Connecting rural Europe

Learning from the past, preparing for the future

FACTSHEET

European Network for
Rural Development

Workshop 1:
Improving RDP implementation

Thematic exchanges, RDP analyses, good practice-sharing not only contribute to a better understanding of the policy but are also powerful networking instruments which promote improvements through directs exchange of knowledge, practice, and possible solutions to common issues.

But how have these tools been used and, were they perceived to improve the efficiency and the effectiveness of RD policy?

As technical assistance tool for rural development policy in the period 2007-2013, the ENRD have undertaken a number of activities with the aim of demonstrating the achievements of EU rural development programmes (RDPs) and support their implementation. In 2014-2020 **"improve the quality of RDPs"** is a key objective for the ENRD.

The workshop aims to build on the experiences and the lessons of the past in order to give a practical meaning to this objective and discuss about how old and new networking tools will best contribute to its achievement.

"The National Rural Networks (NRNs) and the European Network for Rural Development (ENRD) have significantly contributed to the consistency in programming, notably by ensuring an exchange of information and practices between RDPs' managers and stakeholders and by carrying out joint analyses."

EC report on the implementation of the National Strategy Plans and the Community strategic guidelines for rural development (July 2011)

Disclaimer:

The purpose of the fact-sheet is to support workshop discussion and provide a general outline of the theme in relation to ENRD achievements. The information provided is not comprehensive. For more information please visit the ENRD website: www.enrd.eu

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RDP thematic analyses, exchanges through expert networks, workshops and seminars, collection and dissemination of practices were all at the heart of the ENRD networking activities in 2007-2013. Find below some facts and figures which broadly summarise the ENRD work and its achievements.

1. Collecting and disseminating rural development practices

- The **RDP project database** has rapidly grown over 6 years and now includes over 600 examples of EAFRD-funded projects covering all RDP measures and EU Member States.
- Close collaboration with National Rural Networks and the research undertaken by Thematic Working Groups and Focus Groups made it possible!
- 11 **EAFRD project brochures** drawing examples from the database contributed to share successful stories of EAFRD projects and beneficiaries across Europe.

Number of entries in the database

50 — Year 2
78 — Year 3
400 — Year 4
551 — Year 5
600... — Year 6
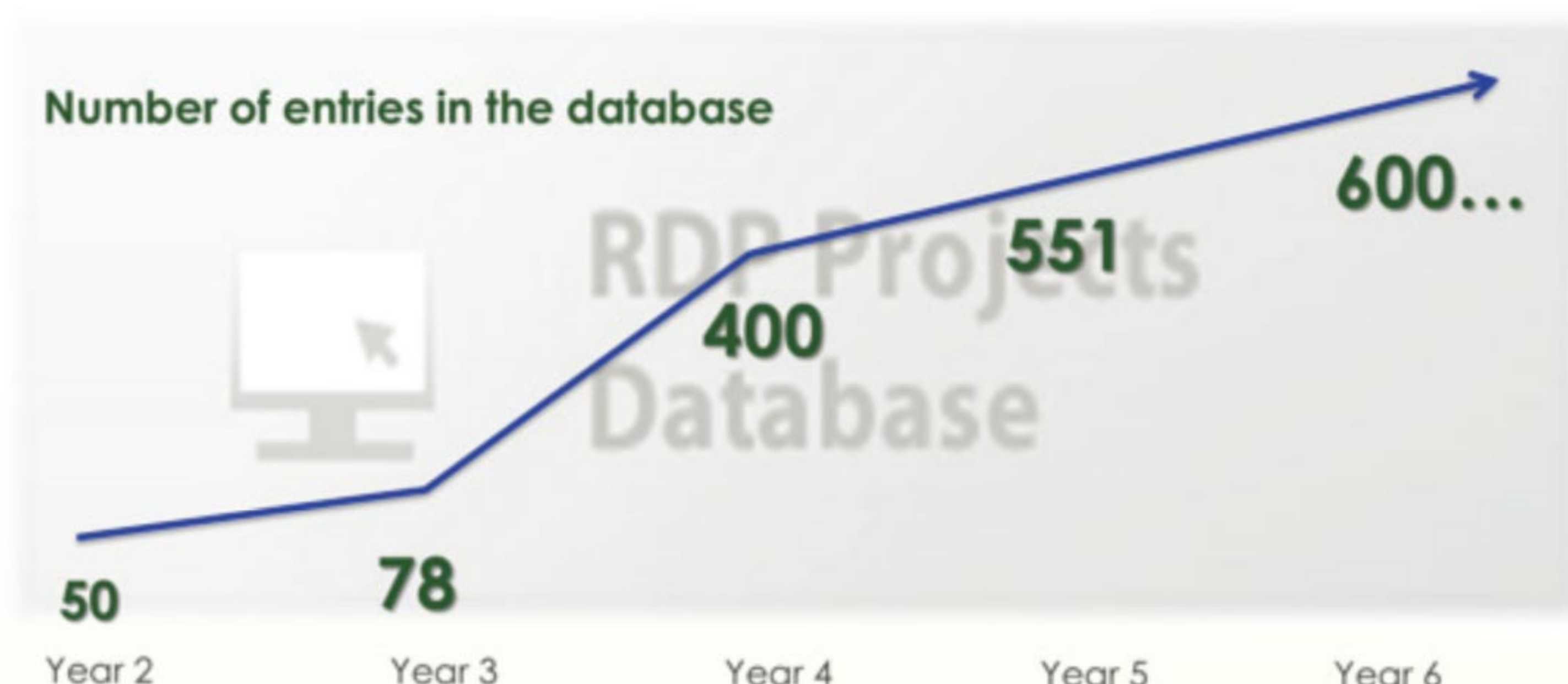
2. Networking through thematic exchanges, analyses and joint initiatives

