

SHERPA - Rural Science-Society-Policy Interfaces



CBioLit – Circular Bioeconomy Lithuania

dr. Zivile Gedminaite-Raudone, dr. Rita Lankauskiene
ERDN, Lithuanian Centre for Social Sciences

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.



@ruralinterfaces



MAP intro

About the MAP

- “Circular Bio-economy – Lithuania” - **CBioLit** covers the whole territory of Lithuania.
- **CBioLit** is an old MAP, established in 2020 during the 1st MAP cycle.
- **CBioLit** is coordinated by researchers from the Lithuanian Centre for Social Sciences, Institute of Economics and Rural Development





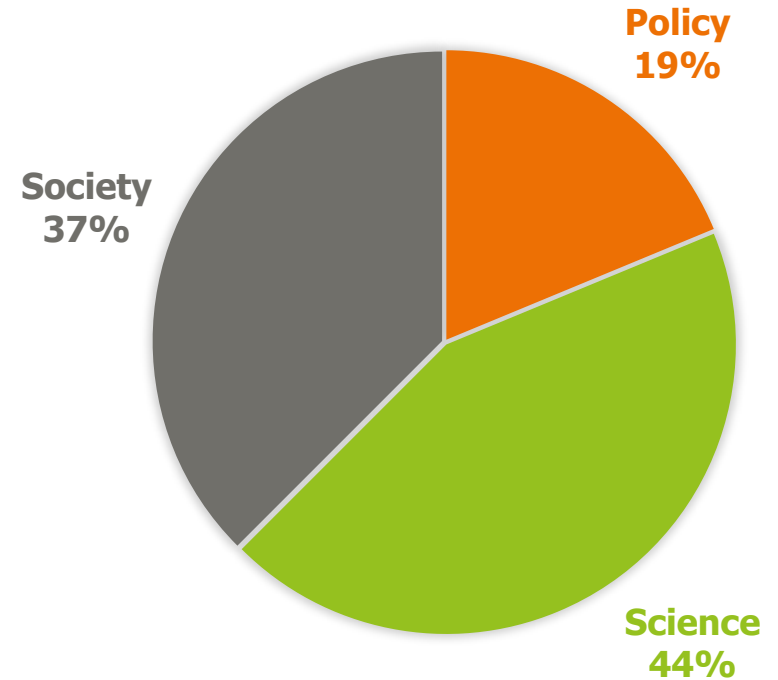
MAP intro

Composition

Composition (type of stakeholders involved in the MAP):

- Civil society
- NGOs
- Business organizations
- Farmer organizations
- Innovation agencies
- Research institutes and university
- Central government
- Chamber of Agriculture

MAP MEMBERSHIP:





MAP intro

Topic

During the 2nd MAP cycle, Lithuanian MAP activity was focused on the topic “**Change in production and diversification of the rural economy**”. The following dimensions were covered concerning *diversification of the rural economy*:

1. Entrepreneurship, employment & new business models;
2. Smart rurality, smart communities, and digitalization;
3. Bio-economy and sustainable management of resources;
4. Farm diversification and food chains.



MAP intro

Topic

During the 2nd MAP cycle, Lithuanian MAP activity with particular focus on **change in production and diversification of the rural economy** was guided by the following key questions:

- Which diversification strategies of the rural economy have the highest potential to address the needs of the Lithuania?
- How can policy interventions support these diversification strategies, considering solutions and interventions needed at local level and national levels, and the related implications for the wider policy framework (EU level or others)?
- What are the Lithuania-specific research needs and gaps concerning the issue?



MAP intro

Topic

Work related to the topic of discussion:

- Revision of established Lithuanian MAP and engagement of new participants (January 2021);
- Desk research and preparation of the 2nd MAP cycle Discussion paper (February-May 2021);
- Focus group meeting to discuss the 2nd MAP cycle topic (May 25, 2021);
- Preparation of the 2nd MAP cycle Draft Position Paper (June-August 2021);
- Preparation of expert survey and aggregation of results (September 2021);
- Draft Position Paper Consensus meeting (September 29, 2021);
- Preparation of Final Position Paper (October 2021);
- Monitoring and Evaluation Report (December 2021).

