"Strategic framework for National rural networks" Group A
Meeting on "Capacity building for NRN"
Brussels, March 30-31, 2009

Suggestions from

National Rural Network Netherlands

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PLATTELAND

Getting partners together, acting, animating and support to rural initiatives

Issues for sharing

1 **Network and Strategy**
   – Added Value of the NRN to the National Strategy Plan
   – Stakeholder involvement
   – How to M&E the success of networking

2 **Grouping stakeholders**
   – Grouping socio-economic sectors
   – Networking between sectors: examples

3 **Thematic priorities**
   – Linking to National Strategies
   – Thematic priorities

4 **NRN organization**

5 **Concluding suggestions**

1 Find added value of the Network to the RD Program
key-issue seminar

- Do basic tasks well

- Relieving constraints in National Strategy

- Get stakeholders involved

- M&E

constraints RDP > NRN contributions

some examples

- Sector institutions have problems to implement integrated RDP

  → - Area focus + linking axes + actors
    - Regional Development Funds

- Recently established LAGs

  → - Professionalize LAGs
    - Guidance in TNC

- Bureaucracy

  → - Policy signals
    - Building trust in GO
    - Inspiration and passion

- Slow improvement of Governance

  → - Municipal capacity
    - Regional self-organization
    - Public Private Partnership

- Outdated planning

  → - Social innovation in financial + economic crisis (Leader!)

… get stakeholders involved

- react fast on questions
- focus on themes
- support LAGs as specific target group
- address felt bottlenecks
- 30% of NNU budget to network partners
- develop your own style or 'core issue'

M&E criteria

Operational criteria
• numbers of visitors on website, of realized events, of publications, etc
• satisfaction of the participants in meetings and on products and services

Result criteria
• improved professionalism of network participants
• successful Transnational Cooperation projects
• competence pool to support municipalities and LAGs
• effective regional networks
• active Communities of Practice on relevant themes

Impact criteria
• improved quality of RDP: better projects or more RD-co-funding
• less burn-out of civil servants
• inhabitants take care of their region
• civil participants are positive about public-private cooperation and Governance
• NNU continuity after 2013 is supported by some stakeholders

2 Grouping Stakeholders?
so many interests in 1 network?

- grouping socio-economic sectors?
  - No sector grouping!
  - but interaction and integration
  - so work on themes
- stakeholders in committees or working groups?
  - use existing platforms for advice
  - only if direct action is possible
  - use appropriate approaches (f.e. CoP)
- *yes, bring different interests together: innovation is inspired by unexpected , new connections*

