

# Common Network Statistics

## 2021 SUMMARY REPORT

October 2022

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

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## Context

In 2016 Network Support Units (NSUs) agreed to submit Common Network Statistics (CNS) each 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). All the subsequent CNS collections - Y5 (2018 data), Y6 (2019 data), Y7 responses (2020 data) as well as current Y7+1 (2021 data) - were collected in same format as the Y4 responses.

To provide more clarity on which data should be included and on the reporting methodology, detailed instructions were inserted in the guidance note accompanying the data collection template.

## Process and Submissions

The CNS survey for Y7+1 (2021 data) was distributed to NSUs on 26 April 2022, with responses requested by 30 June 2022.

Using direct contact, reminders and consultations, resulted in all 28 NSUs submissions being collected and finalised by mid-July 2022. This is a notable improvement compared to some previous years (3 August in Y6; 11 September in Y5; 13 November in Y4; 24 November in Y3).

The survey was prepared in both excel format and online survey formats (using Survey Monkey). Each NSU could choose which format they preferred to use for reporting. Of the 28 responses, 23 surveys were completed using the excel table and 5 were submitted via Survey Monkey.

## Analysis of Y7+1 results

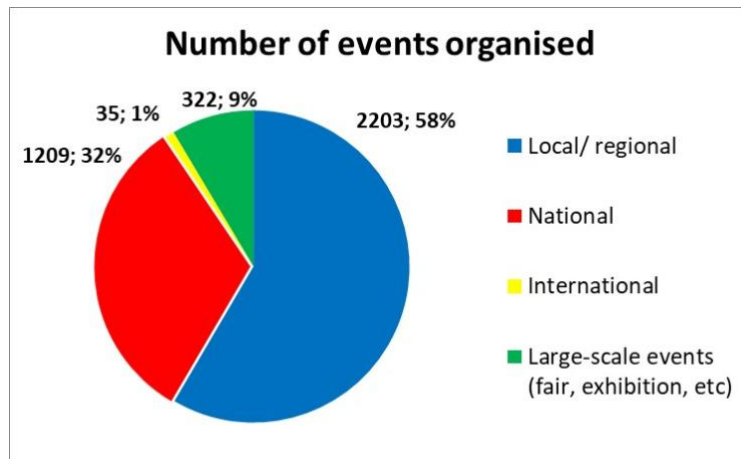
From the submissions received in 2021, the analysis across all the categories gave an overview of networks' activities throughout the EU. Where possible the data from Y6 and Y7 were compared to identify the overall trend taking into account pre-COVID-19 year and the year of the COVID-19 outbreak. Due to some technical differences in the classification of events, the consistency of data between countries has a degree of variability, in particular in relation to the large-scale events category, Question 1. In addition, it is important to note that similarly to the previous year, Y7+1 data collection does not cover the data from four UK NSUs. Also, pandemic effects led to some variation in the performance and the reported data of the NSUs.

