



European Commission
Agriculture and
Rural Development



European Network for
Rural Development

EN RD | **CONNECTING RURAL EUROPE**

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

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Brussels, 14 June 2012





NRN Joint Action: “Demonstrating the Added Value of Networking”

- Overview of the NRN Joint Action
- The ENRD and NRNs as policy networks
- What is the added value of policy networks?
- Conclusions and next steps



NRN Self-Assessment Tool-Kit (June 2011)



**Common working method for NRNs
to contribute to
“Demonstrating the Value of
Networking”**



**Finnish NRN
Joint Network Meeting
“Demonstrating the Value of Networking”
(May/June 2012)**

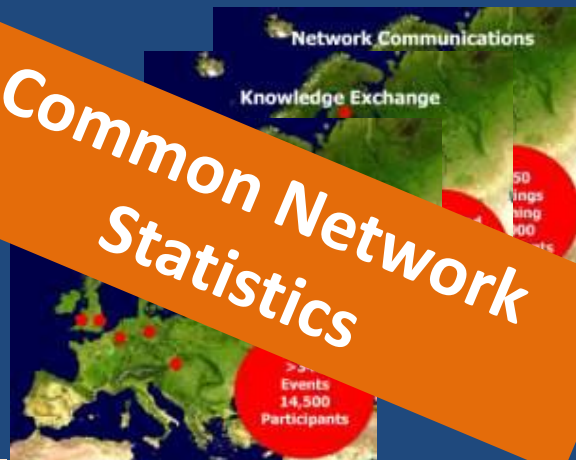
Coordination Committee
9 June, 2011

**“State of play with ENRD
and NRN networking”**

Draft Literature Review



Common Network Statistics



Networking Success Stories & Case Studies



Background Paper



Policy Networks

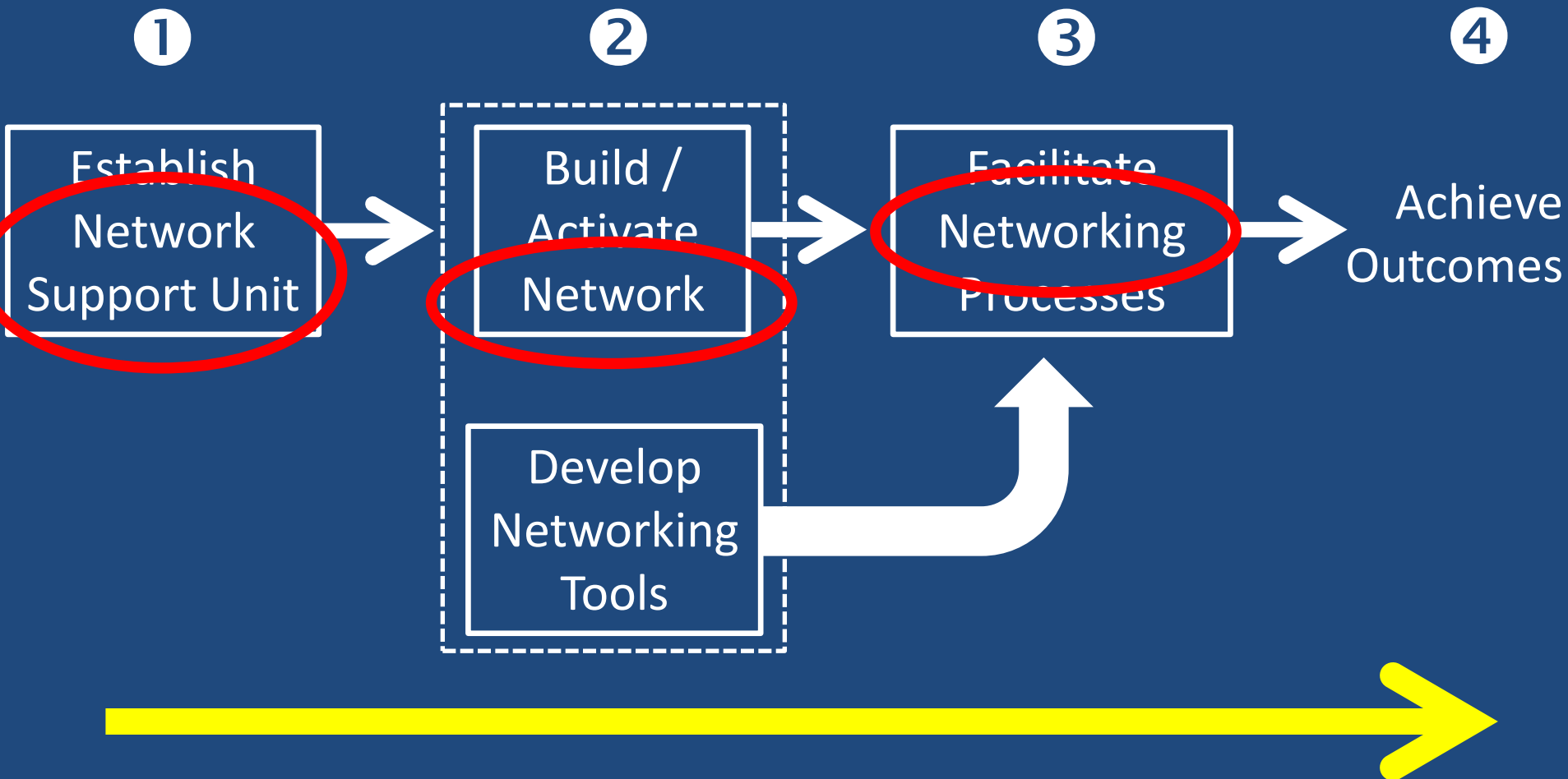
“...networks that aim to build common understanding and common ownership of common policies”



