

# Common Network Statistics

## Y5 SUMMARY REPORT

March 2020

*The summary report has been prepared by the ENRD Contact Point and its content does not reflect the official position of the European Commission.*

*The report covers 2018 data and therefore refers to the EU-28 with the United Kingdom as a Member State.*

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## Context

In 2016 Network Support Units (NSUs) agreed to submit Common Network Statistics (CNS) every calendar year. The purpose of collecting the data is:

- collecting and raising awareness of the achievements of NRNs;
- benchmarking;
- identification of useful NRN activities/examples across Europe; and
- regular and systematic tracking of progress within each individual NRN.

The first data were collected in 2016 for Y1 (2014 data) and Y2 (2015 data). In the process of collecting and analysing the CNS Y3 (2016 data), several issues became apparent. The ENRD Contact Point (CP) together with the NSUs therefore simplified and shortened the survey for Y4 (2017 data).

The CNS Y5 responses (2018 data) were collected in same format as the Y4 responses. However, it became evident that more clarity was required in terms of which data should be included and that deadlines were too early in the calendar year for some NSUs.

These issues were addressed through direct consultations with the NSUs. In addition, further instructions were inserted in the guidance note accompanying the data collection template. The deadline for CNS reporting was moved from April to June in order to align it with the deadline for the Annual Implementation Reports of the Member States (MSs). Consequently, the results collected now are more reliable than in previous years and the collection process is smoother.

## Process and Submissions

The CNS survey for Y5 (2018 data) was distributed to NSUs on 25 March 2019, with responses requested by 15 June 2019. A total of 24 submissions were received during this period. After the deadline several reminders were sent, and NSUs were contacted by telephone to complete or correct the survey.

Using direct contact and consultations all 32 NSUs submissions were collected and finalised by 11 September 2019, which is an improvement on previous years (24 November in Y3; 13 November in Y4).

The survey was prepared in an excel and in an online survey format (using Survey Monkey). Each NSU could choose which format they preferred to use for reporting. From the 32 responses, 24 surveys were completed using the excel table and eight were submitted via Survey Monkey.

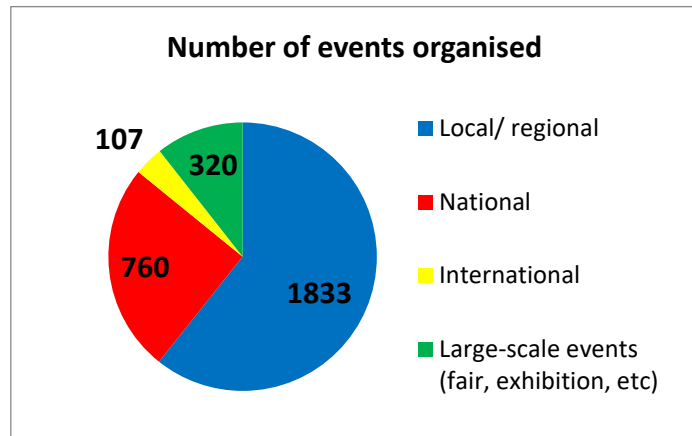
## Analysis of Y5 results

From the submissions received in 2019, the analysis across all the categories gave an overview of networks' activities throughout the EU. Where possible the data from Y3, Y4 and Y5 were compared. In some cases a comparison of all three years was not possible due to incomplete data, different number of NSU responses or a different formulation of question from the original Y3 collection process. Due to some technical differences in the classification of events, the comparison of data between countries has lower reliability, in particular as concerns large-scale category, Question 1.

