SHERPA
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SESSION 3:
Science-Society-Policy interfaces

#SHERPAConference

Rural Science-Society-Policy Interfaces

Key lessons on actor engagement in rural development

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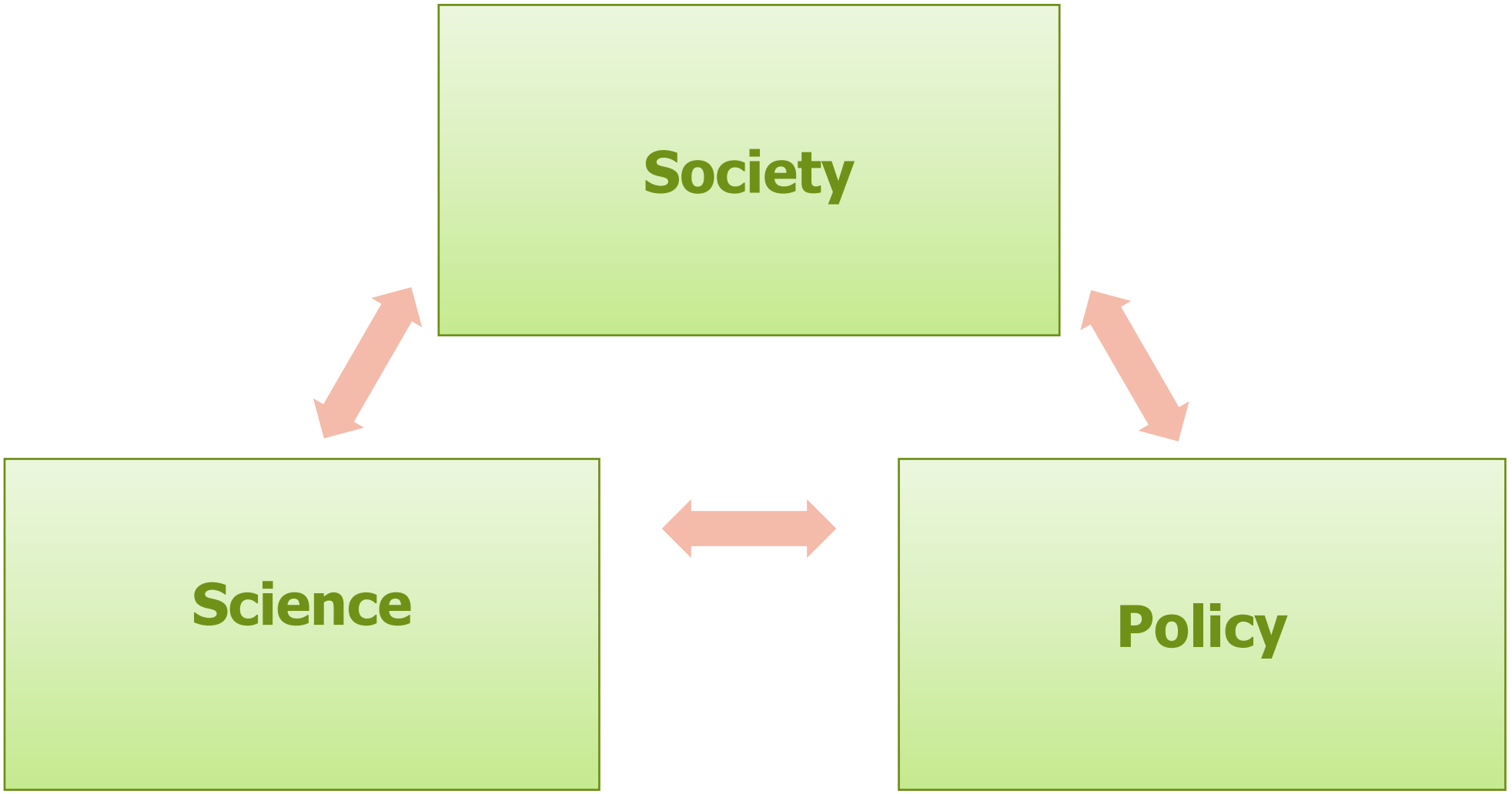
Who are you Science Society or Policy?



Purpose

"new rural policies require new ways of thinking about rural areas and multi-actors/multi-level governance mechanisms"

OECD Rural Policy 3.0 indicates

The purpose of this session to share what we have learned about multi-actor engagement and specifically the added value of science society policy interfaces.

