



SHERPA  
Rural Science-Society-Policy  
Interfaces

# A VISION FOR RURAL AREAS

MAP Position Paper



## LONG-TERM VISION FOR RURAL AREAS: CONTRIBUTION FROM 20 SCIENCE- SOCIETY-POLICY PLATFORMS

MAP POSITION PAPER

GALICIAN RURAL INTERFACES

SPAIN

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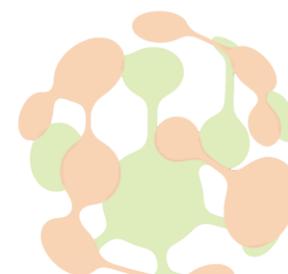
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## 1. Headline message

The Galician MAP shows a high level of agreement with the ten 2021-2027 CAP objectives. Among them, two are highlighted as the main challenges: *fostering vibrant rural areas* and *ensuring a fair income for farmers*.

In the review of the key trends in rural areas, MAP members consider it necessary to add two topics: *Dynamics of the agri-food and forestry sector* and *Governance and participation*.

The opportunities identified cover productive, social and environmental aspects, highlighting the following:

- Economically strengthening and diversifying rural areas, by taking advantage of the potential of the agricultural and forestry sector and developing the agri-food industry.
- New sources of income linked to the sustainable exploitation of natural resources.
- The improvement of infrastructure and services as a means to increasing the attractiveness of these areas.

The Galician MAP desires a future in which: i) rural areas produce healthy and high-quality food and raw materials in a sustainable way, with further development of the local agri-food processing industry; ii) rural society is empowered and involved in the governance of its territories; iii) small population centres are maintained as a guarantee of sustainable landscape management; iv) land-use planning leads to rational and sustainable use of land, taking advantage of the valuation of ecosystem services; v) and finally where there is truly universal and high-quality access to broadband internet for rural communities.

With regard to the actions required to advance towards this desirable future, the initial proposals of the MAP stress policies in three areas: adequate provision of basic services and improving the quality of life of the population in a highly dispersed rural habitat; consolidating the agricultural and forestry sector and supporting new entrepreneurial initiatives in other activities; and improving governance and social participation.

**Keywords:** *decrease of rural population, dispersed habitat, provision of basic services, rural empowerment, digitalisation, agri-food sector, forestry production, land-use competition, ecosystem services.*

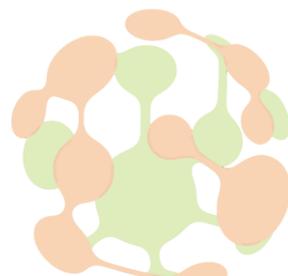
## 2. Key scientific evidence

This section is a summary of the desk research presented in the MAP Discussion Paper (available at <https://rural-interfaces.eu/maps/spain-galicia/>).

Galician rural areas continue to suffer from depopulation and increasing ageing. The fertility rate is very low and a migratory flow of young people to urban areas persists. The dynamics of rural employment are characterised by the accelerated fall in agricultural employment and the limited development of industrial and services activities. Women have fewer employment opportunities.

The agricultural sector presents strong deficiencies, especially in the territorial base of farms, which cause low labour productivity. The development of the agri-food processing industry is very limited. The forestry sector, which is expanding as deagrarianisation advances, specialises in pulpwood.

The current panorama regarding land-use is the result of important recent changes, which can be summarised in three phenomena: forestation, urbanisation, and abandonment. This is combined with a strong division of land ownership.



Another relevant issue is the large deficiencies in access to basic services for the population and companies. This problem is exacerbated by the dispersed structure of the habitat. With respect to digitalisation, 4G coverage has reached almost 100% of Galicia's population, but with varying quality and high cost.

The main environmental problem is forest fires. This is closely linked to land-use changes and the absence of land-using planning (coupled with the influence of climate change).

The future of Galician rural areas will depend on the capacity of private actors and public policies to make progress on two main challenges: improving employment opportunities, income levels and the provision of services for the population and companies; and the ability of rural areas to respond to the current demands of society (supply of food, timber and other raw materials; production of other goods and services rewarded by the market; environmental and social-territorial functions).