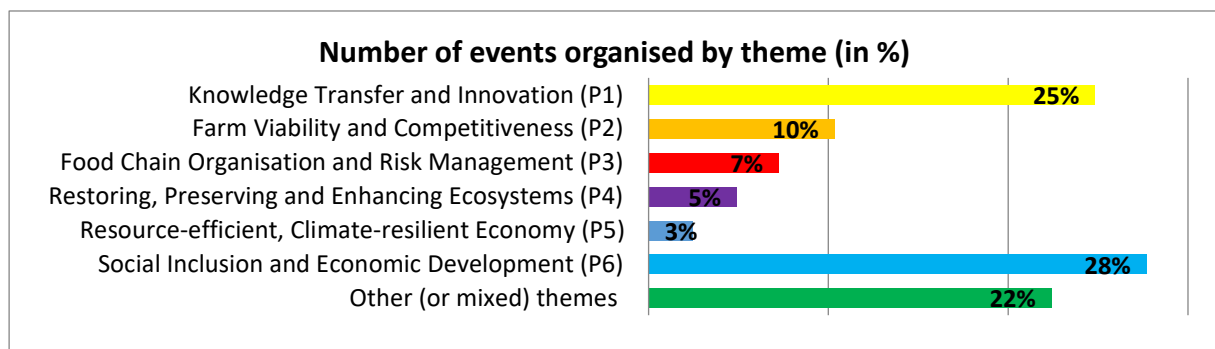
## Q1 Events and participations

For events organised by NSUs in 2018, 31 NSUs<sup>1</sup> reported 3020 events in total. The number is higher compared to the data from 2017 when 2427 events were reported by 31 NSUs.

The highest number of events, 1 320, was reported by Poland<sup>2</sup>. This number includes 798 local/regional events, 234 national, 32 international and 256 large-scale events<sup>3</sup>. Others reported the following events in total: Latvia 468, the Czech Republic 159, Slovakia 133, Finland 130, Hungary 115 and other countries fewer than 60.



NSUs were asked to group events under a specific priority only if it had a strong focus on that thematic category (RDP Priority) or it was targeted at a specific group. Events with the focus on P1 and P6 were the most popular in 2018, similar to the 2017 data. In the 'Other' category, responses included future CAP, monitoring and evaluation, communication, agricultural fairs, gender, MAs capacity building, regional antennae and NRN management.



In total, 400 689 participations took part at local/regional, national and international events, excluding the large-scale events.



<sup>1</sup> The Bulgarian network only started their operation in the second half of 2018.

<sup>2</sup> The comparably higher number of events reported by Poland each year arises from the inclusion of events also organised by the regional offices.

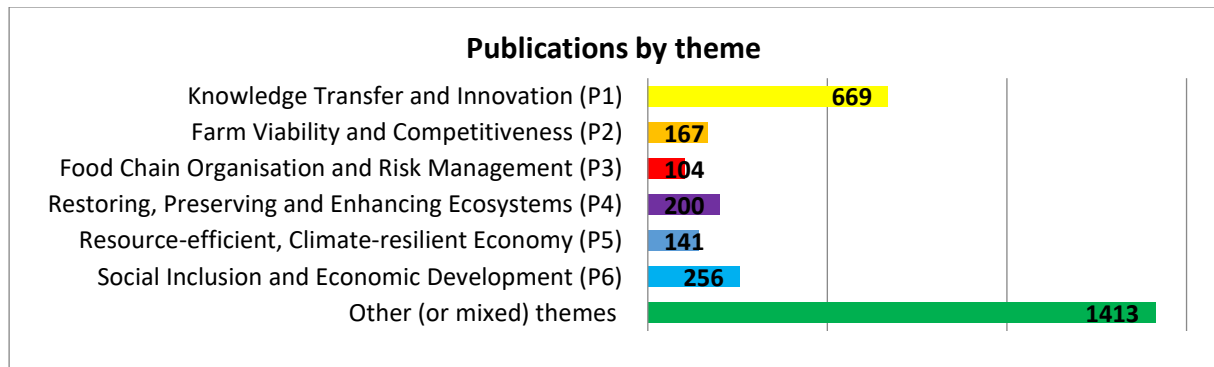
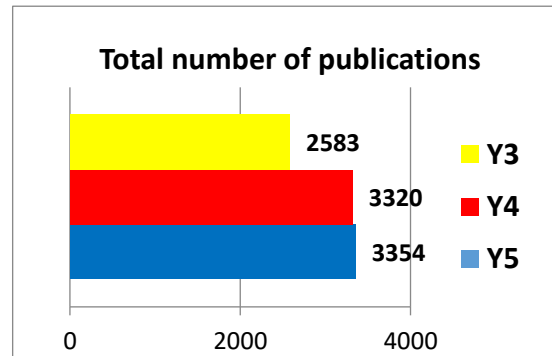
<sup>3</sup> Large-scale events include big events such as fairs or exhibitions, regardless of geographic scope. However, since the guidance provided for this indicator was not followed homogeneously, the related figures have lower reliability.

