



EN

European Network for  
Rural Development

# ENRD

## CONNECTING RURAL EUROPE

2014-2020

What is rural  
networking?



<https://enrd.ec.europa.eu>

Funded by the



# EU rural development

## The rural development context

Rural development and agriculture are well placed to make a central contribution to the jobs growth and investment priority at the heart of the European Commission's economic agenda.



There are **25 million farmers** in the EU

The agri-food sector alone provides **7% of employment** and 3.5% of EU value added



Rural areas are **50% of EU territory**

The agri-food sector is the **4<sup>th</sup> largest export sector** in the EU



Rural regions provide **20.6%** (46.1 million) of **EU jobs**

## EU Rural Development policy

European Union Member States have sought to respond to the challenges and opportunities facing rural areas by developing an EU Rural Development policy as part of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

### Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)

#### Direct payments and market measures

CAP pillar one supports farmers' incomes – financed entirely from the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund

#### Rural Development

CAP pillar two supports rural areas – co-financed from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development

## Rural Development policy objectives

Within the overall framework of the CAP, European Rural Development policy aims to achieve the following objectives:

- fostering the competitiveness of agriculture;
- ensuring the sustainable management of natural resources, and climate action;
- achieving a balanced territorial development of rural economies and communities, including the creation and maintenance of employment.

## European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)

The policy is supported by the EAFRD alongside national financing. EAFRD spending expects the following results:



**335 000 farms** to receive support to restructure or **modernise**



**175 500 young farmers** to receive **business development** support



**17.7%** of EU farmland under management contracts supporting **biodiversity**



**€2.7 billion** invested in **renewable energy** production



**18 million citizens** benefitting from improved access to **rural ICT services**



**117 500** non-agricultural **jobs created**

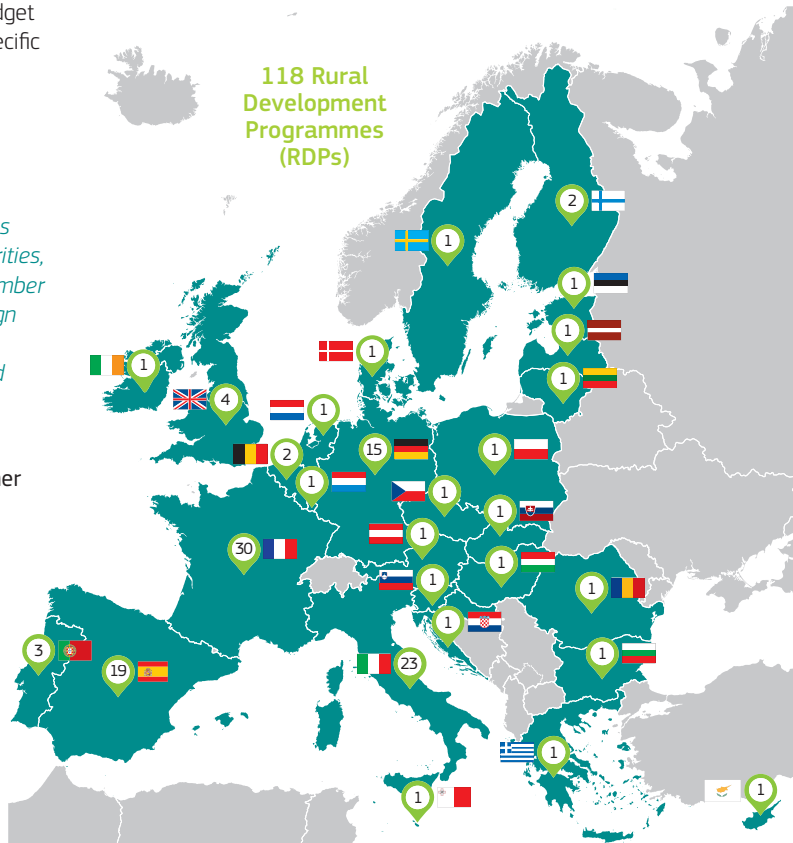
# Rural Development Programmes

To implement European Rural Development policy, there are 118 Rural Development Programmes (RDPs) across the EU.

The RDPs define the priority actions and budget allocations for their specific geographical area.