### 3. Summary of the outcomes of the Delphi method

#### 3.1. Challenges and opportunities in the next 20 years

##### 3.1.1. Challenges. Approach based on the 2021-2027 CAP objectives

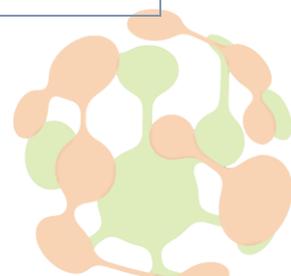
In order to prepare the first MAP meeting and obtain some preliminary opinions about the future of Galician rural areas, the MAP members were asked about the CAP objectives (2021-2027). The results are clear: The Galician MAP shows a high level of agreement with the ten CAP objectives.

We completed this evaluation with the opinion of other relevant actors (external MAP members). The results (Table 1) reveal the importance of these challenges from the Galician perspective: On a Likert scale of 1-5, for all the challenges, the modal value was 5, and the average was higher than 4. Once again, *Fostering vibrant rural areas* and *Ensuring a fair income for farmers* are considered the most important challenges. Finally, there is also consensus on the less relevant challenges: *Increasing the competitiveness of companies* and *Climate change action* are the lowest rated by both groups.

Finally, the discussion of this MAP shows the need to increase the list of trends identified in the SHERPA Discussion Paper with two additional topics: *Dynamics of the agri-food and forestry sector* and *Governance and participation*.

Table 1. Score obtained for the 2021-2027 CAP objectives (Maximum 5/Minimum 1)

Challenges	Average MAP	Average external members
Fostering vibrant rural areas	4.4	4.6
Ensuring a fair income for farmers	4.2	4.5
Supporting generational renewal of farms	4.2	4.4
Fostering knowledge and innovation	4.1	4.2
Protecting food and health quality	4.1	4.3
Environmental care	3.9	4.3
Preserving landscapes and biodiversity	3.8	4.2
Rebalancing the power in the food chain	3.8	4.5
Increasing the competitiveness of companies	3.5	3.9
Climate change action	3.5	4.1



### 3.1.2. Opportunities in the next 20 years

Based on the work performed by the MAP, and independently of the level of consensus shown, a list of opportunities was constructed composed of 16 items which, by way of summary, can be grouped into three basic categories:

- Opportunities mainly related to productive aspects: Improving land-use and management, developing an agriculture and forestry industry more focused on value added and quality, economic diversification, renewable energy production and improving training of farmers and the rural population in general.
- Opportunities mainly related to improving quality of life and territorial organisation: improving internet access and promoting digitalisation, improving transport networks, concentration of the population in regional and municipal administrative centres, increasing the attractiveness for the population by strengthening public services and empowering rural women by helping them to overcome traditional gender roles.
- Opportunities mainly related to improving environmental management and exploiting renewable natural resources: Progress towards agricultural and forestry production which is more environmentally friendly and the remuneration of environmental services through public policy mechanisms.

These opportunities were prioritised by both groups of experts and, once again, as can be seen in Table 2, we found a significant degree of consensus, both in terms of what they considered important and the scope of those considered less important.

Below we provide a brief summary of the best rated opportunities. It is important to stress that they are a combination of productive, social and environmental aspects and that a large part of them require decisions or actions from the public sector:

- Social actors stress public actions which improve the living conditions offered by rural areas, as well as the generation of conditions for creating and consolidating economic activities. The strengthening of public services which contribute to making the territory more attractive, making internet access widespread and promoting digitalisation, improving training, and land-use management are among the best rated aspects both by the MAP and the external panel.
- Economic diversification is among the best rated opportunities. However social actors believe that the agriculture and forestry sectors, and the processing industry linked to them, will play an important role in the future of Galician rural areas, as long as they are capable of progressing towards production models which involve greater environmental sustainability and which focus on differentiation and quality.
- The incorporation of environmental values into productive activity is identified as an opportunity. However, there is also an explicit reference to the need to remunerate the environmental services provided by the primary sector. The actors believe that this remuneration should be supported by public actions.