The highest number of event participations was reported by Poland (3 741 900) with 103 415 local or regional, 32 186 national, 7 460 international and 3 598 839 large-scale event participations. Estonia reported the second highest number of participations (327 846) of which 163 132 were listed under the large-scale event category.

## Q2 Publications

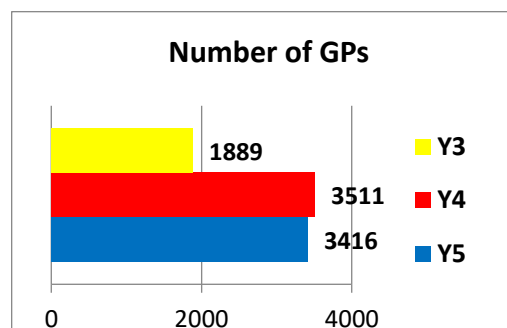
NSUs reported that they produced 3 354 publications during 2018. In 2016 they reported 2 583 and in 2017 they reported having produced 3 320 publications.

In most cases (1 413 publications) 'Other or mixed themes' were reported, followed by publications on 'Knowledge Transfer and Innovation (P1)', with 669 in total. The lowest number of publications were produced in relation to 'Food Chain Organisation and Risk Management (P3)', with 104 in total. In the 'Other' category, responses included RDP, facts about rural development, information related to conferences/meetings, summaries of NRN activities, overviews of exhibitions, Operational Groups, monitoring and evaluation, regional antennae, communication, NRN management, depopulation, and rural and agricultural policy.



## Q3 Good Practices

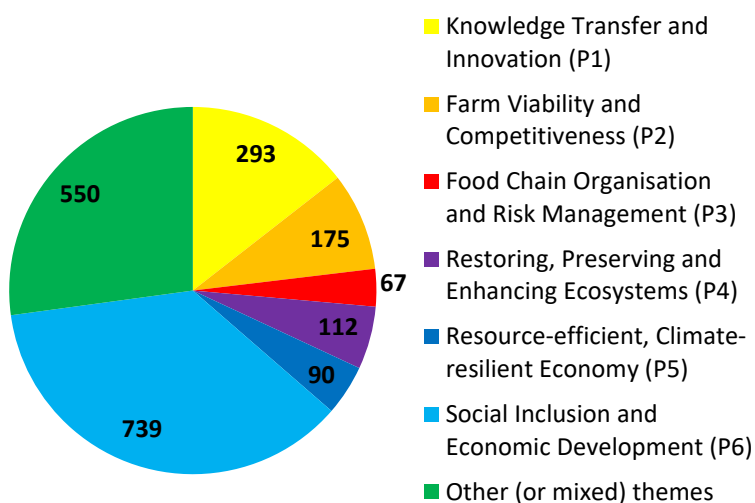
In total, 3 416 good practices (GPs) were collected and disseminated in 2018, as reported by 30 NRNs (113 per NSU). Compared to Y3 when 22 NSUs reported 1 889 GPs (85 per NSU), and Y4 when 25 NSUs reported 3511 GPs (140 per NSU), the tendency in general terms is rather decreasing.



The highest numbers were reported by Finland (876), followed by Germany (551), Hungary (240), Estonia (234) and Austria (205). Finland, Germany, Estonia and Austria seem to have a strong focus on GPs, as they also recorded high numbers in the Y3 and Y4 CNS. Particularly Finland, Estonia and Austria can be considered strong in the GP collection given relatively small size of their RDPs.

| NSU                   | No. of GPs |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Finland               | 876        |
| Germany               | 551        |
| Hungary               | 240        |
| Estonia               | 234        |
| Austria               | 205        |
| BE - Flanders         | 176        |
| Poland                | 164        |
| Spain                 | 156        |
| UK - Wales            | 103        |
| Czech Republic        | 92         |
| France                | 78         |
| Latvia                | 72         |
| Sweden                | 64         |
| Ireland               | 61         |
| Slovakia              | 60         |
| Lithuania             | 59         |
| Romania               | 48         |
| Italy                 | 34         |
| UK - England          | 28         |
| Slovenia              | 26         |
| UK - Scotland         | 25         |
| BE - Wallonia         | 20         |
| Portugal              | 12         |
| The Netherlands       | 8          |
| UK - Northern Ireland | 8          |
| Bulgaria              | 6          |
| Cyprus                | 3          |
| Denmark               | 3          |
| Greece                | 2          |
| Luxembourg            | 2          |