This session

HOW? Effectively design, support and run Science Society Policy interfaces

WHY? The benefits and added value of Science Society Policy interfaces

NEXT? Sustaining the Science Society Policy interfaces

- Panel of Listeners
- Dynamic and interactive

Making rural voices heard

Being heard, involves somebody listening

- Intentional activity: make an effort to hear something; be alert and ready to hear
- It tells us that our feelings, actions, and intentions are meaningful

Listening Panel

Science - Karen Refsgaard (Nordregio)

Society - Valeria Fantini (ALDA)

Policy – Alexia Rouby (DG AGRI)

Rural Science-Society-Policy Interfaces

HOW? Efficiently designing, supporting, and running Science-Society-Policy interfaces

Wageningen University

SHERPA Science-Society-Policy interfaces

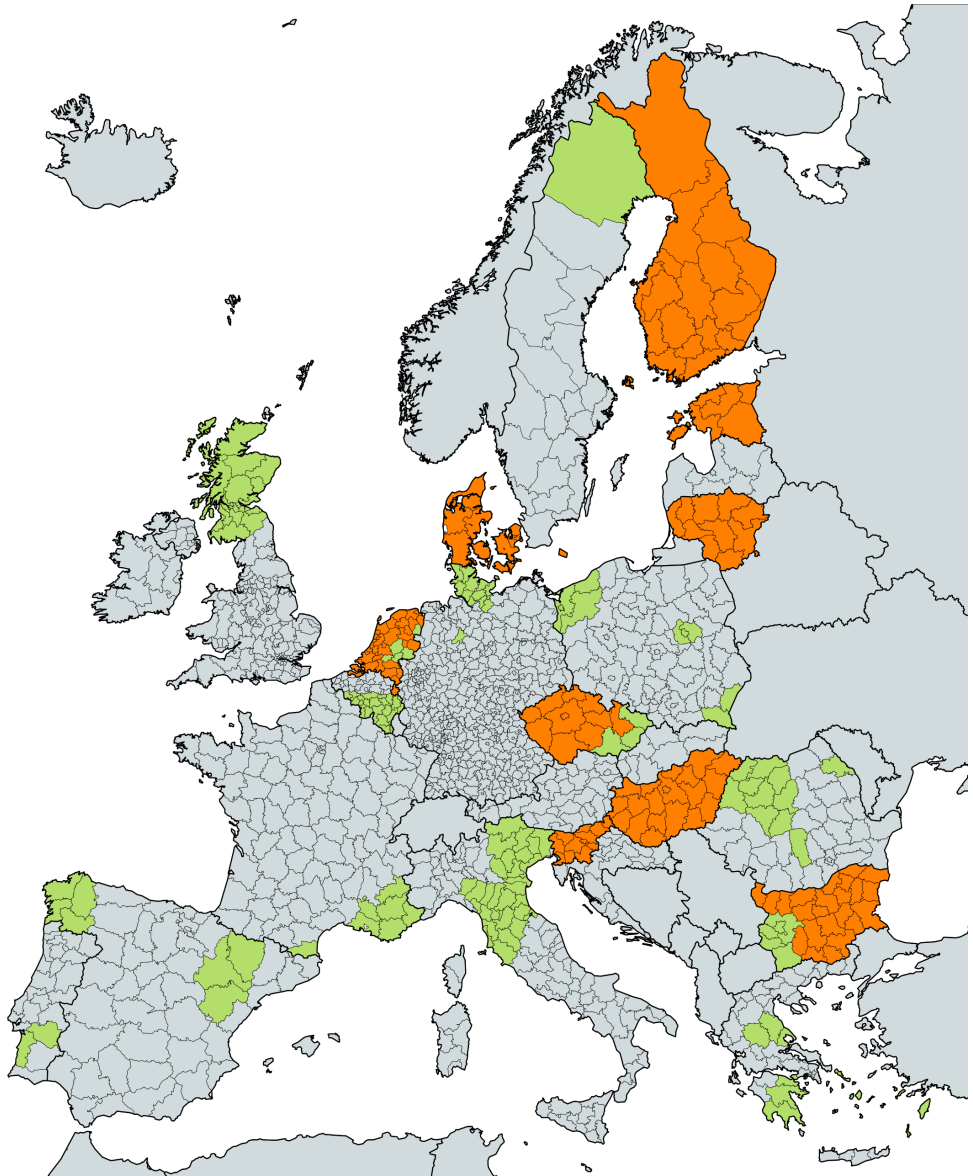
Common purpose and general principles:

