

VLAAMS RURAAAL NETWERK



The Flemish Rural Network aims at being the 'driving force that generates group dynamics and gets rural areas on the move'.

NRN objectives

The Flemish Rural Network established its **strategic objectives in line with the mandatory NRN objectives** set by the EU Regulation.

 **NRN Intervention Logic (NL)**



Informing more stakeholders on RDP in order to have them participate in RDP



Ensuring a (more) appropriate coordination between RDP and the Flemish rural area



Informing the general public on the Flemish RDP and on rural development



Fostering innovation in agriculture and forestry and on the countryside

Membership

Who can join the network?

- The Flemish Rural Network **is open to everyone**. Both organisations and individuals can become members and membership is free.

How to become a member?

- There is an informal membership, i.e. **no application or selection process**. Our activities are open to everyone, so interested stakeholders can always join our events. Our publications are also published on our website, and open to everyone.

Since there is **no formal membership**, it is not possible to define the exact number of NRN members. However some indications (up to the end of May 2016) can be given:

- **± 850 people** (different types of stakeholders) subscribed to the **newsletter**;
- **± 1.100 farmers** who have participated in one or more network activities;
- A large variety of other stakeholders involved in action groups, Learning Networks, events

Who are the members?

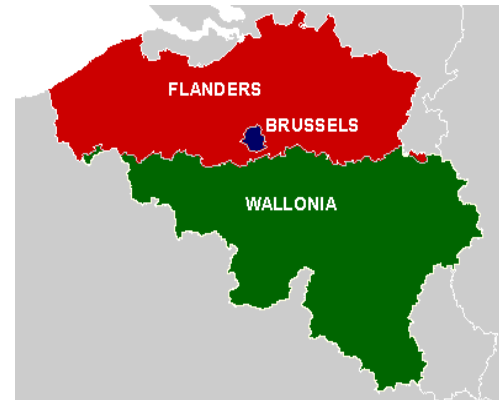
Two regional Network Support Units (NSUs) in Belgium

In Belgium there are **two regional NSUs**: the Flemish Rural Network and the Walloon Rural Network. The Flemish NSU also operates as the **national NSU**.

The Flemish and the Walloon NSUs meet on a regular basis in order to follow up on each others' work and to identify **possible joint activities**. Occasionally, the two networks co-organise events and other activities.

Examples of joint activities of the Walloon and Flemish Networks are:

- a debate in 2011 on young farmers
- field visits to farms in order to share good practices
- co-organisation of an event for LAG coordinators



The NSU and RDP management

The NSU and the Managing Authority

- Both the NSU and the MA are **delegated to a ministerial agency**. This results in **close cooperation** between the two institutions.
- Every two weeks there is a meeting between the NSU and MA.

The NSU and the Monitoring Committee

- Each year, the NSU **presents its annual planning** to the Monitoring Committee (MC).
- **Every month there is a meeting** where we inform the MC on past and upcoming activities.
- All **communication** are also sent to the MC (for example newsletters, invitations to our seminars, field visits, etc.)



NRN Governance

No formal governance bodies

- The NSU was planning to set up an assembly, where stakeholders could give input for the annual and long term planning of the network; however the response rate was too low.

Stakeholder meetings

- About twice a year the NSU will organize a stakeholder meeting on a specific topic, that is chosen together with the stakeholders. One topic can be the subject of more than one stakeholder meeting. It depends on the needs of the stakeholders

Stakeholder consultation

- Each year, the NSU organises an online survey for network evaluation and to collect input for its annual planning of future activities.

Communication



Website: activity reports, publications, overview of calls, calendar, projects...



Quarterly newsletters & other specific publications

The **communication strategy** elaborates on the division of **communication functions and forms and tools** for information dissemination



Action Groups:

- young farmers & young entrepreneurs
- knowledge education and innovation
- economic and environmental resilience and sustainability of the agricultural sector
- quality and vitality of rural areas



Events: seminars, excursions, information sessions on measures, participation at fairs & exhibitions

Timeline of NRN Workplans

1st period

1 Jan 2014 – 31 Dec 2014

2nd period

1 Jan 2015 – 31 Dec 2015

3rd period

1 Jan 2016 – 31 Dec 2016

4th period

1 Jan 2017 – 31 Dec 2017

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NRN self-assessment



Events evaluations & surveys:

NSU activities are evaluated after each event organised.



Data monitoring:

Activities are monitored: events themes are recorded and location of activities, other events the NSU participates in, the number of publications. Linking activities to the strategic goals.



Training & guidance:

The NSU follows training courses (for example courses by the Evaluation Helpdesk/ ENRD on self-assessment)

NRN Resources

Financial resources (2014-2020)	Budget (€)
Total NRN public funds:	2 800 000
Out of which national co-financing:	1 400 000
Out of which EAFRD:	1 400 000

Human resources	No.
Number of full-time equivalent (FTE) staff	3



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 *NSU Structure: Section 8 of the NRN Action Plan*