### Number good practice/project examples collected and disseminated by theme

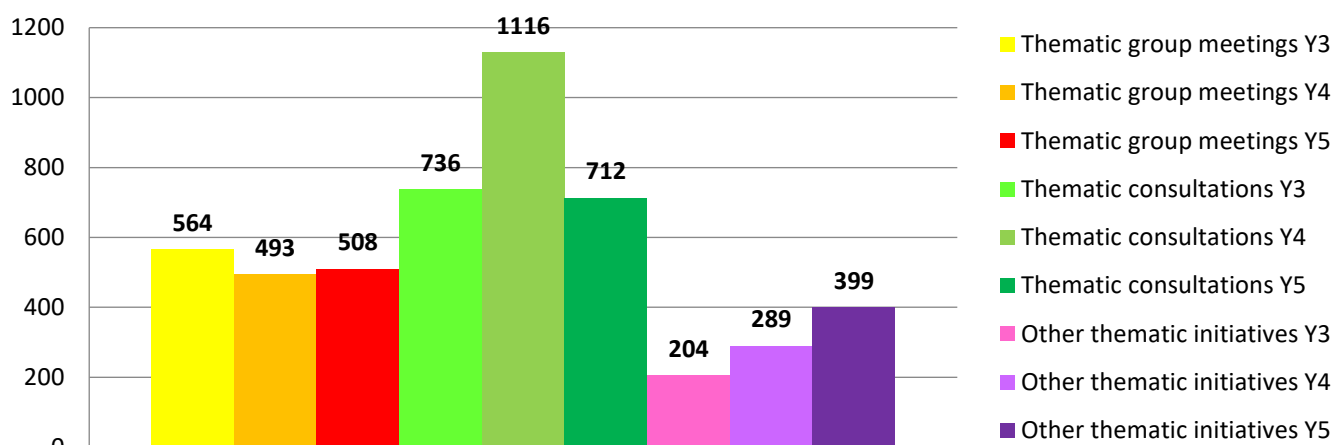


The largest proportion of GPs related to Priority 6 ‘Social Inclusion and Economic Development’, a total of 739, out of which 244 were in Germany, 155 in Austria and 127 in Estonia<sup>4</sup>. Germany also reported a very high number under the topic ‘Knowledge Transfer and Innovation (P1)’ with 128 examples.

### Q4 Thematic initiatives

Twenty-eight NSUs provided information on the number of participations in various thematic groups. The most frequently mentioned activity was thematic consultations (712)<sup>5</sup>, followed by thematic group meetings (508) and then other thematic initiatives (399).