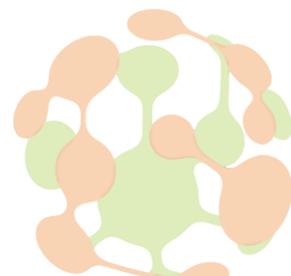


Table 2. Opportunities in the next 20 years (Maximum 5/Minimum 1)

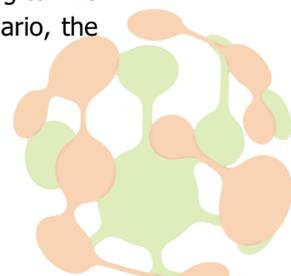
Opportunities	Average MAP	Average external members
Improving productive use of land, based on abandoned areas	4.3	4.7
Developing an agri-food and forestry industry aimed at higher value-added products	4.4	4.5
Increasing the attractiveness of rural areas by strengthening basic public services (health, education, welfare services for the elderly, welfare services for children, etc.)	4.8	4.5
Limiting individual actions of owners through land-use management mechanisms	4.1	4.5
Improving internet access and promoting digitalisation	4.5	4.5
Product differentiation and quality as a basis for improving the competitiveness of agri-food and forestry productions	3.9	4.4
Improving the environmental sustainability of agricultural and forestry systems	4.2	4.3
Remuneration of environmental services provided by agriculture and forestry producers through public policy	4.0	4.2
Improving training of people who work in the agriculture and forestry sector and of the rural population as a whole	4.1	4.2
Economic diversification of rural areas	4.2	4.0
Curbing the disappearance of farms	4.0	3.9
New residents of urban origin and/or immigrants and returnees	3.5	3.8
Increasing the role of rural women by helping them overcome traditional gender roles	3.3	3.7
Exploiting the potential of the rural Galicia for the production of renewable energy	3.9	3.3
Concentration of the rural population in regional and municipal centres of a certain size	2.3	3.0
Improving roads and other transport networks	3.1	2.7

### 3.2. Desirable future for 2040

The vision of the desirable future for the 2040-time horizon comprised a large part of the work carried out in recent months, allowing us to obtain a long list of 29 elements which could describe that rural. These core ideas were finally prioritised, such that we obtained a future scenario based on 10 statements. The results of this exercise are shown in Table 3.

Below we provide the results of this prioritisation, ordering the vision based on the topic which they are related to, and with the level of importance obtained:

- The first element worth stressing is that the two visions which obtained the greatest levels of prioritisation correspond to the two topics introduced at the request of the Galician MAP:
  - The visions which occupy first, third and ninth place in the prioritisation belong to *The dynamics of the agri-food and forestry sector*. As such, as a desirable scenario, the



MAP is designing a rural which produces raw materials sustainably, with differentiated, healthy, high-quality products and a rural with forest management which permits species diversification, in order to achieve greater environmental performance and increased production of high-quality timber. Finally, considering the current context of strong growth of abandoned agricultural land, a rural in which farms manage to better exploit the territory where they are located.

- The second of the topics incorporated at the request of the MAP, *Cooperation and governance of rural areas*, was found in the second level of prioritisation: Social actors desire a more empowered rural population capable of socially participating and who are involved in the governance of their territories.
- Fourth and seventh place are held by two visions which fall within the topic *Demographic shift: decrease and ageing of the rural population*: A dynamic rural from a demographic perspective which manages to maintain its small population centres to ensure adequate management and conservation of the environment.
- The topic related to the *Shift in production and diversification of the rural economy* covers the visions which occupy sixth and eighth place: A rural which maintains or increases the current level of agricultural activity and which has a developed agri-business.
- The concern over *land-use changes and competition occupies fifth place*: *The social actors desire a rural in which land-use management is a reality, which permits more rational land use, and which also addresses environmental conservation criteria.*
- Finally, *the desire for the rural to be well-connected and to have broadband access* occupies 10th place, with the same score as the vision of a rural which manages to take economic advantage of the environmental services which it provides.

We finalise the description of the desired rural with three reflections which complete the vision set out above:

- The results confirm the opportunity to include the two new topics. Not only are a significant number of the visions prioritised by the MAP included in these categories, they also occupy prominent positions.
- Although only seven of the nine topics defined appear among the 10 statements prioritised, Table 3 shows that two of the visions included in the topic of Infrastructure and basic services obtained a high level of prioritisation: Ideas such as the availability of services which permit an adequate quality of life or a rural in which governments share services and infrastructure to take advantage of synergies and offer a better quality of life occupy a prominent position in the vision of the rural desired by part of the actors who make up the MAP.
- The topic Inequalities and social well-being appears to be considered less important by the MAP in the vision of the future. Only one issue which fits into this topic emerged from the June meeting, and this vision also obtained a poor score in the prioritisation stage: A rural with public services which permit work-life balance and gender equality, with 8 points, was a long way off the best evaluated item (29 points).

