchange of experiences**: Why is it necessary for young farmers to share experiences, to go out of their farms, and in some cases, to take time for themselves (leisure, visits, conferences,...)

- **Entrepreneur and businessman:** a farm needs to be managed as any enterprise. It requires specific and strong skills in administrative and financial management, controlling data, knowledge of challenges and actuality, adaptability, curiosity and openness. How to access funding for innovation, small scale diversification? Alternative solutions to classic loans?
- **Regulatory aspects:** each farm has to deal with standards and norms, with CAP regulations. How are aspects of control and quality, food safety taken in account? How to take advantage / benefit from norms and standards? What tools developed by Member States and EU are helpful for farmers

How to use this video?

- As an animation tool for farmers' associations, rural NGO, local communities in order to launch the debate around new challenges, training of young farmers and recommendations for future RDPs. We propose to work on a methodological guideline for the use of this video.
- As a way to promote agriculture and young farmers near a wider public (diffusion via other medias, local televisions,...)
- As a way to show European dimension of agriculture and how young farmers evolve and face new challenges in different Member States.

Relevant experiences identified:

- PL: Internet Network of Young Farmers
- GR: Support to installation for young farmers: they receive funding from RDP without specific training, without any capacity building evaluation. So will they continue? -> importance of management plan, business plan and training
- FI: High level of educational training for young farmers (management,...)
- ES: Experience of specific training for shepherds (help to access to funding, recognition of training)
- EE: Community kitchens (access to market for small scale farms, very small productions, collective initiatives,...)

More advanced networks with existing material/realisations for the *video Season 1*: IT, BE-FL, BE-WAL, HU

Planning

Activities	Timeframe	How/where	
1	Content and identification of relevant experiences	3 May 2011	Reactions to this proposal for 23 May
2	First pool of interested networks	31 May 2011	Videoconference with interested network (support from ENRD CP) or forum on My ENRD
3	Filming videos in different countries + subtitle in English	June – September 2011	Support from ENRD CP (tbd)
4	Montage by Walloon Network	October 2011	
5	Promotion	November / December 2011	To provide list of structures active in young farmers' support Promotion during AGRIBEX event (December 2011, Brussels) EU event in Cyprus (March 2012)- tbc What else?

Practically (very important !!!!!)

- Each network interested is invited to commit to a specific number of videos, each one covering one of the 8 issues listed above.
- Each network partner organizes itself (and finances) the production of one or two small videos by using same technical conditions as Walloon Network (common standards and structure-type of an interview). These videos are in local language, but each video is subtitled in English by the network partner itself.
- As much as possible, stories are related to projects financed by RDPs.
- Max 3 minutes / video.
- Material : camera Canon 5D MARK II or equivalent, video format Full HD, sound stereo.
- Final format : 1920 X 1080, format QuickTime (.mov), compression DnxHD ou Apple ProRes.
- Young farmer, less than 40 years old, female or male

Common structure for interview

- The questions of interviewer don't appear. Only the answers are expressed.
- Part I : Introduction
 - ➔ Farmer: Hello, my name is... + age. I am farmer since X years in the region of... + country.
 - ➔ Description of activities: In my farm, I ... (description of field of activity, people working with,...)
- Part 2 : The story
 - ➔ To tell his/her story or project related to one of the questions above
 - ➔ To explain why his/her story is interesting, to what challenges, views his/her project face / respond
- Part 3 : Findings
 - ➔ Questions or conclusions, recommendations, point of view about future of agriculture related to the chosen topic
- The video can show interviewed farmer and some pictures of its activity - To see examples : http://www.pwdr.be/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=68&Itemid=102

Note: During the discussions on young farmers, participants also suggested that the ENRD CP could:

- Undertake an overview about use and results of measures 111 and 113 about young farmers in all MS
- Use of interviews in ENRD publications

Workshop output 3: Questionnaire on how rural areas are perceived by young people
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Initial proposal by Andrea FESTUCCIA – Italian Rural Network

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Interested networks: tbc

The Italian National Rural Network is preparing a questionnaire on how rural areas are perceived by young people. It is aimed at gaining an insight into the major problems and strengths in terms of attractiveness of the rural areas according to the new generations.