“One of the great strengths of our Rural Development concept is that we have core priorities, but it is up to each Member State or region to design a programme which suits its challenges and opportunities.”

Phil Hogan,  
European Commissioner  
for Agriculture and  
Rural Development





# Networking for results

**To achieve the best possible outcomes from the RDPs, rural networks have been established across Europe.**

National Rural Networks (NRNs) support exchange and learning between all the partners involved in the implementation of Rural Development policy in EU Member States: public authorities, economic and social partners and the relevant bodies representing civil society.

It is in this context that the **European Network for Rural Development (ENRD)** has been created to support transnational and cross-border learning and exchange.

Specifically, the ENRD has four key objectives:

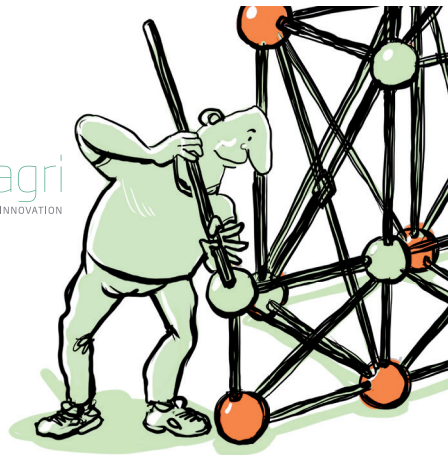
- (1) increase the involvement of stakeholders in rural development;
- (2) improve the quality of Rural Development Programmes;
- (3) better inform on the benefits of Rural Development policy;
- (4) support the evaluation of Rural Development Programmes.

The ENRD works alongside a second European rural network: the **European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability (EIP-AGRI)**.

EIP-AGRI works to promote innovation and knowledge transfer to foster competitive and sustainable farming and forestry.



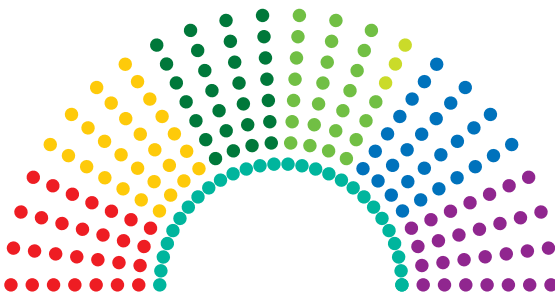
eip-agri  
AGRICULTURE & INNOVATION



# Network governance

The work of the ENRD and EIP-AGRI networks is guided by formal governance structures bringing together the range of rural development stakeholder groups.

The **Rural Networks' Assembly** meets annually to provide strategic direction, guidance and advice to the work of the ENRD and EIP-AGRI networks. It highlights emerging issues and important topics for the networks to work on.



**'Governmental' representatives**

- 28 Paying Agencies
- 28 Managing Authorities

**'Civil + Local' representatives**

- 28 LEADER Local Action Groups
- 25 EU Non-Governmental Organisations
- 3 Regional/Local Authorities Organisations

**'Innovation' representatives**

- 28 Agricultural Advisory Services
- 28 Agricultural Research Institutes

**NRN representatives**

- 28 National Rural Networks

The smaller **Rural Networks' Steering Group** follows up the work of the ENRD and EIP-AGRI networks two or three times a year. Its role is notably to ensure good coordination of thematic work.



- 28 National Rural Networks / Managing Authorities

- 4 Authorities in charge of evaluation

- 12 EU Organisations

- 4 Agricultural Advisory Services / Research Institutes

# Network Support Units

The work of the ENRD is facilitated by two support units: the ENRD Contact Point and the European Evaluation Helpdesk for Rural Development.



European Network for  
Rural Development

## The **Contact Point**

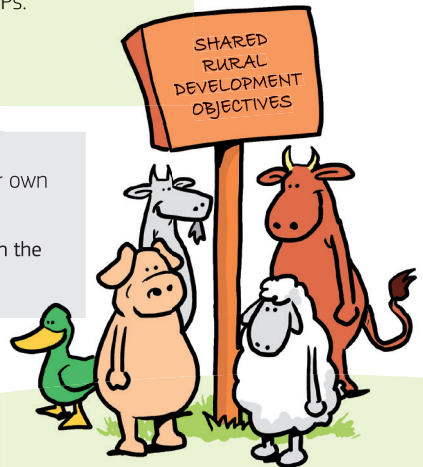
(CP) supports the operation of the ENRD. It coordinates thematic and analytic work, facilitates networking and exchange, and communicates the work and voices of the network.

