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## SHERPA News



### SHERPA's website - an enhanced experience

The website of the SHERPA project has been recently updated with new features! As our main communication tool, the website is an important medium to display the work undertaken within the project and the latest updates on rural policy. Among the usual, yet relevant, general information about the project, the website features a space for [Multi-Actor Platforms](#) (MAPs) under [Rural Interfaces](#) menu. There you can see more information on each MAP, its objectives, composition, activities and documents produced. It is updated regularly so you won't miss any progress of the project. New features are being developed, such as a repository of past and current research on rural policy.

**Stay up to date and check out the website!**

>> [www.rural-interfaces.eu](http://www.rural-interfaces.eu)



### Discussing the long-term vision for European rural areas

At the beginning of 2020, the European Commission initiated the preparation of a new long-term vision for rural areas. SHERPA is looking forward to contribute by feeding into this new process, the views of science-society-policy actors from 20 European territories.

To this aim, a [SHERPA Discussion Paper](#) has been disseminated to the [20 Multi-Actor Platforms \(MAPs\)](#) that will inform and structure their exchanges. The document provides a summary of opportunities and challenges in rural areas identified in recent scientific and technical publications and outputs from research projects.

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### Sharing good practices and experience of MAPs

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June 2020. MAPs are currently implementing the first steps of a common methodology for the development of their MAP position paper on the long-term vision for rural areas, having the [SHERPA Discussion Paper](#) as a starting point.

A [presentation](#) was given to set the scene for the EU policy context in which the MAPs will be operating. It overviewed the recently published Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies, and how these link up within the wider policy framework of the EU Green Deal.

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## MAPs in focus



### **SHERPA Multi-Actor Platforms ready to contribute to the long-term vision for rural areas**

MAPs have been able to successfully adapt their plans to the current COVID-19 restrictions, supported by the guidelines for the visioning exercise. Each MAP has started to engage in a Delphi process by collecting data on trends, interviewing MAP members and realising a survey among a wider group. This is the basis to prepare the MAP Discussion Paper that is expected by early July 2020.

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### **Portuguese MAP discusses Biodiversity**

The [MAP of Alqueva](#) in Portugal hosted its first meeting on 2 June 2020, in a virtual format. The first 20 members of the platform joined the discussion focused on 'Biodiversity and Landscape Features'. Two relevant presentations framed the discussion for the group and set the scene for developing further contributions.

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### **Galician MAP starts discussions on the long-term vision for rural areas**

On 11 June 2020, the [Galician MAP](#) in Spain organised its first meeting (online) with all members of the group, to start discussions on the future of rural areas in the region of Galicia. The organisers approached the meeting from a two-step perspective: discuss the current issues and think about the future.

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## EU News

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On 20 May 2020, the European Commission published its [Farm to Fork Strategy](#) for a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system. The strategy sets out both regulatory and non-regulatory initiatives, with the common agricultural and fisheries policies as key tools to support a just transition to sustainable food systems.

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### Impact of demographic change in Europe

The European Commission has published its first-ever [Report on the Impact of Demographic Change](#), presenting the long-term demographic trends and the impact they are having and will have across Europe. It addresses how an ageing population will impact the labour market, health care and public budgets; as well as how differences in regional and local dimensions will affect the quality of life, infrastructures and access to services.

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### EU Green Deal call under Horizon 2020

Between 19 May and 3 June 2020, the European Commission run a stakeholder survey on specific key areas, to reinforce Green Deal-related research and innovation under the current Horizon 2020 programme. To this aim, €1 billion have been allocated for the Horizon 2020 on the [EU Green Deal call](#) that is expected to be launched in mid-September 2020.

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### Covid-19 impact on agri-food systems

The research service of the European Parliament has put together a [selection](#) of recent key documents, research & think tank papers on the COVID-19 outbreak and its impact on agri-food systems. The list overviews analysis and projections from global to European agri-food systems and markets, as well as European policy responses.

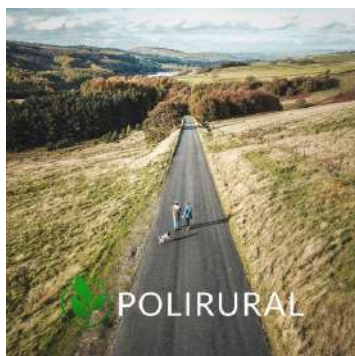
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## Horizon 2020 Projects News

### DESIRA | Digital transformation in a rural context

In a recent [article](#) by DESIRA, the project overviews and sets the scene for the digital transformation in rural areas by defining the key concepts that are being addressed: digitisation and digitalisation. It highlights that both concepts are part of the digital transformation process.

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### **PoliRural | Policy Development for Rural Areas and People**

A recent [research paper](#) by PoliRural, is making the case for an advanced rural policy development framework that can react and adapt faster to ongoing changes and challenges. The idea is to equip policy-makers with tools that will enhance the effectiveness of their policy processes, while giving the opportunity to rural stakeholders to become valuable policy influencers and solution co-creators.

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### **Ruralization | Impact of COVID-19 on young people on rural areas**

Ruralization is planning to host a [webinar](#) on 15 September 2020 on the impact of COVID-19 on young people in rural and urban areas. The webinar will discuss the positive and negative effects of the pandemic and differences between urban and rural areas, sharing resilience stories and examples of young people from both rural and urban areas.

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## **EVENTS**

### [DESIRA | First meeting of the Rural Digitisation Forum](#)

10 September 2020 | Online

### [Ruralization | Impact of COVID-19 on young people in rural and urban areas](#)

15 September 2020 | Online

### [Agriculture and Food Summit](#)

24-25 September 2020 | Paris, France

### [SHERPA Annual Conference](#)

1-2 December 2020 | Brussels, Belgium

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**#ruralinterfaces #SHERPA2020**

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**Contact us:**

[info@rural-interfaces.eu](mailto:info@rural-interfaces.eu)

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Rural Interfaces · 260, Chaussée Saint Pierre · Brussels 1040 · Belgium

