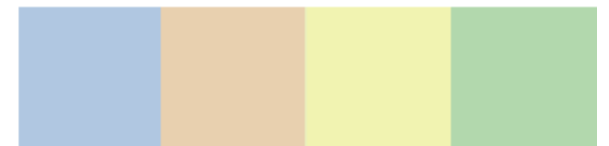


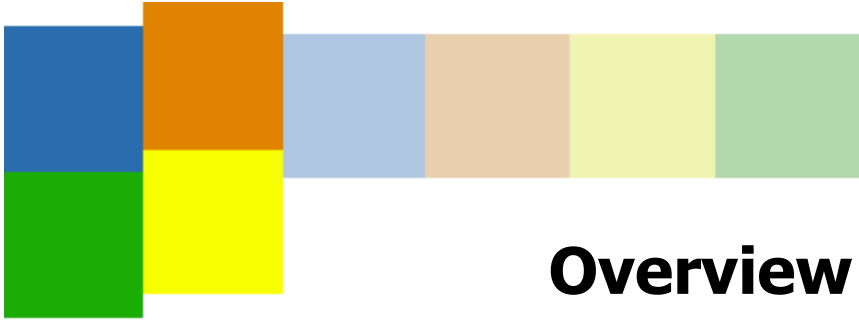
Comparative analysis of the National Rural Networks (NRNs) in the EU Member States

Martin Law

Contact Point of the European Network for Rural Development

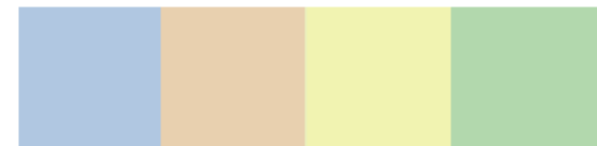
Brussels, 1 October 2008

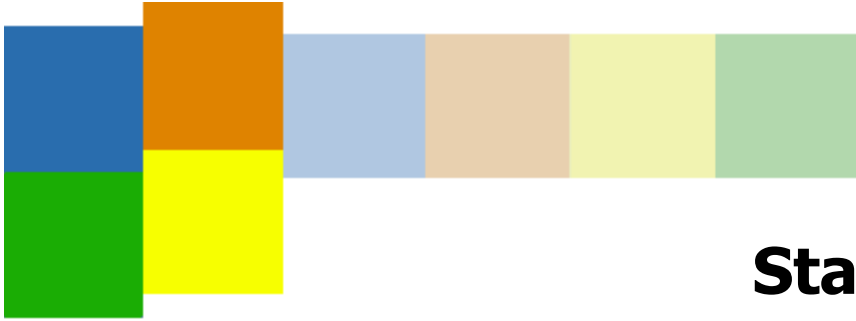




Overview of presentation

- State of play / timetable
- Number of networks
- Where the networks are located
- Main activities performed by the network
- Financial allocation



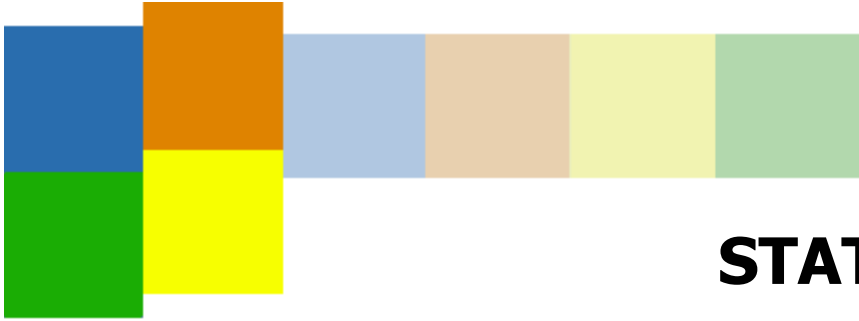


State of play

NRNs fully operational:

- **BE-FL since 5 December, 2007**
- **DE since January, 2008**
- **DK since 1 March, 2007**
- **EE since May, 2007**
- **FR since April, 2008**
- **FI since October, 2007**
- **IT since April, 2008**
- **LV since 25 July, 2008**
- **LU since June, 2008**
- **NL since October, 2007**
- **SK since 1 October, 2008**
- **SI since April, 2008**
- **SE since May, 2007**
- **UK NRN since June, 2008**
 - **UK-ENG** since April, 2008
 - **UK-NIE** since September, 2008
 - **UK-WAL** staff in place from January 2008, and fully operational since April 2008

