



European Rural Networks'
Steering Group

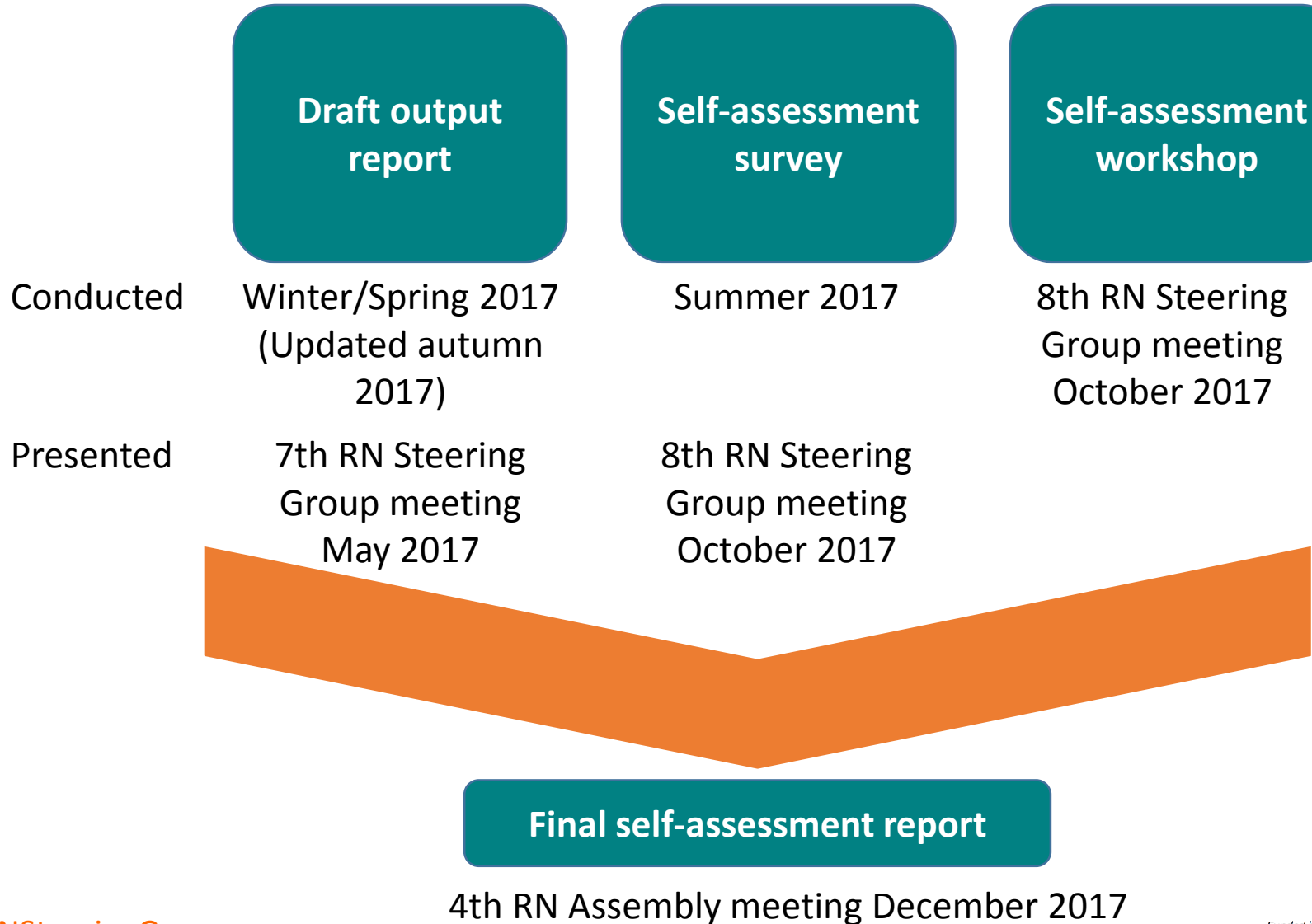
Rural Networks self-assessment draft result report

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8th Meeting
Brussels – 23 October 2017

#RNSteeringGroup

RN self-assessment elements





Draft result report

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Draft result report

Purpose

- Illustrates the results of the activities carried out by the networks within the Strategic Framework of the EU Rural Networks
- Second part of the final self-assessment report