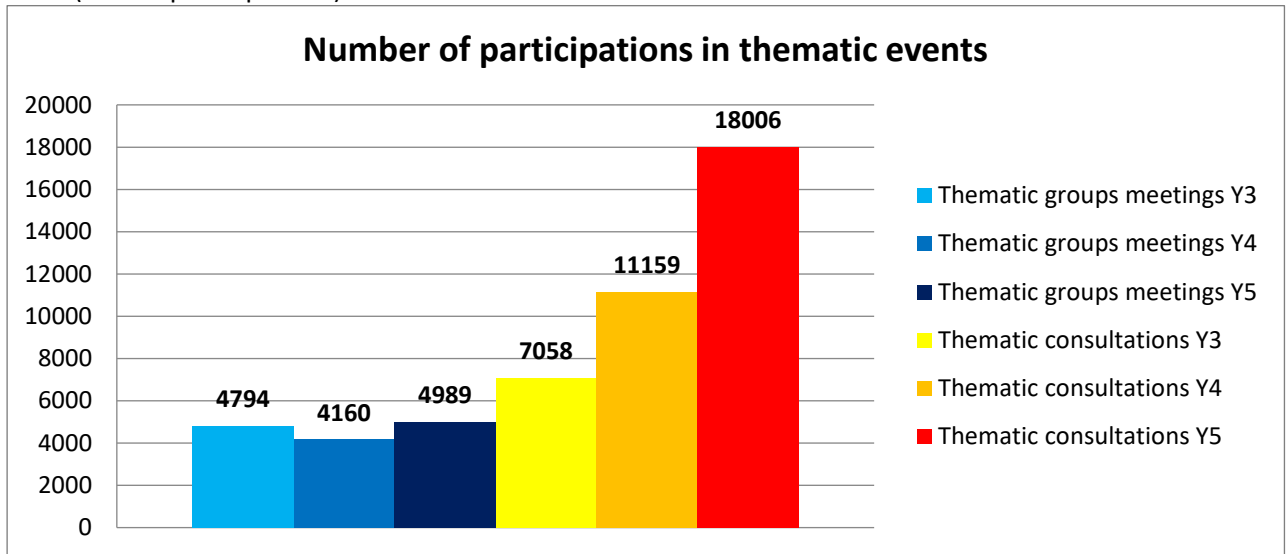
### Thematic activity by type



<sup>4</sup> Finland and Hungary supplied no data for the breakdown by theme.

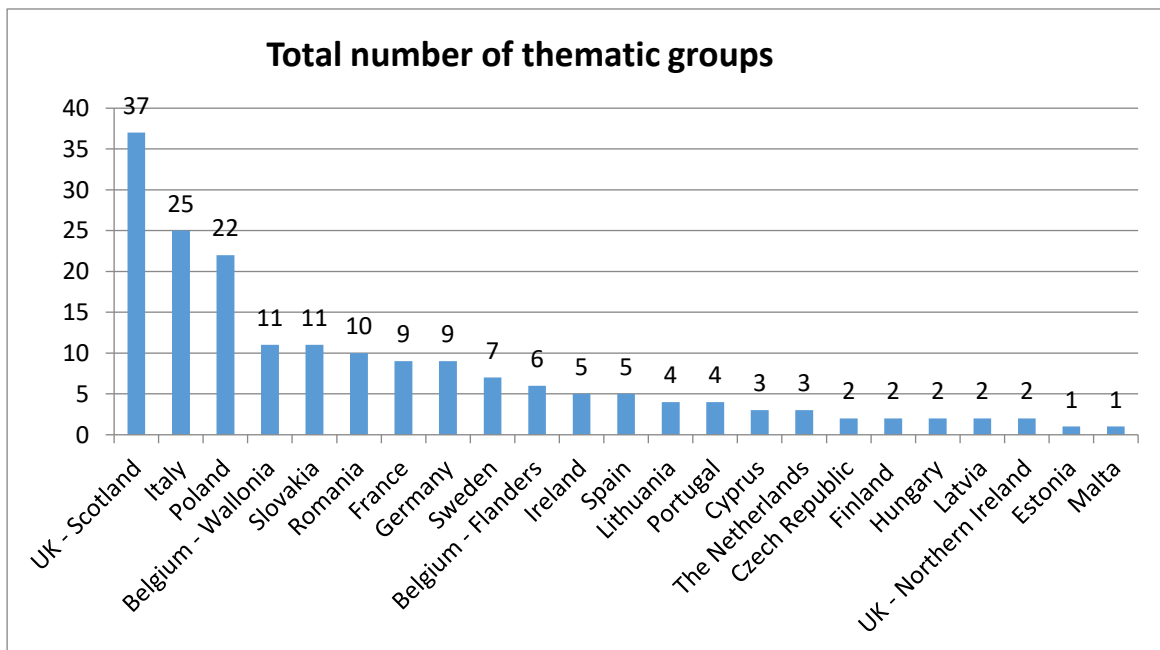
<sup>5</sup> The decrease in thematic consultations between Y4 and Y5 can be explained by changes in several countries – Slovakia didn’t collect this data in Y5 and in Poland, Italy and Belgium-Wallonia the data decreased

In terms of the number of participations, ‘thematic consultations’ had the highest attendance during 2018 (18 006 participations).



The number of participations in Other thematic initiatives category (Y4 - 109624 and Y5 -11758) was significantly different due to the inclusion of large-scale event participations in Y4 which was no longer the case in Y5.

In total there were 183 thematic groups (TGs), with the highest numbers in UK-Scotland (37), Italy (25) and Poland (22).



For the distribution of thematic groups by thematic focus, data was provided by 19 NRNs.

