



SHERPA FINAL CONFERENCE

1 – 2 JUNE 2023, EUROPEAN COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

BUILDING JACQUES DELORS, RUE BELLIARD 99/101, BRUSSELS (BELGIUM)

ROOM JDE 52, 5TH FLOOR

Since October 2019, SHERPA has worked on formulating recommendations for the future of rural areas on different [topics](#). SHERPA has also accompanied the development of the [EU Long-Term Vision for Rural Areas](#) with the ambition to contribute to future rural policies. The **SHERPA Final Conference** will provide the final opportunity to look back at the work done and identify, by using a co-creative participatory approach, the main SHERPA recommendations, as well as reflect on the methodology of using [Science-Society-Policy interfaces](#).

This will be facilitated by gathering members of all its [41 Science-Society-Policy interfaces](#) in Brussels, which will also allow them to interact with each other directly and jointly decide the final messages of the project, as well as external participants. Participants will have the opportunity to:

- Co-create SHERPA's contribution to the [EU Long-Term Vision for Rural Areas](#), with a specific focus on the potential adjustments of the [EU Rural Action Plan](#).
- Co-create SHERPA's recommendations for the wider policy framework, with a specific focus on the policy orientation for the next EU programming period (i.e. after 2027).
- Explore how the [Science-Society-Policy interfaces](#) created in SHERPA can continue to contribute to rural policies after the end of the SHERPA project in September 2023.

Simultaneous interpretation in English, French, Spanish, Polish and Romanian.

Timing	Day 1 – 1 June 2023
13.00 – 14.00	<p>Registration and welcome coffee</p> <p>Please make sure that you arrive at the venue with your ID card/passport.</p>
14.00 – 14.30	<p>Welcome and introduction to the day</p> <p>Through the Rural Corridor, participants will discover about outputs of the 41 SHERPA Science-Society-Policy Interfaces on several topics and through the lenses of rural areas, in particular on the social dimension of rural areas, digitalisation, resilient and sustainable value chains, climate change and land use, and multi-level governance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome speech, <i>Radim Sršeň (Mayor of Dolní Studenky, Deputy Minister of regional development of Czechia, member of the European Committee of the Regions)</i> • Introduction to the conference, <i>Olivier Chartier and Elodie Salle (Ecorys)</i> • Introduction to the Rural Corridor, <i>Carla Lostrangio (AEIDL)</i>



14.30 – 16.00	<p>Contribution to the EU Long-Term Vision for Rural Areas – Prosperous and Connected rural areas</p> <p>Participants will collaborate to prioritise SHERPA’s recommendations, and co-create the project’s contribution to the EU Long-Term Vision for Rural Areas, with a specific focus on the potential adjustments of the EU Rural Action Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SHERPA’s recommendations for Prosperous and Connected rural areas, <i>Gerald Schwarz (Thünen-Institut)</i> • Vote by participants • Panel with SHERPA MAPs at European, national and regional/local level, <i>Alexia Rouby (DG AGRI), Kate Irvine (EU MAP), Csaba Bálint (MAP AKIS), Prof. Ricardo Reis (MAP Southwest Alentejo)</i> <p><i>Moderation: Serafin Pazos Vidal (AEIDL)</i></p>
16.00 – 16.30	Coffee Break and visit to the Rural Corridor
16.30 – 18.00	<p>Contributing to the Long-Term Vision for Rural Areas – Stronger and Resilient rural areas</p> <p>Participants will collaborate to prioritise SHERPA’s recommendations, and co-create the project’s contribution to the EU Long-Term Vision for Rural Areas, with a specific focus on the potential adjustments of the EU Rural Action Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SHERPA’s recommendations for stronger and resilient rural areas, <i>Giulia Martino (Ecorys)</i> • Vote by participants • Panel with SHERPA MAPs at European, national and regional/local level, <i>Alexia Rouby (DG AGRI), Tom Jones (European Rural Community Alliance), Mihaela Mihailova (MAP Bulgaria), Lorna Dawson (MAP UK)</i> <p><i>Moderation: Serafin Pazos Vidal (AEIDL)</i></p>
18.00 – 19.00	Networking drinks