## The **Evaluation Helpdesk**

provides specialist support to improve methods, tools, knowledge and understanding for evaluating RDPs.

The National Rural Networks also have their own **Network Support Units (NSUs)**.

- ✚ Find contact details via the clickable map on the ENRD website.



# Networking and exchange

The Contact Point and Evaluation Helpdesk organise a series of meetings and events to bring rural development stakeholders together.

## NRNs' meetings

bring together representatives from the National Rural Networks to discuss and exchange on their priorities, work, ideas and concerns. Held 2-3 times a year, these meetings enable networking between Member States as well as between the European and national levels.

- + See the presentations and meeting reports on the ENRD website.

National  
Rural Networks  
(NRNs)

Managing  
Authorities  
(MAs)

Researchers

Non-Governmental  
Organisations  
(NGOs)

Advisory  
Services



## Thematic working groups

bring together interested parties to discuss shared understanding, key messages and examples of good practice on a chosen topic. The groups usually meet 3-4 times per year and feed into the knowledge development outputs.

✚ Discover the current themes on the ENRD website.

## ENRD seminars

bring together the full diversity of stakeholders from across Europe to discuss latest thinking and the best ideas on a particular rural development topic. About two such seminars are organised each year involving National Rural Networks, Managing Authorities, Paying Agencies, Local Action Groups, European Organisations and more...

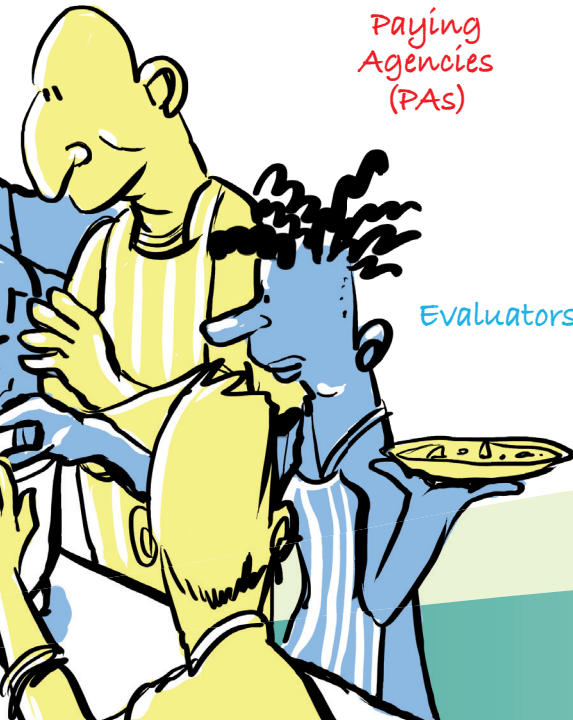
Local  
Action Groups  
(LAGs)

Paying  
Agencies  
(PAs)

Evaluators

## Workshops

are capacity-building events targeted at key invited stakeholders engaged in the implementation or evaluation of the Rural Development Programmes. They focus on improving technical delivery based on existing good practice.

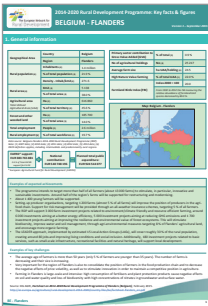


# RDP knowledge development

The ENRD Contact Point provides detailed analysis of policy, programmes and important rural development topics. It presents these in easily digestible forms for expert and non-expert audiences.

**RDP summaries** highlight selected content of each national and regional Rural Development Programme, including planned expenditure and 2023 targets.

+ Download them from the ENRD website.

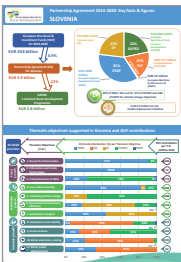


### 3. Planned expenditure per priority

The following table shows how the planned total public expenditure (comprising the EAFRD support and the national contribution) is allocated between rural development priorities. Priority 1 is considered to be cross-cutting and no separate financial allocation is shown as the expenditure is distributed across other focus areas.

