

# SHERPA - Rural Science-Society-Policy Interfaces



## South Region MAP

**Samuel Féret, CIHEAM Montpellier**

1 February 2022

SHERPA Annual Conference



SHERPA receives funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 862448.



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# MAP intro

## About the MAP

- Regional MAP rooted in the Provence-Alpes Côte d'Azur region, **co-designed** with the Regional Council and its Rural network; coordinated by CIHEAM Montpellier.
- MAP set up to address **cross-sectoral topics** faced by rural areas in the region towards 2040.
- The MAP includes stakeholders from different rural settings and it's composed by members of LAGs, rural businesses, universities, public agencies, experts, elected members and staffs of municipalities and the regional government.
- The MAP cycles focused on:
  - **the LTVRA in South Region** (through 2 dedicated online workshops in 2020)
  - **the desirable futures and governance of transitions in rural areas** (2 workshops and 1 online workshop in 2021)



# MAP experiences and insights

Last issue discussed by the MAP in 2021: “**Governance of resilience in rural areas: how to manage transitions?**”

- **Rural, rural development vs *ruralities*:** rural is diverse and patchy, it’s not an unique pattern; *ruralities* matter more than rural as it reflects the diverse forms to live in rural areas by dwellers
- **Multi-level governance of rural areas not fully understood by rural dwellers:** A multiplicity of EU, national and regional support structures and tools; generates concern of inconsistency and miscoordination, while existing administrative structure of territories is incomplete or overlaps
- Dealing with the **complexity of administrative and financial tools and procedures**, in particular for LEADER funding; pre-financing needs difficult to meet by small entities and municipalities
- **A lack of project engineering** (file preparation, financing, but also monitoring and animation) on the territory, particularly for small communities and project leaders.
- Too **little involvement of citizens** in the development and implementation of territorial strategies and the training needs of elected officials and potential project leaders concerning the issues, the tools that can be mobilised, and the possible funding.



# What can be done better?

- Unfolding the **definition** of *ruralities* and of the multi-layer governance system by mapping competences of “Who’s is doing what for rural dwellers?”
- **Participation**: provide an enabling environment for involving citizens in decision making at municipal level through catalyst projects: territorial food systems, local food at school...
- Earmarking more EU funds to **support rural well-being and ruralities-oriented projects** in ERDF & EAFRD, and make it easily accessible for small entities and municipalities <K€100
- Providing a tailored **technical assistance** for smallest municipalities in rural areas: ad-hoc or pooled territorial engineering
- Make **science-society-policy interfaces** recognized by public authorities as hybrid forums enabling territorial diagnosis and foresight exercise for rural areas

**THANK YOU**

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