

Added Value of Networking



Added Value of Networking: NRN self-evaluation activities

Self-evaluation and evaluation by stakeholders

Basic information	
NRN:	Flemish Rural Network
Keywords:	Network Support Unit (NSU), Managing Authority (MA), feedback form, self-evaluation, year plan, action plan
Coordinator:	Nele Vanslebrouck
Partners/evaluators:	MA, NSU and stakeholders
Resources:	n/a: part of overall NSU management costs
Period:	2008-2013

Description of the context of NRN self-assessment and/or evaluation activities:

Self-evaluation is undertaken by the NSU and MA on an annual basis. This enables an evaluation of the previous year in order to plan the next year more effectively. The self-evaluation covers what went well, what could be improved and why and how improvements can be made. Using this approach means that before the next year is planned, we can first learn from the past.

This approach includes feedback on communication tools and feedback on events delivered. This self-evaluation and the feedback received from stakeholders are both useful and necessary to improve the performance of the NSU.

Detailed description of the selected evaluation method, tool or practice used:

The self-evaluation process includes a brainstorming session with the NSU and MA. This session draws out the personal findings of those involved focusing on the positive and negative points of the past year. Later a group discussion includes input from the feedback forms and encourages the team to identify solutions to improve.

Added Value of Networking



Feedback is received on communication tools and events. The NSU organises events for their stakeholders and publish newsletters etc., so it's important to receive feedback to assess if these events and publications are relevant and interesting for them.

The main elements of its success: i.e. why this method, tool or practice was particularly useful in the context of NRN evaluation?:

Self-evaluation is essential as it's important to evaluate one's own work, to be critical about what is being delivered and to adapt if necessary in order to improve and get the best out of the activities.

Feedback is equally important, to know what participants and stakeholders think about the NRN and its activities – the NRN exists for them, so it's vital to know what goes well, and where improvements could be made.

Summary of key self-assessment/evaluation findings:

The self-evaluation findings change from year to year however last year for example, the self-evaluation concluded that it was more effective to deliver a combination of visits and discussions at events and not only visits, or only discussions. By combining those two both theoretical and practical examples are shared. The feedback received varies from event to event and publication to publication.

How did you or will you use these findings to improve the NRN activities?:

For example, after last year's self-evaluation, events were delivered combining visits and discussions, with the participants and the team both very positive about this new approach to organising events.

Feedback received from participants and stakeholders is assessed and wherever possible improvements are made.

Additional information and useful resources:

n.a.

Last Updated: (to be completed by ENRD)

January 2014