## Q1 Events and participations

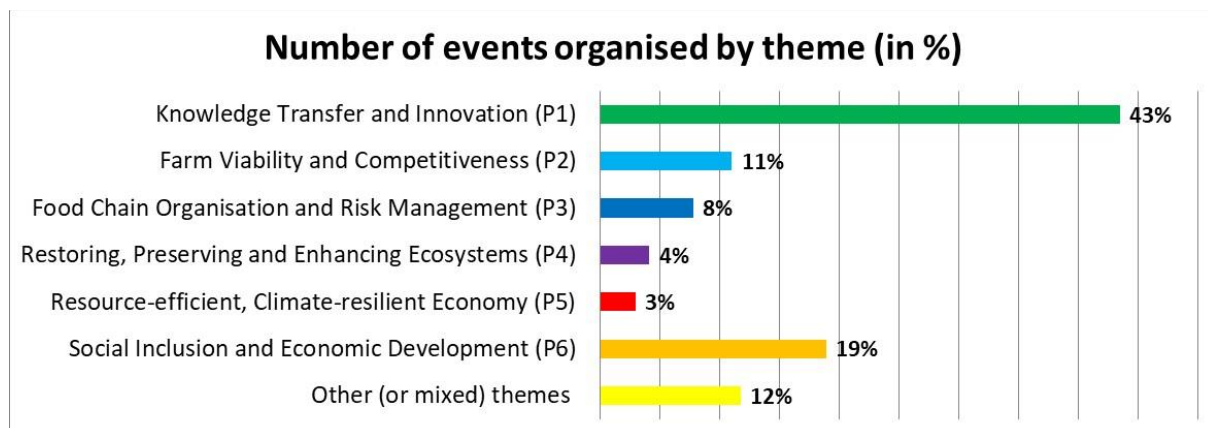
In 2021, in total 3 769 NSU-organised events were reported by 28 NSUs, more than in 2020 (2 558, 28 NSUs), 2019<sup>1</sup> (3 467, 32 NSUs) or in 2018<sup>1</sup> (3 020, 31 NSUs). The increase in events is notable mainly for local / regional (1 603 events in 2020 up to 2 203 in 2021) and national events (561 events in 2020 up to 1 209 events in 2021). This seems to be the result of the COVID-pandemic measures and travelling restrictions, leading to the increase of virtual events during 2021.

Similar to 2020, the highest number of events in 2021, 1 568, was reported by Poland<sup>2</sup>. Other countries reported the following total number of events: Latvia 634 (529 in 2020), Hungary 414 (271 in 2020), Sweden 192 (143 in 2020), Romania 191 (38 in 2020) and other countries fewer than 100.

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. Same as in 2020, P1 related events were the most popular category in 2021, reflecting an increase from 41% in 2020 to 43% in 2021 and surpassing the 'Other' category which was the most popular grouping in 2019. In the 'Other' category, responses included RDP and ESI project days, future CAP, transition period, monitoring and evaluation, communication, Smart Villages, rural cinema, Mediterranean diet, bioregions, administration, MAs capacity building, regional antennae, NRN management and other types of technical meetings. The 'Other' category has decreased from 23% in 2020 to 12% in 2021.



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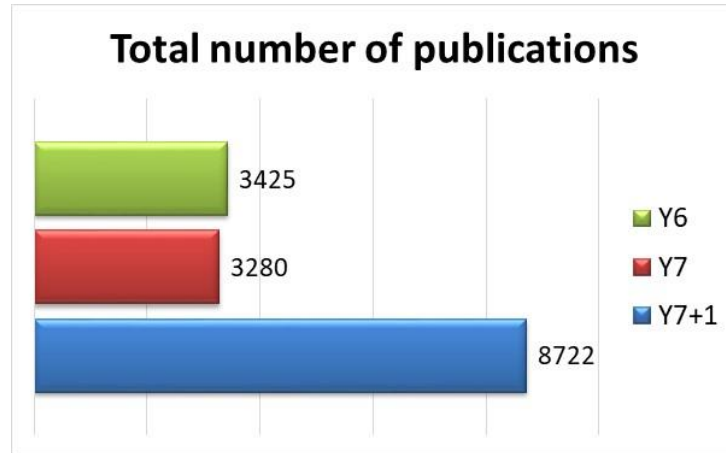
In total, 359 141 participations were reported for local/regional, national and international events, excluding the large-scale events, an increase from 235 121 participations in 2020, after a significant drop from 738 789 in 2019. This may be assumed to be an effect of the restrictions on actual participation during the pandemic.

<sup>1</sup> The total number of NSUs for 2021 and 2020 data collection is 28. For the previous years the data from 4 UK NSUs were included.