The questionnaire will be proposed, according to specific agreements, within the counselling and training events provided for by the Faculties of Agronomy of the Universities to the last two years students of high schools and to the first year students of the Faculty of Agronomy. It will be also proposed to the members of the web community «YouRural Net».

A simplified version of the questionnaire will be also provided and proposed to students in general as a survey and through agreements or partnerships with school-related web portals.

The NRN may provide for an English translation of the questionnaire or survey so that it could be used by the other National Rural networks in order to exchange ideas on the priorities, issues and expectations of the young European generations as far as the rural areas attractiveness is concerned.

Planning

	Activities	Timeframe	How / where
1	Questionnaire in English for comments	31 May 2011	To be provided by the IT NRN
2	Steps to use the questionnaire	31 May 2011	Videoconference with interested networks (support from ERND CP) and/or forum on MyENRD
	NRN feedback and suggestions on the questionnaire	15 June 2011	By interested NRNs
	Final version of questionnaire and format to be filled in for data collecting and processing	9 September 2011	By IT NRN
3	Field survey and data entry	12 September 2011- 31 January 2012	By interested NRNs
4	Analysis and compilation of results	29 February 2012	By IT NRN
5	Promotion	tbd	tbd

ANNEX 3: Action Plan Proposals from Workshop 3 on “Local Financing”

Initial proposal by Thomas Norrby – Swedish Rural Network

Mail: Thomas.Norrby@slu.se

Interested NRNs: FI, LV, SE, IT

Identified issue

The lack of access to capital for investments in rural areas.

Overall objective

To pave the way for an increased availability of risk capital instruments and other financial engineering tools to support rural investments, for instance a broader introduction of revolving funds.

The purpose of this proposal is to outline a process by which NRNs can try to get a joint improved picture of the “state of the art” when it comes to access to risk capital for investments in rural businesses and the processes that take place to support these investments. The purpose is not to be exhaustive but to inspire our thinking and action concerning improving access to risk capital for investments, crucial for an improved rural development.

Any financial model, aiming to support entrepreneurs, is embedded in a support system which is a vital part of what is called the “innovation system”. Therefore we need to understand the context in which different good examples of funding systems across Europe are situated. This “innovation system” could besides the funding structures consists of many components, from school system to idea generation and development, local culture towards entrepreneurship, training, professional networks as well as institutional settings and legal framework.

Anticipated results

1. **Collecting good examples/best practice** of both local financing instruments and projects/investments that have received support through such instruments (both within the different EU funds and from support systems in countries outside the EU).
2. **Training and seminars** directed both to potential investors and rural business people on investment possibilities, types of risk, and options for access/engagement.
3. **Increasing the knowledge and awareness of the legal and policy framework** within the EU systems regarding financing instruments and mutual funds.
4. **Developing a new language** to promote rural development investment opportunities so that potential investors can better access, understand and evaluate prospects.

Besides, a “**subgroup task force on local access to funding to support rural entrepreneurship**” has been formed during the 11th NRN meeting in Bad Schandau. We suggest to call the group “Rural Funding Task Force (RFTF). The group is consisting of Thomas Norrby (SE NRN), PäiviKujala (FI NRN), Fabian Capitanio (IT NRN), Constantinos S. Kastrinakis (ENRD CP), DzintarsVaivods (LV NRN), Rob Peters (DG AGRI), Adrian Neal (ENRD CP).

Immediate priority will be given to the collection of good examples/cases from the Member States. The major tool for collecting this information is proposed to be an enquiry via the NRNS, combined with a desk top study (see further details below).

