

NRN meeting Finland- Open Space

Group number 13: Relationship MA-NSU- Participants from FI, HU, CH, RO

Main findings:

- There is a **big range of relationships MA-NSUs** (from too tight to too independent), being the most equilibrate ones those that don't sit in either of these extremes.
- Assume **it will take time** to achieve a **mature, cooperative and productive** relationship between MA-NSU.
- This maturity do not come only by time; the **experience of both NSU and MA in Rural Networking** contribute to this improvement in the relationship (therefore, it is valuable to keep the experienced people in both institutions or to **ensure that the changes are not radical, but soft and facilitated by the core team**).
- **Continuous training** about Networking and basic concept of Rural Networking should be delivered **to NSUs and MA** in order **to ensure a common understanding** of concepts, objectives, and approach methodologies and actions.
- There is a **lack of indicators** that can **show the importance** of what are perceived as **"soft" activities performed by NSUs** (training, guidance, animation activities, facilitating cooperation or project development, etc.)
- It would be easier for both NSUs and MA to have **more clear objectives, indicators and means** to fulfill these objectives **set from the beginning**.
- **Communication** is found as key in the relation NSU-MA. Depending on the maturity of the network, several actions can be performed to ensure and ameliorate this communication in order to be **"closer"** (either physically, if necessary, or carrying on periodic meetings, attending to activities that are organized by MA/NSU, direct and informal contact through email-phone-skype, etc.)

These ideas were somehow present in findings from other Groups in the Open Space.

In **Group number 4**, dedicated to evaluation, there was a recommendation to avoid evaluating too many things of the Network for better **focus in the purpose of the Network** (the "FOR") and in the IMPACTS (**quality changes**). This issue was also addressed somehow in **Group number 2**, dealing with the definition of "Success Stories", for which **it is necessary to understand why it is useful to understand the value of Networking and how is it collected**.

The **potential of the monitoring committee** was brought up **by Group number 15**, and it can be a **useful tool for improving the relationship MA-NSU**. It was agreed that knowing more about how Monitoring Committees all around Europe are performing would be relevant to address different issues, including the relationship MA-NSUs.