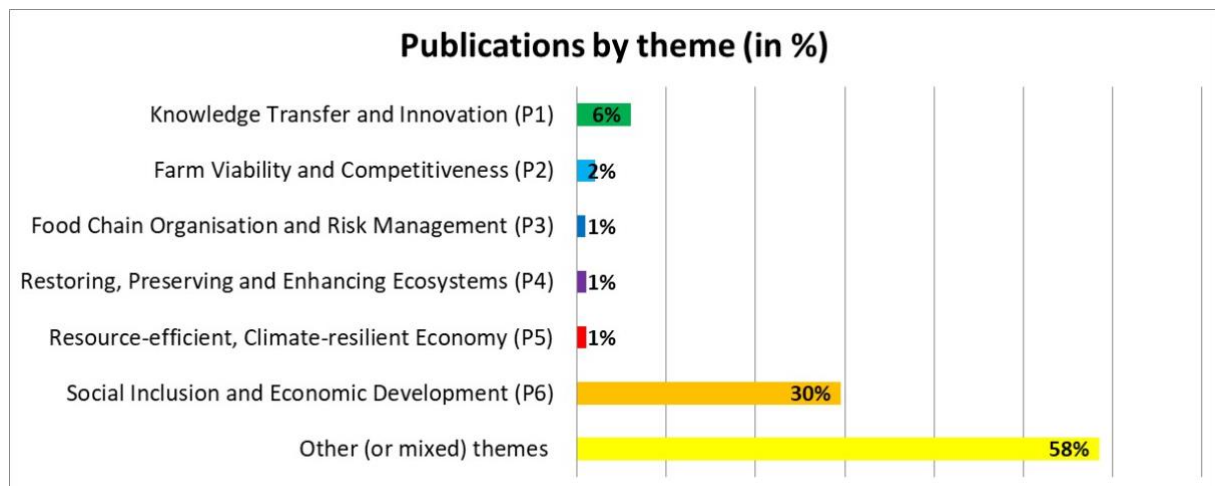
<sup>2</sup> The comparably higher number of events reported by the Polish NRN each year arises from the inclusion of further events organised by the regional offices.

### Q2 Publications

NSUs reported that they produced 8 722 publications during 2021. It can be concluded that the reported number has increased significantly compared to previous years, notwithstanding the UK's withdrawal.



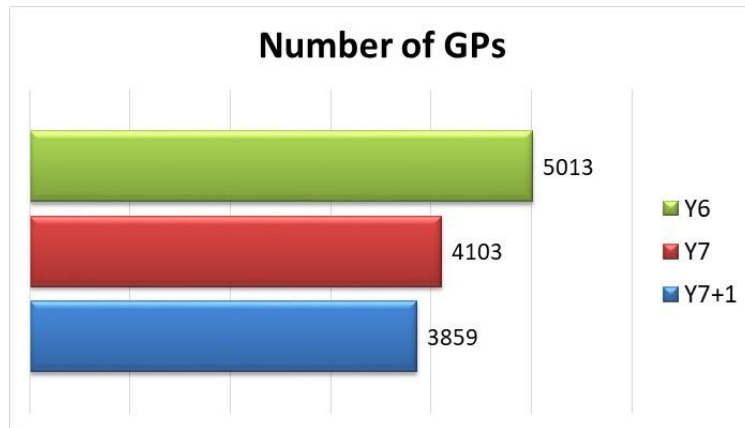
The largest category of reported cases was 'Other or mixed themes' with 58% (34% in 2020) and the topics included women & youth, migration & integration, Mediterranean diet, calendar, and good practices from other funds. This category was followed by publications on 'Social Inclusion and Economic Development (P6)' with 30%, (26% in 2020). The lowest number of publications produced was recorded in relation to 'Food Chain Organisation and Risk Management (P3)', 'Restoring, Preserving and Enhancing Ecosystems (P4)', and 'Resource-efficient, Climate-resilient Economy (P5)', with 1%.



### Q3 Good Practices

In total, 3 859 good practices (GPs) were collected and disseminated in 2021 (on average 138 per NSU). This is a negligible difference from Y7 (153 per NSU) and Y6 (157 per NSU), and still a significant increase compared to years before such as Y5 when 30 NSUs reported 3 416 GPs (114 per NSU) and Y3 when 22 NSUs reported 1 889 GPs (85 per NSU). In Y4, 25 NSUs reported 3 511 GPs (140 per NSU).