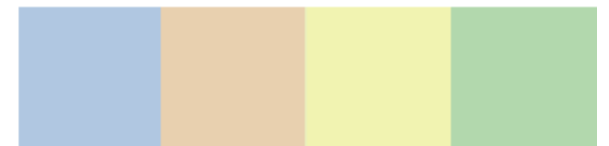


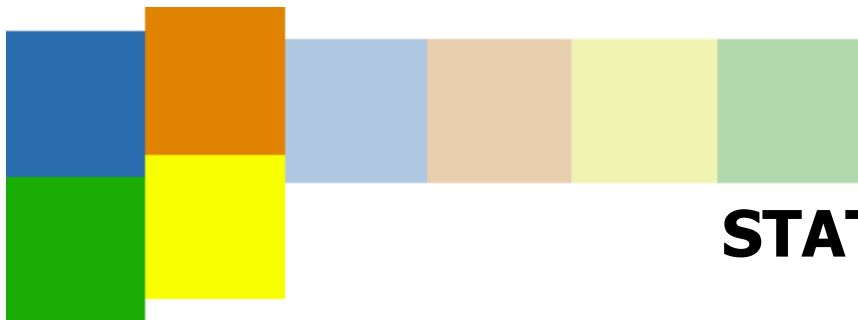


STATE OF PLAY

NRN not quite operational:

- **HU** – NRN starts 1 October 2008. Expected to be fully operational soon further to the adoption of legal acts on procedures
- **CY** - the office has been equipped, and a tender for personnel will be published soon

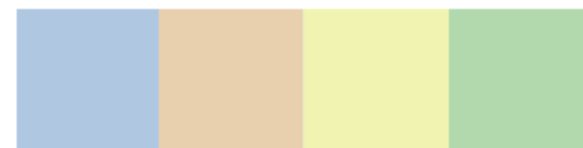


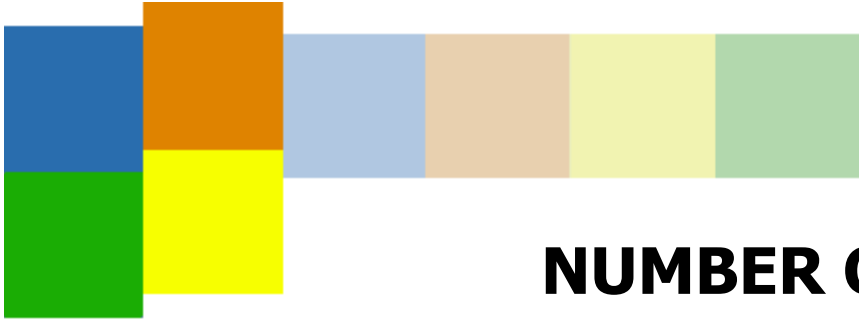


STATE OF PLAY

Not yet operational:

- **AT** The tender procedure started in May 2008, final decision will be taken in October 2008.
- **BE-WAL** The tender for the WAL RN made in July and waiting formal approval. Date when operational is not yet known.
- **BG** The tender procedure will be open in early October. The foreseen deadline to establish the NRN is the end of 2008.
- **CZ** NRN will be launched by the end of 2008. The Action plan of the NRN for the period 2007-2013 has already been approved. Now in the negotiation phase regarding the NRN's methodology.
- **ES** The NRN was approved on 17. July 2008 (Decision C(2008)3857) but is not yet operational. It will be in place by the end of 2008/ early 2009.
- **GR** The Ministerial Decision is under preparation.
- **IE** A tender has been published with a deadline of the 5. October 2008. The Network will be in place by the end of 2008.
- **LT** To be established in November (or December at the latest) 2008
- **MT** There will be a tender procedure. Right now the tender is under preparation in order to establish the necessary structure for running the network which will consist of a permanent secretariat to manage the network and one assistant within the managing authority.
- **PL** To be fully operational by end of 2008
- **PT** To be operational by end of 2008
- **RO** NRN validated on 24 September 2008. The Functioning and Organisation Regulation and the Action Plan of the Network was approved. Process for the tender procedure for the Support Unit of the Network (SUN) (that will implement the network) likely to take 3-5 months.
- **UK- SCO** informal networks at sub regional level already exist. The inauguration of the Scottish network will take place 21/22 November. The aim is to have the web site up and running early in 2009.





NUMBER OF NETWORKS

- **One network covering all axes:**

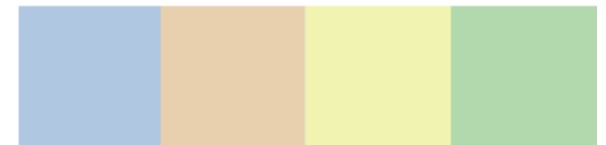
AT (For the Leader axis, an adequate sub-network will be installed), **BG, CY, CZ** (The NRN will cover all axes of the Rural Development Programme (RDP) but mainly axis IV - Leader), **DK, EE, FI, FR** (one network with two levels of implementation, a national one and 26 regional levels- all of them working on all axes), **DE** (In some of the 'Länder' there will be regional networks, which will be covering mainly axes 3 and 4.), **GR, HU, IE, IT, LT, LV, LU, MT, NL, RO, SK, SI, ES, SE** (Local Action Groups –LAGs- will have their own network meetings and other activities).

