

Added Value of Networking



“Young farmers – reality and challenges”

Basic information	
NRN:	Flemish Rural Network
Theme:	Success story
Coordinator:	Walloon Rural Network, Flemish Rural Network
Partners:	Walloon Rural Network
Beneficiaries:	Young Flemish and Walloon farmers
Resources:	n.a.
Period:	End of 2011 - present
Main element of networking:	Support for cooperation and joint actions
Other elements of networking:	Exchange of relevant experience and know-how amongst stakeholders

Background

In 2011 the Walloon Rural Network came to us with an idea to jointly organise a debate for young rural farmers. We both already worked on this theme and the Flemish Rural Network was active in, for instance, a working group about young rural farmers and also participated in a European questionnaire on young people's perception of rural areas, organised by the Italian Rural Network.

Main activities

In 2011 the Networks cooperated to organise this debate for young rural farmers during the agricultural fair (Agribex) in Brussels. This was followed up with a debriefing in April 2012 involving representatives of four rural organisations (two Walloon organisations and two Flemish organisations – see below).

On 30 October 2012, the young rural farmers were also invited on a day field trip, visiting two Walloon and two Flemish farms. The young rural farmers exchanged knowledge and made new contacts on this interesting day.

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Main results/benefits

Thanks to these activities the rural organisations for young farmers got to know each other better. The young farmers learned from each other, shared knowledge, good practice and experiences. All these activities enabled relationships to be built that ensured everyone stayed in contact with each other and felt inspired to cooperate.

We also noticed that there was an on-going need to stay in contact with each other and that the reactions of the participants to our activities remained positive. No less than 100 young farmers participated in the debate.

Success factors

The main success factor of the project was the cooperation between both NRNs. This was supported by the development of a shared agreement which included a fair distribution of the tasks. Another success factor was the bringing together of all the rural organisations (Groene Kring, Jong ABS, FUGEA and FJA) by the NRNs.

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Because of the networking approach used more young rural farmers were reached and encouraged to participate. Because of these field trips, the debate, etc. experiences and knowledge could be shared. The farmers also got to know each other better, so the relationship between the farmers and their organisations improved. These organised activities also strengthened the relationship and cooperation between the NRNs themselves.

Contribution of the NSU

Both the NRNs were responsible for the project and provided contacts, organised the field trips and debate, brought the young rural farmers together etc.

Contribution of the partners

As above

Additional information

In 2013 we are planning to organise a new field trip or study opportunity with the Walloon Rural Network.

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Pictures



Source: Flemish Rural Network

Last Update

March 2013