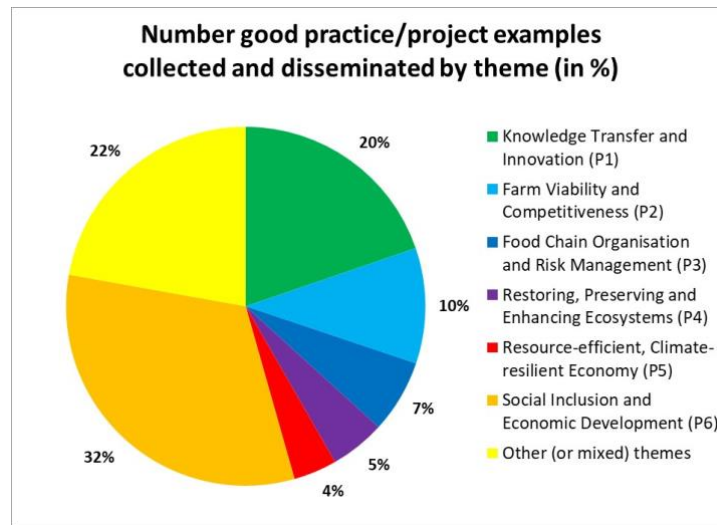
The reduction in the number of GPs from Y6 (2019) compared to Y7 (2020) and Y7+1 (2021) broadly reflects the effects of the UK's withdrawal from the EU.



NSU	No. of GPs
Finland	730
Czech Republic	419
Germany	380
Latvia	306
Belgium - Flanders	300
Slovakia	250
Spain	204
Estonia	195
Austria	174
Poland	172
Hungary	150
Ireland	129
Italy	99
Sweden	74
The Netherlands	70
Bulgaria	57
Lithuania	43
Portugal	30
Slovenia	28
Luxembourg	16
Romania	15
France	8
Belgium - Wallonia	4
Malta	3
Greece	2
Cyprus	1
Croatia	0
Denmark	0

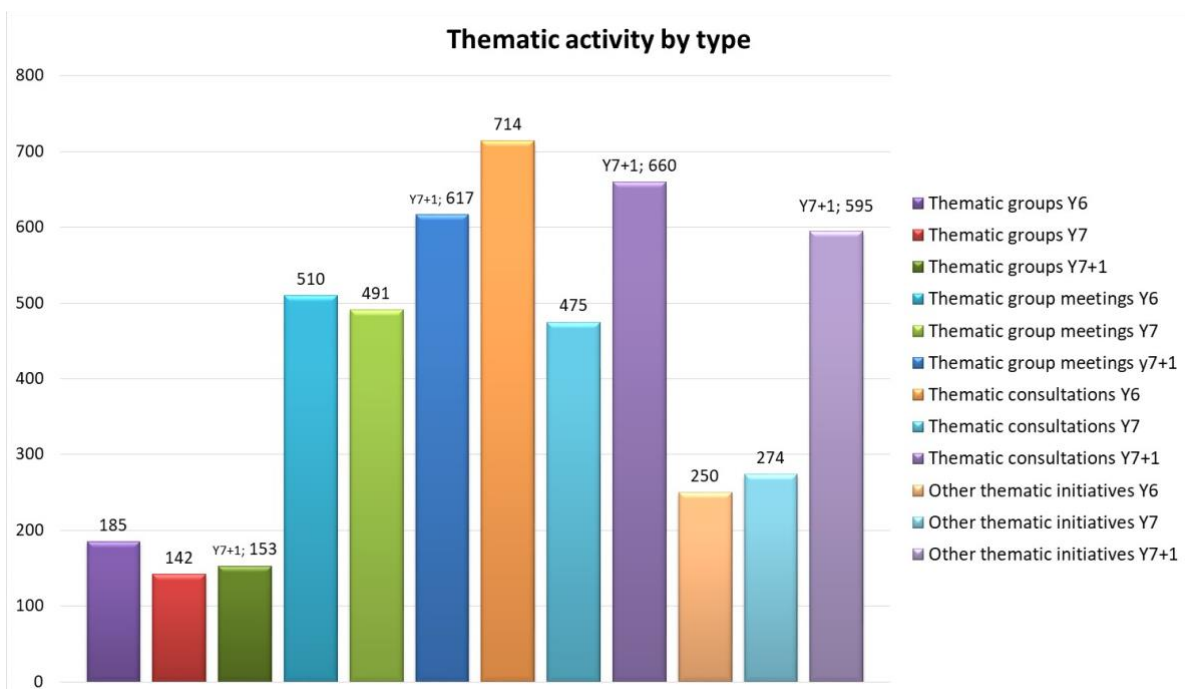
The NRNs reporting the highest numbers of GPs were Finland with 730 (780 in 2020), followed by Czech Republic with 419 (386 in 2020), Germany with 380 (435 in 2020), Latvia with 306 (130 in 2020), and Belgium-Flanders with 300 (330 in 2020). Finland, Czech Republic and Germany seem to have the strongest ongoing focus on GPs, as they also recorded the highest numbers in Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6 CNS. In the case of Sweden, the number of GPs has decreased significantly from 390 in 2020 to 74 in 2021. A similar situation can be observed in France, having 370 GPs in 2020 and 8 GPs in 2021.