- Create a **forum** for two-way exchanges of ideas for co-learning and co-creation of knowledge and opinions that contribute to policy and research.
- Engage in **dialogue** between citizens, researchers and policy makers from EU territories
- Minimal 10 members, **balance** between science society and policy
- Dynamic action plan and 1 **topic** per year

High degree of flexibility and diversity needed:

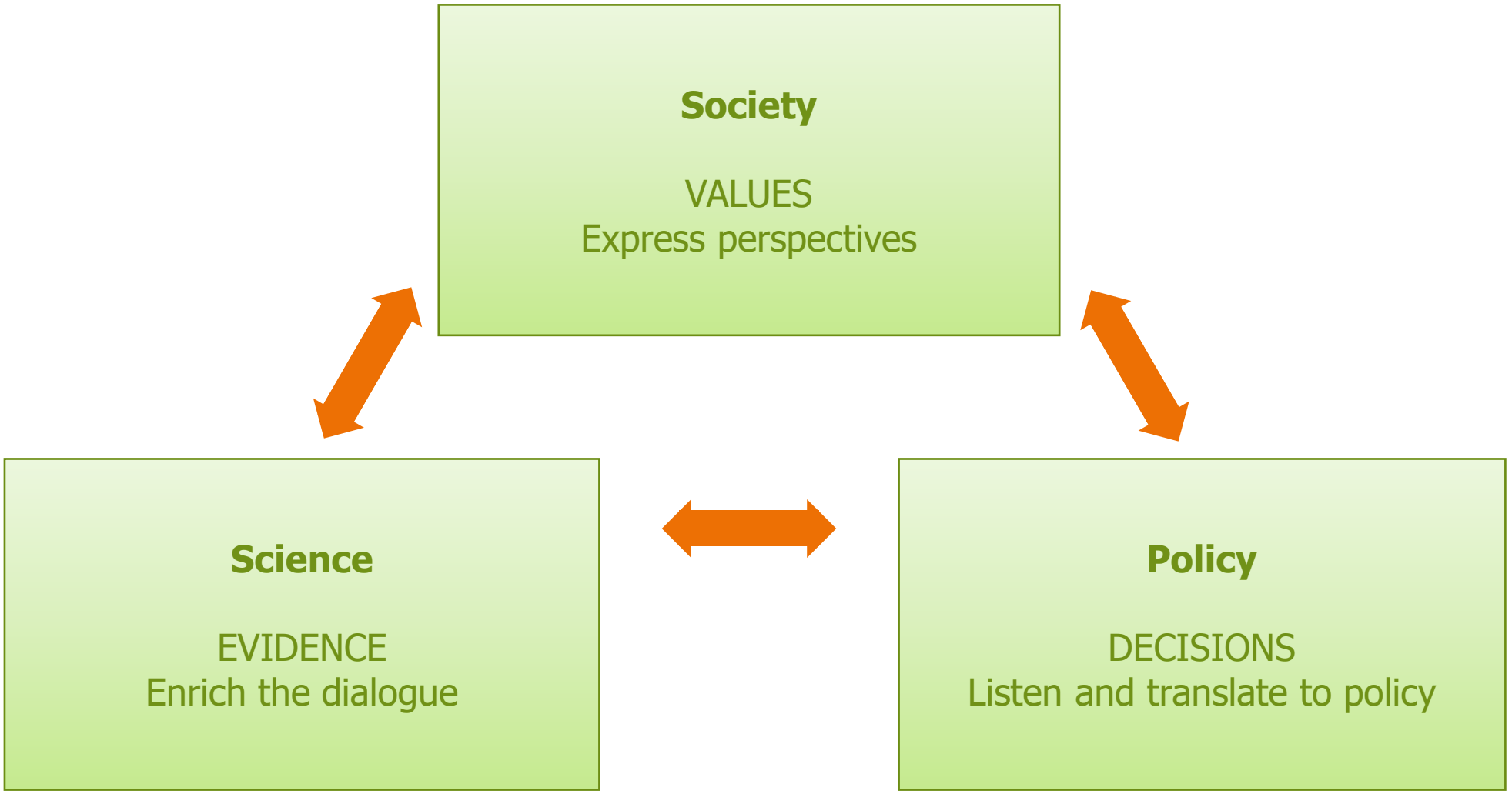
- **To connect** to the different actors **interests** and **urgencies**, **engage** them in dialogue
- To link to dynamic **spatial** and constantly evolving **processes** and the **complexicity** in rural development. To better connect policy to rural realities