Based on

- Self-assessment survey - 7 July - 6 September 2017
 - 21 questions collecting key stakeholder views on
 - i) fulfilment of the objectives of the Strategic Framework of the EU Rural Networks,
 - ii) experiences with Rural Networks' outputs and
 - iii) ideas for improvement of the Rural Networks' work
 - 156 respondents from 28 Member States
 - RN Assembly, LEADER sub-group, Innovation sub-group, Expert Group on Monitoring and Evaluating the CAP (Grexe)
- Result indicators collected by the Support Units





Results of the EU Rural Networks

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Strategic Framework

- Most respondents (78%) familiar with the Strategic Framework
- 78 % familiar with the two EU Rural Networks, their respective support units and their functions
- 44 % consider collaboration between the ENRD and EIP-AGRI Networks as complementary and synergetic, 45 % answered 'neutral'
- *Focus of written comments:*
 - Umbrella organisations more familiar with the Strategic Framework and the two EU Rural Networks than stakeholders
 - Need for increased collaboration and synergies between ENRD and EIP-AGRI Networks
 - Combining the networks into one European Rural Network in the future



GO1: Enhance Participation

- EU RN activities lead to a greater involvement of various stakeholders in rural development and activities address their needs (74%)
- Participation in the EU RN activities led to improved knowledge and capacities on implementation of rural development policy (general ENRD 72%; EIP-AGRI 63%)

Respondents' participation in the EU Rural Networks' activities

Event	%	Comments
ENRD workshops & seminars	75%	
NRN meetings	53%	
ENRD evaluation Good Practice Workshops	35%	<i>Grexe members 57%</i>
ENRD EvaluationWORKS!	26%	<i>Grexe members 44%</i>
EIP-AGRI workshops & seminars	61%	<i>Innovation sub-group 88%</i>



GO1: Enhance Participation

- EIP-AGRI Network has succeeded in establishing a dialogue between farmers and research community (61%; 85% Innovation sub-group)
- EIP-AGRI Network activities contribute to launch research activities based on farmer'/ foresters' needs (54%; 84% Innovation sub-group)

Preliminary result indicator

- The outcomes of all ENRD events were rated as good (3.1 – 3.4) by the participants of the events



GO1: Written comments in survey

- Translation of documents and interpretation services for events
- More events in Member States
- European events and seminars targeted to stakeholders (e.g. MA, PA, LAGs)
- Increased involvement of farmers, advisors, rural businesses, young people and researchers
- More exchange of best practices and knowledge on specific topics
- Stronger bottom-up approach in EU RN theme and activity selection
- Stress easy implementation of EIP-AGRI Focus Group recommendations and innovations



