

SHERPA
Rural Science-Society-Policy
Interfaces

PRACTICE ABSTRACT

Creating meaningful dialogue



Authors: Bozhidar Ivanov, Institute of Agricultural Economics in Bulgaria | ERDN

Reviewer: Jorieke Potters, Wageningen University & Research

Editor: Roxana Vilcu, AEIDL



SHERPA has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under Grant Agreement No. 862448. The content of the document does not reflect the official opinion of the European Union. Responsibility for the information and views expressed therein lies entirely with the author(s).



Creating inclusive and consensus dialogue is the key to the success of the SHERPA MAP in Bulgaria. The setup of such dialogue is the distinctive feature of MAP Bulgaria coordinated by the Institute of Agricultural Economics (IAE). Due to inadequate representativeness of civil organisations in rural areas and low level of common collective actions, the MAP Bulgaria relies on the participation of experts and renowned professionals in order to create meaningful dialogue.

This dialogue provides objective and reliable information and figures on particular topics of interest for public authorities and society members in the network, granting the opportunity to discuss, propose and take part in the process of finding solutions.

The challenges are how to ensure a more workable and effective transmission where the agreed conclusions and ideas from this dialogue are materialised in implementation. Thus, the main achievement of MAP Bulgaria is in creating a platform, where to work and use the analytically-proved studies carried out by the IAE team. Based on this, the involved partners seek consensus and elaborate common positions, which may facilitate and help public decision-making.

Starting the work on SHERPA MAP Bulgaria enabled many of the contacts between individual partners to develop, and other joint initiatives between them are animated and implemented. One of the main goals of the IAE team is to foster sustainability of this type of platform, which can be a very well-functioning mechanism for cooperation and dialogue.

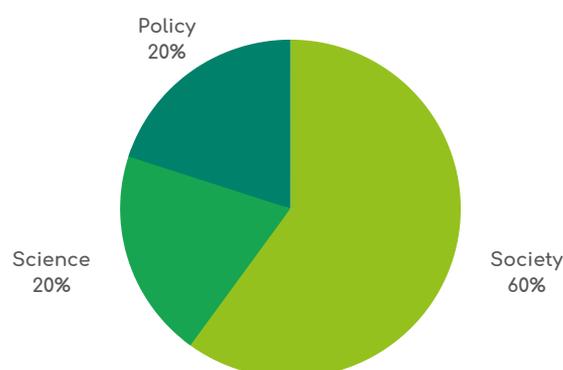
The ultimate outcome is the creation of sustainability and consensus-oriented dialogue between the different partners, leading to:

- Improving dialogue and understanding capabilities of involved stakeholders.
- Creating reliable and valuable common positions on behalf of rural communities.

| MAP Bulgaria |
|---|
| Location Bulgaria |
| MAP contacts Facilitator: Daniel Petrov Monitor: Bozhidar Ivanov |
| More info https://rural-interfaces.eu/maps/bulgaria/ |



MAP membership





ABOUT THE MAP

MAP Bulgaria was established in 2020 with the involvement of ten organisational partners, covering the three main sectors of civil society, research and academia, and policy and business. The platform created within the SHERPA project, is a network for dialogue, through which the mentioned partners from science, policy, civil society and business interact, discuss, share and jointly create knowledge and reach common views and positions on rural issues.

The methodology used by the SHERPA MAP Bulgaria is very different, where the implementation of dialogue, unifying points of view, convergence, research and justification are the working model. The topics discussed and worked on are much more general, visionary, focused on the future, bringing partners together.

The MAP Bulgaria is maintained and coordinated by the SHERPA team of the Institute of Agricultural Economics, which not only organises and mediates the dialogue process but also prepares relevant and reliable analyses. In this way, all participants have the necessary analytical information and data, which is the basis for reaching conclusions, making summaries and searching convergence and unification on common positions and drawing ideas to help public authorities in their decision-making process.



OBJECTIVES

The MAP Bulgaria has the following objectives:

- Establishment and maintenance of MAP Bulgaria with involvement of authoritative and competent representatives of the three main areas of interest: science, society and policy;
- Achieving a converging, consensual dialogue between the participants and partners involved in the preparation of working reports and in rolling out and formulating common positions on important issues concerning the future of rural areas in the country;
- Promoting the outcomes of the summary reports, considered as a source of ideas and proposals to public authorities in helping their efforts to improve sustainability of rural areas.



MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

During the first year of implementation of the MAP Bulgaria, work was carried out on the topic of demography in rural areas. A MAP Discussion Paper and a [MAP Position Paper](#) were prepared and disseminated to the participants and the public using the cooperation with the specialised media. Based on these papers, articles and scientific publications were published in journals and conference proceedings.

In 2021, the work on the new topic related to diversification and employment in rural areas began, where again the partners in MAP Bulgaria have the opportunity to get acquainted with the specific analytical research of the IAE team on the topic. All MAP participants are involved and working together to discuss and elaborate the common Position Paper.

The rollout of the work of MAP Bulgaria has enabled the cooperation between the partners to be strengthened and deepened.



SHERPA

Rural Science-Society-Policy
Interfaces



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA



www.rural-interfaces.eu

