



Report of the Outcomes of the 13th NRN Meeting

10-12 November, 2011
Den Haag, The Netherlands

Compiled by the ENRD Contact Point



Connecting Rural Europe

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Agenda Item	Opening of the Meeting (10th November 2011)
	<p>Rob Peters (DG AGRI) and Adrian Neal (ENRD Contact Point) welcomed participants to the 13th NRN meeting at the Novotel Hotel in the Hague, Netherland.</p> <p>Adrian Neal thanked the National Rural Networks for their commitment and support with regards to ongoing ENRD requests. He thanked in particular the Dutch Network for the support in organizing the meeting in such a short time.</p> <p><i>A tour de table</i> was made so that everyone knew who was attending.</p>
Agenda Item	NRN Current Activities
Presentation	Dutch NRN by Marga de Jong and Rob Janmaat (<i>Netwerk Platteland</i>)
Discussion Points	<p>Presentation by Marga de Jong and Rob Janmaat on the mandate, structure, activities, work plan and outcomes of the Netwerk Platteland, Netherlands.</p> <p>Presentation by Hans Bergström from the Finnish Network on a proposal to publish a book on "<i>Innovative Rural Europe – Best Practices and New Insights across European Rural Regions</i>" under the NRN Rural Entrepreneurship Thematic Initiative. Target date for finalization and publication is December 2012. Hans also gave advance notice of the 15th NRN meeting in Finland in May 2012.</p> <p>Helena Kõiv from the Estonian Network gave an overview of planned network activities, including study tours to be organized in relation to themes such as Local foods, Social farming and Small scale tourism enterprises.</p> <p>From the Slovak NRN, Malvina Gondova explained that the network was involved in discussing the findings of the Mid-Term Evaluation as well as the future RDP. A conference will be organized and NRNs were invited to participate. A pilot project on short supply chains was also being planned.</p> <p>Maria-Carla Ciscaldi from the Maltese NRN explained how the NRN was busy following a visit by Commissioner Ciolos during an NRN Meeting and that preparations were under way to prepare for a conference to be held in January 2012 as part of the consultation process for the development of the 2014-2020 RD Strategic Plan for Malta.</p> <p>Agnes Kiss explained that the Hungarian NRN was busy with a seminar on Young People. The NRN will focus on a number of initiatives linked to rural youth such as a conference on "Youths in the Countryside" and support for the creation of rural youth organisations.</p> <p>Riccardo Passero from the Italian NRN invited the NRNs to register for the communication conference supported by the ENRD CP in Milan between the 17-19th of November 2011. In addition he explained the process that the Italian Network was undertaking through its various thematic focus groups in relation to the development of the next RDP.</p> <p>From the Greek NRN, Petros Mouchas explained briefly how the Greek NRN was formally set-up in recent months and that a first meeting was organized in Athens.</p> <p>Lucía Martínez García-Denche from the Spanish NRN outlined recent network activities, involvement in a recent Monitoring Meeting, guidelines for good practice in rural development, training courses linked to specific rural development objective and an exhibition on art linked to the rural environment.</p> <p>The Walloon Rural Network announced the finalization of their Young Farmers video. In conjunction with the Flemish Network a conference "Jeunes ET agriculteur" will be held at the Agribex show in Gent on 9th December 2011 during which the video will be</p>

launched to the media. Videos prepared by various other NRNs have collated and edited to produce a single DVD containing all resource material.

Action Points

- **Action:** ENRD CP – identify and contact all NRNs interested to support the Finnish NRN book project - by **31 December 2011**.
- **Action:** ENRD CP / Wallonian NRN - young farmer videos co-ordinated by the Walloon NRN to a) be uploaded to the ENRD website and b) reviewed as resource material for an ENRD video - by **31 December 2011**.

Agenda Item

General ENRD Update

Presentations

[Rural Finance](#) by Donald Aquilina (ENRD CP)

[Social Aspects and Forestry](#) by Mark Redman (ENRD CP)

Discussion Points

Adrian Neal opened the session by highlighting the progress already made with the NRN Thematic Initiatives, but stressed that further real actions need to be taken, including linking thematic activities to the next programming period 2014-2020.