GO2: Improve policy quality

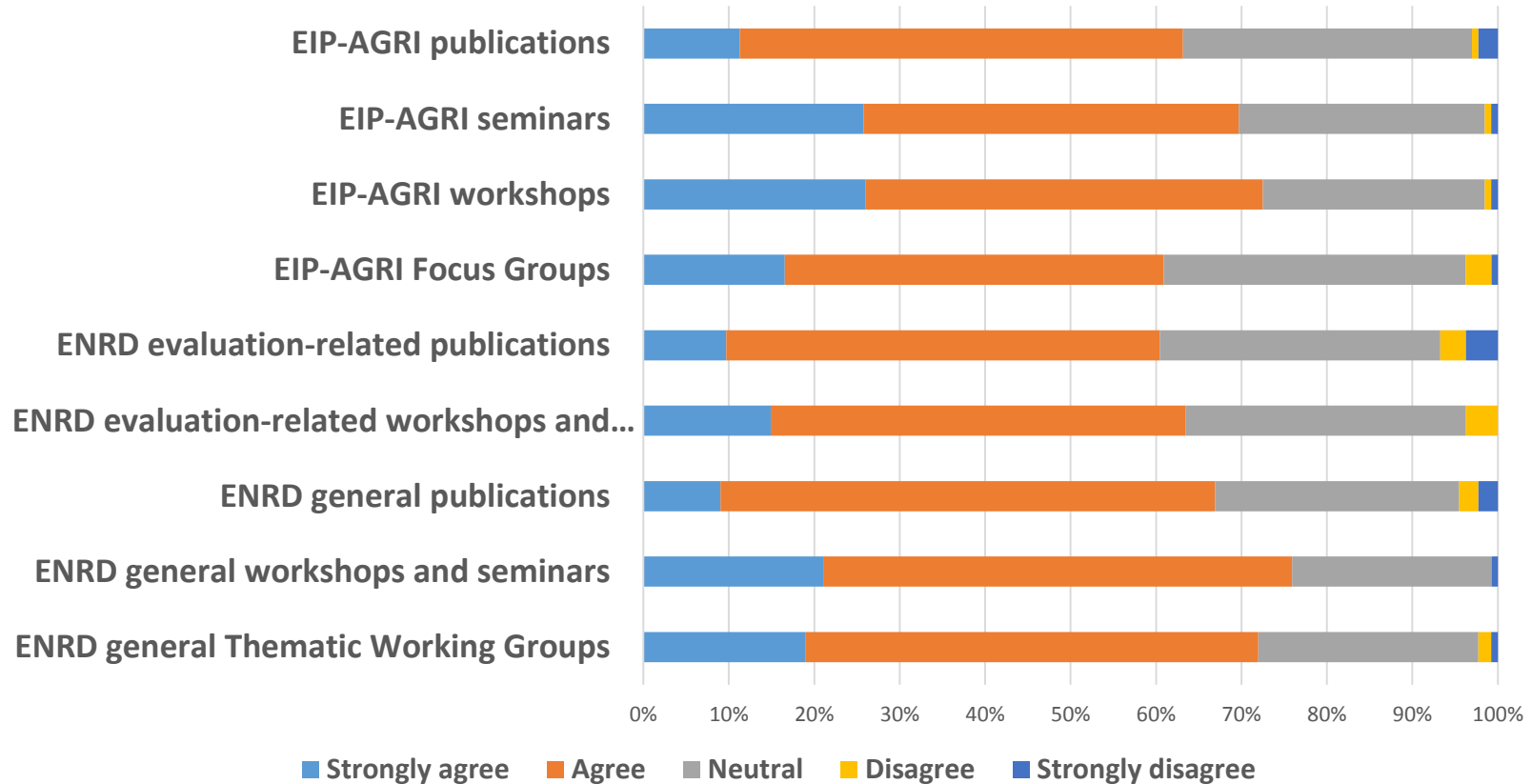
- ENRD and EIP-AGRI Networks have been successful in improving rural development policy quality (73%)
- EU RN activities facilitate the exchange of expertise and good practice (general ENRD 89%; EIP-AGRI 85%)
- Good Practices disseminated by the EU Rural Networks are used and shared
- EU RN events supportive in improving the quality of the RDPs
- ENRD evaluation-related activities contribute to supporting the evaluation of RDPs (70%: Grexe members 78%)

Preliminary result indicator

- The participants' level of knowledge increased in every capacity building event organised by the Evaluation Helpdesk



EU RN activities improving RDP Quality



Source: EU RN Self-assessment survey

GO2: Written comments in survey

- More materials in national languages
- Increased involvement of researchers and advisors
- Policy quality increased at EU level – difficult to influence national policy from the EU level
- NRNs are important for increasing policy quality
- EU RN should not only be involved in implementation but also future policy
- More exchange between evaluators
- More evaluation support to LAGs and NRNs
 - NRN evaluation
 - NRN dissemination of evaluation findings