The priority covered by the highest number of NSUs (13) is the P6 ‘Social Inclusion and Economic Development’ (35 TGs), followed by the P1 ‘Knowledge Transfer and Innovation’ (19 TGs). These two priorities were the most popular also in Y4.

In the 'Other' Category, responses included gender, agroforestry, rural development in general, the development of skills, smart villages, agro-tourism and monitoring and evaluation.

| Number of thematic groups by thematic focus |  |   |  |   |  |  |                         |
|---|--|---|--|---|--|--|-------------------------|
|   | Knowledge Transfer and Innovation (P1) | Farm Viability and Competitiveness (P2) | Food Chain Organisation and Risk Management (P3) | Restoring, Preserving and Enhancing Ecosystems (P4) | Resource-efficient, Climate-resilient Economy (P5) | Social Inclusion and Economic Development (P6) | Other (or mixed) themes |
| Be - Flanders                               | 1                                      | 2                                       |  |   | 2  | 1  |                         |
| Be - Wallonia                               | 3                                      |   |  | 2   | 1  | 4  | 1                       |
| Cyprus                                      | 2                                      | 1                                       |  |   |  |  |                         |
| Czech Republic                              |  |   |  |   |  | 2  |                         |
| Estonia                                     |  |   |  |   |  | 1  |                         |
| Finland                                     |  | 1                                       |  |   |  | 1  |                         |
| France                                      | 2                                      |   |  | 1   |  |  | 6                       |
| Hungary                                     | 1                                      |   |  |   |  | 1  |                         |
| Ireland                                     | 1                                      |   |  | 2   | 2  | 2  |                         |
| Italy                                       | 3                                      | 4                                       | 2  | 2   | 2  | 5  | 7                       |
| Lithuania                                   | 1                                      |   |  |   |  |  | 3                       |
| Poland                                      | 3                                      |   | 1  |   |  | 1  | 17                      |
| Portugal                                    |  | 2                                       |  |   | 1  |  | 1                       |
| Romania                                     |  |   |  |   |  | 10   |                         |
| Slovakia                                    | 1                                      | 1                                       |  |   |  |  | 9                       |
| Spain                                       |  | 1                                       |  | 3   |  | 1  |                         |
| Sweden                                      | 1                                      | 1                                       |  |   |  | 5  |                         |
| The Netherlands                             |  |   | 1  | 1   |  | 1  |                         |
| UK - Northern Ireland                       |  |   |  |   |  |  | 2                       |
|   | <b>19</b>                              | <b>13</b>                               | <b>4</b>   | <b>11</b>   | <b>8</b>   | <b>35</b>                                      | <b>46</b>               |

## Q5 Cooperation and contribution to ENRD and EIP-AGRI activities

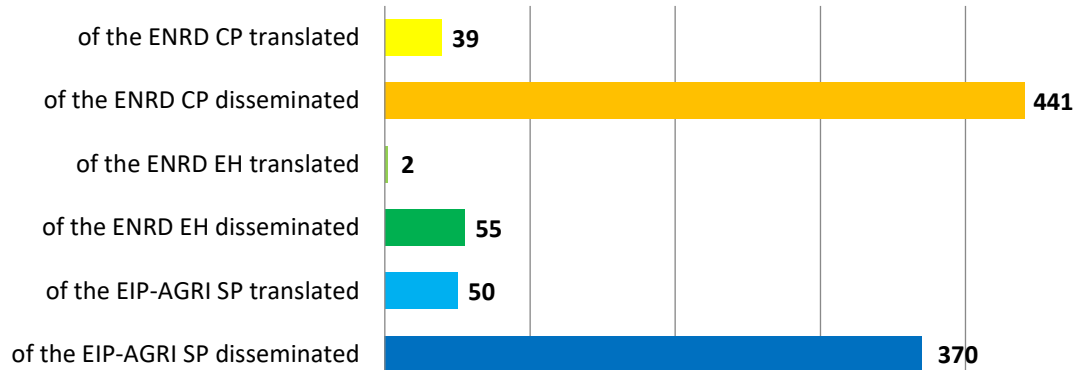
In total 25 NRNs responded to the question about how many communication products (presentations, publications and case studies) they provided to the ENRD CP, ENRD Evaluation Helpdesk and EIP-AGRI Service Point in 2018. In total, the reporting indicates that 492 items (compared to 200 items in Y4 and 113 items in Y3) were provided. The contributions ranged from between two and 158 communication products. Italy (158), Ireland (29) and BE-Flanders (22 items) were the top contributors.

