



Overview of set up of national and regional networks and first identification of challenges



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1st EN RD Seminar on Capacity building for national rural network

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The information contained in this presentation was collected by the Contact point and does not engage the Commission's services



Basis of the presentation:

- The information provided is based on the responses to the 'Survey of National Rural Networks' carried out by the EN RD Contact Point during February and March 2009.
- Replies were received from 31 rural networks representing 27 Member States
- Please note that not all questions were answered by all NRNs

Outline of presentation:

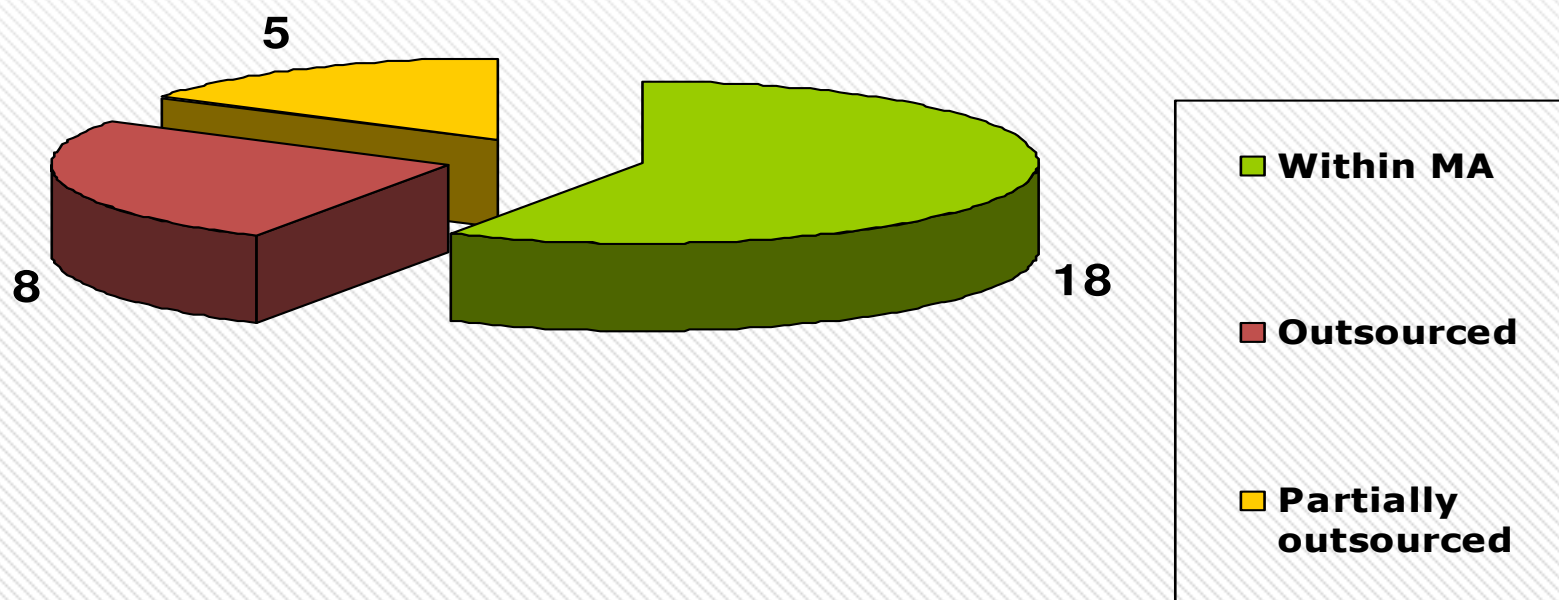
- **How are the NRNs organised?**
- **What are the NRN's strategies?**
- **What are the NRN's main activities?**
- **Challenges**

1. How is the network structure supported?

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

1.1 How is the network structure supported?

Network support for the unit



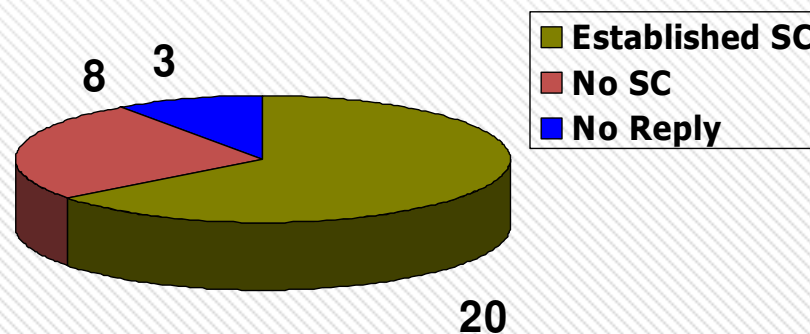
2. Structure of the network

2.1 Steering Committee

Out of 28 rural networks:

- 20 have already established a Steering Committee
- 8 have not yet established a Steering Committee

Did you establish a Steering Committee?