Short Supply Chains (SSCs)

Christophe Buffet of the French NRN presented progress with the SSC Working Group since they met in June 2011. He explained that a forthcoming issue of the *EU Rural Review* (spring 2012) will be dedicated to short supply chains / local food, and that the ENRD CP has engaged an expert to develop a concept note for the publication. Christophe explained this was a good opportunity to engage / involve other NRNs with the collection of project examples, case studies, national statistics and other articles. Specific interest in contributing was expressed by the Slovakian and Scottish rural networks.

Rural Finance

Donald Aquilina (ENRD CP) gave an overview of progress with the rural finance sub-theme and stressed the need for further support from the NRNs – including those that formed the Rural Finance Task Force in April 2011. He explained that the current focus of work was upon completing a baseline study on existing financial instruments, including providing a set of clear conclusions and recommendations in the context of discussions about the new legislative proposals for 2014-2020.

All NRNs were asked to help collect: i) additional examples of rural finance instruments (EU/non-EU), including support provided by NGOs/Foundations, and; ii) information from financial institutions on factors related to credit risk mitigation. A second survey will be launched by e-mail. The Cypriot NRN suggested that the ENRD CP requests all types of information from the NRNs instead of only requesting them to answer a questionnaire.

Social Aspects

Mark Redman initiated a discussion with the participating NRNs and it was agreed that use of the term "social aspects of rural entrepreneurship" has been confusing and unclear - consequently the sub-theme has lost some direction.

Nonetheless, some very interesting joint actions have taken place between the networks - namely, the series of videos on the challenges young farmers (already mentioned above) led by the Wallonian rural network and the survey of young people's perception of rural areas led by the Italian network. In view of the broad range of initiatives relating to young people and rural areas underway in many Member States it was suggested that it might be more appropriate to re-name the sub-theme as "Youth and Young Farmers" rather than "Social Aspects of Rural Entrepreneurship". The first activity should be establishment of a "Rural Youth and Young Farmers Gateway" on the ENRD website.

Forestry

The forestry sub-theme has continued to develop and to maintain its own momentum with NRNs continuing to organize an on-going series of activities – the two most recent events (both supported by the ENRD CP) being: i) the study trip organized in September 2011 by the French LAG *Pays Adour Landes Océane* in the Aquitaine region on the theme of “Forest Multi-functionality and Local Governance: an Integrated Approach”, and; ii) the seminar on “Biomass Production from Forest at Local-scale” organized by the Finnish NRN at the end of October 2011.

Action Points

- **Action:** French NRN / ENRD CP - concept note on *short supply chains* to be distributed to all NRNs as soon as possible in order for further input with a follow-up video conference organized by the ENRD CP - by **7 December 2011**.
- **Action:** All NRNs - feedback requested from all NRNs regarding the Interim report on Rural Finance that is uploaded to “My ENRD” – by **2 December 2011**.
- **Action:** ENRD CP / all NRNs – the CP will send a survey to all NRNs in order to collect additional information required to compile the final report on the rural finance theme – all submissions by **7 December 2011**.
- **Action:** ENRD CP - development of concept for a “Rural Youth and Young Farmers” gateway on the ENRD website to support more potential NRN joint actions on these themes – by **31 December 2011**.

Agenda Item

Demonstrating the “Added Value of Networking”

Presentations

[Rural Networking Post-2013](#) by Rob Peters (DG AGRI)

[Demonstrating the Added Value of Networking](#) by Anja Hayes (ENRD CP)

[Introduction to the Workshops](#) by Mark Redman (ENRD CP)

Discussion Points

Rob Peters (DG AGRI) presented an overview of the Commission’s legislative proposals for the 2014-2020 programming period with particular emphasis upon the enhanced networking approach – namely, the generalist ENRD; specialist Evaluation Expert Network (EEN) and European Innovation Partnership (EIP) Network, and; strengthened role for the NRNs. Mark Redman (ENRD CP) reminded participants of the background to the joint NRN action on demonstrating the “value added of networking” and explained that the objective of the action is to pool the resources of as many NRNs as possible to illustrate and communicate the current state of knowledge and understanding regarding the added value of networking in rural development policy. This work will conclude at the 15th NRN meeting in Finland in May 2012.