Timing	Day 2 – 2 June 2023
09.00 – 09.30	<p>Registration and welcome coffee</p> <p>Please ensure you arrive at the venue with your ID card/passport.</p>
09.30 – 09.35	Welcome and introduction to the day, <i>Olivier Chartier & Elodie Salle (Ecorys)</i>
09.35 – 10.50	<p>Contribution to the wider policy framework (part 1 on policy areas)</p> <p>Through a participatory budgeting exercise, participants will contribute to the elaboration of SHERPA’s recommendations on rural policy areas to be supported after 2027.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of 3 EU policy options for rural areas after 2027, <i>Olivier Chartier (Ecorys)</i> • Introduction to the budgetary exercise, <i>Elodie Salle (Ecorys)</i>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pitches on the building blocks of the EU Long-Term Vision for Rural Areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pitch on stronger rural areas, <i>Barbara Soriano (Polytechnic University of Madrid)</i> ○ Pitch on connected rural areas, <i>Gianluca Brunori (University of Pisa)</i> ○ Pitch on resilient rural areas, <i>Harriet Bradley (Institute for European Environmental Policy)</i> ○ Pitch on prosperous rural areas, <i>Živilė Gedminaitė-Raudonė and Rita Lankauskienė (Lithuanian Centre for Social Sciences)</i> • Vote by participants • Panel discussion with <i>Mario Milouchev (DG AGRI), Eleftherios Stavropoulos (Joint Research Centre), Vanessa Halhead (European Rural Community Alliance), Klaus Boele (Committee of the Regions)</i> <p><i>Moderation: Ecorys</i></p>
10.50 – 11.20	Coffee Break and visit to the Rural Corridor
11.20 – 12.30	<p>Contribution to the wider policy framework (part 2 on policy interventions)</p> <p>Through a participatory budgeting exercise, participants will contribute to the elaboration of SHERPA's recommendations on interventions supporting rural areas after 2027.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pitches on rural interventions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pitch on rural cooperation, <i>Iwona Woch (Local Action Group Zielone Bieszczady)</i> ○ Pitch on rural investment, <i>Monica Tudor (Institute of Agricultural Economics – Romanian Academy)</i> ○ Pitch on rural skills, <i>Dominique Barjolle (ETH Zurich)</i> ○ Pitch on rural communities, <i>Samuel Féret (CIHEAM Montpellier)</i> • Vote by participants • Panel discussion with <i>Mario Milouchev (DG AGRI), Eleftherios Stavropoulos (Joint Research Centre), Vanessa Halhead (European Rural Community Alliance), Klaus Boele (Committee of the Regions)</i> <p><i>Moderation: Ecorys</i></p>
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch break and visit to the Rural Corridor
13.30 – 15.50	<p>Science-Society-Policy interfaces</p> <p>SHERPA's key lessons learned on actor engagement and Science-Society-Policy interfaces will be shared as a basis to discuss ways forward. Participants will discuss HOW to effectively design, support and run Science-Society-Policy interfaces, WHAT are the benefits and added value of these interfaces, and HOW to sustain them in the long-run. Participants will also be invited to define their own next step.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome back and introduction to the Monitoring & Evaluation of SHERPA Science-Society-Policy interfaces, <i>Jorieke Potters (Wageningen University)</i>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to effectively design, support and run Science-Society-Policy interfaces, <i>Jorieke Potters (Wageningen University)</i> • What are the benefits and added value of Science-Society-Policy interfaces, <i>Jorieke Potters (Wageningen University)</i> • Pitches on the added value of Science-Society-Interfaces <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Grounding the discussion on evidence-based science, <i>Isolina Rodríguez (MAP Galicia)</i> ○ Creating meaningful dialogue, <i>Anne-Liisi Mändmets (MAP Estonia)</i> ○ Influencing policy, <i>Olga Kriezi (MAP Central Greece)</i> • Sustaining the value and benefits of Science-Society-Policy interfaces, <i>Leneisja Jungsberg (Nordregio)</i> • The Rural Pact, <i>Pascale Van Doren (Rural Pact Support Office)</i> • Panel discussion with SHERPA MAPs and Science-Society-Policy representatives, <i>Karen Refsgaard (Nordregio), Valeria Fantini (ALDA), Alexia Rouby (DG AGRI)</i>
15.50 – 16.00	Closing of the Conference, <i>Peter Midmore (Aberystwyth University)</i>