GO3: Increase awareness

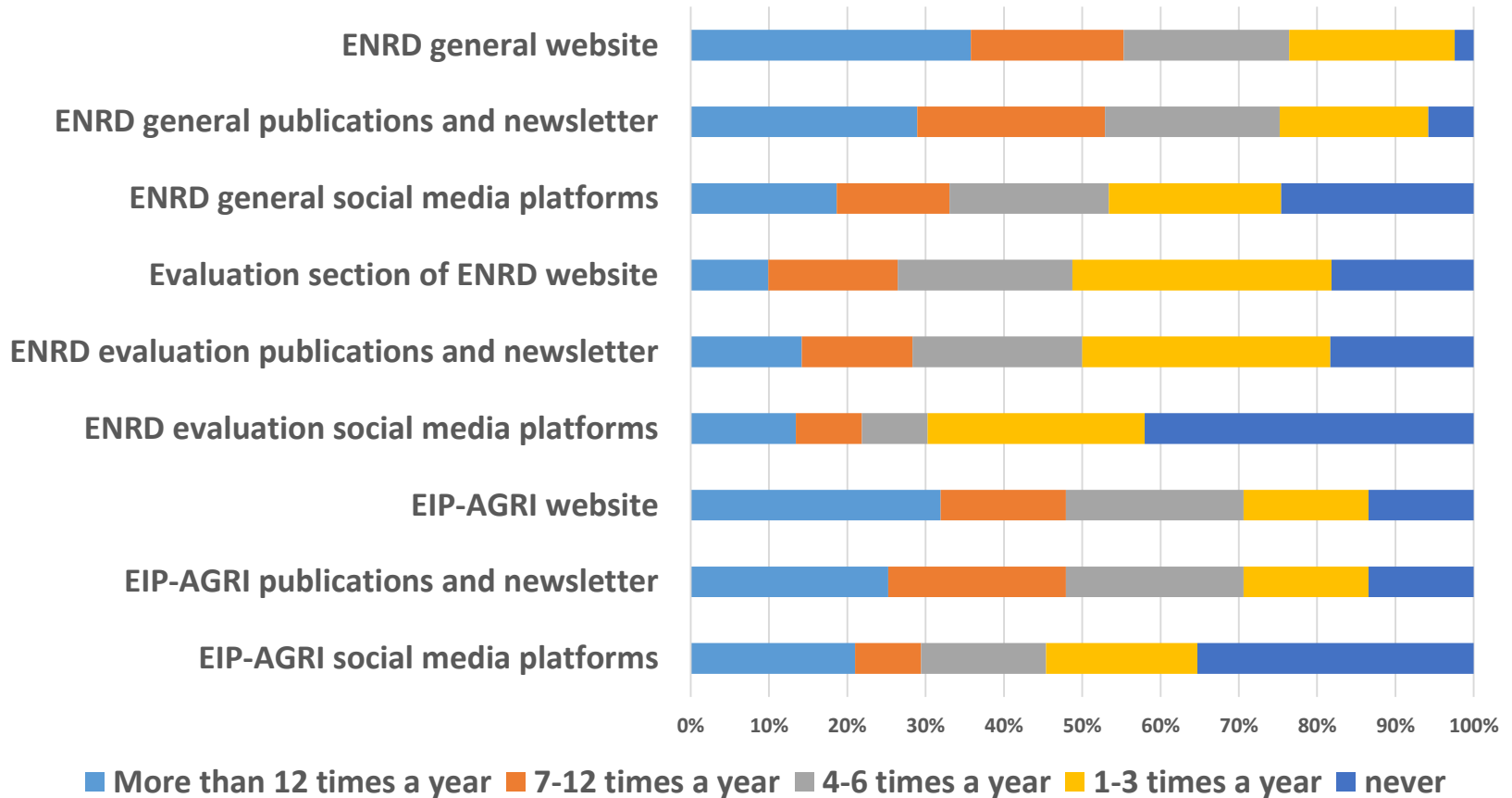
- Activities of the EU Rural Networks help to increase awareness about the benefits of the rural development policy (79%)
- General ENRD and EIP-AGRI publications play a role in informing the broader public on the benefits of rural development policy
- The quality of the publications was generally rated high
- Websites are the most used electronic media, followed by newsletters

Preliminary result indicators

- Newsletter subscriptions: ENRD general 6,144 & EIP-AGRI 6,312
- ENRD general: 487 674 page views and 56 255 downloads



