



An Introduction to the RDPE Network July 2011

What is the RDPE?

The Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) is a seven year funding programme, with a budget of £3.7 billion, which will bring into effect the rural development priorities or axes of the European Rural Development Regulation:

- Axis 1 Improving the competitiveness of the agriculture and forestry sectors;
- Axis 2 Improving the environment and the countryside
- Axis 3 Improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of the rural economy;
- Axis 4 Building local capacity for employment and diversification.

What is the RDPE Network?

The role of the RDPE Network is to support the delivery of the programme through:

- Providing tools and opportunities for those involved in RDPE to share their ideas, practice and experience;
- Operating across the four axes and link information at EU, UK, national and local levels;
- Working with existing information exchange mechanisms and networks, to avoid duplication and maximise joint opportunities.

The new Defra Rural Communities Policy Unit has been tasked to act as the Network Unit to co-ordinate the RDPE Network and UK National Rural Network, both requirements of the European Rural Development Regulation. The role of the Unit is to facilitate networking activities and co-ordinate services to stimulate the exchange of your ideas and experience. The Unit consists of 3 members of staff – Rebecca Frost (Manager), Colin Whelan (Co-ordinator) and James Elliott (Information Officer).

The diagram overleaf illustrates the different ways that the Network may be of use to you, so that you can utilise other people's ideas and experience to make the most of the funding available for your business, community or rural area.

Who is the RDPE Network for?

All Network activities and services are open and accessible to anyone. Everybody involved with RDPE, whether in programme management or using the funding are encouraged to get involved and share their ideas, knowledge, experience and practice with others, to make the most of RDPE funding for rural areas.



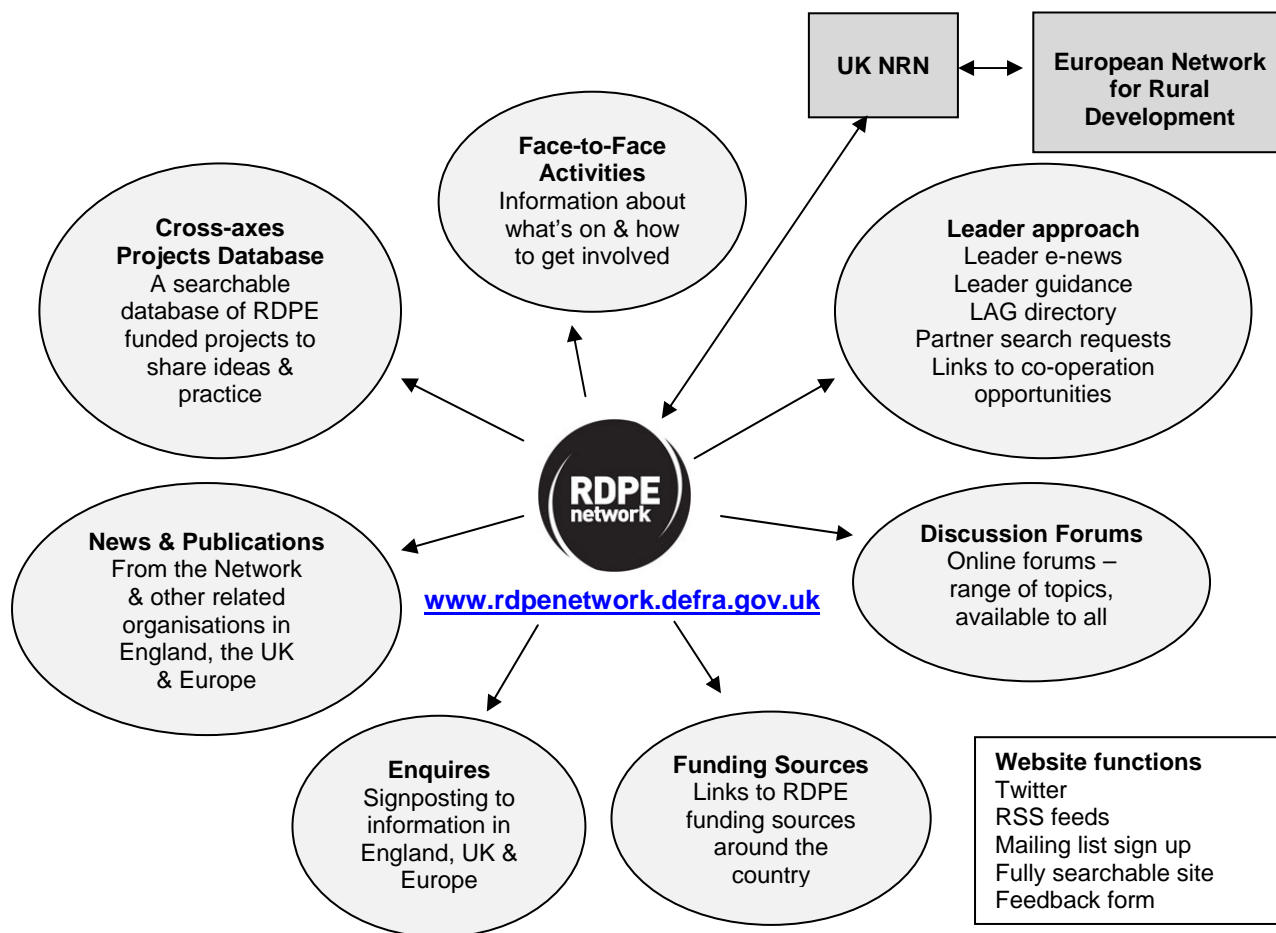
The European Agricultural
Fund for Rural Development:
Europe investing in rural
areas

RDPE Network Services

The diagram below illustrates the current services delivered by the Network. These services have been shaped by participant feedback and involvement.

If you have ideas on how these services could be developed, opportunities for future networking activities or would like to sign up for our e-newsletter, please get in touch via:

- E-mail: rdpenetwork@defra.gsi.gov.uk
- Tel: 0117 372 3634
- Twitter: www.twitter.com/RDPENetwork



UK National Rural Network (UK NRN)

At a UK level, the UK NRN links the four networks developed for the rural development programmes in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The UK NRN acts as a hub to bring together ideas, information and practice from across the UK and provides the interface for information from the European Commission and European Network for Rural Development. For further information: <http://rdpenetwork.defra.gov.uk/rdpe-delivery/uk-national-rural-network>



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