



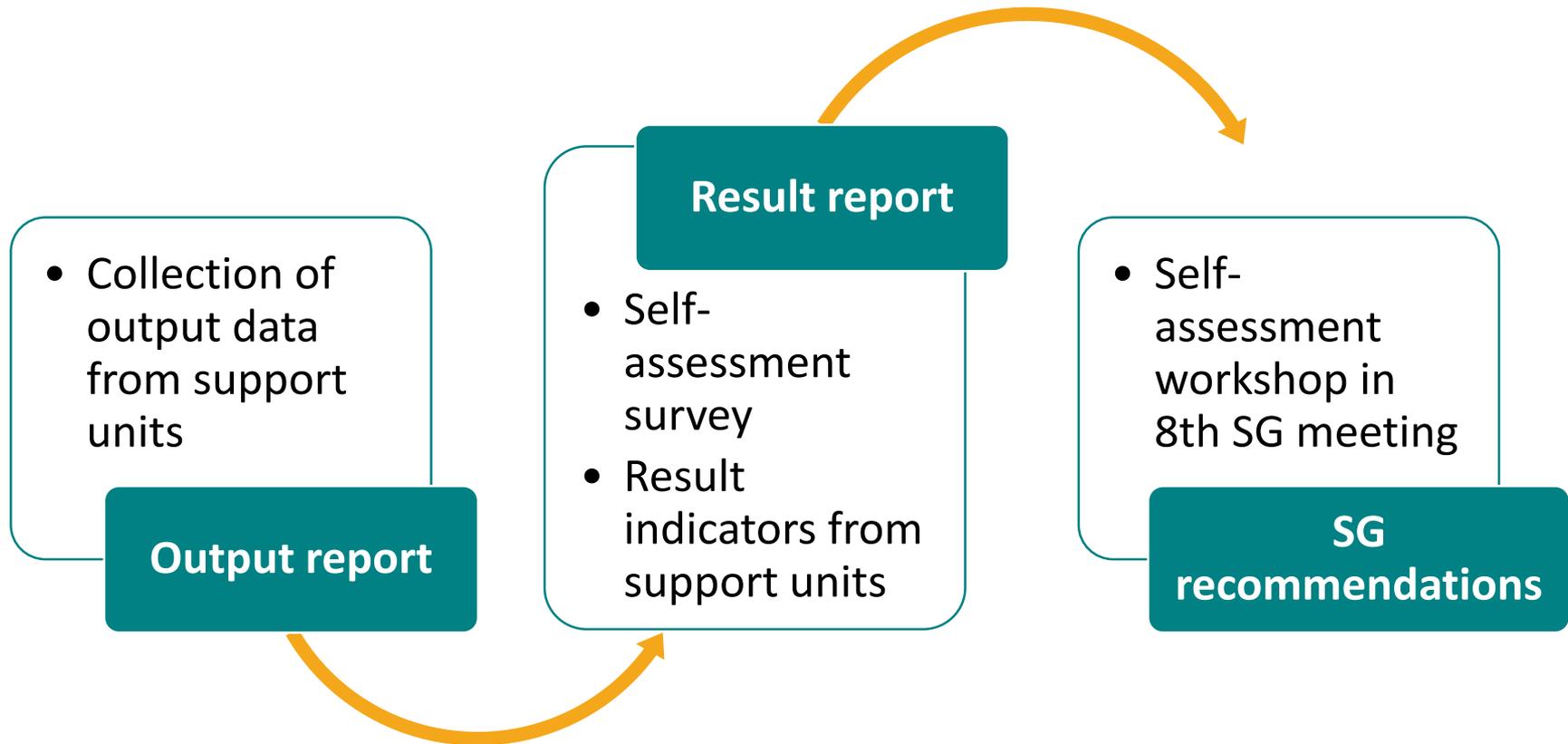
**European Rural Networks'
Assembly**

**Rural Networks self-assessment
Steering Group Recommendations**
Sari Rannanpää

**4th Meeting
Brussels – 14 December 2017**

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EU RN self-assessment 2017



January – May
(update September)

June – September

October 2017



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Draft output report

Scope

- Outputs linked to the Strategic Framework of the EU Rural Networks
- Contains data from 2014 to mid-2017
- First drafted in winter 2017 (up to end-2016), updated in autumn 2017 (up to mid-2017)

Purpose

- Provides the broad picture on the activities carried out by the networks
- First part of the final self-assessment report

Based on

- Discussions with the support units
- Background documents (Annual Work Plans, websites)
- Data collection
 - Annual Reports & output data collected by the support units



Draft output report - summary

Key figures (mid-2017)

Main Events

ENRD Workshops & conferences	27
ENRD NRN meetings	8
ENRD TWG meetings	23
ENRD Thematic seminars	4
ENRD Evaluation capacity-building events	69
EIP Innovation workshops & seminars	19
EIP Focus Groups	25
EIP Workshops	18
EIP Seminars	7

