

SHERPA

Rural Science-Society-Policy  
Interfaces

PRACTICE ABSTRACT

# Engaging actors in Covid-19 times: pros and cons of online MAP interactions



UNIVERSITÀ DI PISA

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MAP Tuscany covers the whole Tuscany region, in Central Italy. It was set up within the SHERPA project but built upon longstanding relationships, especially between researchers and policy-makers, with the Regional Department of Agriculture and Rural Development having a crucial role in the process. The MAP encompasses also the civil society, who are more flexible in terms of their involvement and represent areas that are more specific. The idea underpinning the MAP was for UNIFI to create a space whereby to cement the relationships, experiences and knowledge gathered along past years.

When COVID-19 hit, the first consequence for the MAP's work entailed turning to remote mode of operation. This, we found, was not necessarily negative.

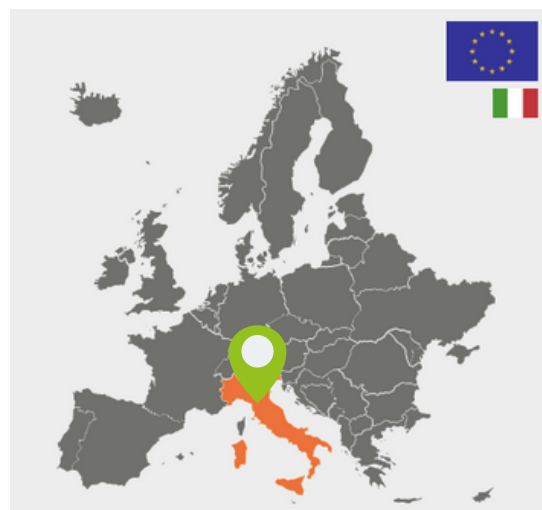
First, remote working increased participation, as people were able to attend a higher number of events, compared to physical meetings. Second, we had to make a virtue out of necessity and learn to use and adapt available online tools to the needs of each case (not least: saving financial and time resources!).

On the flip side, we realised that remote working might not leave enough room to informal interactions and exchange, essential to building those good work relationships on which we have based the very foundations of the MAP. Considering our strength lies in networking, a learning question might read: what consequences will online interactions have in the long-run?

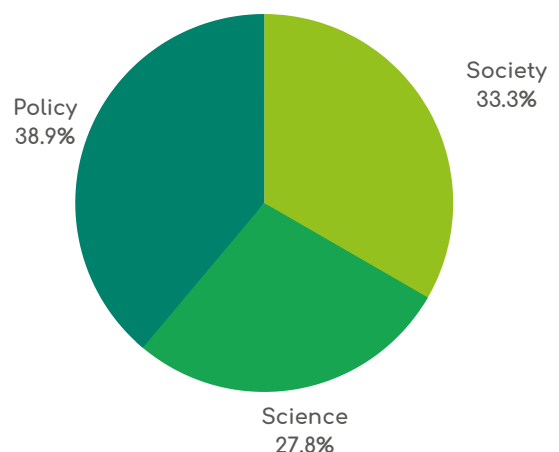


Photo by Photoholic on Unsplash

MAP Tuscany
<b>Location</b> Tuscany, Italy
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<b>More info</b> <a href="https://rural-interfaces.eu/maps/italy-tuscany/">https://rural-interfaces.eu/maps/italy-tuscany/</a>



### MAP membership:





## ABOUT THE MAP

MAP Tuscany covers the whole Tuscany region, at NUT2 level. It was set up within the SHERPA project but built upon longstanding relationships, namely those between researchers and policy makers, with the Regional Department of Agriculture and Rural Development having a crucial role in the process. The MAP encompasses also members from the civil society, who are more flexible in terms of their involvement and represent more specific areas. The idea underpinning the MAP was for UNIFI to create a space whereby to cement the relationships, experiences and knowledge gathered along past years.

In Cycle II, in order to gain greater benefits from the Foresight exercise, a more specific territorial focus is adopted. Since the selected area corresponds with one Pilot Area selected within the National Strategy for Inner Areas (SNAI), this territorial focusing is expected to lie synergies between the SHERPA and SNAI process.



## OBJECTIVES

- Contribute to, and gather insights from the SNAI process in the focus area selected, in relation to the current and future scenarios of rural development
- Develop a MAP Position Paper highlighting the current context in relation to scenarios, the desired vision, goals and targets, pathways of change linking the present to the vision
- [Optional – Draw a revised version of the position paper in Italian, for a local/regional audience]



## MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

The MAP has started operating before the COVID-19 outbreak, thus having the opportunity to run some very initial activities in presence. Main achievements in the first cycle were related to the process that led to the 1st MAP Position Paper, including:

- 3 focus groups with members from the Civil Society, Policy and Research spheres
- 1 consensus meeting for final discussion on the Position Paper
- Article on the Position Papers by the two Italian MAPs (Tuscany and Emilia-Romagna) published on the PianetaPSR website (having national audience).



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