



Engaging local actors in policy

Experiences in the SHERPA Multi-Actor Platforms

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SHERPA in a nutshell

To gather relevant knowledge and opinions that contribute to formulation of recommendations for future policies and research relevant to EU rural areas

Multi-Actor Platforms

*Interface between
Science, Society and Policy*

Co-creation of knowledge
Co-learning

Effective use of
knowledge from
research

Empowering
actors in public
policy
development



The 22 SHERPA Multi-Actor Platforms

Principles

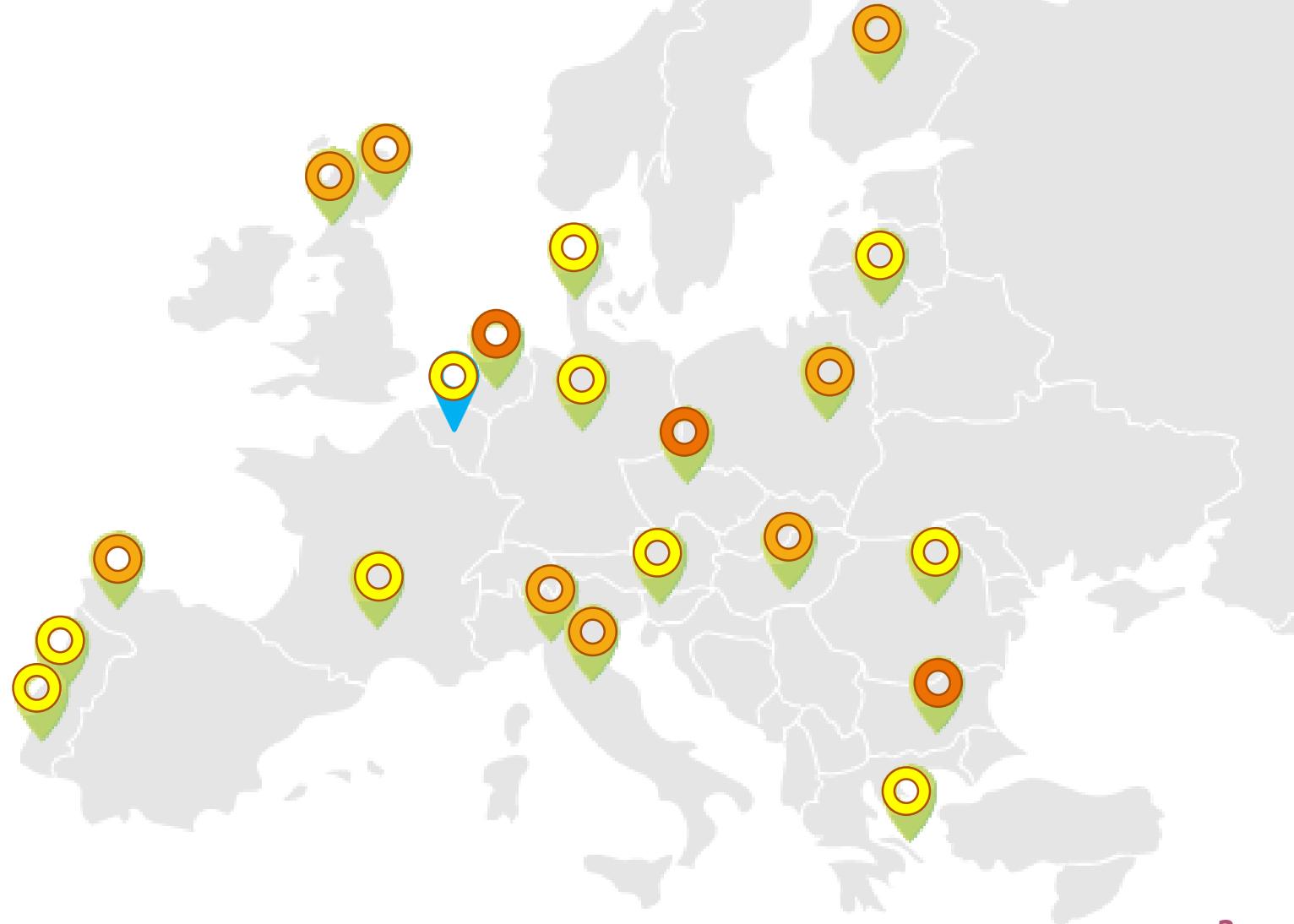
Minimum 10 members

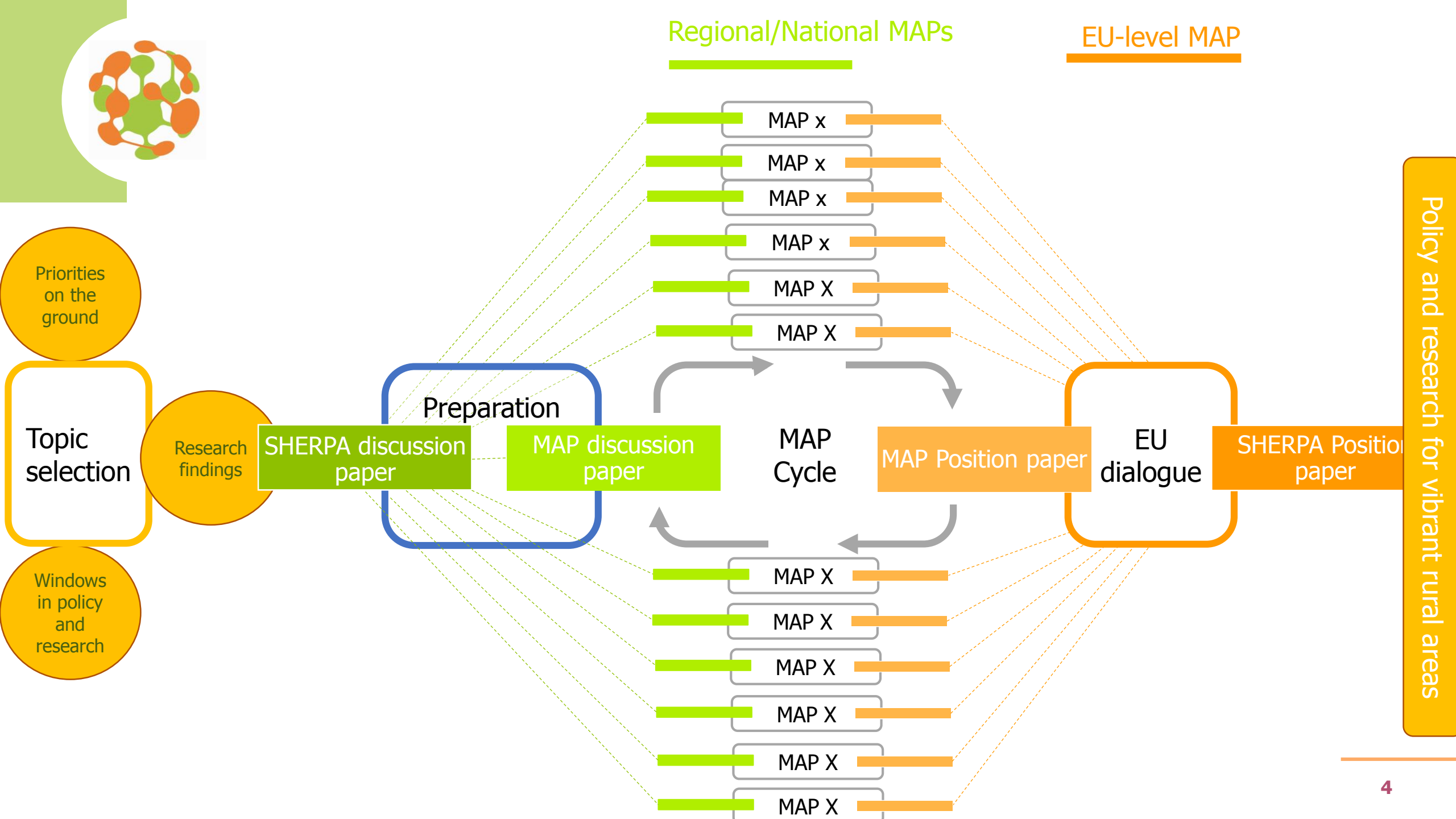
- Science
- Society
- Policy

Facilitator and Monitor

Diversity in:

- Scope
- History
- Initiative
- Focus







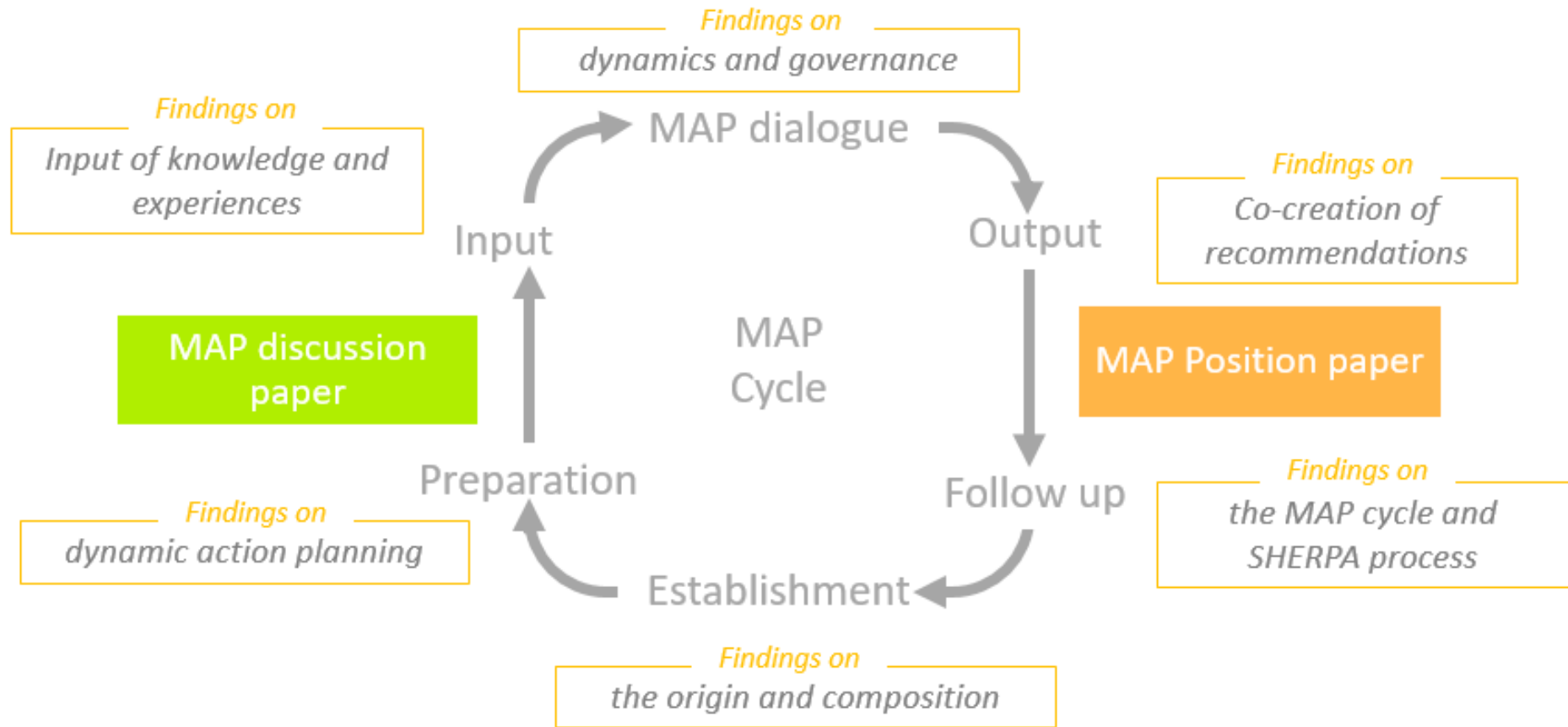
Monitoring for learning

How to effectively **design, support and run** Multi Actor Platforms **to engage science, society and policy** actors **in a meaningful way** in policy and research agenda for rural development?

- **MAP monitor** => Each MAP has a dedicated monitor
- **M&E tool** => All MAPs reflect and document the process
- **Cluster meetings** => Support and exchange
- **M&E workshops** => Analyze and deepen lessons learned



Type of harvest from M&E







Impressions of the lessons from M&E

- The composition of the MAPs receive ongoing deliberate **attention**, It takes time and dedication to establish **relations and build trust** in a MAP, even more when face-to-face meetings are sparsely possible.
- The appropriate **representation of society actors** is an ongoing challenge for many MAPs.
- MAP members are generally **enthusiastic** and **satisfied**. More diversity and specificity desirable include controversies and more **radical visions**.
- MAP teams are doing **a great job** in finding their way. Manage to engage actors in dialogue, high level of debate. Easier to meet interests of science and policy, than society.
- **Challenges** in online, time, involving the society actor, creating impact, sustaining the mechanisms.
- The added value is much **richer** than just the position paper and link to EU → dialogue, being heard, networking, dynamics.

