

SHERPA
Rural Science-Society-Policy
Interfaces

Interfaces linking science,
society and decision-makers to
shape future rural policies

SHERPA Partners



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SHERPA receives funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 862448



SHERPA PROJECT

Rural Science-Society-Policy Interfaces

SHERPA – Sustainable Hub to Engage into Rural Policies with Actors – is a four-year project (2019-2023) with 17 partners, funded by the Horizon 2020 programme. The project will gather knowledge that contributes to the formulation of recommendations for future policies relevant to EU rural areas. Its approach is through a science-society-policy interface which provides a hub for knowledge and policy.

SHERPA's main objectives are:

1. To map the main drivers of future trends and dynamics of EU rural areas.
2. To establish Multi-Actor Platforms (MAPs) as effective and sustainable Science-Society-Policy interfaces.
3. To create a shared knowledge base relevant to EU rural policy by taking stock of results of past and on-going research projects.
4. To engage in dialogue between citizens, researchers and policy makers from EU territories.
5. To formulate recommendations linked, if needed, with different scenarios for the development of modern rural policies at European, national and regional levels.



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Multi-Actor Platforms (MAPs)

SHERPA is implementing **40 Multi-Actor Platforms (MAPs)** across the EU. They are the core forum for two-way exchanges of ideas to co-learn and co-create knowledge at regional levels amongst a wide variety of stakeholders.

Each MAP involves at least 10 active members (from a variety of stakeholders) interested in working on specific policy areas. Selected members from the MAPs participate in the platform discussions at EU level.

Each MAP provides suggestions to: i) define a research agenda, ii) contribute to the implementation of rural policy for the period 2020-2027, iii) design new interventions for future rural policy after 2027, which will be further discussed in the EU MAP.

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Our main outputs


The project is co-developing specific outputs and products to support the development of better rural policies:

 **SHERPA Position Papers** with recommendations for future rural policies and research agendas.

 **Communication:** blog, newsletter, articles, videos.

 **Analysis:** Policy trends and definition of rural areas.

 **Online tools:** Repository of findings from European research and stakeholder engagement.

 **Multi-Actor Platforms:** Engage in dialogue at the local level and formulate recommendations for future EU rural policies.