Key characteristics of policy networks:

- **Formally established** - on the basis of some form of agreement
- **Engineered** - by public institutions
- **Facilitated / supported** - by some administrative 'entity'

Process of 'engineering' a policy network



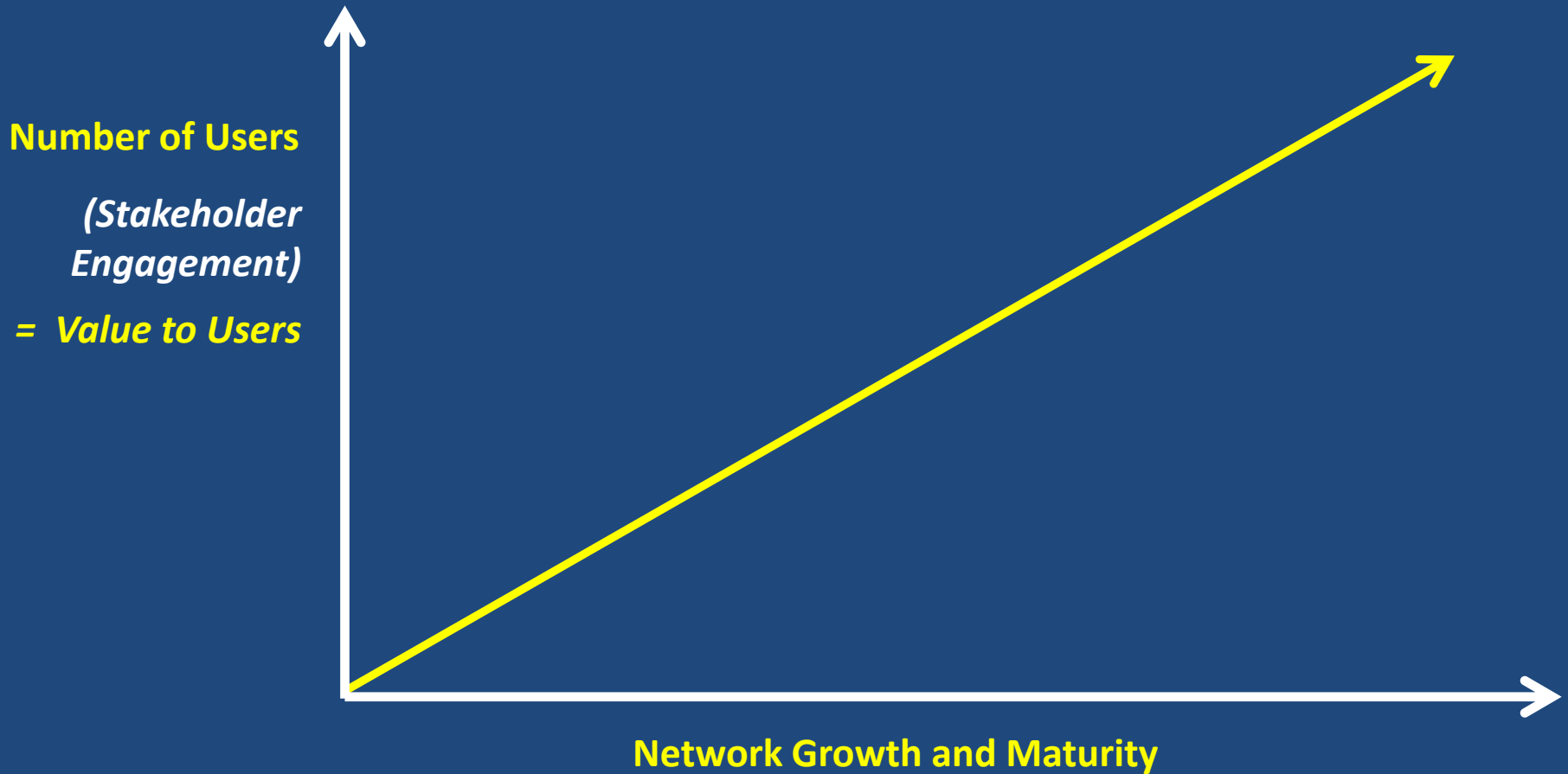
- Policy networks take **time, resources and expertise** to develop

