



SHERPA

Rural Science-Society-Policy  
Interfaces

PRACTICE ABSTRACT

# (Dis)Advantages of online interaction in Lithuania



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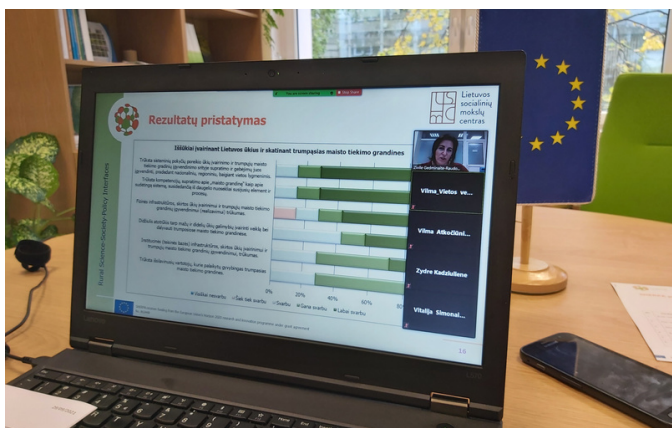


SHERPA has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under Grant Agreement No. 862448. The content of the document does not reflect the official opinion of the European Union. Responsibility for the information and views expressed therein lies entirely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

The MAP “Circular Bio-economy – Lithuania” (CBioLit) is a newly established platform coordinated by the Institute of Economics and Rural Development of the Lithuanian Centre for Social Sciences, gathering experts from society, science and government. The platform CBioLit was set up to objectively represent Lithuanian rural areas (i.e. territorial coverage; level of expertise; balanced representation of interests by roles played in society, science and policy-making) in simulating their future.

The opportunity to participate in person and in virtual discussions at the round table, despite the drastic restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic, had a positive overall feeling of engagement and contribution to the creation of a reflective long-term European rural vision, looking at the most relevant issues. Engaging remotely, through online meetings, brought both advantages and disadvantages. On one hand, it was convenient to join the platform and participate alongside other work-related tasks, allowing for less time and costs expenses; on the other hand, online meetings are much less interactive and it is hard to ensure one-by-one dialogue. However, the continuous cooperation in SHERPA policy dialogue, based on the Delfi methodology, was recognised as successful and fruitful due to its versatility, reflectivity, and inclusiveness in the participation of consensus-based bottom-up policy-making. It is worth further exploration, in combination with regular and close interaction among MAP members.

The success is grounded in the balance of both online (remote) and physical interaction methods, since solely remote interaction is fruitful only in case there is enough trust among actors.



## Circular Bio-economy - Lithuania (CBioLit)

### Location

Lithuania

### MAP contacts

Facilitator: Dr. Zivile Gedminaite-Raudone

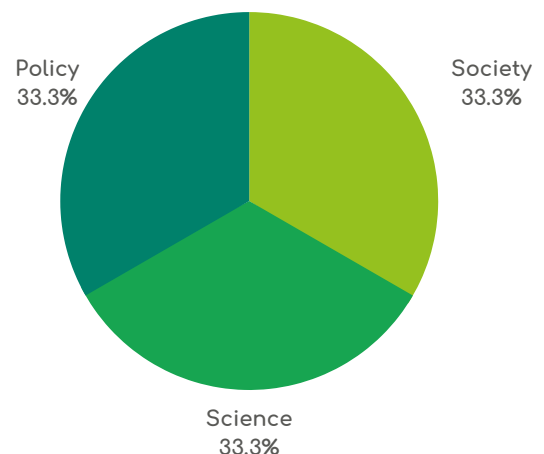
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### More info

<https://rural-interfaces.eu/maps/lithuania/>



## MAP membership





## ABOUT THE MAP

The MAP of Lithuania “Circular Bio-economy – Lithuania” (CBioLit) is established and coordinated by one of the ERDN members - Lithuanian Centre for Social Sciences, Institute of Economics and Rural Development. Selected topics and activities of the Lithuanian MAP are based on priorities identified in the Smart Specialisation (RIS3) Strategy for Lithuania 2014–2020. These are:

- Agro-innovation and food-technologies. Priority “Safer food and sustainable usage of biomaterials”.
- Inclusive and creative society. Priority “Modern self-development technologies and processes promoting formation of creative and promotive individuals”.
- Energy and sustainable environment. Priority “Energy and fuel production using biomass/waste and waste treatment, storage and disposal”.



## OBJECTIVES

The activities of the MAP “CBioLit” were designed to provide policy recommendations on agriculture, innovation and energy. The MAP aims to achieve:

- an improved agricultural policy regarding agri-food and food technologies with focus on safer food and sustainable usage of biomaterials;
- an improved innovation policy regarding inclusive and creative society with a focus on modern self-development technologies and processes promoting the formation of creative and promotive individuals;
- an improved agricultural, energy, and environmental policy regarding energy and sustainable environment with a focus on energy and fuel production using biomass/waste and waste treatment, storage, and disposal.



## MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

During the first cycle, the CBioLit MAP prepared a [Discussion Paper](#) and [Position Paper](#) concerning the long-term vision (to 2040) for Lithuanian rural areas. These were developed through both physical and online interaction methods with actors via a 6-step Delphi method, combining research, use of quantitative and qualitative data, including expert interviews, surveys and focus group meetings. The validated Lithuanian MAP Position Paper contributed to the SHERPA Position paper on the same topic. In addition, the document was circulated to the responsables for agricultural, innovation, energy, and other issue-specific Lithuanian policy-makers for further elaboration of Lithuania’s rural policy.

To reach a greater societal impact, SHERPA methodology and Lithuanian [MAP Position Paper](#) were presented at one of the most popular scientific-practical conferences in Lithuania for rural communities. Due to high interest, a paper in the national language was prepared to present the SHERPA process as innovative practice for bottom-up policy development through the engagement of actors.



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