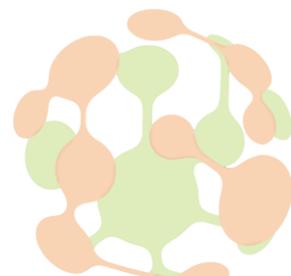
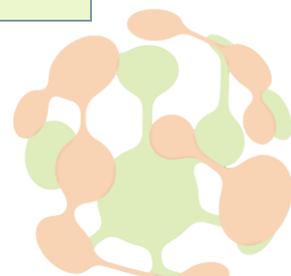


Table 3. Elements of the desirable future for 2040 (Max. 45 points)

Topic	Vision	Total score
Dynamics of the agri-food and forestry sector	A rural which produces raw materials sustainably, with differentiated, healthy, high-quality products linked to the territory.	29
Governance & participation	A rural with a population capable of socially participating and who are involved in the governance of their territories.	26
Dynamics of the agri-food and forestry sector	A rural with a forest management which permits species diversification, in order to achieve greater environmental performance and increased production of high- quality timber.	22
Demographic shift: decrease and ageing of the rural population	A dynamic rural from a demographic perspective.	20
Land-use change and competition	A rural with a land-use planning which rationalises the land use and also addresses environmental conservation criteria.	20
Shift in production and diversification of the rural economy	A rural with more highly developed agri- business.	18
Demographic shift: decrease and ageing of the rural population	A rural able to maintain its small population centres to ensure adequate management and conservation of the environment.	18
Shift in production and diversification of the rural economy	A rural which maintains/increases the current level of agricultural activity.	17
Dynamics of the agri-food and forestry sector	A rural with greater exploitation of the territory by farms.	14
Digitalisation and smart ruralities	A well-connected rural, with widespread broadband access.	13
Climate change and environmental services	A rural which manages to take economic advantage (employment and income generation) of the environmental services which it provides.	13
Infrastructure and basic services	A rural with different services to those of urban areas, but which permit an adequate quality of life.	13
Shift in production and diversification of the rural economy	A rural with greater renewable energy production capacity.	10
Infrastructure and basic services	A rural with a higher level of publicly-provided population services.	10
Infrastructure and basic services	A rural in which governments (especially local authorities) share services and infrastructure to take advantage of synergies and offer improved quality of life.	8
Dynamics of the agri-food and forestry sector	A rural which allows us to make progress on food sovereignty.	8
Inequalities and well-being in rural areas	A rural with public services which permit work- life balance and gender equality.	8



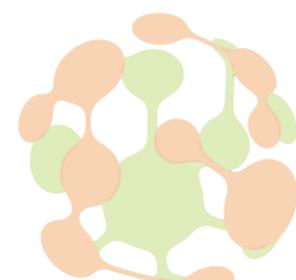
Land-use change and competition	A rural with a lower percentage of abandoned land than at present.	8
Climate change and environmental services	A rural which capitalises on concerns over climate change to give value to and promote extensive livestock production systems.	8
Shift in production and diversification of the rural	A rural with a greater presence of population services companies.	7
Governance & participation	A rural where there is collaboration and cooperation between SMEs for putting development strategies into practice.	7
Dynamics of the agri-food and forestry sector	A rural in which short agricultural product distribution channels have greater weight.	7
Land-use change and competition	A rural which values environmental land use and which takes this into account in the design of public policy.	5
Demographic shift: decrease and ageing of	A rural in which the differentiated demographic dynamics (peripheral/intermediate/remote regions) are reduced.	3
Demographic shift: decrease and ageing of	A rural with less population dispersion.	3
Shift in production and diversification of the rural	A rural with more companies from the tourism sector.	3
Infrastructure and basic services	A rural which has overcome the rural/urban confrontation.	2
Climate change and environmental services	A rural in which the areas subject to environmental protections are managed with the participation of the resident population.	1
Dynamics of the agri-food and forestry sector	A rural which forms part of a society with urban consumers who understand the agricultural reality.	0

### 3.3. Enablers to achieve the vision

Another result obtained is a long list of actions (52) which the internal and external MAP members considered important in order to progress towards the realisation of the desirable future. This list was discussed in the second MAP meeting held in September. As a result of this debate, the list of actions was extended further to 65 proposals, structured around the nine topics established.

