



# EU Rural Networks' Governance Structure

*Antonella Zona, DG AGRI H3*  
[antonella.zona@ec.europa.eu](mailto:antonella.zona@ec.europa.eu)

# Who are the Rural Networks ?



- 2 EU level networks
  - supported by RD budget for technical assistance
  - directly managed by the Commission helped by 3 Service Providers
  - RDP EVALUATION network incorporated in ENRD



- National Rural Networks
  - supported by Rural Development Programmes
  - Managed by Member States
  - NRNs are the backbone of EU networks' activities
  - NRNs disseminate evaluation findings



# Why the Rural Networks

- Improve the quality of Rural Development Programmes
- Support the evaluation of RDPs
- Facilitate the exchange of expertise and good practice

- Increase stakeholders' involvement in RD implementation
- Establish a dialogue between farmers and research community
- Facilitate the inclusion of all stakeholders in the knowledge exchange process

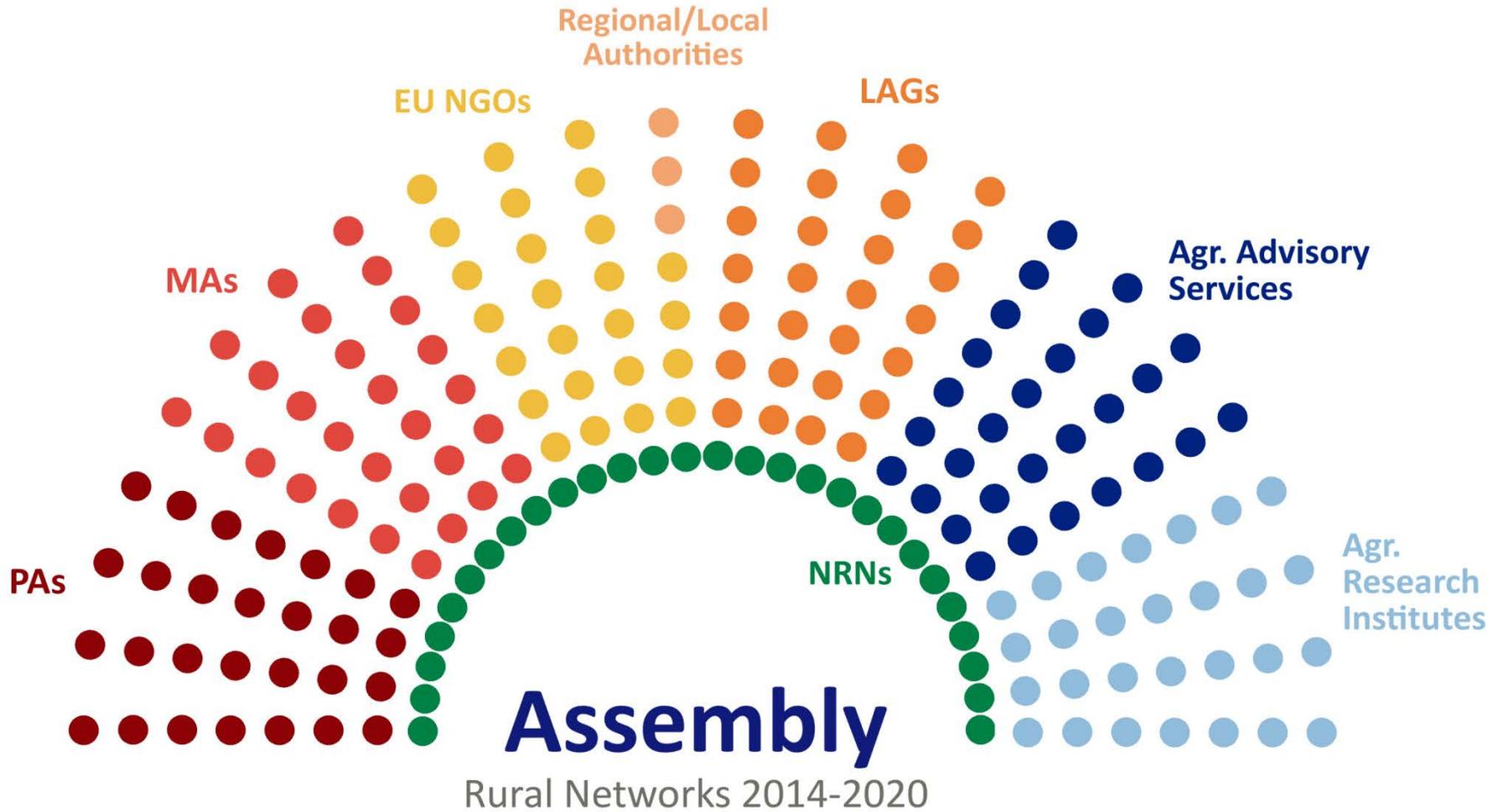
**Improve quality of RD Policy**

**Enhance participation**

**Raise awareness**

**Play a role in informing the broader public on the benefits of rural development policy**

# STRATEGIC LEVEL



# ASSEMBLY MEMBERSHIP

**Nominated by the  
Member States**

- 28 National Rural Networks
- 28 Managing Authorities
- 28 Paying Agencies
- 28 Local Action Groups
- 28 Farm Advisory Service Providers
- 28 Research Institutes

**Members of the Civil  
Dialogue Group on  
Rural Development**

25 out of 29 members expressed interest

**Local and  
Regional  
Authorities**

3 organisations selected through  
public call

# Tasks of the Assembly

Promote exchange and networking

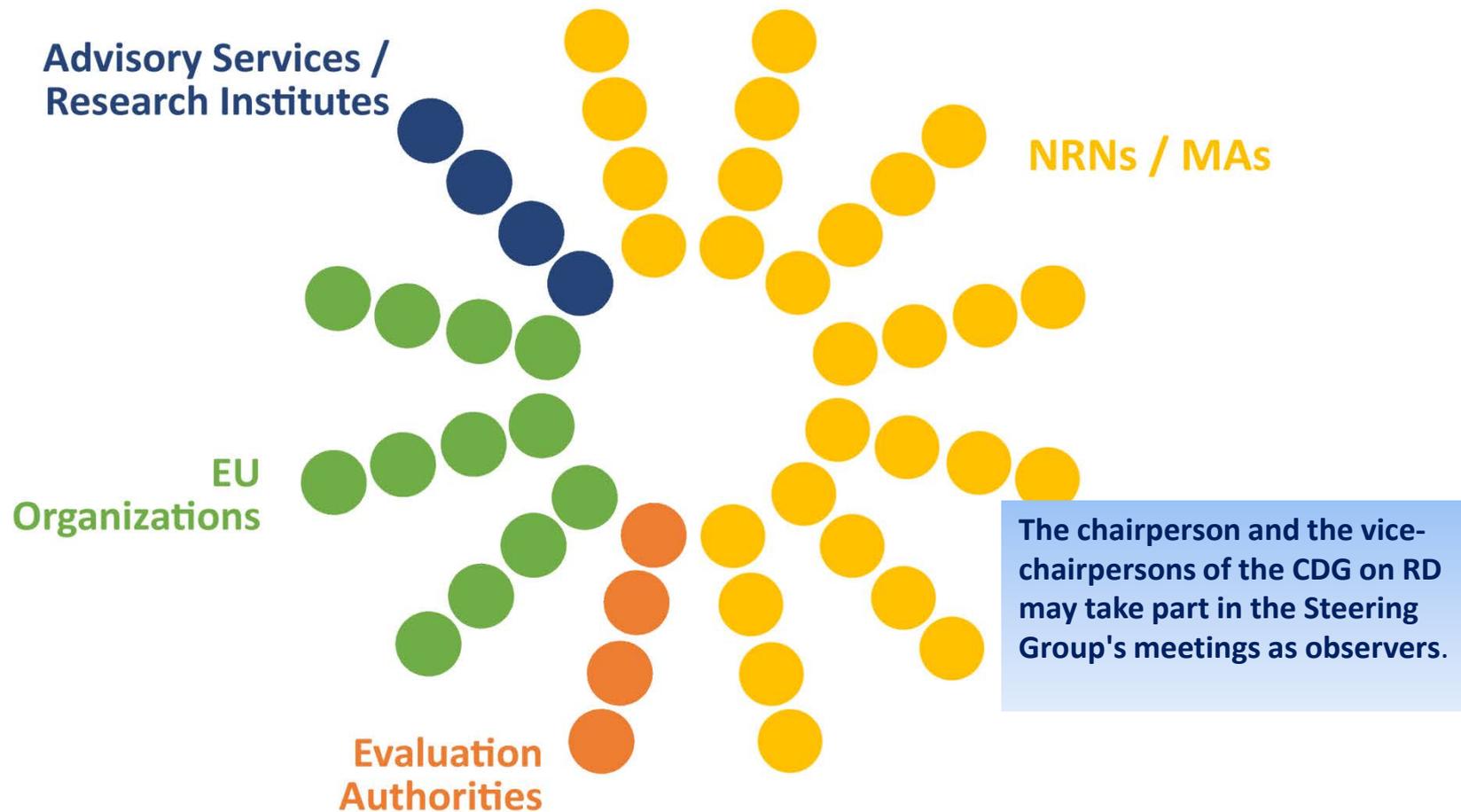
Ensure coordination between the ENRD and the EIP-AGRI network