- Four **Thematic Working Groups** and six **Focus Groups** addressing themes such as public goods, innovation and LEADER contributed to generate useful knowledge which was relevant for the effective and efficient delivery of RDPs.
- Such expert networks promoted exchanges among rural development stakeholders and generate a sound evidence base of relevant **RDP implementation practices**.
- A number of **thematic joint initiatives** were undertaken with NRNs and other stakeholders identifying and promoting viable approaches in order to tackle concrete issues such as, for example, economic changes in rural areas, forest multifunctionality, and effective support to rural youth.

The aims of the ENRD thematic work were to:

- Exchange experience and increase understanding of how the policy works in practice
- Assess what works well and what can be improved
- Provide insights to inform decision making in Member States and at the European level.

3. Analysing and disseminating information on rural development programmes

- A wealth of data on the physical and financial implementation of EU RDPs during 2007-2013 have been collected and summarised by the ENRD.
- Based on the RDPs monitoring data, **info-sheets of the RDPs' progress** have been produced for all the EU 27 Member States, covering 88 national and regional programmes and all RDP measures.
- The ENRD produced **RDPs summaries and analyses** informing the work of Thematic Working Groups, Focus Groups as well as providing structured and concise information on selected geographical and thematic areas such as: the **CAP Health Check**, **mountain areas** and, **climate change** adaptation and mitigation

1. Monitoring Indicators Tables & Charts

2. MS, RDP & Measures' Information Sheets

3. Thematic Information Sheets

4. Meetings, seminars and events involving ENRD stakeholders analysing and disseminating information on rural development programmes

Selected policy topics addressed by ENRD events:

- Successful RDP programming and implementation
- LEADER, cooperation and local development
- Public goods and public intervention
- Communicating rural development
- Quality design of environmental and climate measures
- Strategic programming and monitoring and evaluation for RDPs
- Semi-subsistence farming ICT and rural areas
- Youth and young farmers' in rural areas
- Financial instruments for rural development