Priority	Total public expenditure per priority (million EUR)	% of total public expenditure*	
P1 - Knowledge transfer & innovation	P2 - Competitiveness	371.9	12.8 %
	P3 - Food chain & risk management	272.9	9.4 %
	P4 - Ecosystems management	983.1	33.7 %
	P5 - Resource efficiency & climate	430.6	14.8 %
	P6 - Social inclusion & local development	815.2	27.9 %

\* Figures do not add to 100 % because the budget for technical assistance is not included. The budget for technical assistance is available in Section 4.



The **Partnership Agreement factsheets** reflect how each Member State sees the interaction between different EU policies and funds (with a special focus on the EAFRD).

+ Download them from the ENRD website.



**Good practices** in both project and programme implementation aim both to encourage the transfer of approaches that have been shown to work and to inspire even better ideas.

- + Find good practices on the ENRD website.



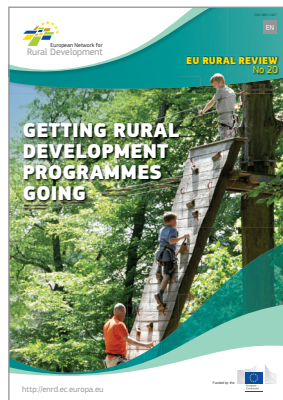
The **EAFRD Projects Brochure** brings good practice examples to life. It presents case studies of around a dozen projects funded by the EAFRD on a particular theme to inform and inspire.

- + Subscribe online and download previous editions from the ENRD website.



The **EU Rural Review** is the ENRD's main thematic publication. Two editions per year set out the latest knowledge and thinking on key rural development topics.

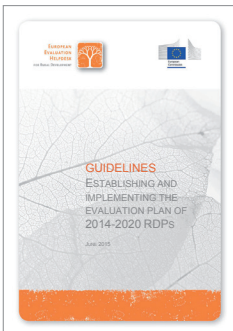
- + Subscribe online and download previous editions from the ENRD website.



# Evaluation WORKS!

Evaluations function as an important information source to judge not only the performance of policies, but as a basis of accountability and transparency for citizens and stakeholders. The Evaluation Helpdesk aims to ensure with its activities a more result-oriented approach facilitating good governance.

## Supporting advanced evaluation methods and tools



**Practical evaluation guidelines** are developed by the Helpdesk in collaborative thematic working groups. These guidelines are targeted at providing methodological assistance to Managing Authorities (MAs) and evaluators.

+ Download Guidelines from the Evaluation section on the ENRD website.

**Working documents** help to inform stakeholders – MAs, National Rural Networks (NRNs), and Local Action Groups (LAGs) – on specific evaluation-related subjects (e.g. evaluation-related queries raised by Member States, evaluation sections of annual implementation reports, and capacity-building events).

+ Download Working Documents from the Evaluation section on the ENRD website.

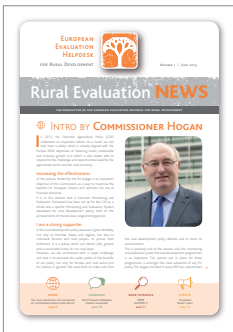
**Factsheets** are produced on an ad hoc basis and dedicated to evaluation-related topics gathered through good practice workshops and capacity-building events to support the transfer of new knowledge to all evaluation stakeholders with the goal of encouraging greater dialogue on important evaluation topics.

+ Download Factsheets from the Evaluation section on the ENRD website.

## Guiding the implementation of Evaluation Plans (EPs) of Rural Development Programmes (RDPs)

**Syntheses assessments** demonstrate the progress of the implementation of EPs, and provide advice on how to improve implementation, and identify good practices, further contributing to the development and implementation of the common monitoring and evaluation system for rural development.

