



“Working together to support Rural Development in England, the UK and Europe”

NRN objectives

- ➔ **Raise awareness** of rural development policy and funding opportunities across the whole RDP
- ➔ **Growth Programme:** work with the LEPs and other ESIF interests to co-promote funds and rural growth
- ➔ **Innovation:** support knowledge transfer and innovation through establishment of EIP-Agri Operational Groups, networking for advisors and innovation support services
- ➔ **Co-operation:** Support co-operation projects and resulting knowledge transfer
- ➔ **LEADER:** support LAGs by providing networking and training opportunities and facilitating co-operation and knowledge transfer
- ➔ **Stakeholder involvement** in the NRN and implementation of the RDP so that there is an effective feedback loop for the programme, and that we address inequalities in capacity to engage
- ➔ **UK and EU collaboration:** level to develop shared priorities and support knowledge transfer
- ➔ **NRN management:** Co-ordinate communications and stakeholder engagement strategy, and NRN action plan (including effective management of NRN resources)
- ➔ **Evaluation:** evaluate NRN activities and disseminate results and learning from NRN and RDP evaluation

Four regional network support units (NSUs) in the UK



- The England Network forms **part of the UK NRN**. However, there is no overall UK RDP and each region (England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland) has its own Programme and NSU.
- At UK level there is regular **informal collaboration** with the NRNs in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, which includes working together to deliver a small number of UK level events, and co-ordinating participation in the EU Rural Networks.

Membership

The Network is **open** to anyone with an interest in the Rural Development Programme. There is no formal membership registration.

Who can join the network?

The NSU and RDP management

The NSU and the Managing Authority

- ✓ The NSU is hosted in **the Managing Authority (MA)**.
- ✓ The NSU **reports** directly to the RDP programme manager and has regular contact with the programme office on all matters of the NRN.

The NSU and the Monitoring Committee

- ✓ The Monitoring Committee (MC) meets **4 times a year** and has a **strategic role** overseeing the RDP as a whole.
- ✓ The MC does not get involved in the detailed running of the NRN.
- ✓ The MC allows the NRN to set its priorities.

NRN Governance



The England RDP has an “**External Working Group**” (EWG) that forms the core of the NRN. It is formed by a group of around 20 stakeholder organisations that cover interests across the whole of the programme.

Their **engagement** is informal and voluntary, and they meet each month to discuss current issues and improvements for the RDP. As the Steering Group for the NRN, one of their functions is helping the NSU developing and reviewing the priorities and activities in the NRN Action Plan.

[Download: Organigram \(EN\)](#)

Communication



Publicity for RDP funding is led by the RDP scheme delivery bodies, with the NSU supporting via its **newsletter** and **social media** channels.



The other principal communication activities of the NSU will be to support engagement and knowledge transfer through **events, workshops** and the **projects database**.

The overall aim is of the Communication strategy is to facilitate effective **information and knowledge sharing** through existing stakeholder channels



Using the channels of all NRN partners is encouraged, in order to receive good quality applications.

Timeline of NRN Workplans



NRN Self-assessment



Stakeholders (including via the External Working Group) will review and improve NRN activity on a regular basis, through **surveys and workshops**.



The **NRN self-assessment** will support the wider NRN evaluation.

NRN Resources

Financial resources (2014-2020)	Budget (€)
Total NRN public funds:	2 100 000
Out of which national co-financing:	0%
Out of which EAFRD:	100%

Human resources (NSU)	No
Number of full-time equivalent (FTE) staff	4



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