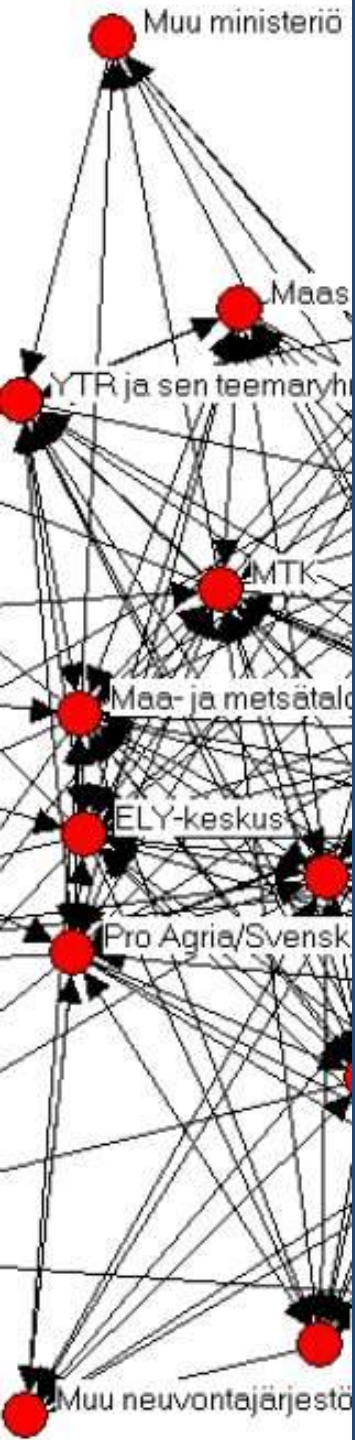


Other key characteristics:

- **Information intensive** - transfer of know-how / experience (often have an **analytical** function)
- Just like any other network - a policy network **becomes more valuable as it reaches more users** (Metcalfe's Law)

Simple hypothesis.....