SHERPA - Rural Science-Society-Policy Interfaces



MAP experiences, insights and recommendations



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

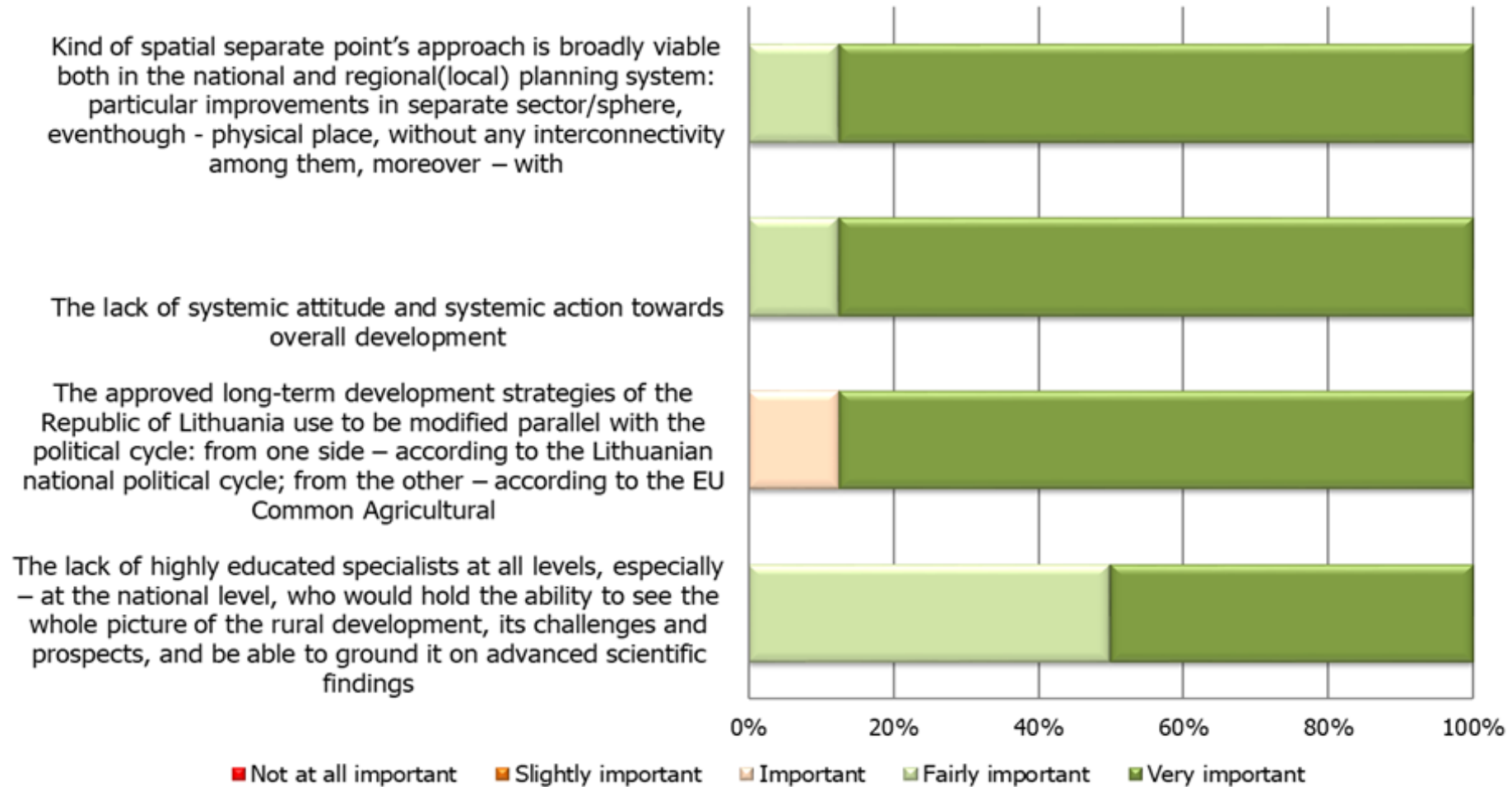


[@ruralinterfaces](https://twitter.com/ruralinterfaces)