Anja Hayes (ENRD CP) continued by explaining how the “demonstrating the added value of networking” action builds upon the NRN self-assessment tool-kit that was originally initiated during the 9th NRN meeting in Malta in June 2010. Additional user-friendly sections will be added to the on-line NRN Self-Assessment Tool-Kit and it is anticipated that this will help the NRNs address the challenge of communicating the value of networking to key decision-makers at national / regional level.

Anja continued to present the key steps in the methodology proposed for working with the NRNs – including a literature review; development of conceptual framework; collection of common network statistics, and; collation of a broad range of networking ‘success stories’ and ‘case studies’. She then presented the preliminary findings of a survey launched with the rural networks to identify what ‘common statistics’ on networking activities are being collected by the NRNs.

Mark Redman (ENRD CP) then launched the workshop session with the aim of identifying potential 'success stories' and 'case studies' that the NRNs can contribute for demonstrating the added value of networking. The results of the workshops can be found in Annex 1 to this report.

Action Points

- **Action:** All NRNs - NRNs that had not yet responded to the online survey of available 'common statistics' were encouraged to do so – by **18 November 2011**.
- **Action:** ENRD CP - to circulate a guidance note on the common methodology for 'demonstrating the added value of networking', including a template for success stories and case studies (information required, format, level of detail etc.) - by **31 December 2011**.
- **Action:** ENRD CP / Finnish NRN – to follow-up with preliminary discussions about organization of the 15th NRN meeting in May 2012 – by **15 December 2011**.

Agenda Item

NRN "Knowledge Exchange Clusters"

Presentations

[The Concept of Network Clusters](#) by Mark Redman (ENRD CP)

[Video about the Nordic-Baltic Cluster of NRNs](#) prepared by the Estonian NRN

Discussion Points

Mark Redman (ENRD CP) started his presentation by highlighting the great diversity of the NRNs in terms of governance, administrative capacities, thematic priorities, levels of co-operation etc. He stressed the value of this diversity and suggested that a natural consequence of such diversity was the thematic / geographical 'clustering' of NRNs.

He proceeded to introduce the concept of macro-regional clusters with the example of the Nordic-Baltic cluster of rural and fisheries networks. This cluster consists of 8 rural and 3 fisheries networks from DK, SE, FI, EE, LV, LT, PL and DE. A video from a recent joint meeting of the Nordic-Baltic networks was shown (courtesy of the Estonian network).

A lively discussion followed. Several participants pointed that cooperation between NRNs in a region often arises naturally. A good example of this is the Nordic-Baltic cluster, as well as the cooperation between the SK, CZ, HU and PL networks. However, it was also pointed out that the proactive clustering of networks is also a useful 'tool' for improving communication, facilitating greater co-operation and enhancing the exchange of knowledge and experience between networks.

NRNs present from the Mediterranean region took the opportunity to discuss the possibility of a macro-regional cluster in their area and the Italian NRN suggested the launch of a pilot / informal Mediterranean cluster. The Greek NRN suggested hosting the first meeting of this new cluster in conjunction with the 14th NRN meeting in Thessaloniki in February 2012.

Concluding advice from the Nordic-Baltic NRNs present was to "keep it simple" when planning a macro-regional cluster of NRNs - only discuss one item per meeting; at each meeting confirm which NRN is responsible for the next meeting, and; set realistic targets for joint actions together.

Action Points

- **Action:** ENRD CP / Greek NRN - to plan for the organization of the first meeting / workshop of the Mediterranean macro-regional cluster in conjunction with the 14th NRN meeting in Thessaloniki (February 2012) – by **15 December 2011**.
- **Action:** ENRD CP - to circulate preparatory notes for the Mediterranean cluster and initiate discussions about a possible Danube cluster – by **31 December 2011**.

