



# Overview of NRNs activities in supporting evaluation of RDPs

## Outcomes of a survey

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# Content

- Background and purpose of the survey
- Survey's findings
- Conclusions



# Purpose of the survey

## Learn:

- To what extent do NRNs go beyond the minimum requirements in supporting the RDP evaluation ?
- What type of support do NRNs provide to evaluation?

## Facilitate the discussion on

- NRNs' future possibilities to be involved in evaluation
- Needs of NRNs in relation to evaluation

26 NRNs out of 32  
(26 per MS plus 2  
in BE and 4 in UK)  
have replied to the  
survey – **81%**

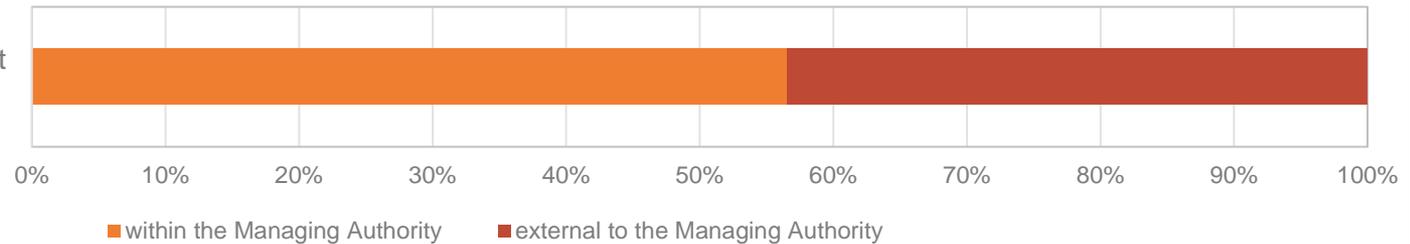


# Findings

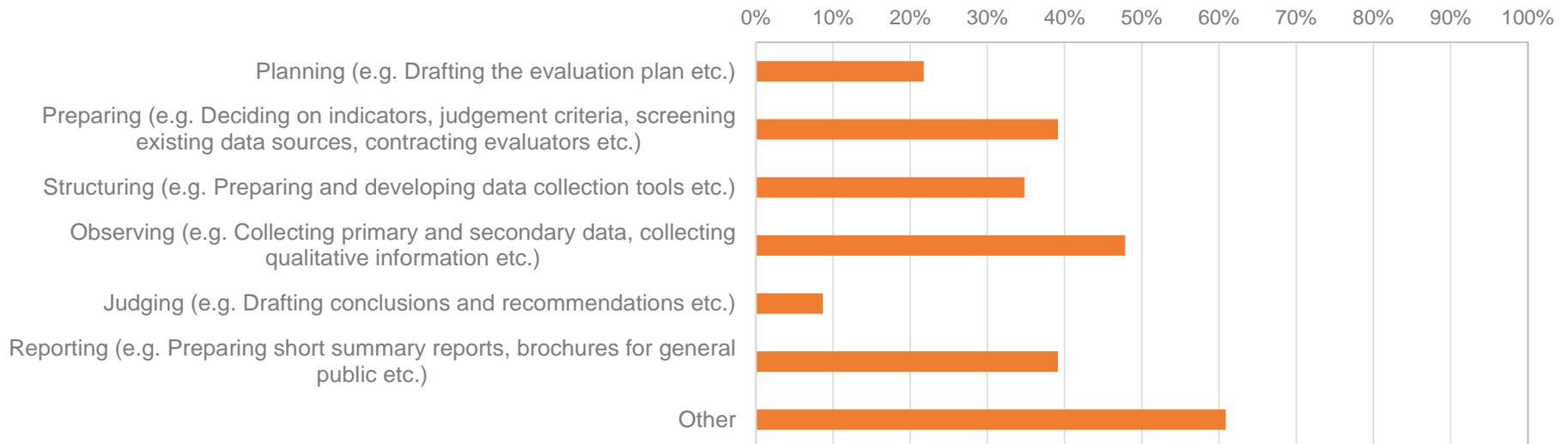


# How are NRNs organised and what are their responsibilities in RDP evaluation?

1.1. How is the Network Support Unit of your NRN organized?



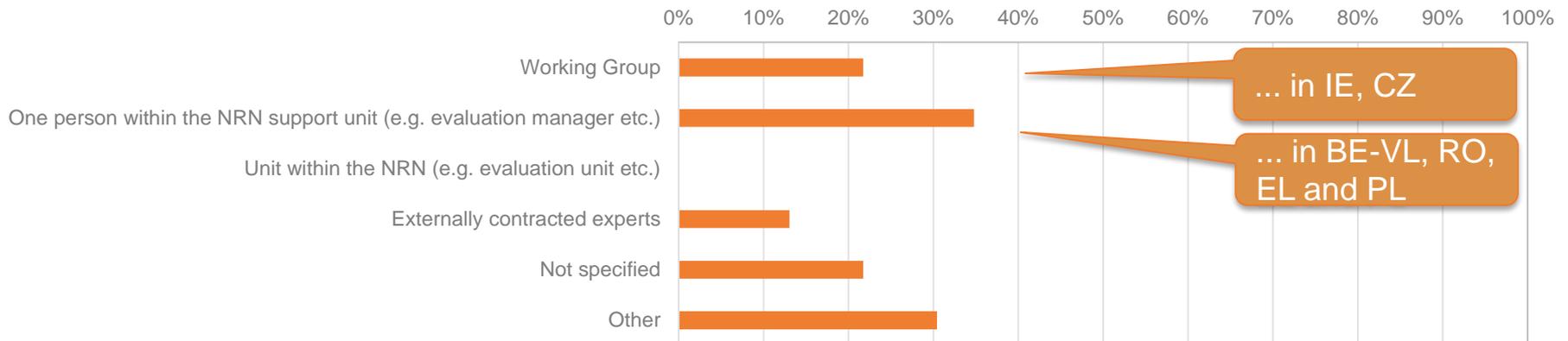
1.2. What are the responsibilities/tasks of your NRN has in terms of supporting evaluation of RDPs?



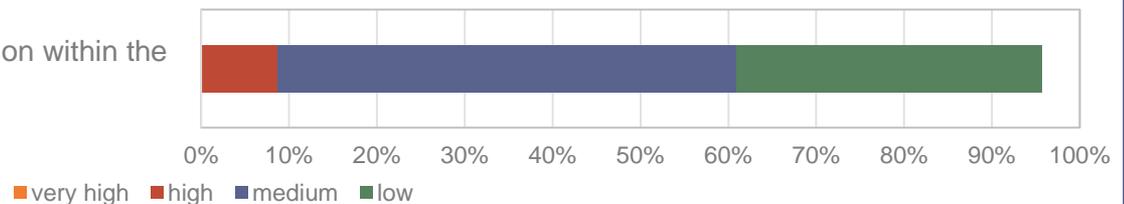


# Who is responsible for evaluation and how is the support embedded in the action plan?

## 1.3. Who is responsible for supporting evaluation of RDPs in your NRN?



## 1.4. What importance has the support to RDP evaluation within the action plan of your NRN?





Which RDP evaluation related activities  
have NRNs carried out so far?



## Collection of examples on evaluation (9 replies)

NRNs show examples of evaluations to a broad audience.

- **Assessment of monitoring and evaluation** of the RPD 2014-2020 system (PL, ES) and of CLLD strategies implemented by LAGs in 2014-2020 (PL)
- **Setting up of the National Database** of RDPs indicators and RDP context indicators for 2007-2013 (IT)

### Partners

NSU, Implementation Agency, PA, MA, **LAG**, **beneficiaries**, evaluators

### Target groups

evaluators, research institutes, Implementation Agency, MA, **policy makers**, **LAGs**, **general public**

### Outcomes

Contributions to AIR or self-standing reports (on NRN)



# Thematic and analytical exchange (13 replies)

NRNs do not only participate but also actively contribute to thematic work on evaluation.