1. Entrepreneurship, employment & new business models

Key challenges to the diversification of the Lithuanian rural economy in terms of entrepreneurship, employment and the development of new business models





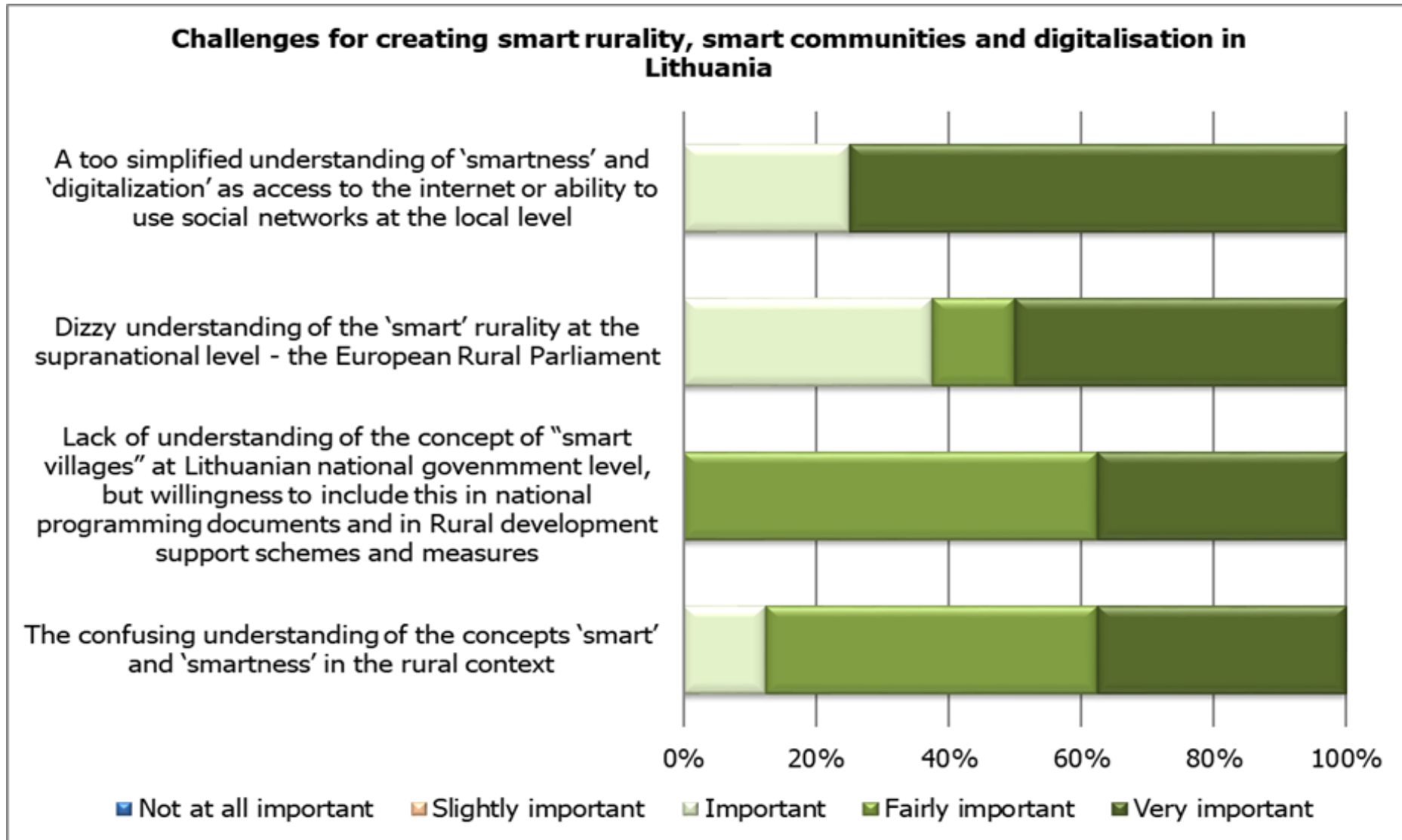
1. Entrepreneurship, employment & new business models