Agenda Item	RDP Projects Database
Presentation	<u>Update on Progress and Next Steps</u> by Anna Augustyn / Adrian Neal (ENRD CP)
Discussion Points	<p>Anna Augustyn and Adrian Neal (ENRD CP) gave a presentation on the RDP Projects Database, including an overview of the evolving dynamics of the tool; the number of projects received from the NRNs and those published (270 as of 10 November 2011); information on the nature of the projects and under which Axis these have been supported; the number of contributions by the NRNs, and; the tools on the ENRD website that allow NRNs to upload project information files.</p> <p>Adrian Neal highlighted that because of the variable quality of information provided, the CP had put lot of time and effort into editing the project examples e.g. to improve the language, increase clarity, or provide missing or additional information. Numerous factors have contributed to the variable quality of project descriptions and the CP / NRNs should work together towards improving quality in the future. However, it will no longer be possible for the CP to accept project examples in other languages apart from English.</p> <p>Mr. Neal proposed a target of 400 published projects by the end of June 2012 and that this could easily be achieved should each NRN contribute a minimum of 5 additional projects.</p>
Action Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Action: All NRNs - to collect a minimum of 5 further project examples and send them in a good quality format, in English language to the ENRD CP – by 31 January 2012.• Action: All NRNs - to nominate and notify to the ENRD CP a contact person to be responsible for selection, editing and uploading of projects to My Projects – by 31 December 2011.

Agenda Item	Forthcoming Events of DG AGRI and ENRD Contact Point
Presentation	<u>Update on Forthcoming Activities</u> by Adrian Neal (ENRD CP) <u>Introduction to the 14th NRN Meeting</u> by Petros Mouchas (Greek NRN)
Discussion Points	<p>Adrian Neal informed the meeting about the forthcoming activities of DG AGRI and ENRD CP, including the calendar of meetings and events, planned thematic activities and communication products.</p> <p>The NRNs were invited to contribute to the fairs in Berlin and Paris in early 2012 to present their networking activities and to propose RDP projects to be presented by the project holders. A major LAG event will be organized in Brussels in the spring of 2012.</p> <p>With regard to thematic issues, the next ENRD Co-ordination Committee (CC) will address preparations for the new programming period. The intention is to propose two new CC focus groups – one on environmental services and the other on innovation/knowledge transfer. A series of workshops on various aspects of RDP implementation are also foreseen during 2012.</p> <p>The CP is preparing a number of publications and communication products: "ENRD Magazine", "Rural development Policy in Figures" and a revamped ENRD website. There will also be an ENRD photo-competition.</p> <p>The next 14th NRN meeting will take place in Thessaloniki in Greece (2nd-4th Feb 2012) and Petros Mouchas from the Greek NRN gave an overview of the proposed programme and extended a warm welcome to all NRNs to participate.</p>