41 Science-Society-Policy interfaces



- Three levels
- Different origin
- Unique constellations
- Diverse objectives
- Variety of topics

Archetype of Science Society Policy

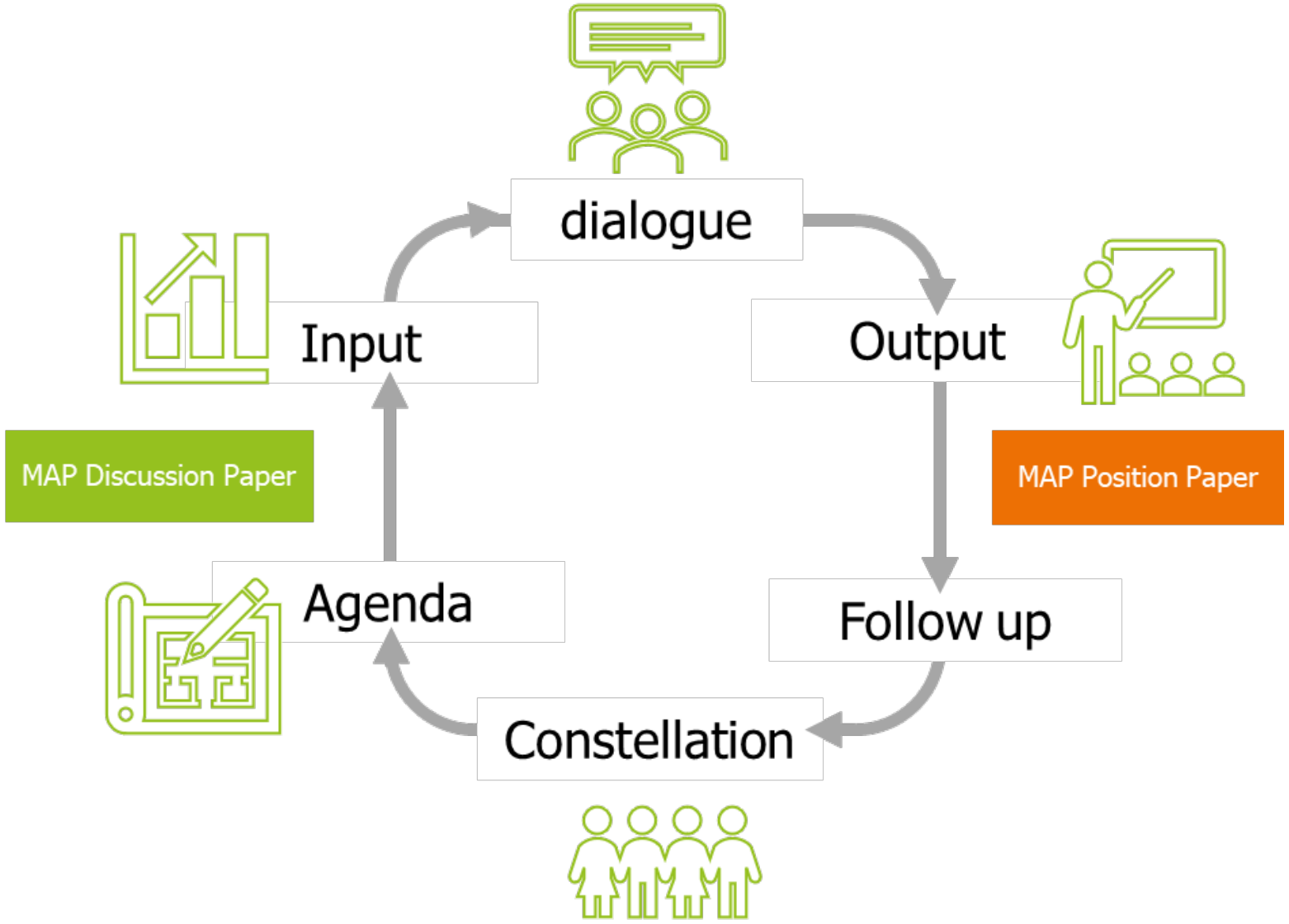


Learning in Sherpa

- How to **effectively design, support and run** MAPs to engage science, society and policy actors in a **meaningful way** in policy and research agenda on rural development?