Provide the STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK for the activities of the ENRD and of the EIP-AGRI network

(including the thematic work)

Ensure appropriate monitoring and assessment of the activities of Rural Networks

# OPERATIONAL LEVEL



## Steering Group

Rural Networks 2014-2020

- 28 National Rural Networks / Managing Authorities
- 4 Authorities in charge of evaluation
- 12 EU Organizations
- 4 Agriculture Advisory Services / Research Institutes

# Composition & process

Managing Authorities / National  
Rural Networks:

Member States proposed  
either MA or NRN = 28

EU wide organisations:

Civil Dialogue Group proposed NGOs (10)  
Local/regional authorities after open Call  
proposed organisations (2):

$10 + 2 = \underline{12}$

**TOTAL 48**

National authorities in charge of  
evaluation of RDPs:

Selection within the category = 4

Agricultural advisory services and  
agricultural research institutes:

Selection within the category:  
 $2 + 2 = \underline{4}$

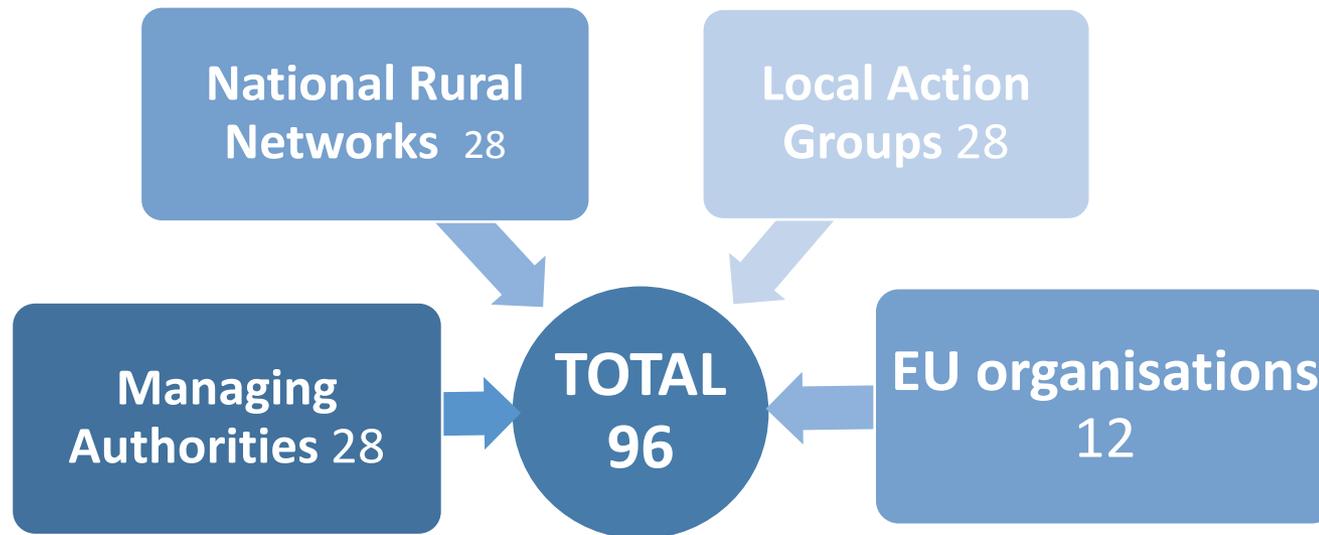
- Rotation of members possible within categories
- First meeting: **25 February 2015 in Brussels**

