



The Wales Rural Network exists to encourage good practice, share knowledge and the expertise necessary for effective RDP implementation in Wales. We are open to anyone interested in rural development or involved with the Welsh Government Rural Communities – Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 and the projects it funds.

NRN objectives

The Wales Rural Network Support Unit (WRNSU) supports a forum to promote the exchange of expertise in rural development.

- ➔ Increase the **involvement of stakeholders** in the implementation of rural development
- ➔ Improve the **quality of implementation** of rural development programmes
- ➔ **Inform** the broader public and potential beneficiaries on rural development policy and funding opportunities
- ➔ Foster **innovation** in agriculture, food production, forestry and rural areas
- ➔ Support delivery of **cross cutting themes**

Membership

The Wales Rural Network (WRN) is **open to anyone interested** in rural development or involved with the Welsh Government Rural Communities – Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 and the projects it funds. WRN Support Unit does not operate a formal membership process but encourages members from the agricultural, environmental, community, commercial and academic sectors.

Who can join the network?

Who are the members?

The WRN Support Unit does not formally categorise stakeholders, but by using **stakeholder mapping** we can target specific events or activities by theme to groups of members. During our initial stakeholder mapping exercise we split our stakeholders according to:

- whether they were, Wales, UK or Europe
- whether they 'Engage closely/Influence actively'; 'Engage closely'; 'Involve and Influence' or 'Keep involved'.

How to get involved

All information provided and supported on **WRN website** is available to any member of the public who is interested in the networks' work and RDP funding in general.

Four regional network support units (NSUs) in the UK



The **Wales Rural Network** forms part of the UKNRN. However, there is no overall UK RDP and each region (Wales, England, Scotland, and Northern Ireland) has its own Programme and NSU.

The NSU and RDP management

The NSU and the Managing Authority

- ✓ The **NSU is based within the Rural Development Division**, which is a department of the MA (Welsh Government).
- ✓ All staff is employed by the **MA** and are managed via the MA management structure.

The NSU and the Monitoring Committee

- ✓ There is a **strong link** between the Programme Monitoring Committee (MC) and the Steering Group (SG). Two of the SG stakeholder members and the senior official from the MA sit on the MC.
- ✓ In addition, the SG provides **quarterly updates** on its workplan and achievements to the PMC.
- ✓ It is envisaged that the PMC will invite SG members to give **presentations** or undertake **tasks** as required.

NRN Governance



The Wales Rural Network (WRN) is governed by a **Steering Group (SG)**. The WRN Steering Group met for the first time in June 2016.

Role of the Steering Group

The role of the SG is to **direct** activities, identify **priorities** and to **advise / assist** developing a work-plan for the Wales Rural Network

Members of the Steering Group

- ✓ In accordance with the RDP document, a Wales Rural Network Steering Group (SG) of up to twelve members was established. In addition to these **12 stakeholder members** of the SG, the WRN Support Unit Manager is a member of the SG, and Welsh Government in its capacity as Managing Authority, has appointed a **senior official** to represent its interests on the SG.
- ✓ Membership of the SG was drawn from the full range of **rural development interests** forming the Wales Rural Network and the Programme Managing Authority.

The Chair

- ✓ The Chair is nominated by the members and must be able to provide **strategic direction** for the SG and be committed to delivering the agreed work-plan.

The secretariat

Secretariat **functions** is be provided by Wales Rural Network Support Unit (WRNSU).

Communication



Events: Networking events, Training events, Study visits



Website: including news, events, case studies, projects database, partner search, LAG map etc



Social media engagement

The Communication Plan aims:

- ✓ To show the value of this **seven-year programme** to all of rural Wales;
- ✓ To call on people living in and working in these areas **to use these funds** to further unlock the potential in our rural economy;
- ✓ To further **gain the trust of key stakeholders** already involved in this process in submitting ideas and solutions to boosting communities and the economy;
- ✓ To demonstrate how the funds will help support the creation of a vibrant rural economy, **encouraging** the agricultural industry and rural communities at large to further their **business** both now and for future generations.



Promotion:

- RDP Scheme Guidance documents
- RDP Scheme summary leaflets
- RDP Scheme FAQ's
- Case studies
- Signposting to LAG's/LEADER groups



Publications:

Newsletters, Press notices

Timeline of NRN Workplans



NRN self-assessment

A self-assessment **strategy** is being designed and will be agreed with the steering group and MA. In addition to the formal governance role undertaken by the steering group, the Wales Rural Network Support Unit will also employ a number of self-assessment **tools** including:



Use of ENRD/EIP Contact Point /Evaluation Helpdesk self-assessment methodologies as appropriate.



Feedback questionnaires for all events and lessons learned from meetings post-events



Benchmarking with other UK and EU networks



Website metrics

NRN Resources

Financial resources (2014-2020)	Budget
Total NRN public funds:	£2 366 885
Out of which national co-financing:	£1 349 124
Out of which EAFRD:	£1 017 761

Human resources	No
Number of full-time equivalent (FTE) staff	5



Download: Organigram of the WRN (EN)




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