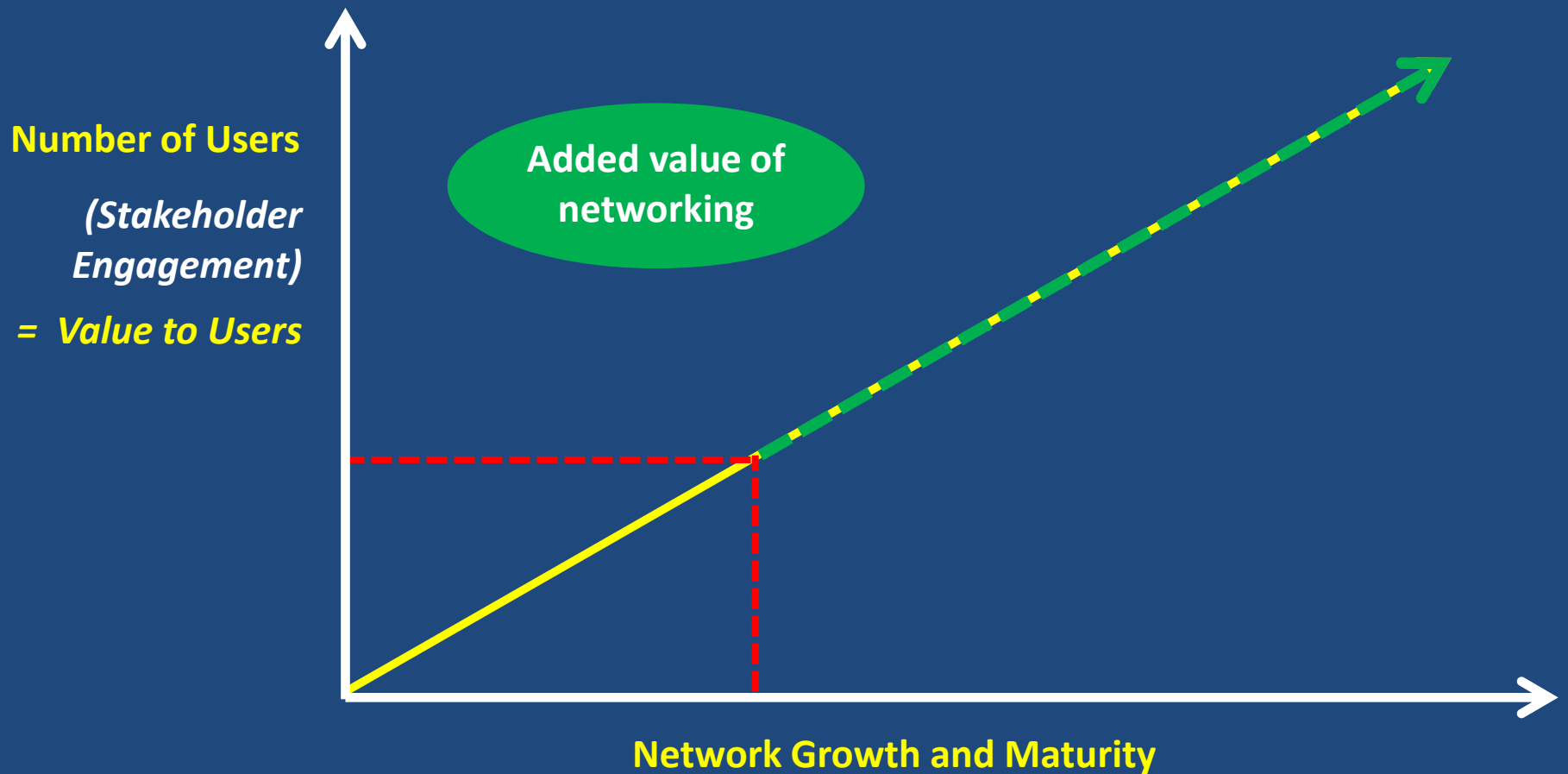




But what exactly is the ‘added value’ of a policy network.....?

*“...producing solutions and results that would otherwise **not have occurred** through a single hierarchic organisation”*

(Agranoff, 2003)