- Learn our way forward: monitor, M&E tool, cluster, workshops en calls

Overview of the SHERPA dynamics



Rural Science-Society-Policy Interfaces

HOW? Balanced science society policy interface

- Identifying, understanding, translating, explaining
- Define objectives in interaction, let this guide the design
- Specify invitation based on benefits and roles
- Balance is numerical nor fixed
- Diverse representation, balance values evidence decision
- Explaining how policy works and how its relevant

Requirements

Flexibility
Trust
Human capital

"A regional approach was considered crucial for correct rural policy making, research and stakeholder involvement in the issue of climate change"

Monitor to MAP Alqueva Portugal

Constellation

HOW? Connecting policy and rural reality

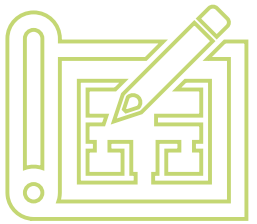
- Not simply matching, it requires explanation and translation
- Genuine interest and actively invite contributions
- Transparency in policy calendar and language
- Circumvent silos, rural reality is integrated
- Specific questions, concrete content, emotionally urgence
- Avoid of blame-game: up is abstract, bottom is specific

Requirements

Transparency
Channels
Dedication

" Compared to the regional platform, the local platform allowed to be more specific in examples of actions on the ground in tackling climate change and governance"

Facilitator MAP Dee Catchment Scotland



Agenda

HOW? Science based engagement

- Discussion paper provides a comprehensive **overview**, starting point, delimitation of the topic and an invitation.
- Science serves as a valuable **common ground** for dialogue
- Serious **translation** and data searching required to provide knowledge base specific enough for each situation

Requirements

Research calls
Resources
Capacity

"The summary of the current state of science was appreciated by MAP members, it provided a good basis for common thinking"

Monitor MAP land-use planning for climate neutrality, Hungary

Input

HOW? Science Society Policy dialogue

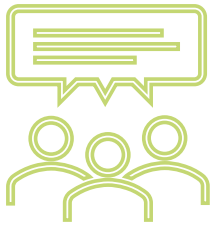
- Create safe **spaces**, a common goal and build trust
- The design, agenda and evidence basis big **influence**.
- **Facilitation** crucial: design and methods and soft skills.
- Dialogue has value in itself: **empowerment** and capacity.
- Recognise the power of **inviting** to engage.

Requirements

Flexibility
Capacity
Dedication

"A main contribution of SHERPA is in fostering the dialogue between the actors, exchanging the perspectives. The platform provided space for valuable detailed dialogue and to develop a trust based approach"

MAP team, Schlewswig Holstein MAP, Germany



Dialogue

HOW? Effective policy recommendations

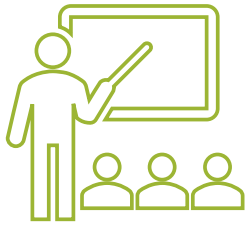
- The MAP position paper is important as **tangible** output.
- The process of co-creating a position paper stimulates concrete understanding and **deepens dialogue**.
- **Liaise** early on with local, regional and/or national levels
- Rural actors learn to do policy - Policy **listening** to understand