The reporting indicates that 352 Good Practices were provided to the ENRD by the 22 NSUs who responded to this question. Eighteen NSUs reported that they had contributed with 105 'information items/articles for publications' and seven NSUs reported that they had provided 35 'other information items'. Specific numbers by organisation are as follows: the ENRD CP received 245 information items (vs 109 items in 2017), the EIP-AGRI Service Point received 216 (vs. 23 items in 2017) and the ENRD Evaluation Helpdesk received 12 (vs. 10 items in 2017).

Information items published by the ENRD Contact Point, the ENRD Evaluation Helpdesk and the EIP-AGRI Service Point were mainly disseminated by NSUs and were frequently translated.



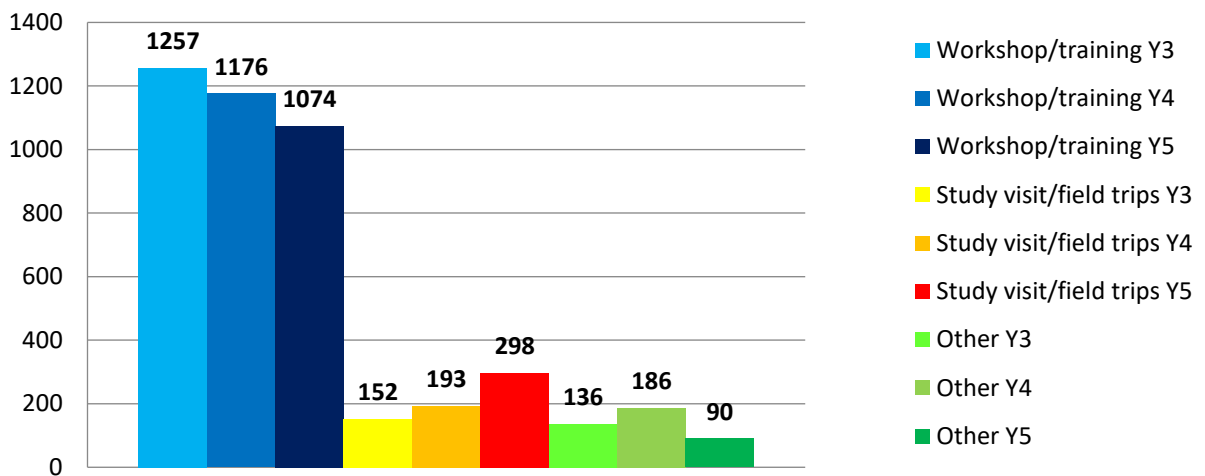
### Number of information items



### Q6 Training activities

Comparing Y5 data with Y4 and Y3, there were fewer workshops and training sessions and other activities where there was a training component, but each year an increasing number of study visits and field trips have been organised.

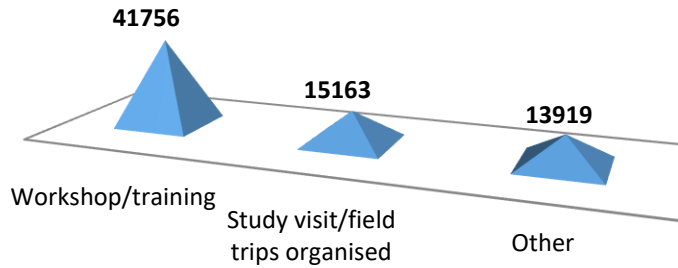
### Number of training activities



Of the 28 NSUs that responded to the question, Poland had the highest number of training activities delivered in 2018 (812) just as in Y4 (955) and Y3 (776). In Y5 they were followed by Italy (115) and Latvia (100), who were also the main contributors in the previous years.

The 'top three' themes identified across countries were: social inclusion with 347 training activities (mainly for Estonia, Greece and Luxembourg); knowledge transfer with 295 training activities (Be-Flanders and Poland) and other (or mixed) themes with 164 activities. In the 'Other' category, responses included RDP, monitoring and evaluation, capacity building, regional antennae, communication, NRN management, and public procurement.

