

SHERPA
Rural Science-Society-Policy
Interfaces

PRACTICE ABSTRACT

Linking to different levels of policy



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The Galician MAP linked its work in SHERPA to the development of the CAP Strategic Plan in Spain. This was due to the coincidence in the calendar of both activities and the fact that the University of Santiago de Compostela (USC) team, in charge of the MAP, is also supporting the regional government in the development of the plan and participating in the discussions at national level. Furthermore, the MAP members were very interested in the topic because most of the rural funds in Galicia come from Europe (EAFRD).

Based on this experience, there are some learnings on how to link different policy levels.

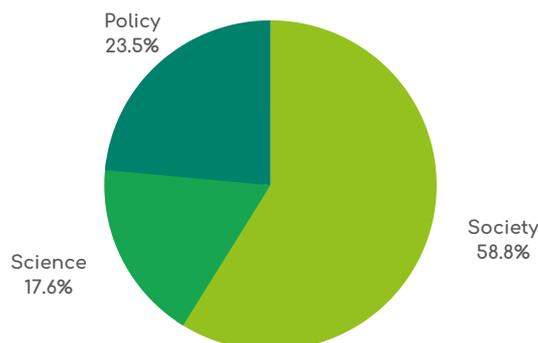
- Think on the linkage already when forming the group. Our MAP counts on people from policy at local and regional levels. The USC team scaled up, connecting with the EU level (through SHERPA) and the national and regional levels through the work on the CAP Strategic Plans.
- Existing organisations can help to reach further, such as GALAG (Galician Association of Local Action Groups), which connect us with other municipalities.
- Ensure representativeness and take advantage of multiple profiles e.g., some of the mayors in the MAP are regional councillors as well; they come from different parts of the region, represent a variety of rural areas and are from different political parties. Regarding power, a balanced group does not necessarily mean an even number of people of each type of stakeholder. For example, the society group is higher, because of the wide range of topics discussed.
- Keep people engaged and motivated, by managing expectations, showing progress and ensuring the results are correctly considered (e.g. well reflected in SHERPA papers).



MAP Galician Rural Interfaces	
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MAP contacts	Facilitator: Beatriz Guimarey Fernández Monitor: Mariam Ferreira Golpe
More info	https://rural-interfaces.eu/maps/spain-galicia/



MAP membership:





ABOUT THE MAP

The Multi-Actor Platform Galician Rural Interfaces is a regional platform that uses the Galician Association of Local Action Groups (GALAG) as support and a starting point. It brings together members of a few LAGs, representatives of farmer and agri-organisations, business, universities, civil society and members of local and regional government. The organisation responsible for the MAP is the University of Santiago de Compostela (USC).

The region of Galicia has historically been an eminently rural region, although in the last decades it has experienced a strong demographic and economic decline of rural areas. The region faces typical challenges of peripheral regions in Europe, such as rural depopulation and aging, and the abandonment of farmland. Its bioclimatic conditions characterise Galicia as prone to forest fire risk and scenarios of climate change indicate that the situation will worsen.



OBJECTIVES

The platform focuses their discussions on the following topics: employment and income generation, provision of infrastructures and services, and sustainable and inclusive land management. On these topics the MAP aims to improve policy design by using a better identification of rural needs and better engagement of rural actors in collaborative policy-making. Thus, the platform seeks to contribute to finding solutions to tackle the climate change and demographic trends, as well as improving rural living conditions.

The activities of this MAP are designed to achieve the following specific objectives:

- Identify main drivers for rural development in Galicia;
- Identify main issues for policy design towards rural development;
- Identify the main factors making the MAP sustainable across time after SHERPA project.



MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

During 2020, the Galician MAP produced a [MAP Discussion Paper](#) and a [MAP Position Paper](#) which has fed into the [SHERPA Position Paper](#). Through SHERPA, the MAP has also contributed to the public consultation by the EU Commission on the Long-Term Vision for Rural Areas.

The first MAP cycle dealt with the long-term vision for rural Galicia. For this, two dedicated workshops were organised to discuss the key challenges and opportunities of the rural areas in the region, the impact of COVID-19 and the vision for the Galician rural areas in 2040. Additionally, three surveys were conducted, one of them broadly distributed across the region to get further insights and opinions contributing to the vision. The MAP team conducted desk research to gather data and information about key trends in the Galician rural areas to feed into the workshops.

In the second cycle (2021), the MAP is conducting a foresight exercise. The objective is to look for pathways to achieve the desired rural vision. This will include the identification of interventions, instruments, processes and actors responsible for taking action. For this exercise, the MAP is considering the three rural typology present in the region (active, abandoned, and urban-forest rural).



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