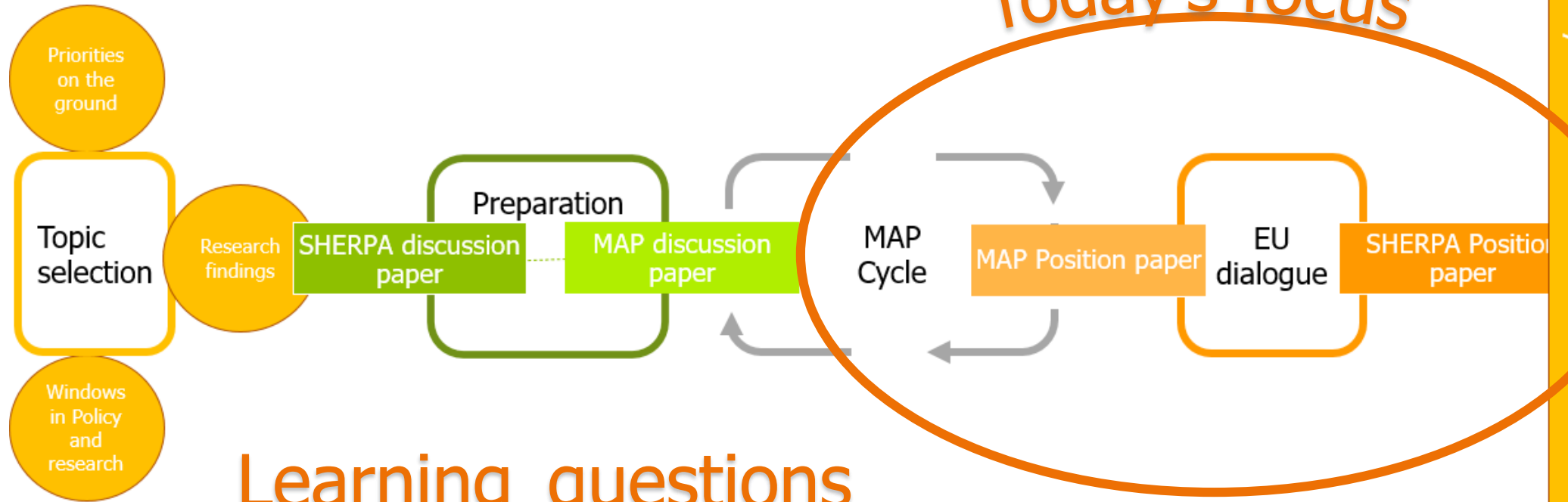




The SHERPA learning agenda on sustainable Science-Society-Policy Interfaces

- Collects all the **questions** that still need further learning, exploring and answering.
- Bring **focus** to the monitoring and learning.
- To create a stronger sense of **belonging and togetherness**.
- to **foster** learning within the MAPs, between the MAPs, in the SHERPA Consortium and with other H2020 projects.
- Please **feel welcome** to have a look and see where your experiences can enrich the collective learning.





Learning questions

- How to link actor engagement to **appropriate levels of policy making**?
- How to capture **controversy and diversity** in the messages for policy?
- What are **effective ways** to deliver messages from the MAPs?
- How to **bring together and discuss** the local perspectives at EU MAP level?
- What is the **added value** of actor engagement on policy and research?
- What other **types of output** can MAPs generate?
- How to **maximise influence** and impact in feeding into policy processes?
- How to **sustain the channels** to influence policy and research?



Summarising the lessons learned

CONNECT BOTTOM TO TOP

- Connect with **policy officers** and identify **policy windows** as early as possible
- Provide guidance but allow **flexibility** for the MAPs to follow their interests
- Deliberately create **linkages throughout the process** with different levels of policy

INVITE DIVERSITY

- **Differentiate** between different citizens, civil society and business
- Improve the **understanding** of each MAP member and design the dialogue to fit those interests

CREATE SPACES FOR DIALOGUE

- Facilitate the **representation** of local actors in EU dialogue

We are learning our way forward!

THANK YOU

**Rural Science-Society-Policy
Interfaces**



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