- **Setting up and running various types of thematic working groups and sub-committees** (CZ, FR), focused on various:
  - *stakeholders*: LAGs, leaders of OG, and projects leaders (BE\_WAL), or
  - *themes*: Biodiversity and EU Life; Climate Change; LEADER; EIP-Agri; Farm Viability and Competitiveness (IE)
- **Facilitating discussions** regarding the evaluation of LEADER 2007-2013 at NRN CLLD events (SE, PL) and
- **Participating** in various evaluation groups and meetings (SI, PT, IT, EE, SE, PT)

## Partners

MA, evaluators, LAGs and their network

## Target groups

MA, LAGs, researchers, PA FLAGs, **self-government, beneficiaries, network members, project leaders**

## Outcomes

Interpretation of EU evaluation requirements, improved evaluation reports



# Training and capacity building on evaluation (14 replies)

NRNs organise targeted capacity building events for a broad range of evaluation stakeholders (MAs, LAGs etc.)

- **Running thematic workshops** with evaluators and with MAs (DE);
- **Conducting trainings** for various RDP stakeholders:
  - session on M&E “Back to basics” (FR);
- **Organising trainings, workshops and seminars for LAGs:**
  - on LAG level evaluation (BE- VI, EE, BE-WAL, PT, IT, EL);
  - on LAG self-assessment (PT, IT, DE), on LDS monitoring;
  - on new LEADER/CLLD guidelines (CZ, BE-WAL).
- **Mentoring LAGs** in evaluation/self-assessment (PT)
- **Designing templates** (DE) and **guidance** (IT) to assist MAs to draft the terms of reference for contracting the evaluator

## Partners

MA, LAG network, PA, Dept. for M&E, ENRD-evaluation, **NRN regional units, trainers**

## Target groups

LAGs, LAG managers, **public authorities**, MAs, researchers

## Outcomes

workshop reports



# Networking on evaluation (6 replies)

NRNs  
organize,  
participate and  
facilitate in  
evaluation-  
related  
networking  
activities.

- **Organising:**
  - regular annual events for evaluators (DE, IT)
  - session on NRN evaluation and self-assessment at Nordic-Baltic Rural Network meeting in Jelgave (LV) and in Pułtusk (PL);
- **Participating in:**
  - the National System of Evaluation (IT)
  - the Expert group on M&E of CAP meetings (IT)
- **Facilitating** a LAG discussion group on Facebook (PL)

## Partners

MA and evaluators, LAGs

## Target groups

LAGs, evaluators and MAs,  
LAGs

## Outcomes

Facebook group,  
minutes and newsletter



# Sharing and disseminating findings (14 replies)

NRNs use a broad variety of tools to communicate and disseminate evaluation findings.

- **e-Newsletter** (EE, SI, SE, DE, IE, ES, RO)
- **Publications:** Success Stories of Agri-environment Measures, Surprising Estonian LEADER etc. (EE) and book on RDP evaluation findings (LT), synthesis of ex post evaluations 2007-2013 and publication "RDPs 2007-2013: a general assessment,, (IT)
- **Public presentations** at conferences, workshops, annual events (CZ, SI, LT, DE) and monitoring committee sessions (LT)
- **Sharing ex post evaluation findings** among NRN members (FR)
- Using **Facebook groups** to report on RDP evaluation (PL)

## Partners

NRN members, MA, PA evaluators and their association, regional RN, research centre, EC,

## Target groups

NRN members, Monitoring Committee, general public, MA, experts, evaluators, LAGs, OG, beneficiaries, researchers, advisors

## Outcomes

web site, Facebook group, newsletter, minutes of events  
Increased awareness of RDP beneficiaries



# Contributing to activities of Evaluation Helpdesk (10 replies)

NRNs participate in various HD activities and help to disseminate of HD information and documents.

- **Participating** in yearly capacity building events and good practice workshops (FI, FR, UK-EN, CZ, IT, IE)
- **Disseminating** HD documents and invitations to events (FI, FR, UK-EN, ES) as well as HD newsletter (UK-EN)
- **Organising** ENRD meetings with sessions of the Evaluation Helpdesk (SI)

## Partners

Evaluation Helpdesk, NRN, MA, evaluators, Contact point

## Target groups

MA, PA, NRN(s), evaluators, LAGs, RDP evaluation support units

## Outcomes

Information on the web site, minutes, shared good practice



## Others (10 replies)

NRNs collect data and information for evaluation.