**Managing
Authority**

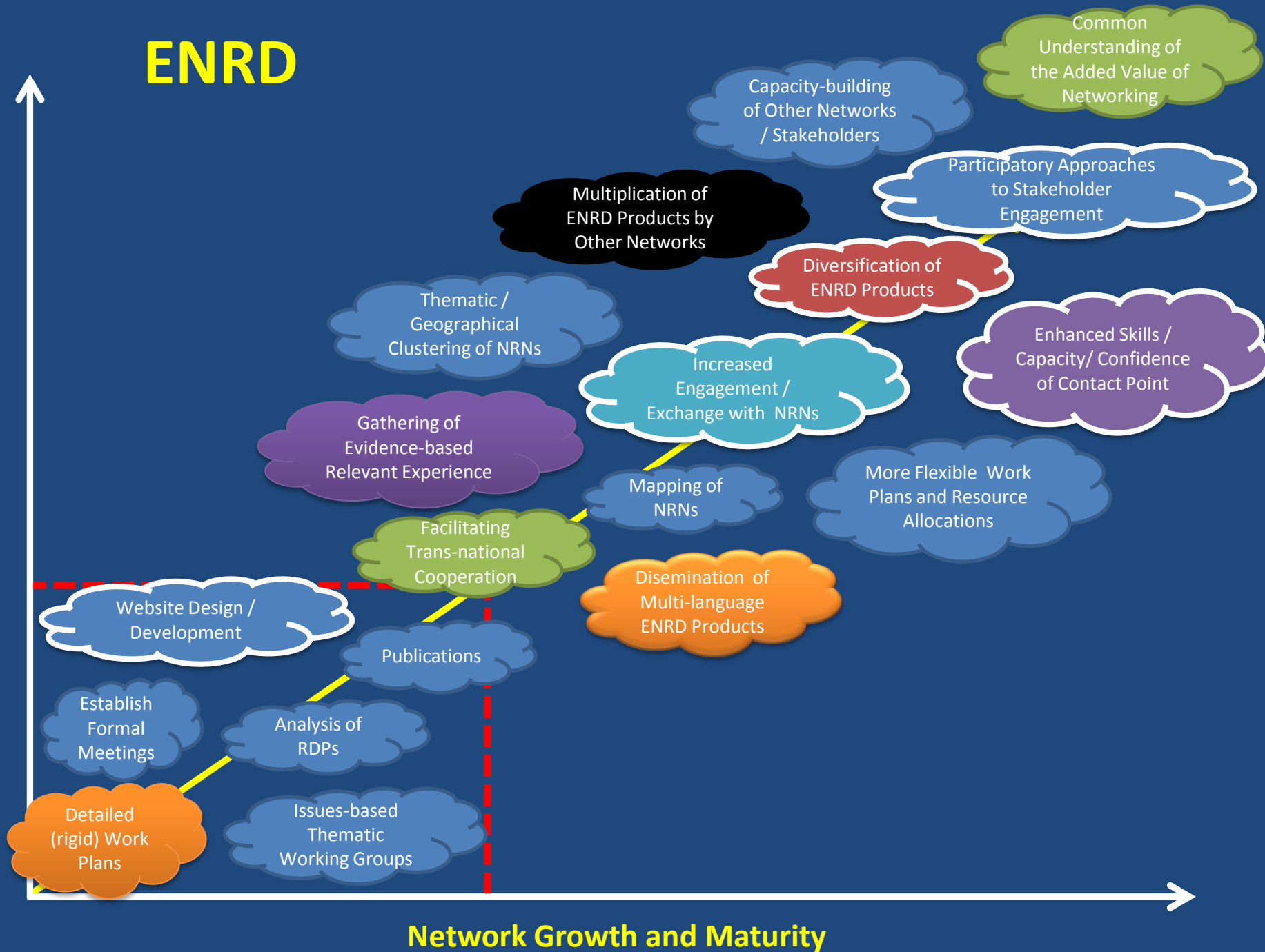
**Network
Support Unit**



**Fully Functional
Network**

ENRD

Stakeholder Engagement / Value to Users



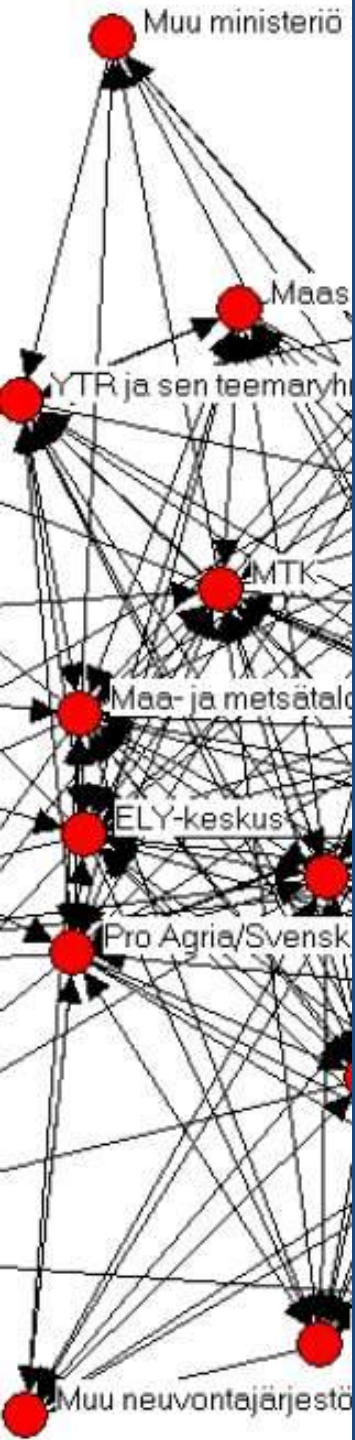
NRN Joint Action (2011-2012): Collection of Networking Success Stories

