

Added Value of Networking



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NRN self-evaluation activities:

Evaluation of existing implementation of NRN

Basic information	
NRN:	Czech Republic
Keywords:	External evaluation, NRN, questionnaire, interviews.
Coordinator:	n.a.
Partners/evaluators:	External evaluator: Naviga4
Resources:	n.a.
Period:	Autumn 2012

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

With the new programming period approaching there was a need to carry out an evaluation of existing NRN activities to identify which actions have worked well and what could be improved, in order to guide the development of the NRNs future work plans. Therefore, it was decided to use an external supplier to carry out an independent evaluation of the effectiveness of existing NRN activities.

The results of the evaluation would enable the formulation of recommendations for more effective activities and more efficient processes in the management of existing network activities. The outputs of the evaluation would also be useful for formulating system recommendations in the upcoming programming period 2014-2020.

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

To carry out the evaluation of the activities implemented by the NRN, **evaluation methods** and **quantitative** and **qualitative** research tools were used. In the implementation of the evaluation, emphasis was placed on the triangulation of methods and examining the credibility of data, so that the results of the evaluation were both objective and practical.

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A summary and specification of the methods and tools used by the independent evaluator are as follows:

Analysis of the documentation / Desk research:

- Action Plan (also in 'commented' version), Rules of Procedure and Statute of the NRN,
- Methodologies for 'The Administration of NRN activities' and implementation of measures V.2 'Establishment and running of a National Rural Network',
- Annual implementation plans and financial budgets (2009-2012) of the NRN and the regional annual implementation plans (2010),
- a sample of other NRN documents,
- Rural Development Programme of the Czech Republic (Programme Document) and the Annual Report on the Progress of the RDP (2008, 2009, 2010, 2011),
- Presentations from meetings of the NRN Coordination Committee (02/2011) and other documents.

Individual semi-structured in-depth interviews:

- 4 interviews with representatives implementing the activities of the NRN,
- 7 interviews with representatives of members of the NRN.

Organisational / process analysis of NRN management:

- analysis of the processes of preparation, implementation and administration of NRN activities (at the national, regional and local level)

Quantitative Computer-assisted web interviewing (CAWI):

- members and partners of the NRN,
- 505 representatives contacted,
- 159 completed questionnaires returned, i.e. 31.5% return rate.

Guided discussion:

- guided discussion with 5 experts from the rural development community.

Expert evaluation:

- identification and description of good and bad practice from NRN delivery.

Workshops:

- 1 workshop to discuss the draft final report.

Synthetic methods for formulating conclusions:

- synthesis of the main findings.

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

External evaluation has provided an independent assessment of NRN activities. Addressing a wide array of stakeholders and utilising a variety of evaluation methods and tools has enabled a comprehensive evaluation to be undertaken. In the implementation of the evaluation, emphasis was placed on the triangulation of methods and examining the credibility of data, so that the results of the evaluation are both objective and practical.

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Summary of key self-assessment/evaluation findings:

The main outcomes were reports which were used as an argument in the formulation of system recommendations in the forthcoming programming period 2014-2020 to support the preparation of further NRN activities.

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

The results of the evaluation are considered by the NRN as feedback on its activities. This means that it continues to try to reflect the results of the assessment in its work. Based on the results of the evaluation the further activities of the NRN are focused on goals identified within the evaluation. The NRN continues delivering activities that were evaluated positively and tries to develop them further in an innovative way.

Additional information and useful resources:

n.a.

Last Updated:

January 2014

