Dealing with consensus and diversity

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Reviewer: Jorieke Potters, Wageningen University & Research
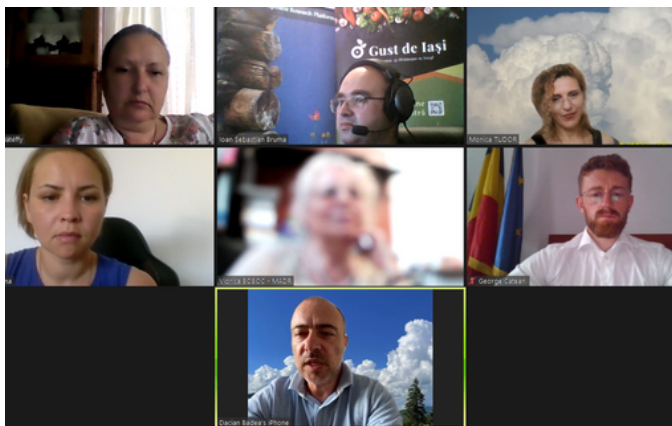**Editor:** Roxana Vilcu, AEIDL

Multi-actors dialogue platforms in rural areas could have a decisive contribution in co-producing a common shared vision as a basis for integrated actions for a sustainable regional development and a commitment to implementation. The combination of different types of knowledge and experiences creates a better mutual understanding on perspectives from which rural issues are understood and perceived by different categories of actors.

Participation and involvement in the exchange of knowledge between multiple rural actors inside a MAP must be open and undisguisedly to contribute to rebuilding and strengthening mutual trust. Trust is a decisive factor for consensus in co-creation and co-action processes. Ensuring such an open environment in the MAP is important to capture diversity of opinions and perspectives, aggregate the different stakeholder's interest, find out common points and build on them a common shared vision for the rural future.

Based on the experiences from the Rural Transylvania MAP, building consensus is a two-step process: a) capture, find out and share within the group the rationality behind each stakeholder' opinion; and b) identify common values, expectations, provisions as a space for mutual understanding and co-creation. Recommendations:

- Detail the specificity of diverse opinions based on the contexts or stakeholders' group perspective,
- Ask for other stakeholders' point of view,
- Ask participants to project on the long term run effects, and
- Find and build on common points the multi-actor shared vision.
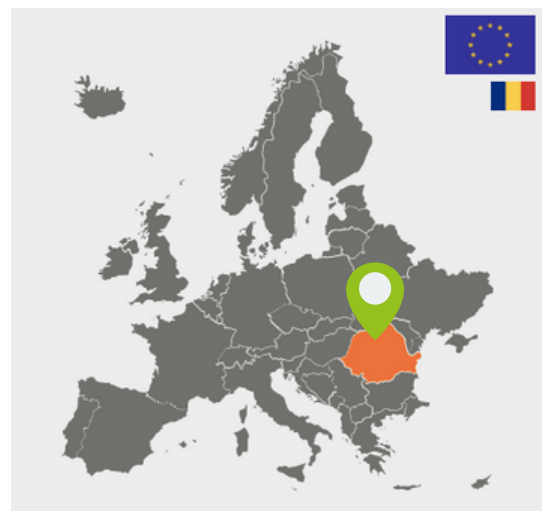

Rural Transylvania MAP

Location
West, North-West and Centre regions, Romania

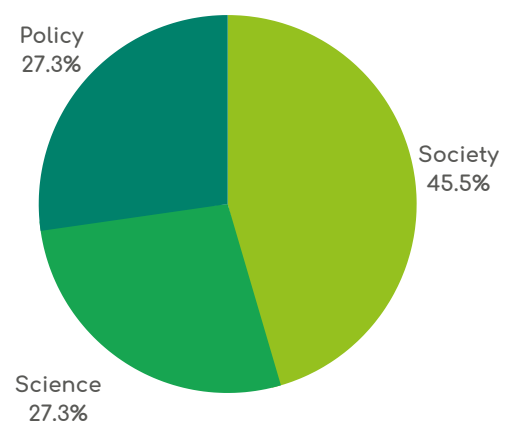### MAP contacts
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Monitor: Monica Mihaela Tudor

More info
https://rural-interfaces.eu/maps/romania-transylvania/

MAP membership

Policy 27.3%

Society 45.5%

Science 27.3%

ABOUT THE MAP

The Rural Transylvania MAP covers three NUTS II Romanian regions: West, North-West and Centre. It was set-up with the support of the Eco Ruralis association of peasants and agro-ecological food producers.

The MAP is coordinated by the Institute of Agricultural Economics of the Romanian Academy that is involved in SHERPA as member of the European Rural Development Network. The members of the MAP are farmers and farmers' organisations, integrators on agri-food chains, NGOs, LAGs, research representatives, local and central government.

The platform aims to support revitalisation of rural areas, with a special focus on peripheral communities, through the integration of small-scale agriculture in a more diverse and eco-friendly rural economy and building of urban-rural sustainable links.

OBJECTIVES

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

- Co-opting a group of active and involved MAP members to discuss possible directions for sustainable development of the rural area and the risks they may face.
- Seeking agreement on a common vision for future rural development in rural Transylvania.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

The main results from Rural Transylvania MAP so far are:

- 1 MAP Position Paper on A long-term vision for rural areas.
- 1 MAP Discussion Paper on A long-term vision for rural areas.
- A survey distributed to MAP members, their networks and other regional stakeholders, which received 104 responses.
- 6 online focus groups with 3-5 MAP members in each and one online interview. The online format with smaller groups instead of one large physical meeting was used due to the lockdown measures under the corona pandemic.

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