Requirements

Listen
Specify output
Capacity

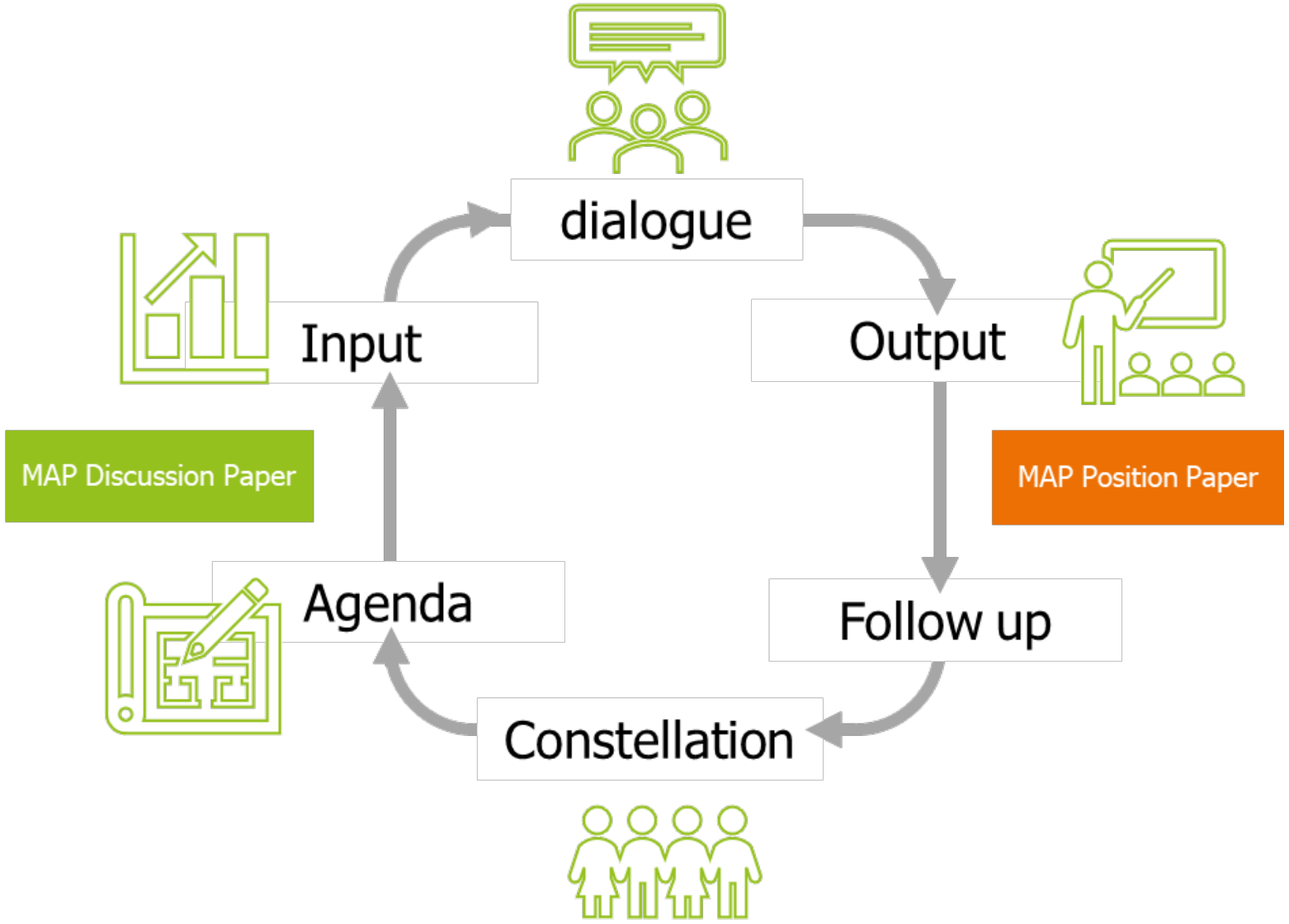
"The process has been very well received by the authorities. Though Sherpa aims at EU level policy, the production of the position paper has also contributed to feed the regional discussions"

Monitor of MAP Région Sud/PACA, France



Output

Overview


dialogue
Output
MAP Position Paper
Follow up
Constellation
Agenda
MAP Discussion Paper
Input

Critical components to sustain SSP

- Meaningful **bottom-up connection of policy to local actors** and interests is crucial for rebuilding trust and impactful policy.
- Support rural faciltators and monitors to do **engagement groundwork**: connect, translate and design spaces and processes
- Identify **policy gaps and areas** where science society policy interfaces can inform decision-making. Actively invite rural contributions.
- Support the **role of science** and scientists to take part in rural development dialogue
- Build on **experiences and capacities** developed in Sherpa for making the Rural pact and Rural action plan a success.
- Integrate the use of science society policy interfaces **in programs** for rural development and research.

What is your perspective?

- **Scan the relevant QR code or go to menti.com and fill in the relevant code** to respond to the questions:
  - "*What do you consider to be the most important contribution of SHERPA Science-Society-Policy interfaces?*"
  - *What is your most relevant lessons learned in SHERPA on the Science-Society-Policy interfaces?*"

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WHY? Benefits and added value of Science-Society-Policy interfaces

Wageningen University

Added value

The SHERPA Science-Society-Policy interfaces have contributed to added value in five domains:

- Strengthening the rural **dialogue**: capacity, spaces, trust, knowledge, involving new actors
- Increasing **connectivity** and networking, linking of policy levels.
- Contributing to **policy** preparation, formulation, implementation. In terms of actor engagement, understanding what matters, trustbuilding and empowerment.
- Inspiring **action** new initiatives and empowers rural communities in their own development
- Building **capacity** for democracy and rural development

Rural dialogue

Creating non-politicised spaces for dialogue and bringing actors together

Policy

Strengthening the content of policy and emancipation of rural areas

Connectivity

Connecting actors and building networks and trust, important social capital for the furture

Action

Inspiring new initiatives and empowering rural communities in their own development