# Tasks of the Steering Group



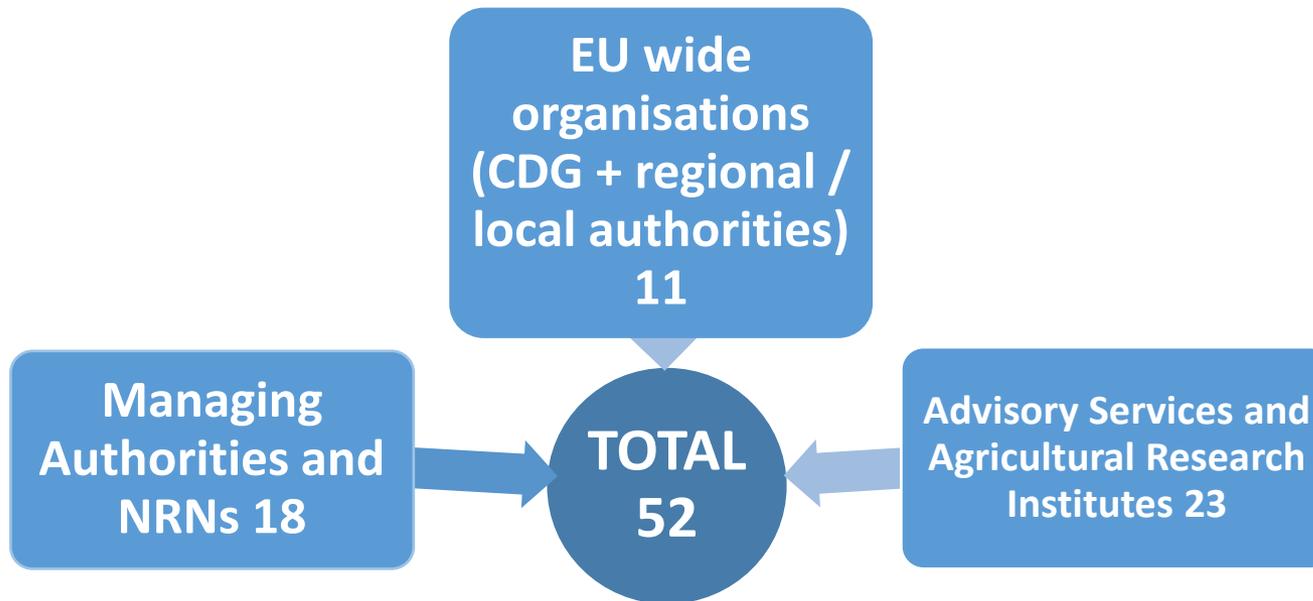
Prepare, implement and follow-up of networking activities (e.g. workplans)
Coordinate and follows-up thematic work
Assess Rural Networks' activity on an ongoing basis and coordinate with other groups
<i>Always in accordance with the framework provided by the Assembly</i>
<i>Reports its activity to the Assembly</i>