Priority 6 ‘Social Inclusion and Economic Development’, continues to provide the largest proportion of GPs by a substantial margin of 32% (52% in 2020) with a total of 1 006 GPs (1 554 in 2020).

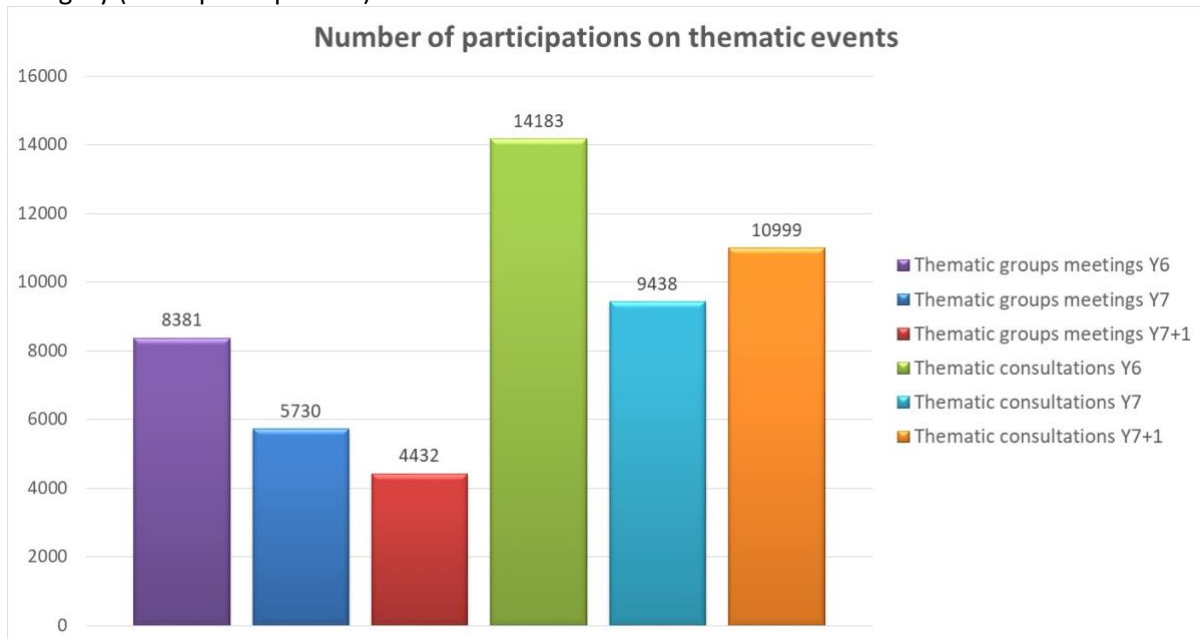


#### Q4 Thematic initiatives

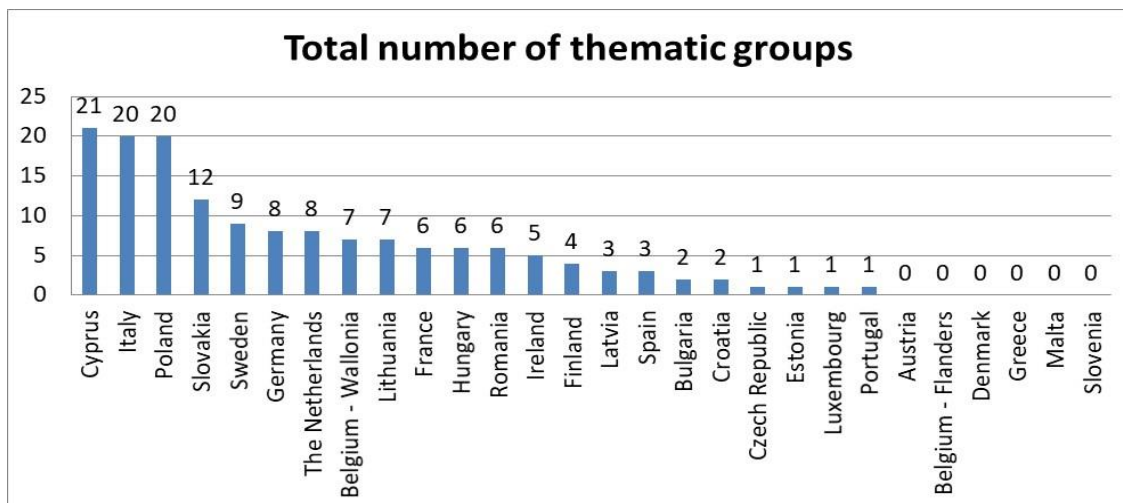
Twenty-eight NSUs provided information on the number of various thematic activities. The most frequently recorded 2021 activity (Y7+1) was thematic consultations (660), which is consistently the most recorded type of activity (493 in Y7 and 714 in Y6). This was followed by thematic group meetings, with 617 (491 in Y7 and 510 in Y6) and then other thematic initiatives, with 595 (274 in Y7 and 250 in Y6).



In terms of the number of participations on thematic events, ‘Thematic consultations’ had the highest attendance during 2021 (10 999 participations). This was followed by ‘Thematic group meeting’ category (4 432 participations).



In 2021 (Y7+1) there were in total 153 thematic groups (TGs), which pose an increase compared to the previous year (142 in 2020), but still a decrease in comparison with Y6 (185) and Y5 (183), possibly reflecting the pandemic effects. In 2021 – just as during the whole programming period - the highest numbers of TGs were in Cyprus (21), Italy (20) and Poland (20).



For the distribution of thematic groups by thematic focus in 2021, data was provided by 13 NRNs. ‘Farm Viability and Competitiveness (P2)’ (44 TGs, 7 NSUs) is the largest thematic category of recorded activity, having a significant increase from the year 2020, with 11 TGs from 7 NSUs. The second category is ‘Social Inclusion and Economic Development’ with 38 TGs from 10 NSUs (27 TGs from 12 NSUs in 2020), and ‘Other (or mixed) themes’ with 33 TGs from 6 NSUs (39 TGs from 10 NSUs in 2020). In the ‘Other’ category, responses included Smart Villages, regional antennae, communication, monitoring and evaluation, double funding, CAP Strategic Plans and COVID-19.



