



Euroopan maaseudun
kehittämisen maatalousrahasto:
Eurooppa investoi maaseutualueisiin.

Coordination Committee

1 st October, Brussels

Päivi Kujala
Head of the Rural Network Unit, Finland

Rural Network in Finland

- consist of all actors under
 - the Rural Development Programme for Mainland of Finland and
 - Rural Development Programme for the Province of Åland

Rural Network Unit in Finland

- started its activity in October 2007
- operates as a unit of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
- is located in rural area, Seinäjoki, 350 kilometres north of Helsinki (next to the Finnish Paying Agency)
- has six employees and a part-time Lawyer
- total budget for the whole program period is 13 million euros

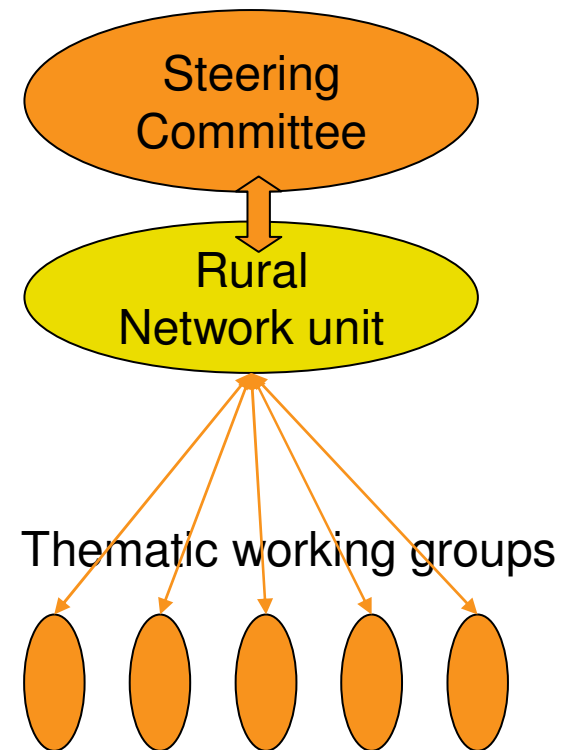




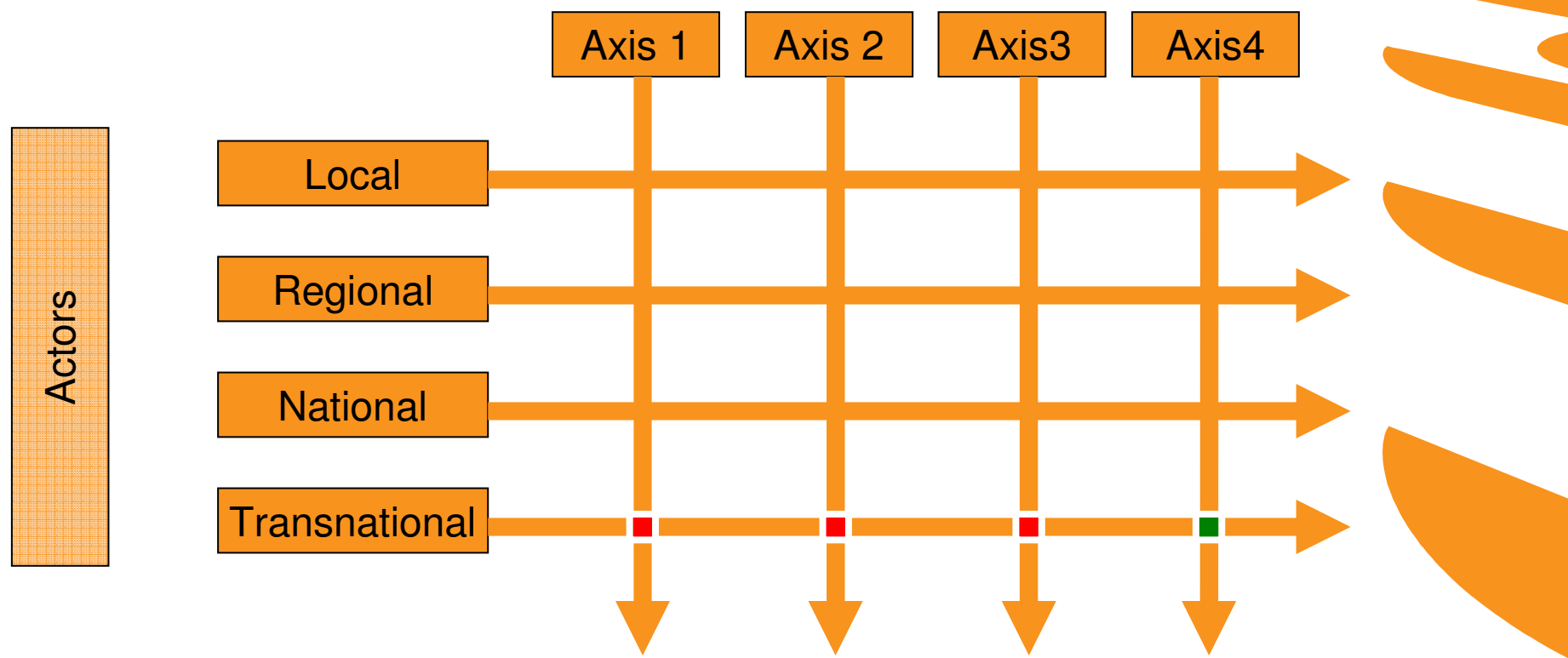
Rural Network Unit, Tasks and Structure

Tasks

- Communication
- Training
- Collecting and dissemination of good practices
- Promotion of transnationalisation



Finnish Rural Network



Our specific objectives and activities

Communications

- maaseutu.fi | landsbygd.fi website, (rural.fi is coming soon)
 - information of the Rural Development Programmes
 - training and events calendar
 - the launching of a register of rural experts
 - The first work in the Rural Network's publications series was an electronic version of the project actor's handbook
- participation in fairs
 - e.g. Lähiruokamessut (local food fair), the Farmari agricultural fair
- producing printed material
 - to introduce Finnish rural development work
 - brochures, publications, cooperation with rural trade magazines



Our specific objectives and activities

Training

- Training events – training for trainees
 - by all 4 axes
 - regionally and nationally
- The objective of the training is
 - to highlight the opportunities of the development programme and provide background information to supplement the training related to implementation
 - to increase cooperation with actors
 - to disseminate good practices



Our specific objectives and activities

Training

- Some examples of training events in 2008
 - application of the Act on Structural Aid, utilising a business plan
 - animal welfare payments
 - rural micro-entrepreneur forum
 - village development RoadShow
 - communications training for local actors
 - training day for new action group board members
 - Leader development seminar- back to the roots



Our specific objectives and activities

Support to transnational cooperation

- transnationalisation should be daily routine in rural development
- help in finding project partners
- organizing study trips abroad
 - one study trip/axis/year
- hoasting study trips in Finland
- active cooperation with Rural Network Units of other Member States
 - Nordic-Baltic Rural Network- meetings



Vision of the Finnish Rural Network

In 2013 the Finnish Rural Network will be a firm and flexible network of rural developers working for the good of the countryside.



Expectations and regards the EU network

- creation of database of good practices
- analysing model of good practices
- supporting transnational cooperation with four axes
- interesting and inspiring seminars



Thank you !

www.maaseutu.fi | www.landsbygd.fi