The might be changed by implementing the following recommendations:

- Horizontal and vertical **partnership and cooperation** for long-term strategic planning, by involving all relevant stakeholders in the process.
- Diversification vision and measures for the Lithuanian rural economy should necessarily come by aligning **'bottom-up' and 'top-down' approaches through the dialogue** between revitalized local action groups and national governing bodies, harmonized local development strategies (LDSs), and principles of the LEADER approach, which is forgotten and diminishing.
- **All stakeholders**, firstly including the local rural community and local action groups, should have a **right to be heard and enabled to make the change** (legislatively approved role) in programming and implementation of the rural development at the territorial level (might be implemented using the precise public management through POSDCORB (Planning, Organizing, Staffing, Directing, Co-Ordinating, Reporting and Budgeting) methodology).
- Rural economy **diversification solutions should be based on scientific grassroots**; the lack of highly educated rural development specialists, able to see the whole picture, should be solved by preparing a sufficient amount of new generation rural developments experts and employing them in all levels – national, regional and local.



2. Smart rurality, smart communities, and digitalisation





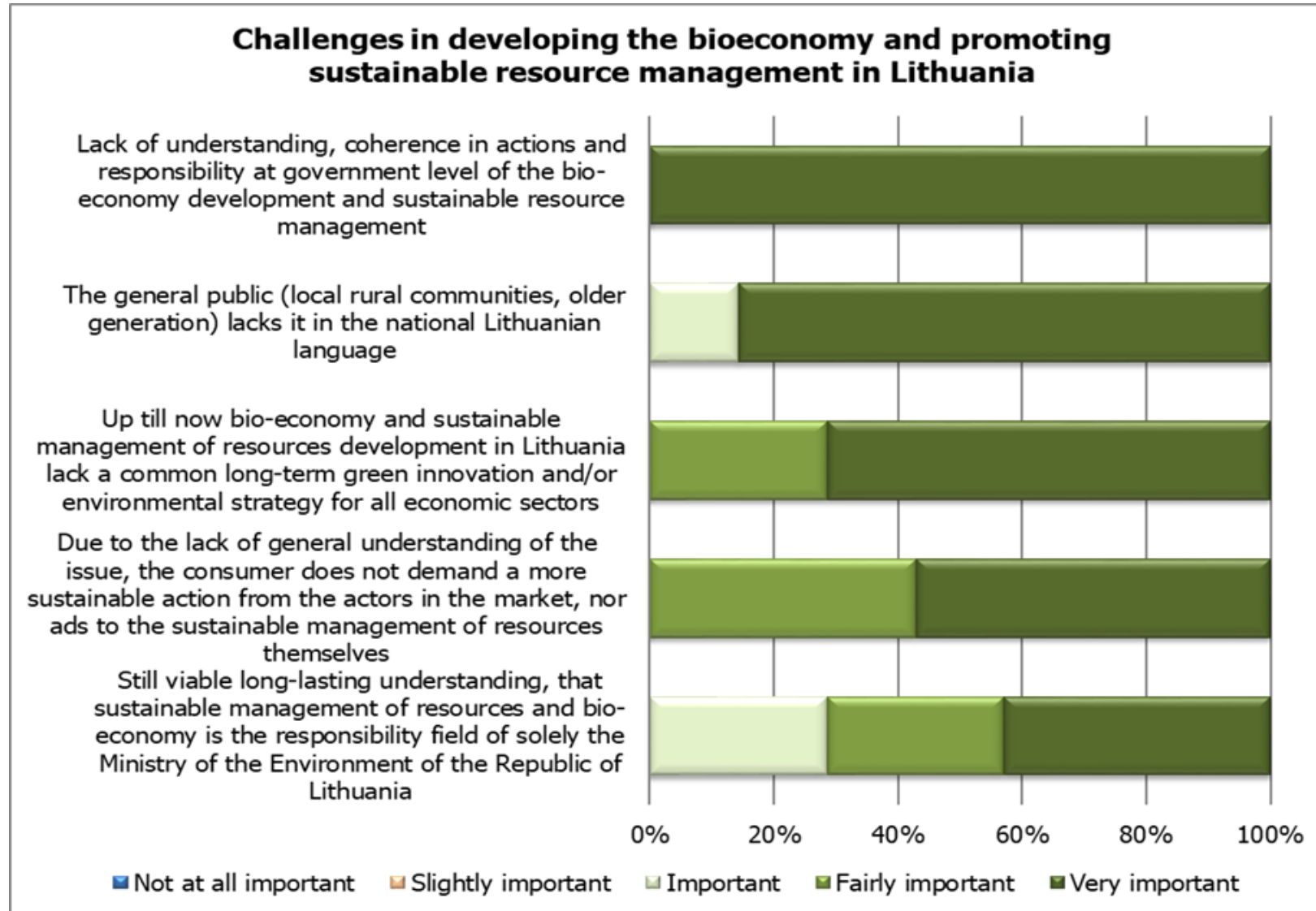
2. Smart rurality, smart communities, and digitalisation