2. Structure of the network

2.2 Main network actors/stakeholders by category

Ranking of the four main categories identified:

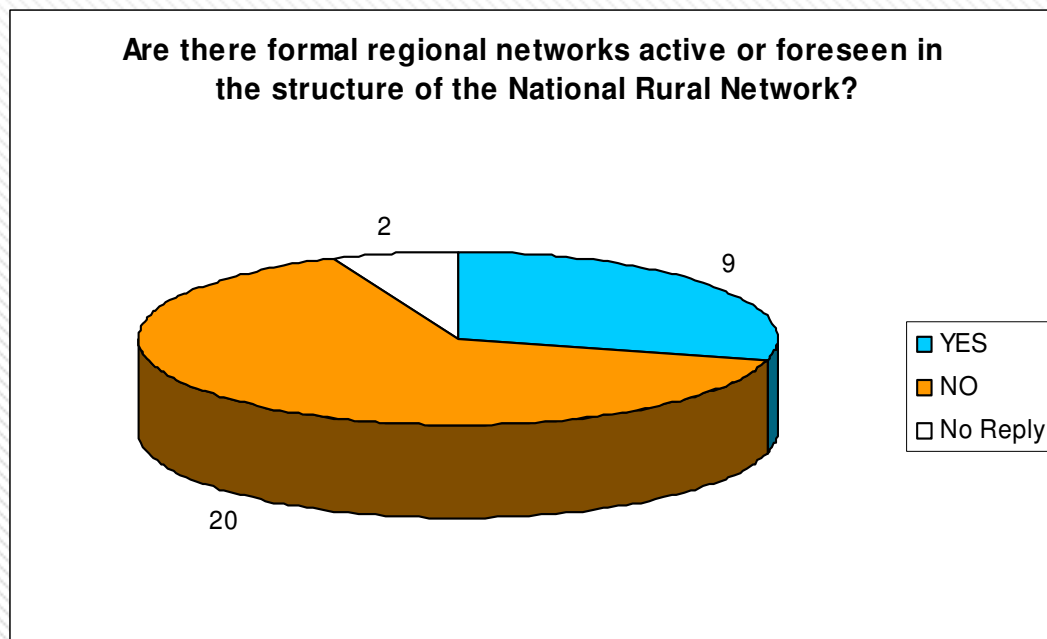
1. Universities and research institutes; public administrations (national and regional authorities); LAG associations; Agricultural associations
2. Association of rural communities; various professional and commercial chambers (Agricultural Chambers)
3. Environmental organisations; Local Authorities; individuals; Education and Advisory Institutes; Rural Development Institutes
4. SMEs; Social and Youth associations

(based on 20 replies)

2. Structure of the network

2.3 Regional networks active in NRNs: great diversity!

- BE has 2 regional networks and 1 national Contact Point,
- CZ has 63, one in each region,
- DE has one national and 5 regional agencies,
- DK: regional LAG network is being established,
- FR: all regional levels are active,
- LV: there is one central unit and 9 regional experts,
- NL: northern provinces have regional network, south will have one by spring 2009, more are expected,
- SK: there are 7 regional networks planned,
- UK: there are 4 regional network.