networking between axes/sectors

- Connect beyond sectors: examples
  - *'rurality near the city'*
  - *farmers and landscape*
  - *social domain in economic crisis*
- Support broad regional networks only
- Involve education institutes in RD-practice
- 'Round Table' of various Rural Advisors
- Connect with inter-sectoral networks
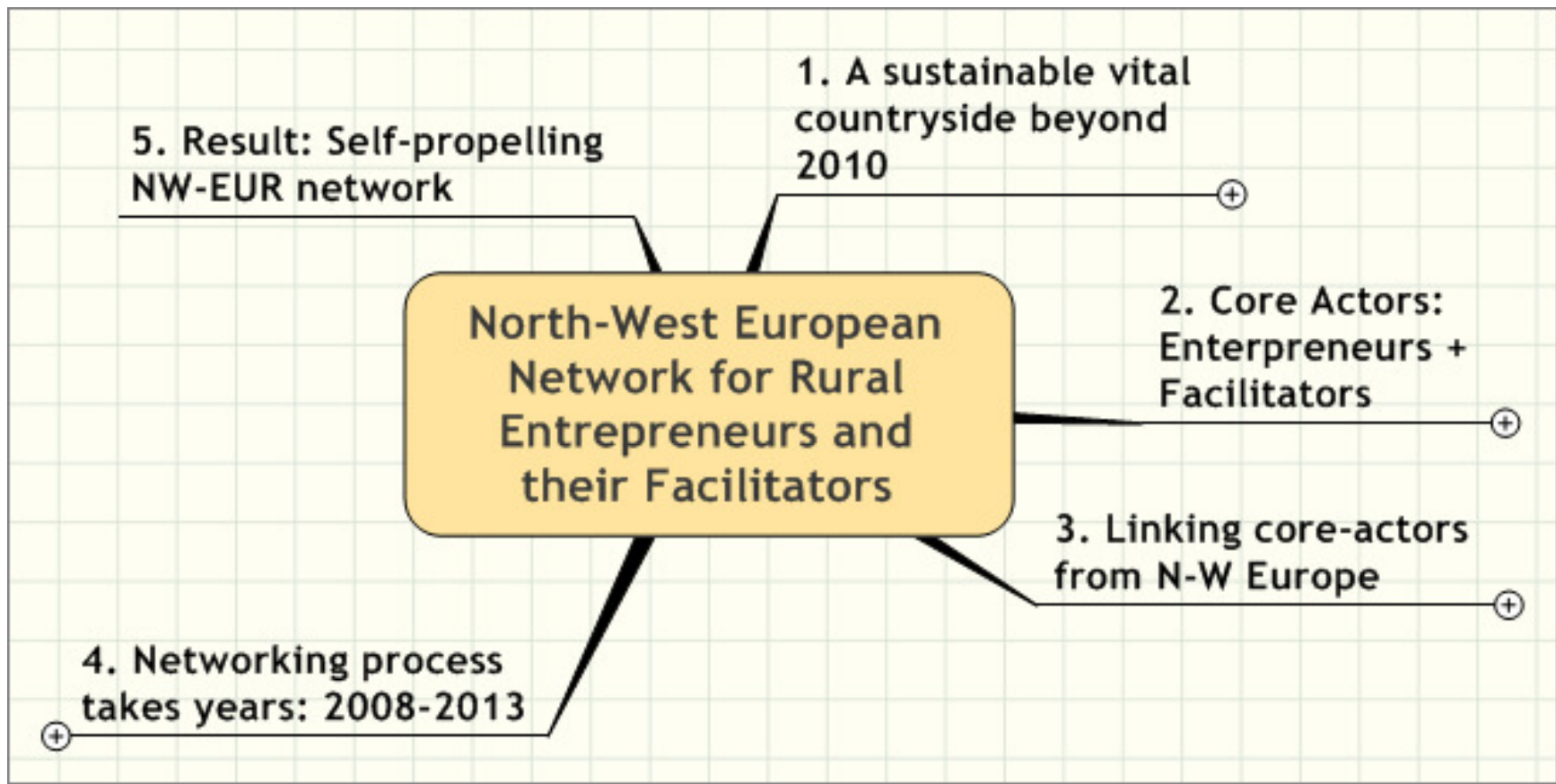 - e.g. TaskForce Multifunctional Agriculture
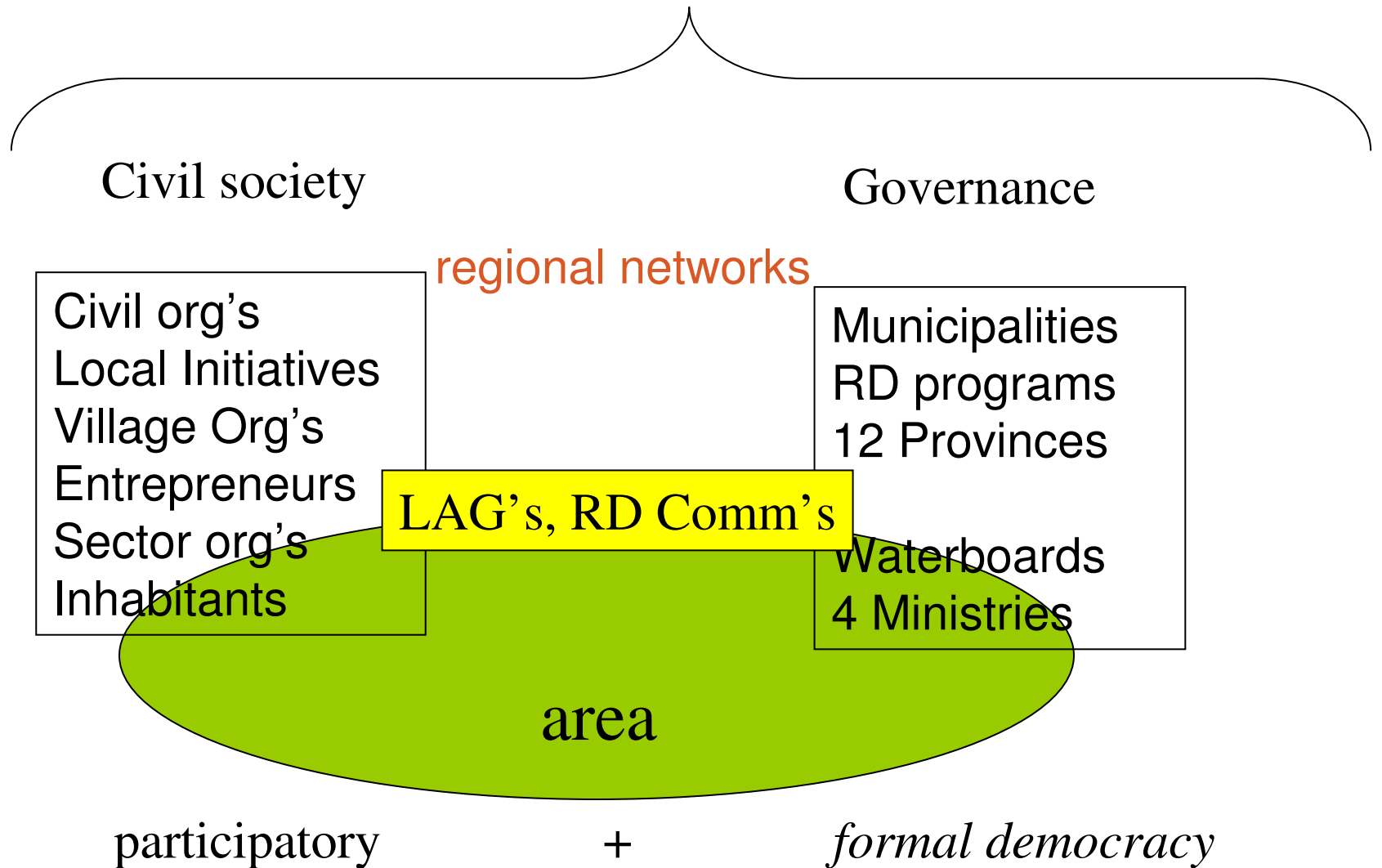
3 thematic priorities of NRN