In order for this section to be properly understood, it is important to underscore that it consists solely of a preliminary approach to the actions. It is necessary for the MAP to perform a more in-depth analysis of each of the items mentioned in the visions of the desirable rural future, in order to be able to tackle the elaboration of a more precise list of possible measures. Nevertheless, based on the prioritisation performed, we can draw some interesting conclusions:

- The MAP members place high importance on actions which seek to improve the quality of life offered by rural areas. As such, improving basic services – education, health, social services, culture, sport and mobility– is a course of action which the majority of actors prioritise. Also included in this group is internet access, although this element also constitutes an important basic condition for consolidating business activity in the rural.
- In relation to the issue of quality of life, it is notable that the measures which permit work-life balance are found among the prioritised actions, and social actors consider this to be an especially important item for the viability of farms. The inclusion of this type of action on the list of priorities contrasts with the lack of importance given to the topic of inequalities and social well-being when defining the vision of the desirable rural.



- In order to progress towards achieving a dynamic rural from a demographic perspective, actions aimed at facilitating the installation of young people of non-rural origin are suggested, as well as measures to increase the permanence of the current population. Furthermore, as can be seen in Table 4, it is presented more as a desire than as a set of detailed specific actions to achieve this. In fact, the only concrete proposal prioritised is the creation of a housing and land bank aimed at both the resident and non-resident population.
- The need to improve land-use management and planning is also represented on this list. As such, the MAP once again points to land-use planning, the sustainable exploitation of abandoned land and to changes to current forest management as important areas of action.
- Consistent with the vision of the desirable rural described, the primary sector occupies a prominent position in the prioritisation of the actions. In addition to agriculture and forestry production being one of the sectors benefited by land-use management and planning, the importance given to this sector is once again made clear. Thus, within the top ten it is proposed as well to improve the competitiveness and/or diversification of the agri-business and forestry sector. Also, worth stressing is the disagreement of part of the MAP with the current forestry management model, which appears to be viewed as an obstacle to progress towards the desirable vision.
- Economic diversification also appears as a clear course of action. The MAP points to the need to implement measures to support agri-business and the tertiary sector based on the social economy or the creation of a strategic plan to foster innovation and differentiation of products based on quality, which includes actions aimed at improving training and technical consultancy, as well as establishing economic and tax incentives.
- Finally, the improvement of governance and social participation in managing rural development is, once again, an element considered to be important by the MAP, pointing to the need to give greater impetus to the bottom-up approach in public policy through the LEADER method.

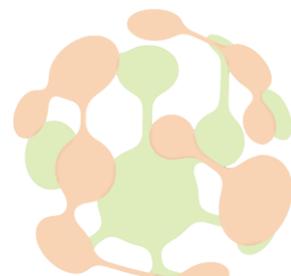
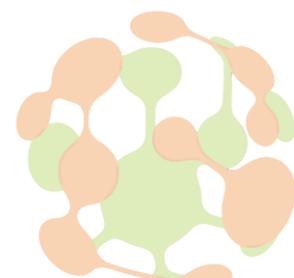


Table 4. Actions required to achieve the desirable rural in 2040 (max. 45 points)

Measure	Total score
Actions to improve basic services, with special attention to: internet access, education, health, social services, culture, sport and mobility	27
Actions aimed at facilitating the installation of young people of non-rural origin and measures to incentivise the permanence of the current population	19
Land-use management	16
Changes to current forest management	12
Actions to support agri-business and the tertiary sector based on the social economy	12
Measures which permit work-life balance, with a special emphasis on farms	12
Actions which seek the sustainable exploitation of abandoned land	12
Actions aimed at improving the competitiveness and/or diversification of the agri-business and forestry sector	12
Improvement of governance and social participation of the population in managing rural development. Greater impetus to the bottom-up approach in public policy through the LEADER method	12
Creation of a strategic plan to foster innovation and differentiation of products based on quality, which includes actions aimed at improving training and technical consultancy, as well as establishing economic and tax incentives	11
Creation of a housing and land bank aimed at both the residents and non-residents	11
Measures aimed at promoting renewable energy and exploiting by-products, waste and other non-food raw materials to promote the development of the bioeconomy	10
Conservation and improvement of the value of the territory in terms of heritage, art and culture	8
Improvement of the quality of life through the creation and renewal of services, equipment and infrastructure	8
Implementation of a tax policy which promotes the installation of companies in rural areas	7
Promotion of remote working in rural areas	7
Actions which promote the multifunctional use of woodland	7
Actions to take advantage of and rationalise farm by-products. Specific measures for liquid manure	6
Measures to support owners of spaces of environmental value to guarantee their conservation	6
Improvement of the quality of life	6
Reduction in bureaucracy	6
Adaptation of land use to the different realities of rural Galicia	6



## Annex 1. Methodology used in the MAP

The results summarised in this position paper were obtained by applying a Delphi method through five steps.