Key Lithuanian MAP “CBioLit” recommendations concerning smart rurality, smart communities, and digitalization:

- To discuss and clearly define the common meaning of ‘smart’ rurality and ‘smart’ communities in collaboration between the national government, science representatives, and local communities;
- Arrange and continuously spread the knowledge concerning ‘smart’ rurality and ‘smart’ communities in the national (Lithuanian) language to increase overall understanding of the issue in the whole country;
- To establish a model for smart rurality and smart community development support by interlinking LEADER and Smart Villages programmes and making ‘Smart Villages’ part of the local development strategies (LDSs).
- To improve the European Innovation Partnership (EIP) program implementation rules at the national level (to simplify them and make them more flexible) and accelerate joint initiatives between science, business, and farmers.



3. Bio-economy and sustainable management of resources





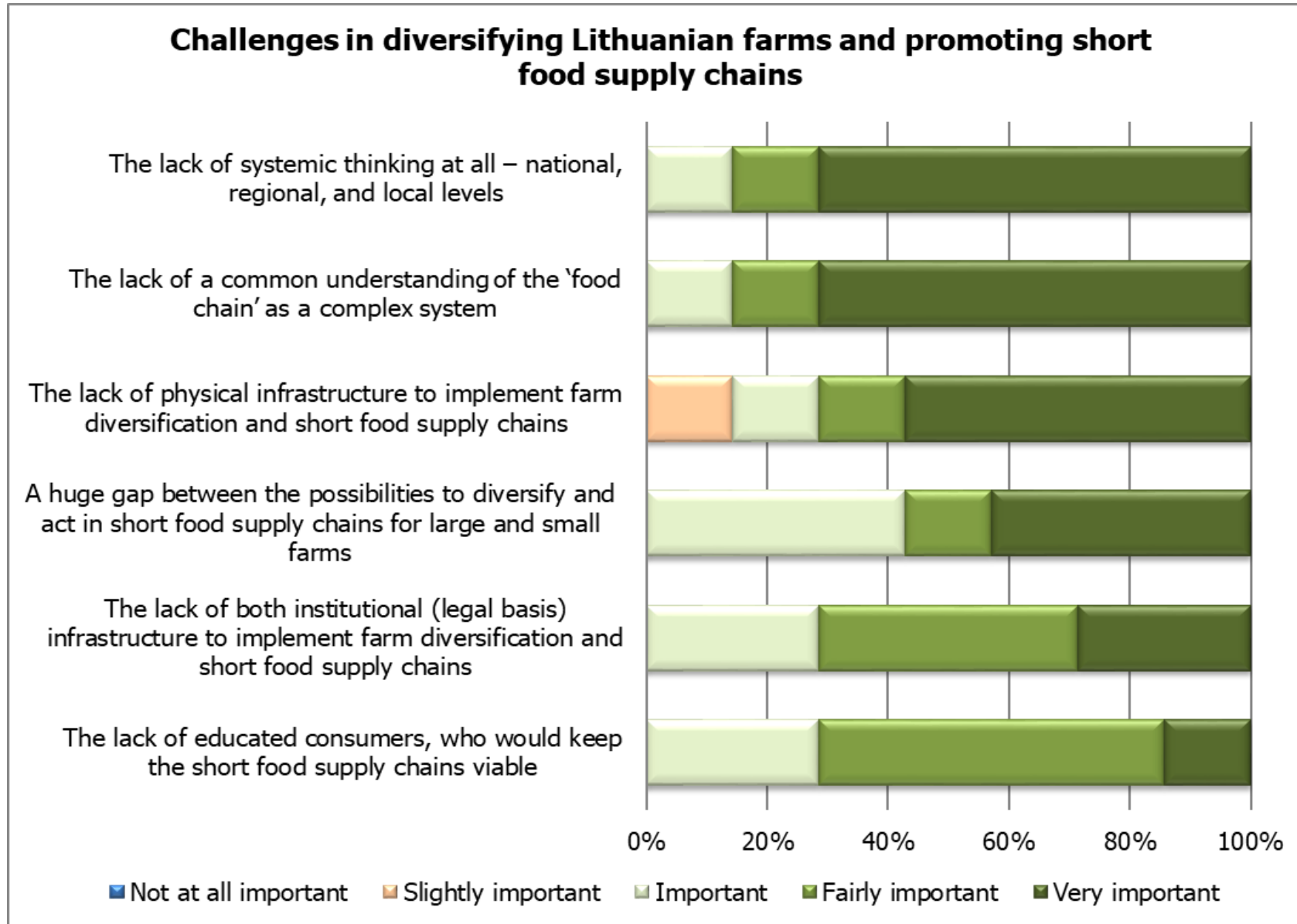
3. Bio-economy and sustainable management of resources