### Number of participations in training activities



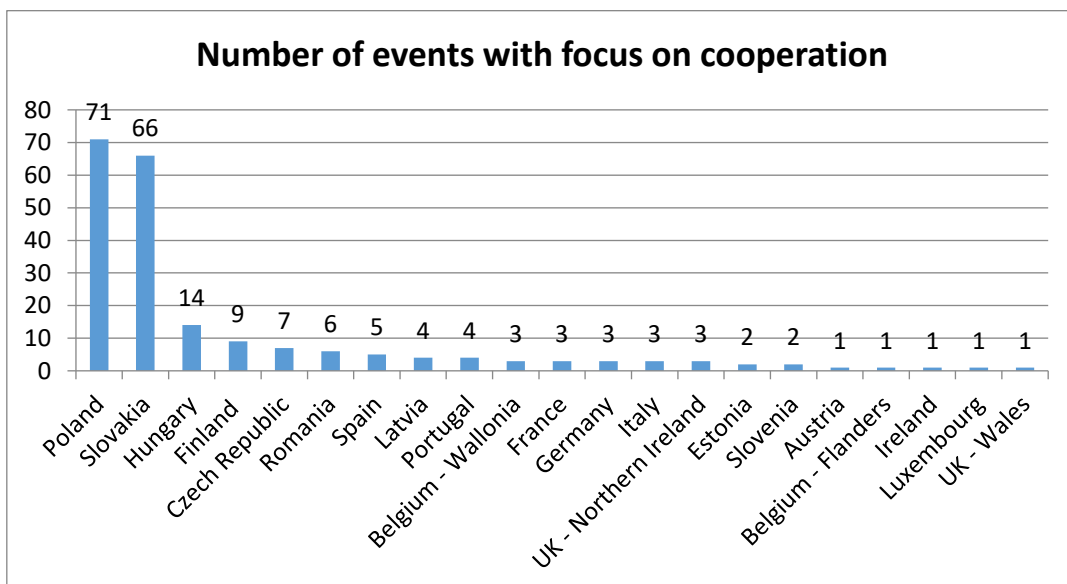
A total of 70 838 participations were reported by 28 NRNs. Workshops and trainings were the most highly attended (41 756 participations), representing more than half of all participations. Participations in the study visits increased from 5235 in Y4 to 15163 in Y5.

### Q7 Cooperation events

Twenty-one NRNs reported organising cooperation events in 2018. There were 210 events organised EU-wide with 5 853 participants, of which, 758 participants were from other MSs, with a further 66 identifying as coming from autonomous regions of larger MSs.

Comparing activity in cooperation topics with previous year, the number of events (210) is considerably higher (80 events in Y3, 82 events in Y4) as well as number of people involved (almost 2500 in Y3, 3227 in Y4).

Poland reported the highest number of events organised (71) followed by Slovakia (66). Both MSs report very active local and regional level engagement. Compared to 2017 data, Slovakia and Hungary reported a significant increase from 3 and 7 events respectively to 66 and 14.



## Proposal for Y6 data collection

The data collection process is becoming smoother each year as the NSUs become more familiar with the questions posed and increasingly recognise the added value of this exercise. In addition, due to the simplification of the CNS format, the NSUs have shown greater willingness to complete the survey for Y5.

The revised timeline for responses (starting in mid-March with a deadline in mid-June) proved to be more effective and led to an increased input from NSUs. Based on this experience the same timeline is recommended for Y6 data collection.

Some NSUs still cannot meet the revised deadline. In some cases there are difficulties in continuity, in terms of handing over responsibility for the provision of the data, due to staff changes. Personal contact and repeated reminders continue to be necessary in order to collect a complete set of responses. Another dedicated discussion on the CNS (for example, within an NRN meeting) could help to improve understanding of the added value of the process.

## Conclusion

The analysis of CNS information gives a good overview of NSU activities and thematic priorities. Each year we improve this process and comparative analysis over time enables us to identify trends and to track progress.

Each year there is an identifiable increase in NSU activity. Thematically there is a tendency towards Priority 6: 'Social Inclusion and Economic Development' observed by several outputs (events, good practices, thematic initiatives). A possible explanation is that Priority 6 also includes LEADER/CLLD activity that continues to form a considerable part of the work of the NSUs.

The results and the added value of the CNS should be communicated at networking events such as NRN meetings and/or relevant workshops.