(13th NRN meeting,
November 2011)



Collection of 98 network 'success stories' from 26 networks in 22 Member States

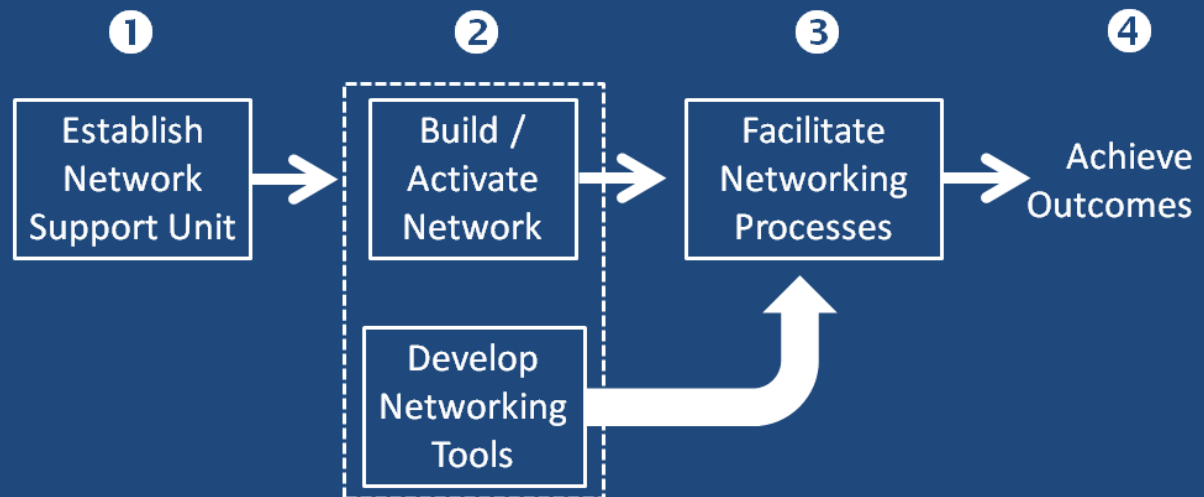
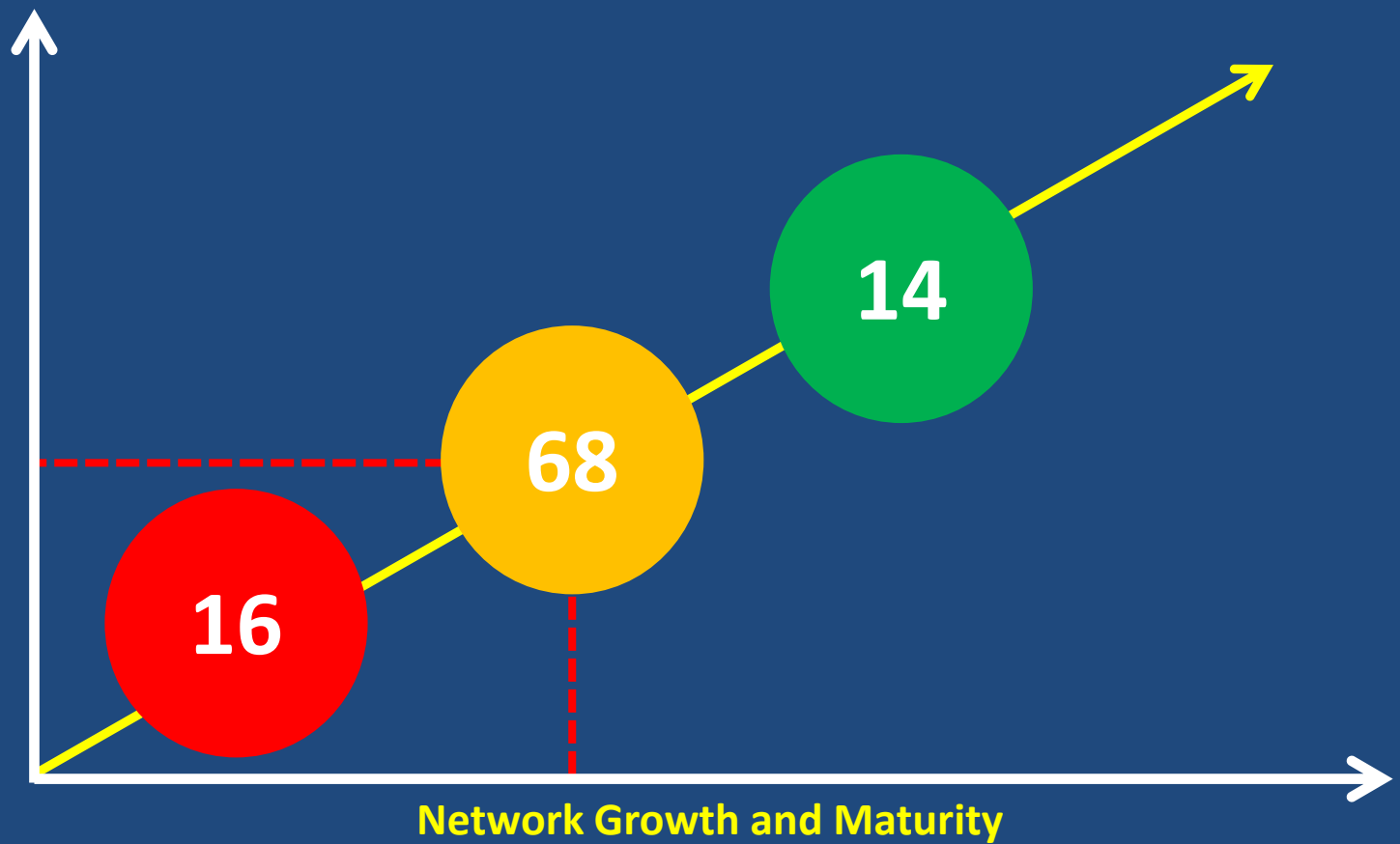