3. STRATEGIES OF NRNs

3.1 Priorities of the network strategy by ranking

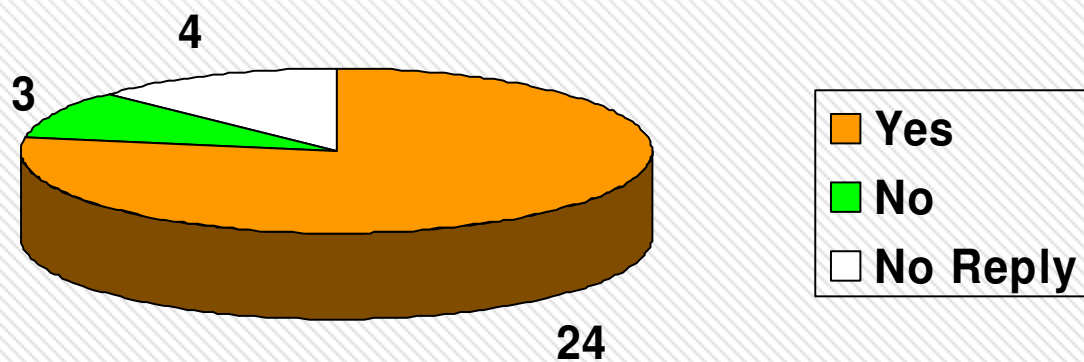
- Establishing effective and sustainable networks, stimulating actors, and increasing cooperation between rural actors
- Identification, analysis and dissemination of transferable good/best practices
- Organising seminars and training programmes, cooperation with the EN RD and other networks
- Facilitating cooperation

3.2 Network activities (by ranking) to support the priorities

- Organisational tasks: *establishing the networks, stimulating actors, and increasing cooperation between rural actors*
- Communication and exchange: *identification, analysis and dissemination of transferable good/best practices*
- Coordination and animation: *organising seminars and training programmes, cooperation with the EN RD and other networks*
- Assistance to Axis 4: *facilitating cooperation*

3.3 Thematic activities:

Do you plan to establish thematic activities?



3.3 Thematic activities continued:

Main themes ranked by frequency

- 1. Agriculture**
- 2. Leader**
- 3. Environment**
- 4. Quality of life in rural areas, diversification of the rural economy**
- 5. Others**

3.3 Thematic activities continued:

Other selected themes:

- **Demographic changes, rural population, social integration, youth, gender issues**
- **Future of rural areas, CAP after 2013**
- **Sustainable development of rural areas**
- **Peri-urban regions (opportunities of city/peri-urban area/rural area), City -country side relations**
- **Knowledge, innovation and research - development**
- **Integrated programmingetc.**

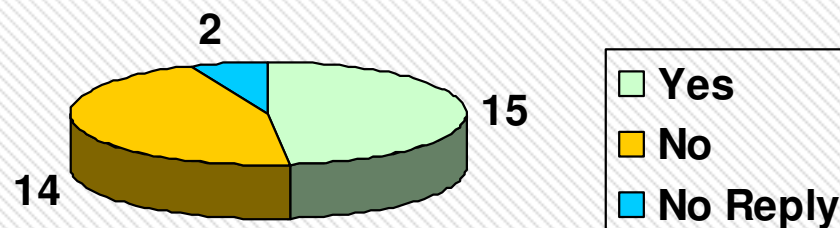
3.3 Thematic activities continued:

Good/best practice

Including:

- 11 NRNs are either preparing the selection criteria and/or databases for their web sites,
- 2 NRNs published details of contest for the best project each year.