Agenda Item	Field Visits (11th November 2011)
Presentation	CittaSlow – Midden-Delfland and video link
Discussion Points	<p>The field visit was organised in the Midden-Delfland Municipality and started with a visit to the village of De Hooiberg followed by the dairy farm De Paardenstal. Midden-Delfland located in a 3 000 ha green area between Rotterdam and The Hague. The area has been under reconstruction since the 1970s and local citizens and relevant authorities, as well as farmers, agreed on the need to keep the area green and to maintain agricultural activities.</p> <p>Several activities have therefore been put in place to preserve agriculture and to compensate farmers for the green services they provide to the community. The 'Green Score point system' is one of the most important actions initiated in this framework. According to this system score points are rewarded for specific measures that are supplementary to the agri-environmental measures under the national schemes on the following fields: agro-biodiversity; landscape elements, cultural heritage, accessibility and education.</p> <p>This system has been operational since 2006 and is managed by the Midden-Delfland Green Fund organisation. The scheme receives support from the Dutch RDP and is a successful example of positive results obtained through the cooperation of different actors within the same territory – notably, farmers, municipalities, private companies and citizens. It was underlined that to establish a useful cooperation atmosphere amongst the different actors was the main difficulty and challenge to be overcome in the setting up this system. Other actions are also promoted in the area in order to support farmers' diversification into other activities mainly related to tourism and leisure activities.</p> <p>In addition, the Midden-Delfland municipality is part of the "Cittaslow" network which aims to raise awareness about the quality of local products in the area; to support cooperation between different groups of actors; to define a clear identity of the area, and; to improve publicity and its visibility. The experience in the Midden-Delfland shows how good co-operation can improve the economic viability of an area, help preserving the landscape and attract private investments in the area. Citizens may consider worth investing money in the area since they receive back environmental and social services.</p>
Agenda Item	Rural Parliament (12th November 2011)
Presentation	Website of the Dutch NRN Background Note
Discussion Points	<p>The Dutch Rural Parliament was organized for the first time in 2005 and has been held every 2 years since then. It is based upon the model and experiences of the Swedish Rural Parliament and acts as a platform where politicians and rural residents come into direct contact to exchange problems and solutions on current themes.</p> <p>This year the Dutch Rural Parliament was organized at the heart of Dutch democracy in The Hague at the Dutch House of Representatives where the national parliament sits. Plenary sessions were all simultaneously translated into English and two workshops were specifically organized for international participants on the EU CAP reform and the Added Value of the Rural Parliament. The aim of these workshops was to discuss and exchange ideas and suggestions on the EU CAP reform process as well as the process of mobilizing rural actors to "voice" the concerns of rural citizens.</p> <p>Over 300 participants representing various socio-economic and environmental interest groups participated in other parallel workshops held in Dutch.</p>

ANNEX 1: Results from Workshops on "Demonstrating the Added Value of Networking"

Category	Success Story	Member State	Case Study	Member State
Group A				
<i>Note – there were concerns from Group A that the material available for case studies may be relatively limited. Some follow-up is needed</i>				
Exchange of knowledge & good practice	Knowledge exchange in partnership with other organisations (study trip)		Study tours, seminars, publications, database, best practices, knowledge platform for administration	
Capacity building	Training on using social media Thematic groups, study trips	BE (Wallonia) CY	Thematic working groups, thematic seminars, meetings for ICT and TNC, training for LAGs	BE (Wallonia) CY
Bringing stakeholders together		GR EE (tbc) SK UK-SC	Regional brainstorming days for LEADER -> PA regional officers, MA, NRN, LAGs -> to make the administration of LEADER better	GR EE (tbc) SK UK-SC
Linking local level to European level		NL (tbc)	Contribute to different policy development fora Translate ENRD publications into national language Participation in meetings and follow up: ENRD, CC, LSC, NRN	NL (tbc)
Communicating to the broader public	Use of social media, audio-visual materials Multi-network participation in national events Local development fair Photo competition		Brochures, website, seminars, videos (including TV)	
Group B				
Project examples (identification, collection & dissemination)	Bird Park: Project promotion, received funding -> has become an attraction	MT	Good Practice database and competition	FI
	Scientific Committee	BE (Wallonia)	LEADER in practice (LEADER in practice) - TBC	IT
Thematic Working Groups	Typologies of rural areas	EL	Renewable energy – individual experiences about getting new information / making new connections	NL
	LEADER-Book: Social network platform for LAGs	IT	Trans-Communal Cooperation	BE (Wallonia)

Category	Success Story	Member State	Case Study	Member State
			Biomass Working Group -> dissemination of toolkit has been a success	FR
	You Rural Net: Social network for young farmers	IT		
LAGs and regional technical support	Meetings, discussions with actual or potential beneficiaries: Q&A sessions	MT	Trans-Communal Cooperation	BE (Wallonia)
	"Urban and rural women Network"	ES		
Cooperation			Interactive map of LAGs	ES
	A proposal for a TNC success story from the Dutch network (specific subject /TNC project tbc)	NL		
Communication products	Bird Park: Project promotion, received funding -> has become an attraction	MT	Youth in the Netherlands: demand for new copies of publication	NL
			TV clips – monitoring of TV broadcasts	EE
	Rural for Kids – Primary and secondary schools	IT	Website activity: increased traffic (in numbers)	NL
	Rural van tour	FI		