- Between 2008 and 2014 a number of working meetings, workshops and larger events such seminars contributed to share knowledge on rural development policy implementation.
- **22 seminars and workshops** targeting a variety of rural development stakeholders focused on sharing implementation practices and prompt reflections on **improving RDP design and implementation.**
- **LEADER /CLLD, Networking** and **Communication** in rural develop- ment were the specific subjects of around 12 additional dedicated events.
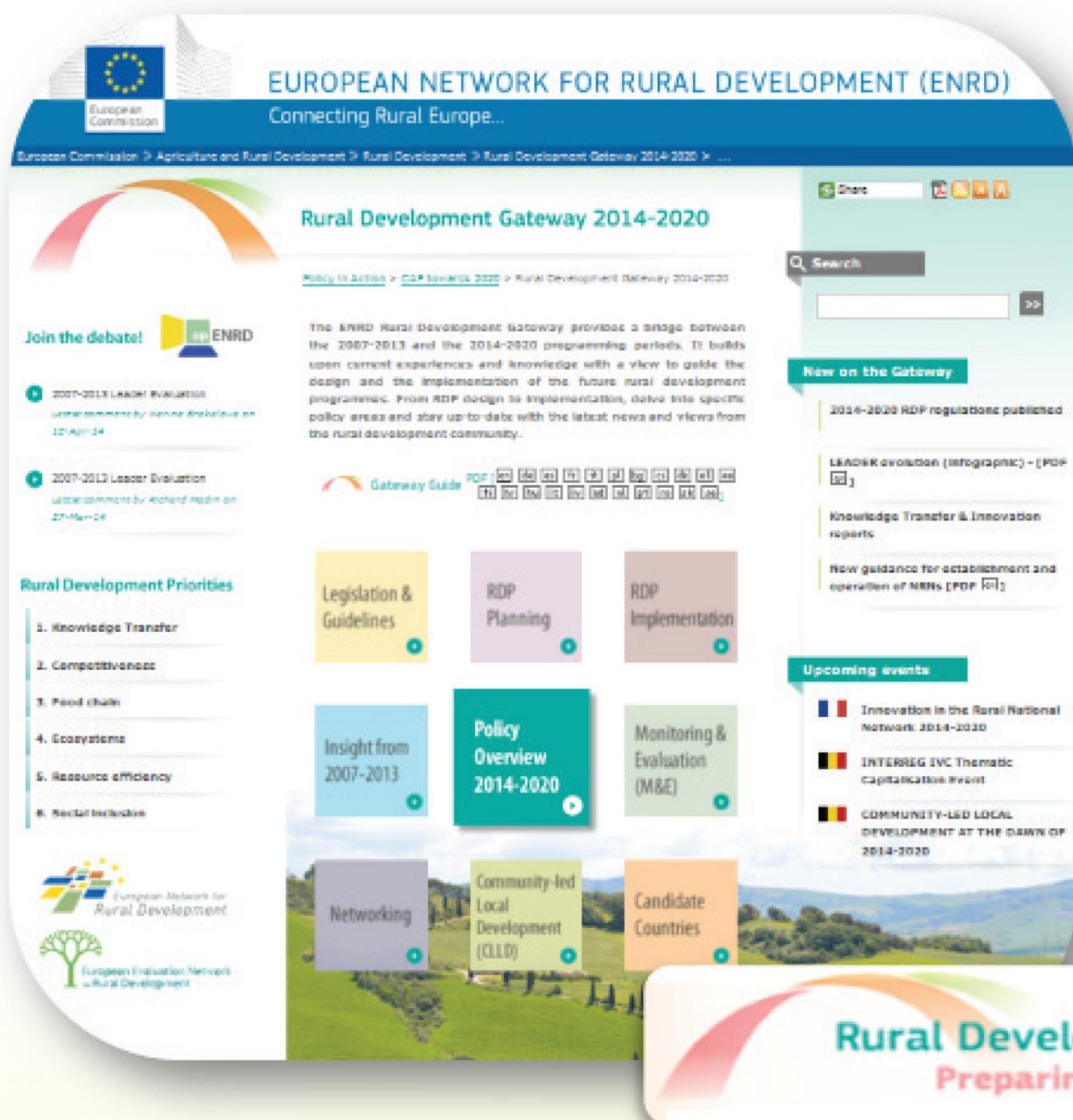
5. Towards better Rural Development Programmes

What defines the quality of Rural Development Programmes?

How to achieve better RDP implementation and projects through the collection and sharing of practices?

How to ensure that the thematic work and exchanges focus on most relevant topics for the rural development stakeholders?

How to improve the transfer and dissemination of the new knowledge generated?

Useful links

1. *Rural Development Gateway 2014-2020:* http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/policy-in-action/cap-towards-2020/rdp-programming-2014-2020/en/rdp-programming-2014-2020_en.cfm
2. *Webpage of the Thematic Working Group on Delivery Mechanisms:* http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/policy-in-action/improving-implementation/delivery-mechanisms/en/delivery-mechanisms_en.cfm
3. *Webpage of the Focus Group on the delivery of Environmental services through RDPs:* http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/themes/environment/environmental-services/en/environmental-services_en.cfm
4. *The ENRD seminar on Successful implementation of 2014-2020 RDPs:* http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/en-rd-events-and-meetings/seminars-and-conferences/successful-implementation-of-rdps/en/successful-implementation-of-rdps_en.cfm
5. *The Knowledge Transfer and Innovation Gateway:* http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/themes/research-and-innovation-gateway-development/en/research-and-innovation-gateway-development_en.cfm
6. *Youth and young farmers Gateway:* http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/themes/youth-and-young-farmers/en/youth-and-young-farmers_en.cfm
7. *Rural development policy in figures:* http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/policy-in-action/rural-development-policy-in-figures/en/rdp-figures_en.cfm
8. *Rural Development projects database:* http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/policy-in-action/rdp_view/search/en/search_en.cfm