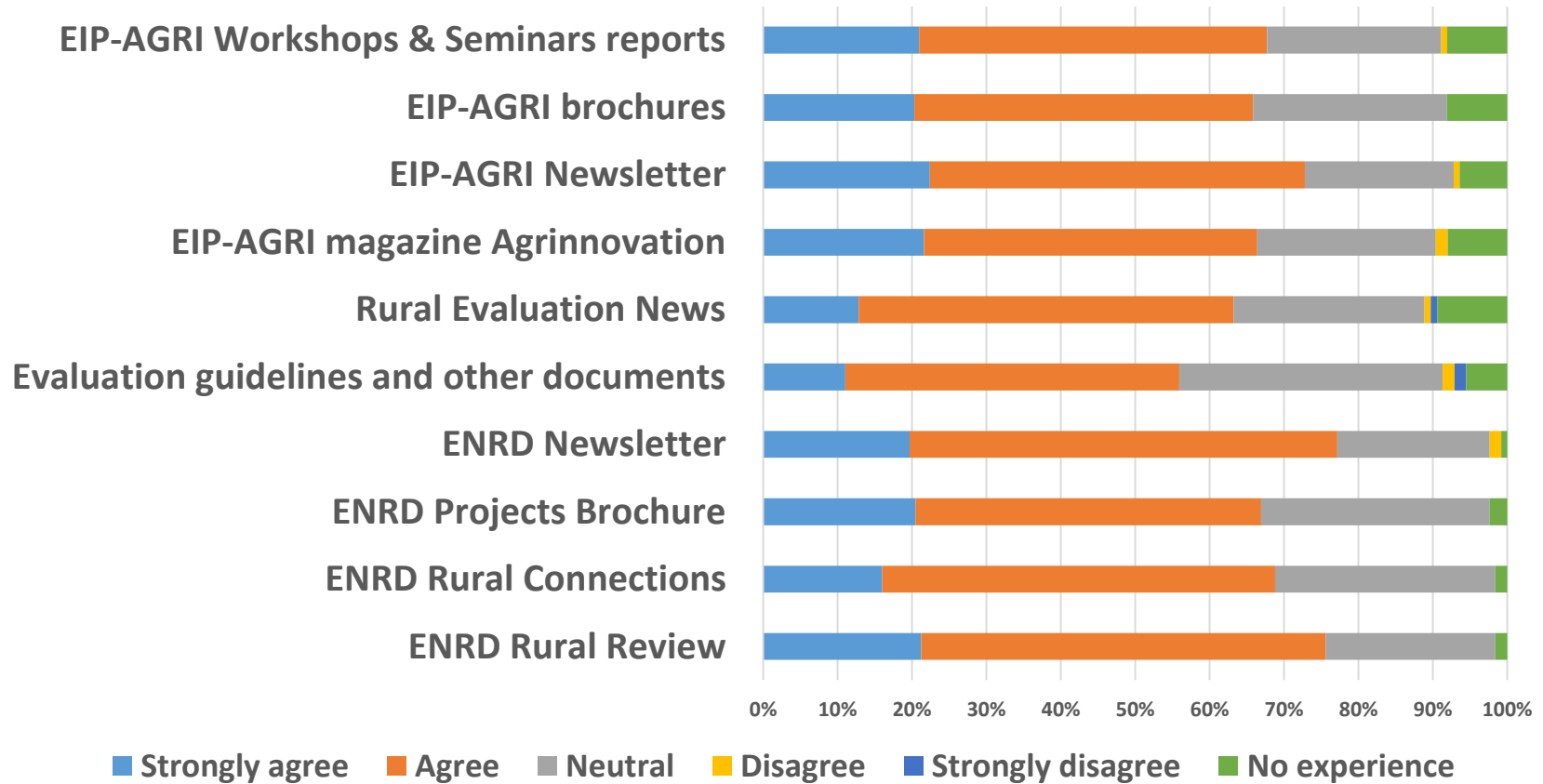
Regularity of accessing information



Source: EU RN Self-assessment survey



Quality of publications



Source: EU RN Self-assessment survey

GO3: Written comments in survey

- The broader public in the Member States is more connected to the national than the EU level
- Communication should be in the national language to reach the broader public in Member States
- More publications in local languages
- More useful to focus the communication on the interested citizens rather than the general public
- Websites may not be the right channel for reaching general public



Summary

GO1: *Greater engagement of local / specific actors*

- European events to target specific groups
- Greater synergies between EU and national events
- Increase the involvement of non-core stakeholders

GO2: *Improve the practicality of good practices and recommendations*

- Good practices & recommendations to be more easily adapted to national conditions
- Publish more good evaluation practices
- EIP-AGRI FG conclusions and recommendations to be more practical to implement

GO3: *Communication*

- EU RN social media presence and usage could be improved
- Improve connectivity/ complementarity of national and EU rural development communication

EU Rural Networks

- Improve cooperation, coordination and synergies between the two EU Rural Networks





Thank you!

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