



SHERPA  
Rural Science-Society-Policy  
Interfaces

## GOVERNANCE IN RURAL AREAS



### DENMARK MAP

In Denmark, the MAP operates at the national level with members from national organisations, municipalities, and civil society.

Numerous mechanisms and processes are in place to ensure citizen participation and engagement in decision-making at all levels, particularly in rural areas. Particularly when determining the size and placement of renewable energy projects, it is important to involve the impacted community throughout the decision-making processes, through means such as public hearings, workshops, local development plans, to minimise the negative and allow for the positive effects of such projects.



### RECOMMENDATIONS

#### Future rural policy

- A local support scheme in all municipalities would help villages coordinate initiatives between public actors, seek funding and raise awareness of opportunities.
- There needs to be more coordination to ensure that European and national sectors, tools and initiatives support each other.

- There should be more of a focus on establishing long-term cooperations within rural development, in order to create sustainable synergies and effective resource use.

#### Future rural research

- How centres (i.e. urban areas) depend on the periphery, and understanding their mutual dependence.
- The implementation of cooperative and alternative solutions to fast broadband in rural areas.
- A framework to qualitatively measure the effects of initiatives in rural areas.
- Analysis of the long-term benefits of investing in rural areas.
- Revising the definition of rural areas, with updated parameters taking into account a wider range of factors.

## KEY STRENGTHS

- National legislation to ensure citizens and relevant stakeholders are involving in decision-making processes that affect their interests through public hearings.
- Obligatory public hearing processes for new renewable energy installations in rural areas, such as for installing a new wind turbine or the location of a new set of solar panels.
- Comprehensive legislation to ensure an open, democratic process for investing in renewable energy systems.
- Great potential for the adoption and implementation of a green transformation across the country.

## KEY NEEDS

- Investing in renewable energy systems and managing the increased competition for rural land use.
- Increasing ownership of rural communities in renewable energy decision-making and new installations.
- Increasing coordination across sectors and levels of policy-making to reduce conflicting regulations.
- Providing regulations that take into account multifunctional land use, such as glamping in rural areas.
- Improving synergies between rural and urban areas, such as through agriculture and food



## EXAMPLE OF GOOD PRACTICE

### Citizen Lab

This is a digital platform for citizen participation in municipalities and organisations. It enable an open and transparent dialogue between citizens and decision-makers in decision-making processes, by allowing citizens to share their views, proposals, and ideas with the municipality or organisation. The platform can be used to gather feedback and proposals for political decisions, urban planning, improving local services, and other local initiatives.

