

SHERPA - Rural Science-Society-Policy Interfaces



MAP Suomi Finland

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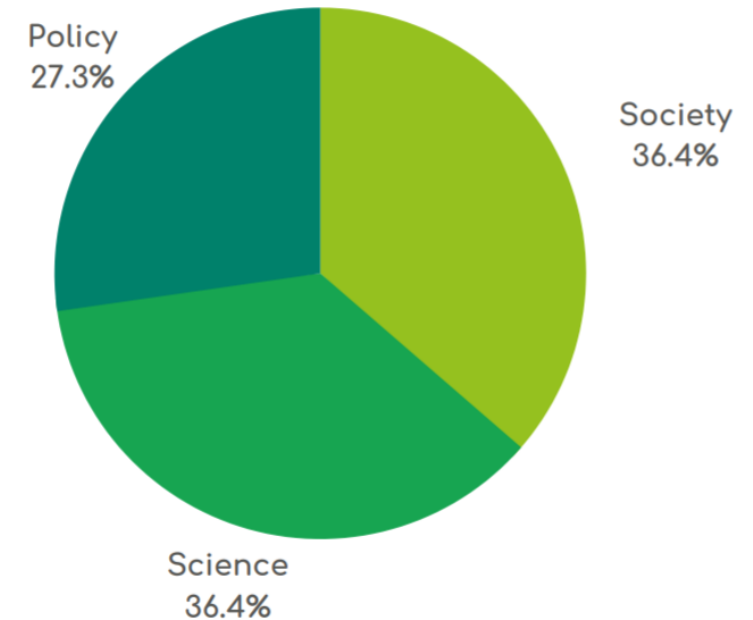
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MAP Suomi Finland

- Nordregio coordinates the Finnish MAP, operating at national level.
- In 2021, the MAP involved 11 members representing civil society groups, NGOs, farmer organisations, research institutes, local and central government.
- The Finnish MAP's position paper (2022) focuses on the theme *Diversification of the rural economy*, which was examined through three sub-themes:
 - 1) *Entrepreneurship, employment & new business models*
 - 2) *Smart rurality, smart communities and digitalization*
 - 3) *Bio-economy and sustainable management of resources*
- In 2022, the main thematic focus of the Finnish MAP will be on *Digitalisation and smart ruralities*.

MAP membership





Main messages

Smart adaptation

- A core theme in Finnish rural policy: central in the Rural Policy Programme 2021-2027 and a cross-cutting principle of the National Archipelago Programme 2020-2023, which will be promoted in coming years.
- Smart adaptation aims to develop new strategies, plans and policies to prepare for population decline and manage change and it is closely connection to the notion of promoting a good life for people in rural areas.

Smart villages

- Community and social dimensions are at the core of the *smart village* concept.
- The concept has been promoted, for example by the Smart Village theme group work (2019-2020) of the Finnish Rural Network, and by the smartest village in Finland competition (Rural Network of Finland).

Remote work

- Opportunities and needs for remote work have increased during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- An example of a renewal of the vitality of rural areas, supported strongly by the possibilities of smart solutions and digitalisation.



Key actions

“Smart” is a multidisciplinary, wide-ranging and crosscutting theme, hence coordination and cooperation are vital.

Implementation is crucial for progress and success, and key aspects are financing, experiments, new partnerships, participation and long-term development.

Improving broadband access is important for overcoming a digital urban-rural divide and it requires top-down coordination in construction accompanied by more regionally tailored public funding.

It is important to understand what constitutes the basis of well-being and quality of life and having ways of measuring these aspects.

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