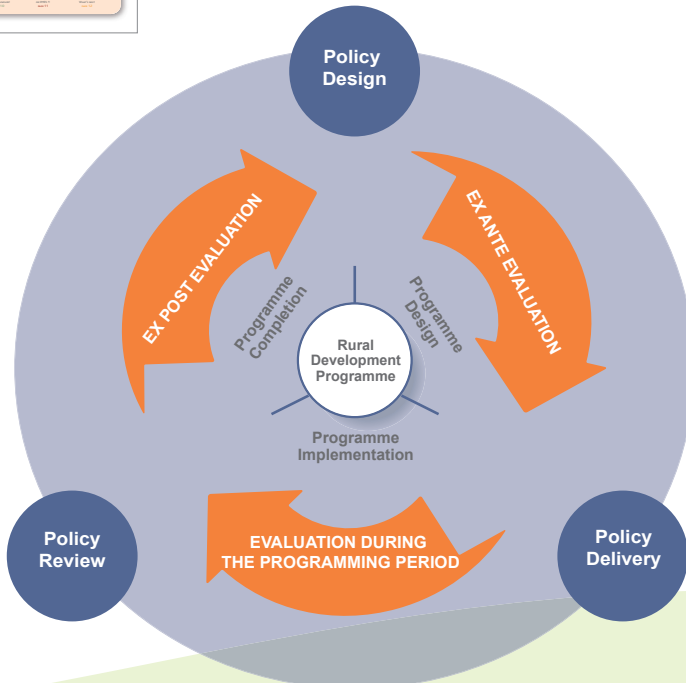
- + Download Syntheses from the Evaluation section on the ENRD website.



### Spreading evaluation knowledge for EU rural development

**Rural Evaluation NEWS** reports on the latest developments in the evaluation community, including best practices, methods and capacity-building activities in the Member States.

- + Download the latest issue of Rural Evaluation NEWS from the Evaluation section on the ENRD website.



# Communication

ENRD communication tools are used both to circulate the latest knowledge and information around the network and to encourage and enable dialogue between stakeholders.



The **ENRD website** is the one-stop shop for everything you want to know about the ENRD. It includes an overview of the policy, news and events, knowledge development outputs, toolkits, national contacts, publications and more...

+ Visit <https://enrd.ec.europa.eu>



The electronic **ENRD newsletter**

provides all the latest ENRD and rural development news straight to your inbox once a month.

+ Subscribe online and read previous newsletters on the ENRD website.

**Rural Connections** is the ENRD's networking magazine. Produced twice a year, it presents latest European news and updates, voices of rural development stakeholders from across Europe and a thematic section of reports and interviews.

+ Subscribe online and download previous editions from the ENRD website.



ENRD **social media** channels provide various ways of following the latest news and developments from across the ENRD network. Keep up to date and add your voice to the exchanges.

✚ Find the right channel for you.



Visit the **ENRD Facebook page** for examples of rural development practices from across the EU – as well as latest news and trends.



**YouTube**

Watch **videos** on rural development projects and thematic issues on the **EURural YouTube** channel.



Follow **@ENRD\_CP** on **Twitter** for updates on EU Rural Development policy, news and events.



Join the **ENRD LinkedIn group** for debates, exchange and discussion around Rural Development policy and implementation issues.



# stay informed – get involved!



## The **European Network for Rural Development (ENRD)**

is the structure that brings together all the stakeholders aiming to achieve improved rural development results in the EU.

The network serves as a hub for the sharing of information about how Rural Development policy, programmes, projects and other initiatives are working in practice and how they can be improved to achieve more.

There is no formal membership requirement to join the ENRD, so if you have any interest in rural development outcomes in Europe, we invite you to stay informed and get involved!

<https://enrd.ec.europa.eu>

Find more information inside on:

- EU Rural Development policy and programmes
- The added value of rural networking
- EU Rural Networks' governance
- The ENRD Contact Point outputs and activities
- The work of the European Evaluation Helpdesk for Rural Development

Last updated: February 2016.

© European Union, 2016  
Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.

### **ENRD Contact Point**

Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat, 38 (bte 4)  
1040 Bruxelles/Brussel  
BELGIQUE/BELGIË  
Tel. +32 2 801 38 00  
[info@enrd.eu](mailto:info@enrd.eu)

### **European Evaluation Helpdesk for Rural Development**

Boulevard Saint Michel/Sint Michielslaan 77-79  
1040 Bruxelles/Brussel  
BELGIQUE/BELGIË  
Tel. +32 2 737 51 30  
[info@ruralevaluation.eu](http://info@ruralevaluation.eu)

Funded by the

