



European Network for
Rural Development

Thematic work of ENRD Contact Point on
‘Better engagement of stakeholders
in rural development’



Objective

“Increasing the involvement of stakeholders in the implementation of rural development” is one of the key objectives of National Rural Networks (NRNs) and the European Network for Rural Development (ENRD).

The overall objective of the ENRD thematic work on ‘Stakeholder Involvement’ is to identify **key areas for actions** for ENRD, NRNs and European stakeholder organisations for effectively increasing the involvement of stakeholders in rural development implementation. The outcome of this work will inform the activities of the ENRD Contact Point (CP) in the coming year.

Key elements of the ‘Stakeholder involvement’ package

The ENRD Contact Point is carrying out a range of activities that contribute to the objective of the thematic work on ‘stakeholder involvement’, namely:

- Rural Networks **Assembly Workshop 1** on ‘Better Networking with ENRD/EIP-AGRI’
- **Thematic Group** on ‘Stakeholder Involvement’ (see below)
- **Seminar** on ‘Stakeholder involvement’ (26 March 2015)
- ENRD **publication** (EU Rural Review) on ‘Stakeholder involvement’

These activities will strongly build on each other with the aim to gradually gain and build up an in-depth knowledge on the theme.

The Thematic Group on ‘Stakeholder involvement’

The objective of the thematic group is to identify:

- **Who** are the **main rural development stakeholders concerned** by rural development policy?
- What are their **needs and what are the main issues** that trigger better involvement of these stakeholders in rural development?
- How can these stakeholders **influence rural development policy design & implementation**?
- What are the **most effective networking tools and methods** for improving effective stakeholder involvement in rural development?

Who is it for?

Rural development stakeholders are invited to take part in the work of the Thematic Group on Stakeholder Involvement in order to share their views and experience. You may be interested in joining the group if you are:

- ...committed to improve stakeholder involvement in rural development and therefore would like to share your experience and learn from others about the **specific needs of stakeholders, channels for influencing rural development policy** and **effective methods & tools to engage various stakeholder groups** in different areas.
- ...a stakeholder and would like to **share your experience, challenges and ideas**, as well as to learn about **how you can have a say in influencing rural development policy** and how you **can be better involved**.

Operation & methods of the Thematic Group

The work of the Thematic Group is based on **exchanging views and experience** among key rural development stakeholders including 'grass-roots' stakeholders, as well as European and national stakeholder organisations, Managing Authorities, National Rural Networks and other stakeholders interested and involved in rural development policy.

The Thematic Group will operate through **working meetings among members**. The timeline (key steps) of the thematic work package of ENRD is outlined in the chart on the next page.

Expected outcomes

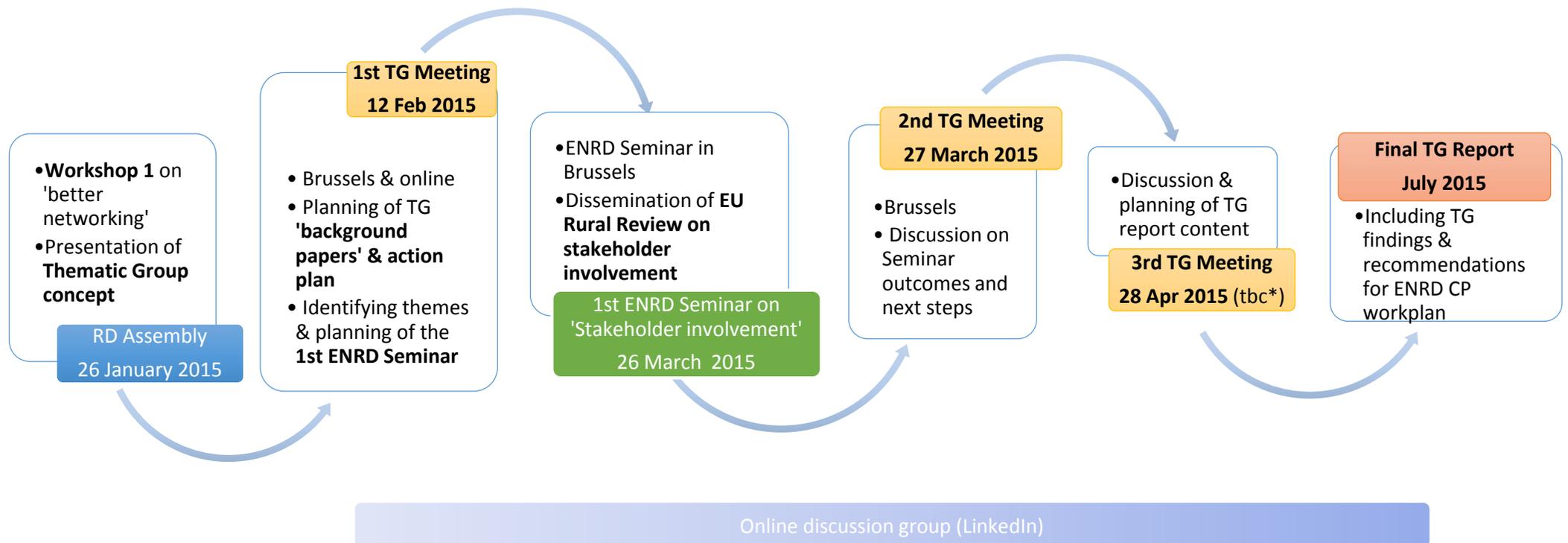
The main outcome of the Thematic Group will be a **report jointly developed by members** of the group. The report aims to be **highly practical** identifying and presenting:

- Main stakeholder channels for influencing rural development policy;
- Key methods and tools for stakeholder engagement;
- Main lessons learnt and recommendations for the future;
- Recommendations on how various networks could best complement each other;
- Suggestions for activities for the ENRD Contact Point after July 2015.

Join the Thematic Group on Stakeholder Involvement!

Join the Thematic Group on 'Stakeholder involvement' if you would like to share your experience and ideas on 'stakeholder involvement', learn from others' experience and have a say and influence on the ENRD CP workplan. For more information and for indicating your interest please contact Edina Ocsko (edina.ocsko@enrd.eu).

Main steps & timeline for the thematic work on stakeholder involvement



* Please note that the date of the 3rd TG meeting may be changed and is to be confirmed at a later stage.