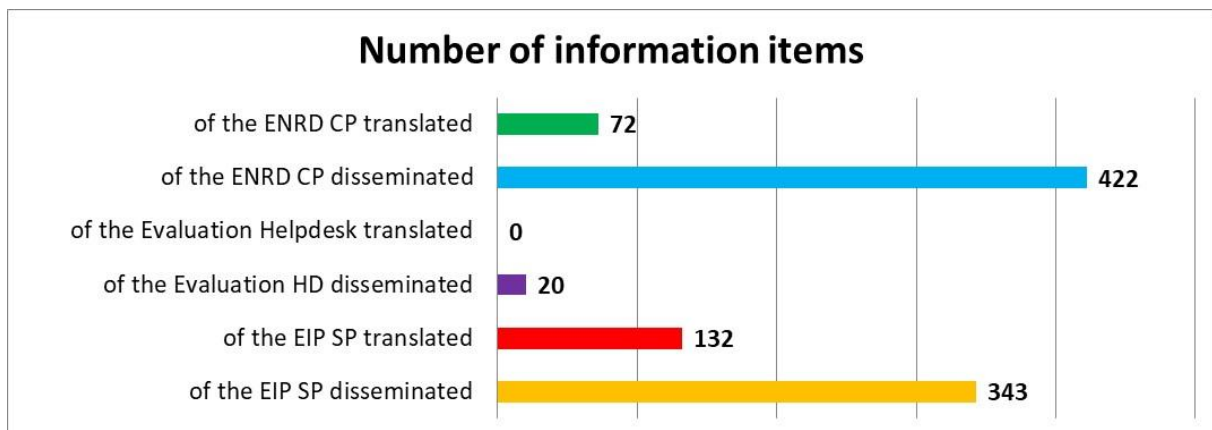
Number of thematic groups by thematic focus							
	Knowledge Transfer and Innovation (P1)	Farm Viability and Competitiveness (P2)	Food Chain Organisation and Risk Management (P3)	Restoring, Preserving and Enhancing Ecosystems (P4)	Resource-efficient, Climate-resilient Economy (P5)	Social Inclusion and Economic Development (P6)	Other (or mixed) themes
Romania	7	30	27	9	11	19	
Finland	13	8				3	
Poland	1		1			1	17
Slovakia	1	1				1	9
Sweden	3	2			1	3	
The Netherlands	2	1				2	3
Belgium - Wallonia	1			2	1	3	
Lithuania	2			3			2
France		1				4	1
Latvia	1					1	1
Czech Republic		1					
Luxembourg						1	
Portugal	1						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>33</b>

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

A total of 19 NRNs responded to the question about how many communication products (presentations, publications and case studies) they had provided to the ENRD CP, ENRD Evaluation Helpdesk and the EIP-AGRI Service Point in 2021. Reporting indicates that a total of 198 items were provided (134 to ENRD CP, 19 to ENRD Evaluation Helpdesk and 45 to EIP AGRI Service Point), which is a considerable decrease compared to the previous three years (258 in Y7, 662 in Y6, 492 in Y5).

17 NSUs contributed with 110 'Good practice examples/case studies' (21 NSUs, 141 GP in 2020), 13 NSUs contributed with 77 'Information items/articles for publications' (12 NSUs, 63 information items in 2020) and 6 NSUs contributed with 35 'Other information items' (11 NSUs, 54 other information items in 2020).

The biggest number of disseminated information items was published by the ENRD Contact Point. The most frequently translated information items were originally produced by the EIP AGRI Service Point.



## Q6 Training activities

Y7+1 (2021) data for workshops / training sessions reflected an increase in the number of workshops / training (1 276), after the decreasing trend from the previous years. A sudden increase can be observed by the number of study visits and field trips organised in 2021 (249) after the decrease observed in Y7 (135) which was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Other training activities continued to increase (211 in 2021, 120 in Y7 and 108 in Y6).

Of the 27 NSUs that responded to the question (24 in 2020), Poland recorded the highest number of training activities as in previous years. They delivered 1 258 (Y7+1), 608 (Y7) and 991 (Y6). Poland was followed by Latvia (78 in Y7+1, 141 in Y7, 96 in Y6), and Hungary (55 in Y7+1, 26 in Y7, 49 in Y6).

19 NSUs (10 in 2020) reported the thematic focus of the training activities that they organised. The 'top three' identified across countries were: P1 'Knowledge Transfer and Innovation' with 927 training activities, mainly for Poland and France; P6 'Social Inclusion and Economic Development' with 350 training activities, mainly for Poland and 'Other (or mixed) themes' with 159 activities, mainly for Latvia and Poland.

In 2021 (Y7+1), in total 59 184 participations were reported by 24 NSUs. Workshops / training sessions were the most attended activity type (46 979 participations), representing almost 80% of all participation activities, followed by other training activities (8 072) and study visits/ field trips (4 133).