- **Collecting quantitative data and qualitative information for evaluations** (LV, SE, UK-EN, PL, RO), e.g.:
  - participating in monitoring (DE) and in research on cooperation (PL), or
  - providing information on communication of RDP and NRN activities (DK)
- **Assisting to evaluator in defining result indicators and evaluation questions** for AIR 2017 (FR), and suggesting questions to evaluators (SE)
- **Discussing the AIR results and adapting the NRN action plan** accordingly (FI)

**Partners**  
Evaluators, MA,  
PA monitoring units

**Target groups**  
evaluators, MA, LAGs

**Outcomes**  
improved evaluation  
questions, collected data,  
newsletter, flyers with good  
practice



# What were the major challenges encountered? (21 replies)

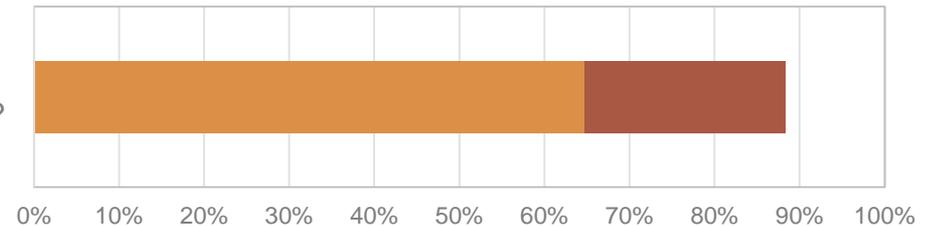
How can NRN...

- help in the **organisation and coordination of evaluation** (BE-WAL)
- better **help the evaluators in collecting data and information** (SE, UK-EN)
- **assist in communication of evaluation findings** to the general public (CZ, EE)
- help to ensure the **transfer of evaluation knowledge**, (FR, PL)
- **promote innovative evaluation approaches** (IT)
- **support LAG level evaluation** (SI) and assist them in establishing the common M&E system (PT)
- ensure **sufficient human resources within the NRN** to support the RDP evaluation (HR, LT)



## What are the future plans to support the RDP evaluation? (12 replies)

2.9. Would you consider to increase your involvement in supporting RDP evaluation after the reporting in AIR 2017?



■ Yes    
 ■ No, it will remain as it was planned    
 ■ No, we will decrease activities related to the evaluation of RDP

More NRN want to

- Create **permanent NRN working groups for RDP evaluation** (LV, UK-EN)
- Organise **thematic events with relevant M&E findings**, (AT), **training session and workshops** on the CMES for managers of RDP and LAGs (FR, ES)
- Increase of the **capacity to collect data and information for evaluators** (UK-EN, LV).
- Support for LAGs to **create the M&E system at the local level** (PT)
- Enhance **capacity for sharing, dissemination and communication** of monitoring and evaluation findings (SI)
- Increase the use of **evaluation tools in NRN activities** (SK)
- **Review the self-assessment methodology** and adaption of the NRN action plan (ES)



# What support do the NRNs need? (21 replies)

## EU level (EC and Evaluation Helpdesk)

**Provide exchange on good practice, tools and methods** to support RDP evaluation (SI) in:

- Communication of evaluation findings (CZ, EE, FI), and
- Collection of quantitative and qualitative information (PL, UK-EN)
- Networking for innovation of evaluation methods (NL)
- Organising various capacity building events (PT, IT)

**Ensure a consistent technical framework** and EU requirements at an early stage of evaluation (DE)

## MS and RDP level

**Coordinate better with MA** the involvement of NRN in RDP evaluation (ES), e.g.:

- Invite NRN to participate in WG regarding the evaluation of RDP
- Provide methods on how to create the learning process on evaluation (SE) and M&E support tools (IT)
- Use NRN more in data and information collection (PL)

**Strengthen NRNs' human resources** for supporting the evaluation – staff and knowledge (HR, LT, UK-EN)



# Conclusions of the survey

NRNs:

- Support the RDP evaluation and **go beyond the legal requirements**:
  - Dissemination and sharing of evaluation findings,
  - Provision of capacity building activities, e.g. trainings with the strong focus on LAGs,
  - Facilitation of thematic work.
- **Provide help to evaluators**, e.g. in data and information collection



# Thank you for your attention!

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