- **More than one network:**

BE 2 networks BE-FL, BE- WAL

UK 4 regional rural networks are being established

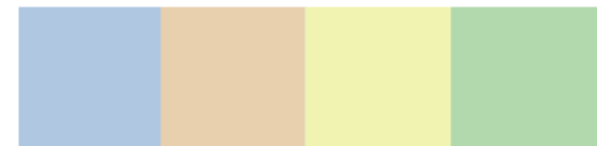
The initial co-ordination of the UK NRN between the four countries of the UK was established in June 2008. The UK NRN will identify and focus on the commonalities and gaps between the four country networks.

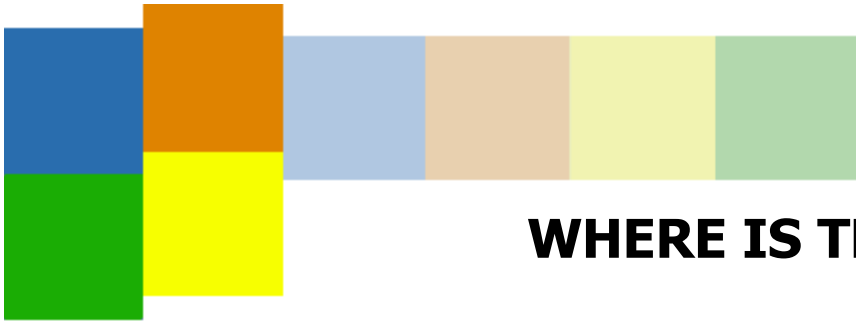




WHERE IS THE NETWORK LOCATED?

- **Within administration** - Member State decides that the Network Unit should be part of the Managing Authority
- **Outsourced** - Member State decides that the tasks of the Network Unit have to be performed by independent bodies selected via public procurement.
- **Partially outsourced** - The Network Unit shall be set up within the administration of the Managing Authority, but, certain functions shall be outsourced partially via one or several contracts





WHERE IS THE NETWORK LOCATED?

- **Within the Managing Authority:**

BE-FL, CY, CZ (However a majority of the activities of the NRN are expected to be outsourced), **DE, DK, EE, FI, GR, IT, LT, LV, LU, MT, PL, PT, SI, ES, SE, UK- WAL**

- **Outsourced:**

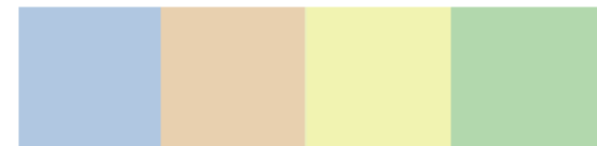
AT, BE-WAL, BG, IE, NL, RO, UK NRN, UK-NIE, UK-ENG, UK-SCO

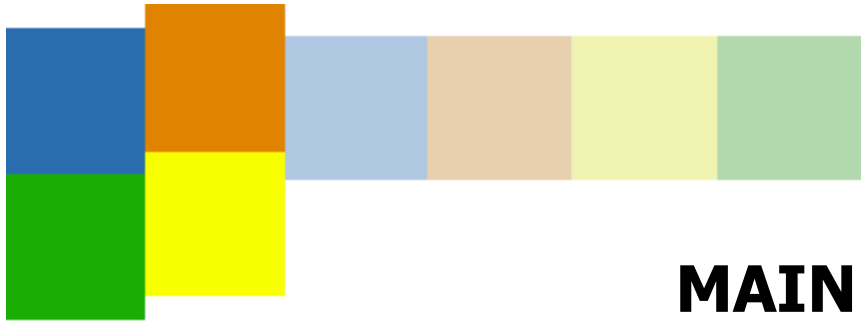
- **Partially outsourced:**

FR - At the national level, the network steering is done by the managing authority (Ministry of agriculture and fisheries) in partnership with another Ministry (DIACT). Some tasks may be externalised to private bodies through a call for tender. At the regional level there may be organisational differences.

SK - The NRN will be located in the Agency for Rural Development (hosting organisation), which is the organisation of the Ministry of Agriculture (partly budgeted by the Ministry of Agriculture).

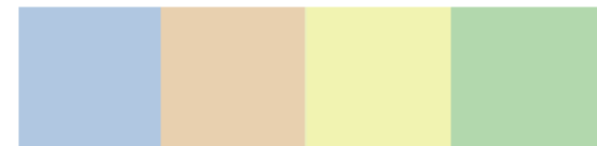
HU - The Governing Unit (Permanent Secretary of HNRN) is going to operate in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. The Network's services will be provided by the Permanent Secretary, the Institute of Rural Development, Education and Advisory (background institute of the Ministry), and by External Agency.