Aiming to enlarge support to bio-economy and sustainable management of resources the following recommendations are provided:

- to develop/rejuvenate the common long-term strategy for bio-economy and sustainable management of resources on the national government level with the equally shared responsibility of all ministries of the Republic of Lithuania;
- to mobilize business, science, and government actors in the acceleration of the bio-economy development and sustainable management of resources. The government (public organizations) must be the primary initiator and accelerator of green transformation;
- to ensure continuous education of public servants of the ministries of Lithuania, aiming to strengthen the transformation towards bio-economy and sustainable management of resources;
- to educate the society, as well as the consumer, by preparing sufficient amounts of information, including national language, and working continuously on this topic in collaboration;
- to participate in various platforms and networks to ensure a quick circulation of the newest information in the field of bio-economy and sustainable management of resources.



4. Farm diversification and food chains.





4. Farm diversification and food chains

The key recommendation regarding farm diversification and food chains are:

- to establish a **new role of local action groups** by the law in the Regional Development Councils, shifting from the advisory role to decision-making role on equal rights to the rest of council members;
- to **close the legislative gap** concerning the ability of big and small farmers to apply diversification strategy and take part in short food supply chains;
- to **create appropriate infrastructure** for implementing a short food supply chain;
- to **deepen the understanding and foster systemic thinking** in the field of farm diversification and short food supply chains by introducing and clearly defining the concepts of 'food system', 'local food system', 'regional food system', and thus creating the grassroots for the systemic changes in the field at national, regional, and local levels.



What can be done better?

- Common long-term vision and strategy;
- Alignment of 'bottom-up' and 'top-down' approaches through the dialogue;
- Collaboration, cooperation and networking;
- Continuous knowledge improvement and continuous education at all levels.

THANK YOU

**Rural Science-Society-Policy
Interfaces**



Get informed through the SHERPA Newsletter

Subscribe

Follow us:



www.rural-interfaces.eu



[@ruralinterfaces](https://www.facebook.com/ruralinterfaces)



[@ruralinterfaces](https://www.twitter.com/ruralinterfaces)