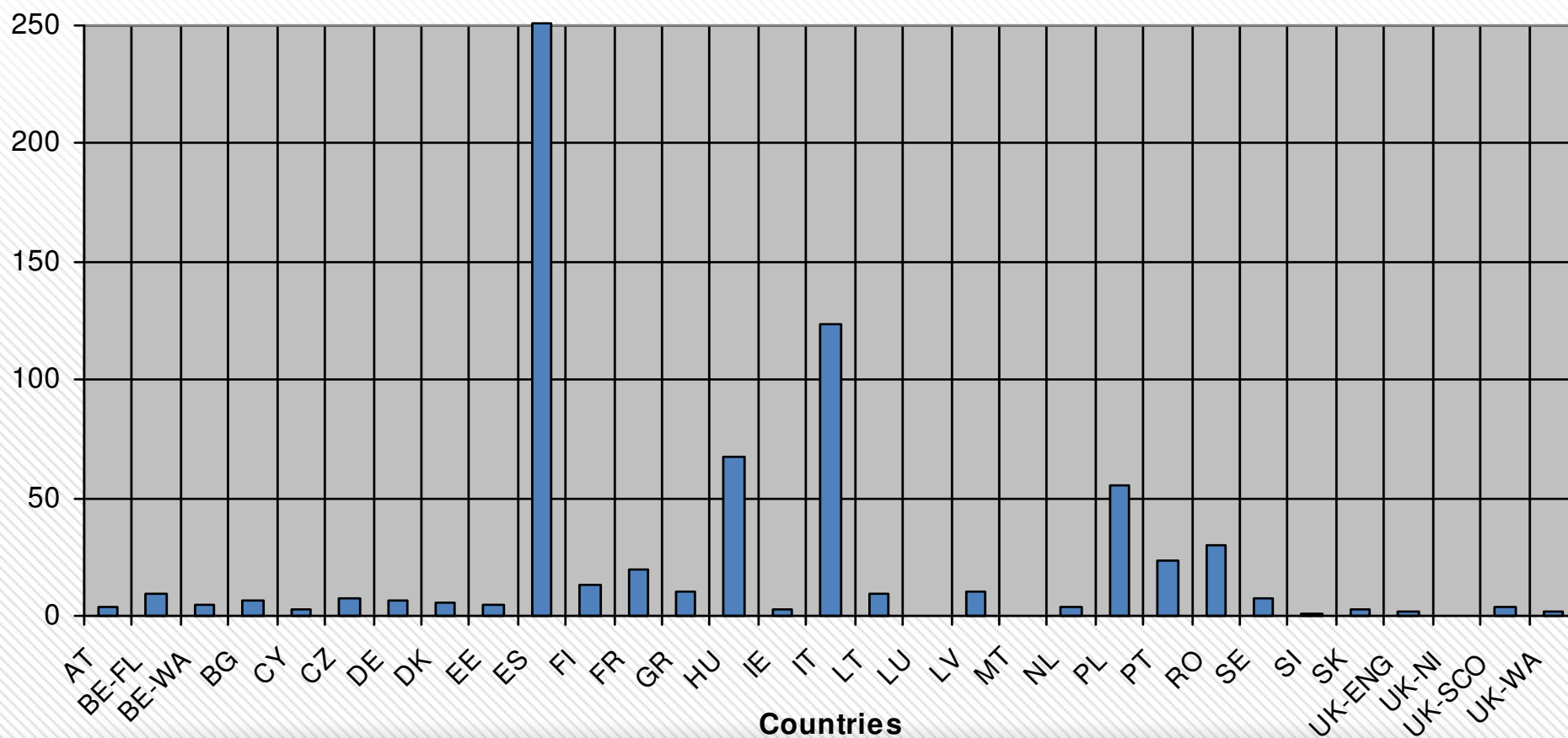
Have you already carried out work regarding the selection of good and best practices?



NRN Budget (based on Contact Point Survey)

Total indicative budget (to be validated)

EUR (millions)



4. CHALLENGES

4.1 Short-term challenges

- **Ranked by order of importance:**
 - 1. 'Capacity building': dealing with the different interests of the rural stakeholders**
 - 2. How to integrate all stakeholders in the different axes of the network**
 - 3. Developing new and innovative tools and instruments for networking**
 - 4. Network evaluation and proving the 'added-value' of networking**

4.1 Other short-term challenges continued:

- Motivation of stakeholders,
- Tools and documentation for inter-territorial and transnational cooperation projects, also with third countries,
- Establishing networks or links between EN RD and national TWGs,
- Implementation of TNC and best practices.

4.2 Long-term challenges continued:

Many are related to the organisation and governance of the network itself :

- Providing the necessary long-term support for:
 - the NRN structure itself
 - the beneficiaries of the EAFRD
 - networking and cooperation
- Ensuring the inclusion/integration of all rural stakeholders along all axes:
 - Reinforcing the territorial approach
 - Maintaining enthusiasm
 - Ensuring the vertical dialogue ('top-down' versus 'bottom-up' approach)

4.2 Long-term challenges continued:

- Managing the flows of information and the access to information
 - Having the right resources available
 - Efficient management of these resources
- Avoiding the duplication of work done elsewhere
- Ensuring and demonstrating that network activities:
 - have 'added value'
 - are sustainable (self-propelling and self-financing)
- Overcoming national differences and at the same time enhancing national strategies
- Better knowledge (understanding) of the EU!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

For further information please contact the Contact Point of the EN RD
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