Group C (this group chose not to distinguish between success stories and case studies)				
Enhancing Stakeholder communication	Young farmer video – strong points of view/positions, ideologies were by-passed by networking...			BE (Wallonia)
	Consider MA and other governmental departments as stakeholders – sit down & work			ES
	Bringing together elderly men			NL
	Meeting of experts, stakeholders in small groups to develop issues and better understand different views			DE
Cooperation	Organising fairs, conferences (Poland, Hungary, Slovakia)			??
	Cooperation project between Wallonian and Flemish LAGs (cooperation day)			BE (Wallonia)
Training and knowledge transfer	Training on self-assessment			NL
	Training of new LAG members (half-day seminar)			UK-NI

Category	Success Story	Member State	Case Study	Member State
	Information sessions for potential beneficiaries			MT
	“Transfer Besuch” - Farm visits for farmers and administrators			DE
	Training day on tourism & GPS – technical approach, bottom up, network support, financial support...)			BE (Wallonia)
	Training for new LAGs			FI
Raising awareness	Short films on network activities			PL
	“Amaze me LEADER”			FI
	Introducing the concept of social farming in Northern Ireland (2010 seminar)			UK-NI
	TV programmes			PL MT ES
	Social media			NL
	Documents on Good Practices			ES
“Lobby” (negotiation and facilitation)	Intervention on how to overcome the bottle-necks -> Approvals/financial procedures			NL
	“Barriers work” for LEADER			UK-NI
	Public consultation regarding the CAP reform			LV
	LEADER manifesto 2013-2020			NL

ANNEX 2: Background Note for Field Visits (11 November 2011)

Programme

- 9.00am – Departure from Hotel Ibis, Den Haag
- 10:00-11:00 Drive through the area to't Woudt. Stop at De Hooiberg for a walk through the village
- 11:00-14:00 Dairy Farm De Paardenstal (<http://www.depaardenstal.com/>)
- 11:00-11:45 Tour of the farm
- 12:00-13:00 Presentations
- 13:00-14:00 Lunch
- 14:00 Pack up and drive back
- 15:00 Arrive at Hotel Ibis in Den Haag

Some information about the places we are going to visit



Source Wikipedia

Midden-Delfland
— Municipality —



Flag



Coat of arms



Coordinates: 📍 51°58'N 4°19'E

Country	Netherlands
Province	South Holland
Area(2006)	
- Total	49.38 km ² (19.1 sq mi)
- Land	47.45 km ² (18.3 sq mi)
- Water	1.92 km ² (0.7 sq mi)
Population (1 January, 2007)	
- Total	17,548
- Density	370/km ² (958.3/sq mi)
	Source: CBS, Statline 🔗
Time zone	CET (UTC+1)
Summer (DST)	CEST (UTC+2)
Website	www.middendelfland.nl 🔗