When these 98 ‘success stories’ are reviewed and clustered:

- **16** → establishment of NSU
- **68** → development of network & network tools
- **14** → networking “processes”

Stakeholder
Engagement /
Value to Users





14

‘success stories’ relating to networking processes

- Growth of informal meetings – including youth forums (UK) and entrepreneur events (SE)
- More intensive information exchange between stakeholders – including “communities of practice” (NL)

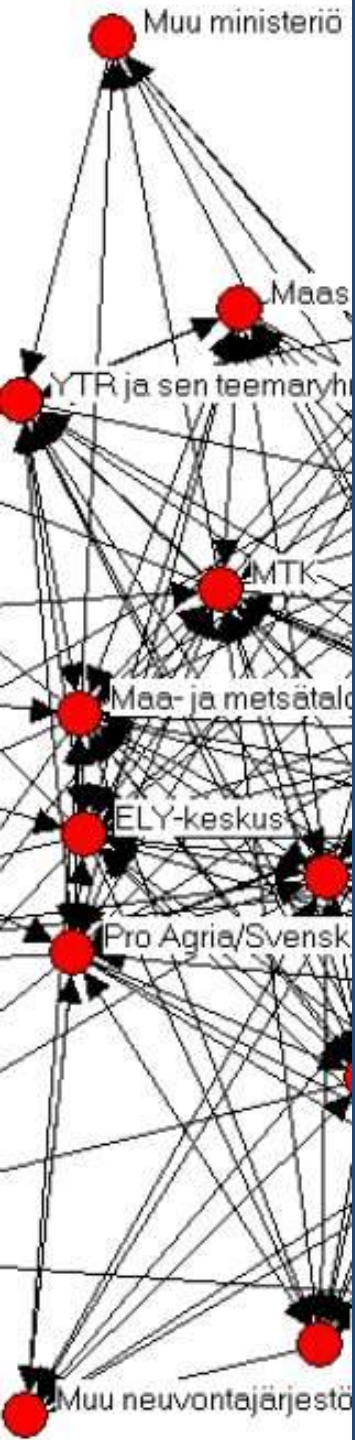


- Targeted use of social media amongst rural stakeholders (NL)
- ‘Horizontal’ exchange of information and resources between network users (IT)
- Bottom-up emergence of new learning tools and processes (IT)