Planning

	Activities	Timeframe	Comments
1	Circulate the workshop summary outcomes to be commented by RFTF members	6 May 2011	
2	RFTF virtual meeting to decide on the process	6 May 2011	
3	Provision of short note from each RFTF member relating to their area of responsibility and the questions one should ask	11 May 2011	To reach a better understanding of local financing issues between RFTF members
4	Send out a letter to all NRNs describing RFTF intentions and proposed process, asking them to nominate relevant contact persons on the targeted area of local financing	Letter to NRNs by 10 May 2011 Reply from NRNs by 12 May 2011	Targeted contact persons in each NRN with knowledge about funding initiatives, support initiatives, innovation systems, use for this purpose in current EARDF/Structural funds. Failure to name contact person will imply using the NRN office directly in further contacts.
5	Provide to all NRN contact persons a note describing the objective of the study asking them to identify examples from their own country and a link where cases can be uploaded (database or another suitable tool)	12 May 2011	As illustrative cases, the note will be supported by 3 or 4 descriptive examples/cases (with details on financial models) to give an idea about what kind of cases the initiative is looking for
6	RFTF web meeting to discuss and approve the data basis form to be used as a tool to support the inquiry	13 May 2011	
7	Preparation of a draft template for the description of local/regional/national examples identified by NRNs.	Template to be finalised and circulated to all NRNs by 24 May 2011	
8	NRN inquiry feedback based on the template	7 June 2011	
9	Participation of RFTF to the Swedish conference (Local Economy Days) on local funding on 15-16 June, with an introductory session on 14 June to process the results collected and outline further work	14-16 June 2011	

Notes:

1. The initiative is not targeting ordinary bank funding (loans) or direct support in terms of EARDF measures (transfers), but may need to include those instruments since it is the dominating source of funding.
2. ENRD expertise expected: the initiative needs to set aside a person with the combined skill of knowledge of the EARDF national strategies, financial systems and rural development in general to write up a short note on how the EU funding is implemented nationally in terms of financial strategies.

ANNEX 4: Results from Feedback Form

A total of 52 participants were present (without the EN RD CP and EC staff) at the 11th NRN meeting.

The evaluation below was based on 26 feedback forms that the CP received to-date.

Do you agree with the following statements? (please tick ONLY ONE box per statement)

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither	Slightly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total N° of replies
Notification/communication about the meeting was good	7 (27%)	15 (58%)	1 (3%)	3 (12%)	0	26
Organisation of the meeting whilst in Bad Schandau was good	7 (27%)	13 (50%)	1 (3%)	5 (20%)	0	26
The venue was appropriate for the meeting and workshops	6 (26%)	12 (52%)	1 (4%)	3 (13%)	1 (4%)	23
All presentations were clear and easy to understand	8 (31%)	12 (46%)	3 (11%)	2 (8%)	1 (4%)	26
The workshop facilitation was very effective	11 (44%)	9 (36%)	2 (8%)	3 (12%)	0	25
The meeting provided me with new and relevant information	11 (42%)	11 (42%)	2 (8%)	2 (8%)	0	26
There was enough time for questions and discussion	4 (15%)	10 (38%)	6 (23%)	5 (20%)	1 (4%)	26
All discussions were useful and stimulating	6 (24%)	12 (48%)	5 (20%)	1 (4%)	1 (4%)	25
I made new and useful contacts during the meeting	8 (30%)	16 (62%)	1 (4%)	1 (4%)	0	26
Participation in the meeting was worthwhile for me/my NRN	12 (50%)	10 (42%)	2 (8%)	0	0	24
I feel part of an active and effective European network	7 (30%)	14 (58%)	2 (8%)	1 (4%)	0	24
Overall, the meeting was a successful ENRD event	7 (27%)	16 (61%)	2 (8%)	0	1 (4%)	26

Please indicate your satisfaction with the following aspects of the meeting: (please tick ONLY ONE box per session)

	Excellent	Good	Neither	Poor	Very Poor	N° of replies
Strengthening Rural Entrepreneurship NRN TI						
Introductory Session	4 (19%)	15 (71%)	1 (5%)	0	1 (5%)	21
Parallel workshops:						
1. Short-supply Chains	4 (29%)	10 (71%)	0	0	0	14
2. Young Farmers and Social Agriculture	1 (6%)	13 (81%)	2 (13%)	0	0	16
3. Local Financing	3 (38%)	4 (50%)	0	0	1 (12%)	8
Monitoring and Evaluation of networking session	3 (16%)	12 (63%)	3 (16%)	0	1 (5%)	19
Future ENRD/NRN Joint Activities	5 (28%)	11 (61%)	2 (11%)	0	0	18
The chosen format was one day, split into plenary sessions and parallel working groups. How do you rate this overall format?	2 (8%)	18 (76%)	2 (8%)	2 (8%)	0	24
How do you rate the interactive 'World Café' workshop format?	10 (40%)	11 (44%)	3 (12%)	1 (4%)	0	25