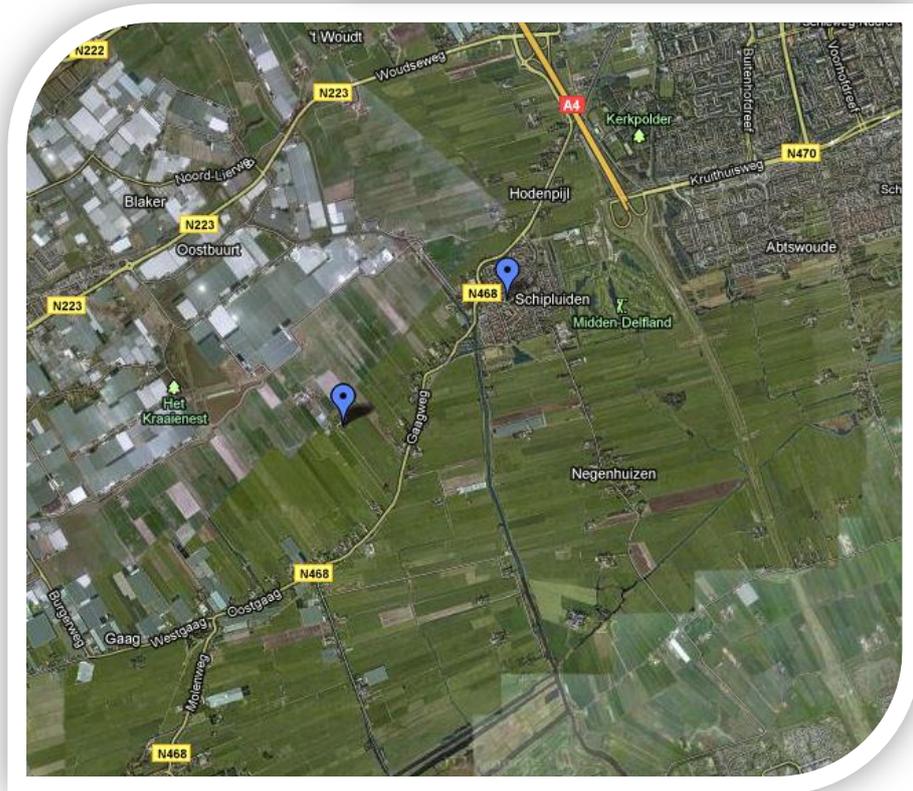


Figure 1: Source Google Maps (The blue balloons are the locations of the visits)

The Municipality of Midden-Delfland.

The Midden-Delfland (Province of South-Holland) is a municipality near the Dutch 'Randstad', which consists of a network of cities in the western part of the Netherlands. The municipality comprises amongst others of towns and cities like Hodenpijl, Den Hoorn, Gaag, Maasland, Negenhuizen, Schipluiden, 't Woudt, Zouteveen, and De Zweth.

The green area that comprises the municipality of Midden-Delfland was named Midden-Delfland before 2004, and it referred to the green area surrounded by cities (such as The Hague and Rotterdam) and the horticulture area of Westland.

The supporters of a continuous green area were lucky that the municipality of Midden-Delfland became a reality: the cities of Delft, Vlaardingen and Schiedam wanted to build new houses here, and the Westland gardeners also wanted to expand. Now, Midden-Delfland is designated as a recreation area for people from the surrounding cities.

Furthermore the municipality is also the first 'Cittaslow'-municipality of The Netherlands.
(<http://www.cittaslow-nederland.nl/>)

The Coffee House 'The Haystack' (Koffiehuis de Hooiberg)

De Hooiberg is a coffee house in't Woudt, which happens to be the 'smallest village' of the Netherlands. It is situated in a nice cultural historical building. In summer it is a very popular stopover for cyclists and hikers, because it is located close to some very beautiful routes in the Midden-Delfland area.
(<http://www.dehooiberg.nu/cms/index.php>)

'The Horse stable' (De Paardenstal)

The 'De Paardenstal' is a modern dairy farm which has diversified part of its agricultural activities to cater for the provision of services like on-farm accommodation, meeting rooms, organization of functions such as parties, weddings and anniversaries, but also for business meetings and press conferences. In the past they had some well-known visitors like the Romanian minister of Agriculture and the Dutch Minister of Environment.

The "catering part" is a very new venture for the company whilst the official opening of the meeting room was held in spring of this year. (www.depaardenstal.com)



'Greenfund' (Groenfonds)

The 'Greenfund' was founded in 2000 and it is a fund with an initial capital of €6.5 million, which was contributed by the municipalities of Midden-Delfland, Delft and later The Hague and Maassluis. The motive and driver for this fund was the transformation of the 'Harnaschpolder' from an area for greenhouses into a more multi-functional area.