### 1. Online questionnaire: Personal views on challenges and actions to overcome them

To gather some preliminary insights for the first MAP meeting scheduled for March, the MAP members replied to an online questionnaire in February 2020, in which they evaluated the priority of a list of challenges for rural areas of Galicia. These challenges were aligned with the 10 objectives of the 2021-2027 CAP. They were also asked to point out the most important ones and propose potential actions to address them.

### 2. Desk research: study of trends, challenges and opportunities

The COVID-19 crisis forced the cancelation of the MAP meeting scheduled for March. It also modified SHERPA's planning for the year and all activities programmed had to be reconsidered. Following the new SHERPA roadmap, the MAPs were invited to discuss local challenges and opportunities focusing on seven specific themes as well as to build up their vision on the future of their rural territory in 2040. In addition to the project goals, the objective is to contribute to drafting a public consultation about European rural areas in 2040 that the European Commission will launch in summer 2020. During the spring, the USC team developed desk research and context analysis to identify the current and likely trends for Galician rural areas, and also to complete the statistical indicators gathered by SHERPA, characterising European rural areas. It should be noticed that many of those indicators were at NUTS 3 level, which do not describe the Galician territory well. Thus complementarily, we gathered some statistical data following the classification of territories established by the Degree of Urbanisation (DEGURBA)<sup>1</sup>, which is based on LAU2 level data and is more significant and relevant to the Galician context. In addition, we added several indicators, especially in the topic of demographic shift, to reflect the key features of Galician rural areas: the high dispersion of the settlement structure. In addition to the data collected from Eurostat, we also added references from other regional and national sources. The information collected was completed with the incorporation of results of research projects or reports supporting the characterisation and trends of the Galician territory in relation to the proposed topics.

In view of the results of the online questionnaire and this analysis, it was considered necessary to study and discuss an additional topic within the MAP besides the seven proposed by SHERPA: the dynamics of the agri-food and forestry sector.

All of the trends and key indicators were summarised in the MAP discussion paper.

### 3. First MAP meeting (Delphi interviews): towards the vision of the future in 2040

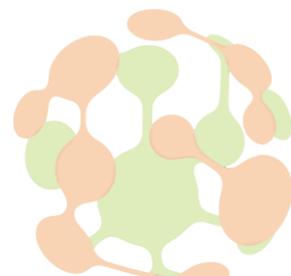
The next step set by SHERPA was to interview the MAP members. As the Galician MAP had never met since its formation, the team decided to convene the first meeting of the MAP and conduct the interviews as part of this meeting.

The first meeting of the MAP was conducted online on 11 June, attended by 12 of the 17 members: society (7 members), policy (2) and science (3). The agenda of the meeting was organised in two parts:

- Trends, challenges and opportunities in rural areas in Galicia. We began by summarising the discussion paper and the results obtained through the online questionnaire<sup>2</sup>. Then, by applying the Delphi method, the MAP members re-evaluated the challenges included in the questionnaire. They were also asked about the potential effects of COVID-19.
- Vision for the future. In this part of the meeting, which took up the most time, the MAP members set out their vision of the desirable and likely future of rural Galicia in 2040. To do so, the participants

<sup>1</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/degree-of-urbanisation/background>

<sup>2</sup> MAP members received a report with the results of the questionnaire in advance.



were divided into two discussion groups. Then, the visions collected in the two groups were debated briefly in a joint session.

The results of the first MAP meeting were collected in the MAP discussion paper sent to MAP members in late June for review. In addition, the five MAP members who were unable to attend were invited to provide their inputs as well. The document reflected the different actors' perspectives and the main controversies, and the final version of the document was sent to SHERPA on 3 July.

#### 4. Survey of external MAP actors

During the summer, we conducted a survey of external MAP actors in order to complement the information and broaden the views provided by MAP members. We surveyed 61 people, receiving 33 responses. The list of external actors arose from the proposal made by the Galician Association of Local Action Groups (LAGs), including representatives of society, policy and science. In the survey, people assessed the main challenges and opportunities resulting from the MAP work and the desk research. Additionally, they were asked about the potential impacts of COVID-19 on rural areas. In parallel, the list of actions proposed by the MAP members was updated with contributions sent after the first MAP meeting. A new topic emerged: Cooperation and governance of rural areas.