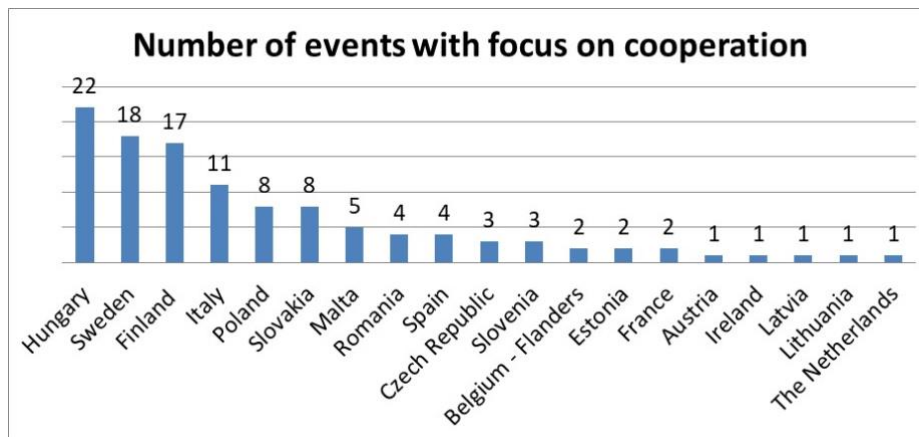


## Q7 Cooperation events

After the significant decrease in the number of cooperation events and participants in 2020, which is thought to be largely due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2021 the number of events with a focus on cooperation has increased to 114 (56 in Y7, 92 in Y6). In total 19 NRNs reported organising cooperation events in 2021 (13 in 2020).

The total number of 114 cooperation events was attended by 4 951 participants (2 977 in Y7, 5 787 in Y6), of which 112 participants (199 in Y7, 848 in Y6) were from other MSs, a no participation was identified as coming from autonomous regions within larger MS (184 in Y7, 368 in Y6).

Hungary reported the highest number of 2021 cooperation events (22), followed by Sweden (18), Finland (17) and Italy (11).



## Conclusion

The analysis of CNS information provides a good overview of ongoing trends in NSU activities and thematic priorities.

As the data illustrate, the first year of the transition period which was still covered by the 2014-2020 RDPs is marked by an increasing trend in the majority of NRN activities. Taking into account the COVID-19 pandemic which started in March 2020, this could be a sign of the ability of NSUs to adapt to the existing restrictions and a new way of working in a mostly virtual environment. **The increase in events** is notable mainly for local/regional and national events and might have been triggered by a more broadly-used possibility to organise events in a virtual mode. The **considerable increase in publications** - more than double the number of publications from 2020 or 2019 - might be related to the reporting on the RDP outcomes or informing about the upcoming programming period. **An increasing trend** could be identified also **for various thematic initiatives, training activities and cooperation events**. **Good practices have been rather sustained** compared to the levels from previous years. **A decrease** can be observed in **the number of information items** provided to the EU level Network Support Units.

**Thematic** focus had been shifting back from various cross-cutting topics (2020 – reaction to COVID-19, preparations for the new CAP programming period etc.) to specific RDP Priorities. The most prominent was **Priority 6: ‘Social Inclusion and Economic Development’** (top for Good Practices, second top for Events, Publications, Thematic Groups and Training Activities). The **Priority 1 ‘Knowledge Transfer and Innovation’** was the most frequently reported category for the Events and Training Activities. Publications were dominated by **‘Other (or mixed) themes’** and Thematic Group work by **Priority 2 ‘Farm Viability and Competitiveness’**. This illustrated the diversity and broad scope of NSU activities. More prominent Priority 2 could be linked to the smooth transition towards CAP Strategic Plans and the gradual inclusion of Pillar 1 Stakeholders.

These results demonstrate the added value of the CNS, which could be communicated at networking events such as NRN meetings and/or relevant workshops. At the same time they can encourage exchanges between NRNs working on the same topics.