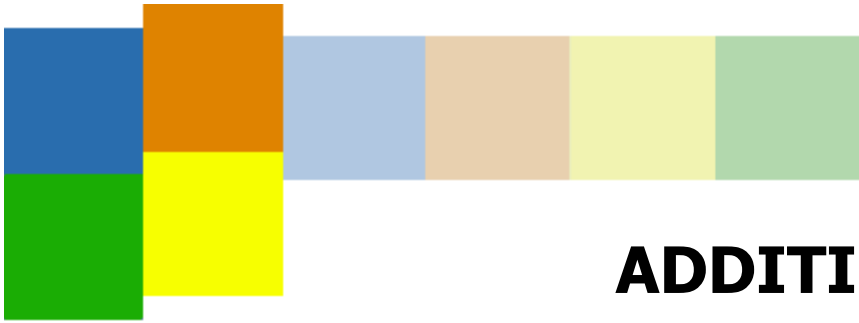




MAIN ACTIVITIES

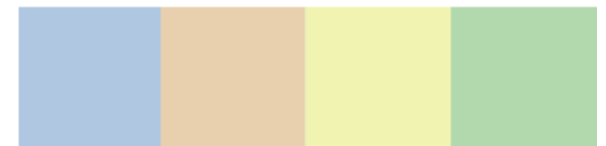
- Training – different fields, topics, beneficiaries;
- Analysis, information, communication, dissemination and exchange of information (instruments, such as: web-site, leaflets, newsletters, seminars, other promoting methods);
- Support for cooperation (study and exchange visits, tools to search for the partners);
- Support for the implementation of the RDP.





ADDITIONAL TASKS

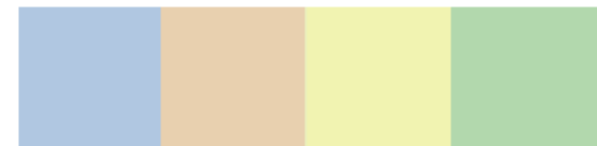
- Cooperation/Coordination with the European Network (AT, CY, ES, EE, FI, HU, LU, RO, FR)
- Support for LAG activities: training, networking, conferences (BE-FL, CZ, PT, SE, UK-WAL); enhancing and supporting the networking between LAGs (MT); building up and strengthening the capacity of Leader LAGs (BG, RO, FR)
- Identifying the problems and factors / practices responsible for unsuccessful rural actions ("bottlenecks") in rural development and make authorities aware of them (NL, PT, SI)
- Support for inter-institutional cooperation (DE, IT, NL, PL, UK)
- Technical assistance for pilot projects (ES)
- Survey on the needs in relation to measures under Axis 3-4 (HU), all axes (BG)

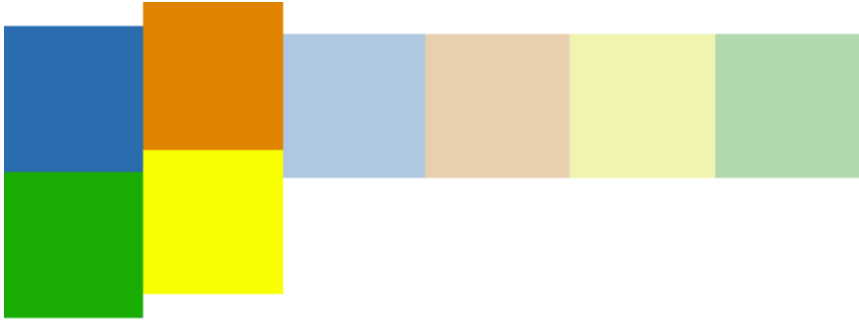




ADDITIONAL TASKS cont'd

- Focus on specific topics linked with the four axes of RDR (NL, ALL, FR).
For example:
 - Identify new and promising initiatives in the area of (multifunctional) agriculture and village development, nature, social cohesion, quality of life and joint co-decision-making (NL);
 - Focus on specific products (local certified/traditional), tourist activities and services, Information technology, promotion of services for farmers (ALL)
- The national network will build on existing network structures, further to a mapping exercise of existing smaller networks with the national rural network. (DK)
- Consolidation and extension of the Network in the period of implementation of the Rural Development Programme (RDP), (BG)
- Information about national and international development possibilities; (HU)
- To identify the factors that have hindered cooperation practices, especially within the Leader axe and to establish the set of needs to increase and improve cooperation; (PT)
- Database of experts and the advisors (CZ, FI, SI)
- Institutional capacity building (BG, RO)





ENRD | Contact Point



Thank you for your attention!!!