The objective of this fund is to maintain an open agricultural landscape and restore the urban and rural linkages. One of the main activities is to reward the (dairy) farmers for public services, not only for maintaining the landscape but also to provide hands on experience to schoolchildren.

'Garden of Delfland' (Hof van Delfland)

The "Hof van Delfland" is a network of green areas amongst the cities of The Hague, Delft, Zoetermeer and Rotterdam. The heart of the area is the protected peat meadow landscape of Midden-Delfland.

It is a cooperation initiative between 12 municipalities, the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation and 4 other Governmental Institutes. The reason for this is to protect the open green areas and to reconnect these with the nearby urban cities, where about 2 million people live.



ANNEX 3: Results from Feedback Form and Comments

Questions	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Number of replies
Notification/communication about the meeting was good	13 65%	6 30%	1 5%			20
Organisation of the meeting whilst in the Hague was good	13 62%	8 38%				21
The venue was appropriate for the meeting and workshops	7 33%	12 57%	1 5%	1 5%		21
All presentations were clear and easy to understand	7 33%	14 67%				21
The workshop facilitation was very effective	8 38%	11 52%	2 10%			21
The meeting provided me with new and relevant information	8 38%	12 57%	1 5%			21
There was enough time for questions and discussion	5 24%	12 57%	4 19%			21
All discussions were useful and stimulating	5 24%	11 52%	5 24%			21
I made new and useful contacts during the meeting	4 19%	13 62%	4 19%			21
Participation in the meeting was worthwhile for me/my NRN	10 48%	11 52%				21
I feel part of an active and effective European network	13 62%	8 38%				21
Overall, the meeting was a successful ENRD event	9 43%	11 52%	1 5%			21
Opening of the meeting						
Presentation by Dutch NRN	14 70%	6 30%				20
Presentation and discussion on current NRN activities	5 24%	16 76%				21
General EN RD Update						
Rural Finance	4 19%	13 62%	4 19%			21
Short-supply chains	6 29%	11 52%	4 19%			21
Young Farmers	6 29%	14 67%	1 5%			21
Forestry	5 25%	14 70%	1 5%			20
Questions and answers	4 20%	14 70%	2 10%			20

Questions	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Number of replies
Demonstrating the “Added-Value of Networking”						
General update on the new 2014-2020 legislative proposals	1 5%	15 75%	3 15%	1 5%		20
Background on the NRN Joint Action	2 10%	15 75%	3 15%			20
NRN Joint Action on ‘added-value of networking’	3 15%	12 60%	5 25%			20
Introduction to afternoon workshops	3 15%	14 70%	3 15%			20
Workshops on next steps	3 18%	12 71%	2 12%			17
NRN “Knowledge Exchange Clusters”	7 35%	7 35%	6 30%			20
RDP Projects Database	4 20%	13 65%	3 15%			20
Forthcoming Activities of DG AGRI and the Contact Point	1 5%	16 84%	2 11%			19

What did not work well this NRN Meeting?

6 comments were received:

- Timing
- More time for workshops & presentations of workshop
- Maybe working-groups would have been longer
- The participants should have been better informed in advance for the topic of the workshop
- Too much information – maybe a bit less would have made the meeting more effective
- Seating in conference room was not comfortable for all day meeting – no table.

At least one thing that will make the next meeting better?

6 comments were received:

- Meeting spread over 2 days to break it up
- More time
- Informal connection
- Having internet connection
- It should be different, not better
- A more detailed agenda about what is to be discussed may be provided prior to the date of the meeting to participants

ONE action you will carry out as a result of your participation in the meeting?

9 comments were received:

- Make NRN more effective than it already is.
- More examples (Qualitative) to the database (*3 participants*)
- To involve Rural Finance initiative as participator

- We try to find participants to rural financial working group
- Next NRN meeting...
- Added value of networking
- Will use new tools mentioned throughout the weekend (particularly found in ENRD website)

ANNEX 4: Participant List and Attendance

Name	Representation	Email address
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