Number

Main Publications

Number

ENRD Newsletters	34
ENRD Magazines	6
ENRD Project brochures	5
Evaluation Newsletters	7
Evaluation Factsheets	11
Evaluation Guidelines	3
EIP Reports	40
EIP Brochures	24
EIP Factsheets	21

**The ENRD & EIP-AGRI
events had a total of
8 130 participants**

**The total number of newsletter subscribers was
16 115, out of which
ENRD 6 312
ENRD Evaluation 3 659
EIP-AGRI 6 144**



Draft result report

Purpose

- Illustrates the results of the activities carried out by the networks within the Strategic Framework of the EU Rural Networks
- Second part of the final self-assessment report

Based on

- Self-assessment survey
 - Online survey conducted between 7 July and 6 September 2017
 - RN Assembly, Leader sub-group, Sub-group on innovation for agricultural productivity and sustainability, Expert Group on Monitoring and Evaluating the CAP (Grexe)
 - 156 respondents from 28 Member States
 - 21 questions on scale 1 – 5 (strongly agree – strongly disagree) & free text field
 - Aim was to collect key stakeholder views on i) fulfilment of the objectives of the Strategic Framework of the EU Rural Networks, ii) experiences with Rural Networks' outputs and iii) ideas for improvement of the Rural Networks' work
- Result indicators collected by the Support Units



Draft result report - summary

GO1: *Greater engagement of local / specific actors*

- European events to specific target groups
- Greater synergies between EU and national events
- Increase the involvement of non-core stakeholders

GO2: *Improve the practicality of good practices and recommendations*

- Good practices & recommendations easily adapted & practical to implement
- Publish more good evaluation practices

GO3: *Communication*

- EU RN social media presence and usage could be improved
- Improve complementarity between national and EU rural development communication

EU Rural Networks

- Improve cooperation, coordination and synergies between the two EU Rural Networks





Results of the EU Rural Networks & Steering Group Recommendations

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GO1: Enhance Participation

Main survey results

- The EU Rural Networks' activities led to a greater involvement of various stakeholders in rural development. There is need for greater involvement of national, local and non-core stakeholders.
- The EU Rural Networks' activities led to improved knowledge of and capacities in implementing Rural Development policy.
- The EIP-AGRI Network has succeeded in establishing a dialogue between farmers and the research community but the Focus Group recommendations and innovations should be easier to implement
- The activities of the EU Rural Networks' facilitated the exchange of expertise and good practices. These activities should be boosted at European level on specific topics, including by targeting specific stakeholders (e.g. MAs, PAs, LAGs).
- Facilitating exchange of expertise and good practices also contributes to the EU RN Strategic Framework GO2: Improve Policy Quality



GO1: Enhance Participation

Main recommendations for improvement

- Replicate EU level events at national or local level.
- Translation of information produced by the EU Networks by NRNs and communicating this in the right format to national stakeholders.
- Encourage NRN peer-to-peer support through geographical clusters or by twinning more advanced NRNs with those that are less advanced.
- Capture better the local stakeholders' inputs and needs by working with the local organisations that engage with them.
- Involve local practitioners in the National and EU Rural Networks activities to attract more practical knowledge.



GO2: Improve Policy Quality

Main survey results

- The ENRD and EIP-AGRI Networks have been successful in improving rural development policy quality. Yet, it was pointed out that it remains difficult to influence national policy from the EU level.
- The NRNs have an important role in increasing policy quality.
- The information provided in the EU Rural Networks' publications was useful in improving the quality of RDPs and of their implementation. However, there is a need for more materials in national languages.
- The ENRD evaluation-related activities contributed to supporting the evaluation of RDPs. Further work is needed for exchanges between evaluators, evaluation support for the LAGs and NRNs and capacity-building of stakeholders.
- The EU Rural Networks' activities successfully facilitated the exchange of expertise and good practices.



GO2: Improve Policy Quality

Main recommendations for improvement

- Explore in detail the bottlenecks in policy delivery systems and address them at the right level.
- Share information and experiences on multi-fund CLLD, to enable the development of solutions that can improve the implementation. A platform should connect local and EU levels.
- Create a common understanding of what defines a good practice and develop commonly agreed templates for their collection and dissemination.
- Implement more evaluation capacity-building for different stakeholders.



GO3: Increase Awareness

Main survey results

- The activities of the EU Rural Networks helped to increase awareness of the benefits of the rural development policy.
- EU level RDP communication does not reach the broader public. For that, information needs to be translated into local languages.
- The general ENRD and EIP-AGRI publications and the websites played a prominent role in informing the broader public on the benefits of rural development policy.
- The quality of the publications is rated high.
- The ENRD and EIP-AGRI websites are the most followed electronic media, followed by the newsletters. The websites are useful for reaching the stakeholders.



GO3: Increase Awareness

Main recommendations for improvement

- Maximise the multiplier effect within the networks.
- Simplify communication.
- Translate information to disseminate it from EU level to national/regional/local levels. Utilise NRNs in this work.
- Bring together Rural Development communicators.





Thank you!

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