select priority themes / target groups related to needs (*to address expectations*) f.e.

- regional development funds
  - to integrate different sector program budgets + private
- urban - rural interaction
  - to mobilize urban demand for rural services/products
- capacity building local ministers
  - peer learning on front line issues-not-yet-documented
- social innovation beyond services
  - local response to financial crisis in regional economy (Leader!)
- international business for entrepreneurs + facilitators
  - enterprises capitalizing on regional quality and identity, with their 'supporters' in public authorities

North-West European Network for Rural Entrepreneurs and their Facilitators

4 the network + nnu [+ ERDN]

Civil society   Governance

regional networks

Civil org's	Municipalities
Local Initiatives	RD programs
Village Org's	12 Provinces
Entrepreneurs	
Sector org's	Waterboards
Inhabitants	4 Ministries

LAG's, RD Comm's

area

participatory   +   *formal democracy*

position NNU *and links to strategy*

independent professional NNU team facilitates the Network
- paid by MoA + 12 provinces +EC
- contract with MoA, managed by ETC
- 3 fte (8 staff part time), 1% of RD budget [7 yr € 4 Mio]

- *progress briefings MoA: 3-6 / yr*
  - *standing invitation in meetings of 12 provinces*
  - *yearly consultation RD-platform*
  - *Member State Committee endorses NNU year plan by*

  - *invite them in meetings and conferences*
  - *policy signals and advice to all government levels*

5…lessons…suggestions…

for success : stakeholders co-fund NNU >2013

- know where to add value to RDP => 'core issue'
- relate priorities to needs, not to policy

- share budget with network partners

- no sector grouping! but interaction + integration
- stakeholders in committ's only for direct action