Investment in networks is high,
but it pays back in the long-term
– **give networks time to mature!**



Next Steps (Year 5)

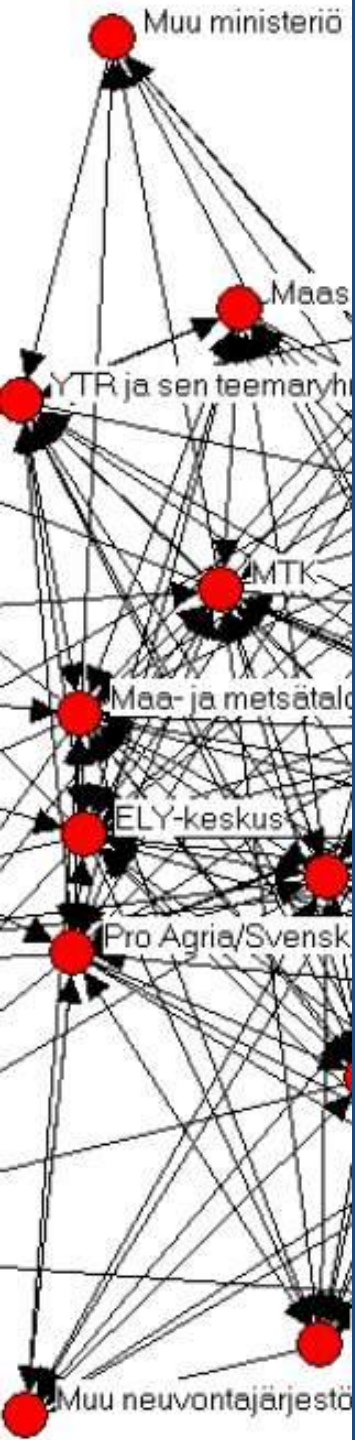
Presentation of outcomes of NRN
Joint Action on **ENRD website**

Clearer definition of 'good
practices' vs. 'success stories'

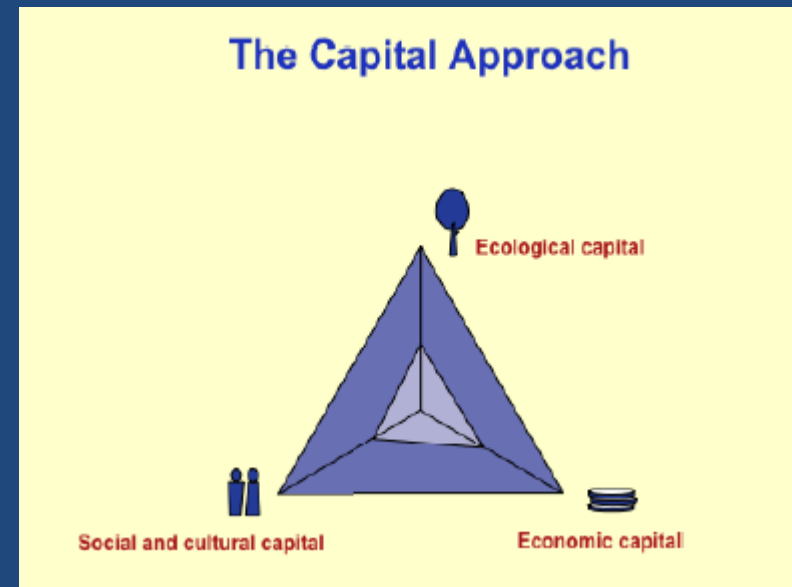
Further collection of 'good practice'
and 'success stories' as appropriate

Rural Review #14 - networking

Handbook on networking (?)



Continue working with the NRNs
(**participatory research**) to develop
understanding of the added value
of networking in RD policy



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