Combining the results obtained at the first meeting and the responses to the survey of external actors, a first draft position paper was prepared and sent to the MAP members.

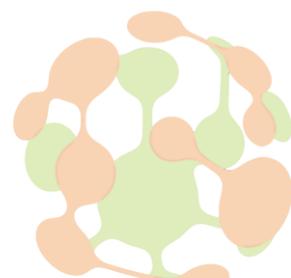
#### 5. Second (consensus) MAP meeting

The second MAP meeting was conducted face-to-face on 25 September, attended by 9 of the 17 members: society (6), policy (2) and science (1). It was a meeting marked by the health restrictions due to COVID-19 and to avoid the exchange or sharing of materials all contributions by the attendees were gathered using online forms, rather than paper. This caused the process to be slower, but safer from a health point of view, and it also allowed the subsequent contributions of those MAP members unable to attend, who were finally able to express their views using the same means. The agenda of the meeting was organised in three parts:

- Opportunities in Galician rural areas. After summarising the results of the survey of external actors, the MAP members proceeded to order the opportunities according to their importance.
- Horizon 2040: desirable rural. The desirable rural discussed in the first meeting was characterised by a set of 29 ideas and the MAP members proceeded to choose the 10 ideas they personally found most "desirable" and rank them.
- Priority actions to achieve the desirable rural. The members were divided into two discussion groups to refine and complete the list of 52 priority actions drawn up from the previous MAP work. Then, they returned to the joint session and while discussing the potential impacts of COVID-19, members of the team put the updated list of actions online (now with 65 proposals). After the COVID debate, the MAP members proceeded to choose the 10 actions considered a priority and had to vote on them as well.

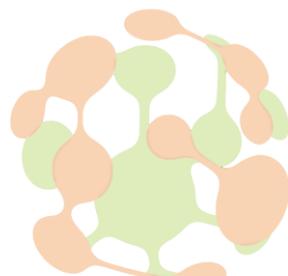
As a result, the whole process ended with three ranked lists: opportunities for Galician rural areas, most desirable features or qualities for Galician rural areas in 2040, and actions and proposals to achieve the desired rural.

With all of this information, the position paper was re-drafted and sent back to MAP members for approval. On October 15th, the final position paper was submitted to SHERPA.



## Annex 2. References

The references supporting what is expressed in this Position Paper can be consulted in Annex I of the MAP Discussion Paper available at <https://rural-interfaces.eu/maps/spain-galicia/>



## Annex 3. The impact of COVID-19

The analysis of the perception of the impacts of COVID-19 was performed both on MAP members and on the panel of external experts. The questions were asked at different timepoints, so the results are an interesting example of how the actors' perceptions changed as we moved away from the lockdown:

Table 5. Rural areas and COVID-19 (% of replies and date of consultation)

Has COVID-19 changed your vision for the future of rural areas?	MAP 11 June	External members July	MAP 25 September
No, not at all	63.6	42.3	33.3
Yes, partially	18.2	54.6	66.7
Yes, entirely	18.2	3.0	0.0
<b>Will the changes be permanent?</b>			
Yes	18.2	39.4	33.3
No	81.8	60.6	66.7

Table 6. Potential impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on the future of rural areas (% of people who agree)

Potential impacts	External members July	MAP 25 September
Stronger social demand for basic public services (health, education, welfare for the elderly, etc.) and certain infrastructure (internet access) in rural areas.	63.6	75.0
Stronger agri-business production in surrounding areas, linked to a familiar territory and less dependency on imported inputs.	51.5	43.8
Arrival of new residents and reappraisal of the rural as a place to live and/or work.	48.5	43.8
Boost to rural tourism and other non-agricultural activities in rural areas.	45.5	56.3
Higher social recognition of the food production by the society through prices that consumers are willing to pay.	39.4	37.5
Greater downward pressure over food prices due to the economic crisis foreseen for the coming years.	39.4	31.3
Acceleration of the deterioration of the economic base and living conditions in rural areas, because of prioritisation of the on socio-economic problems in urban areas.	39.4	37.5
Society more concerned about the environmental sustainability of agricultural systems, even if this implies slightly higher prices for the consumer.	36.4	12.5