# Subgroup on Leader and Community-led Local Development



- First meeting: 21 April 2015

# Subgroup on innovation for agricultural productivity and sustainability



- First meeting: **10 March 2015**

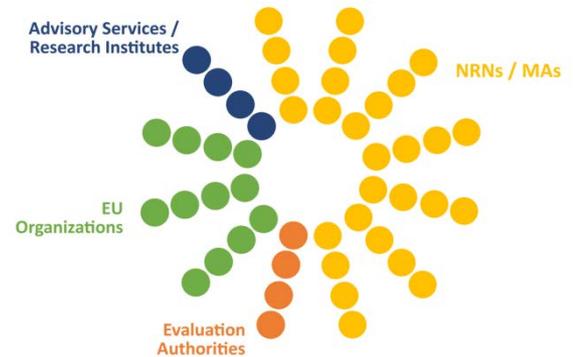
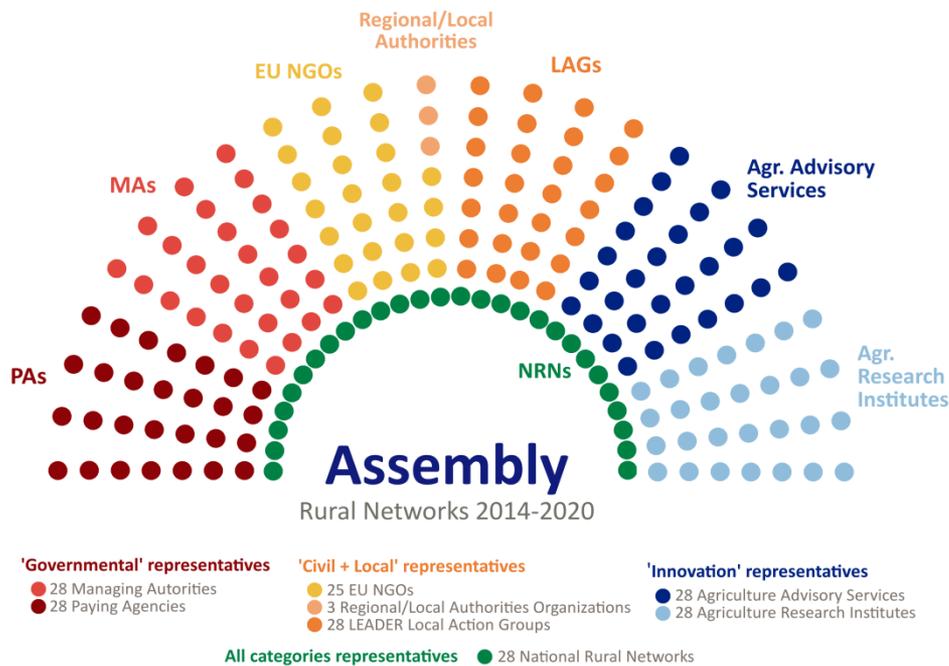
# Selected topics for 2015 activity

N*	Selected topic ( <u>not ranked</u> )	
1.	Simplification (for all, in order to achieve the relevant objectives)	
2.	Empowering advisory services – Knowledge transfer – Broader innovation	
3.	Local food – Short Supply Chain – Rural-urban partnership – Small farms	
4.	Pillar 1-Pillar 2 linkages	
5.	Demographic change & social inclusion	
6.	Multi-fund approaches	
7.	Green economy related to job and growth	
8.	Starting-up the NRNs	
9.	Evaluation of networking activities - NRNs	
10.	Climate change	



# QUESTIONS?

# Commission Implementing Decision 2014/825/EU



- 28 National Rural Networks / Managing Authorities
- 4 Authorities in charge of evaluation
- 12 EU Organizations
- 4 Agriculture Advisory Services / Research Institutes

