



SHERPA
Rural Science-Society-Policy
Interfaces

GOVERNANCE IN RURAL AREAS



GREECE (ALL THREE MAPS)

Greece has three Multi-Actor Platforms (MAPs), focused on the region of Peloponnese, Western Greece and Attica. They are all regional platforms consisting of representatives of farmers- and agri-organisations, businesses, universities, civil society and regional government members.

Greece wants to make further progress on ecological, social and economic dimensions. Active stakeholder participation and innovative technologies are needed to monitor and evaluate related intervention outcomes. Greece is, however, below the EU average in the level of digitalisation. Further developing (e-)governance and stakeholder involvement in rural policymaking would be desirable.



RECOMMENDATIONS

Future rural policy

- Improve stakeholder involvement and enable civil society organisations as intermediaries. This could be done through the establishment of local development partnerships, which can help to identify local needs and opportunities, and develop strategies for addressing them.
- Strengthen trust and address the knowledge gap between citizens and government officials.
- Improve the involvement of neglected and underrepresented groups, and empower women and young producers providing incentives.
- Increase transparency and give municipal governments more authority and resources.
- The EU could fund programs which can support, among others, innovative initiatives and can provide supportive legislation.

Future rural research

- Map the gaps between the Greek digital strategy, action plan and implementation.
- Map the gaps between the expertise and knowledge of different stakeholders, and how to bridge this.
- Analyse the possibility to transition to e-governance and the role of Greek authorities as catalysts for digital transformation., and identify the factors that influence the adoption and effective use of digital technologies in rural areas.
- Analyse the status of the Greek management of public resources, institutional and legal framework.

KEY STRENGTHS

- LEADER has been considered one of the most successful interventions in supporting and promoting local development initiatives led by local communities, farmers, and other stakeholders.
- In order to promote partnerships between the public and private sectors, significant steps have been taken to improve digital skills and capabilities.
- Covid-19 has stimulated a decrease in bureaucracy and increased the adoption of digital solutions. Many procedures can now be done through electronic applications.
- Significant steps have been made to improve digital skills and capacities through public and private partnerships.

KEY NEEDS

- The coordination of LEADER programmes could be further improved.
- More and better campaigns and events are needed to inform citizens about relevant issues. The creation of working groups on the local level should also be stimulated.
- Public-private partnerships need to be strengthened, and transparency and fairness should be improved.
- Set up measures which empower local communities and encourage transparent decision-making procedures.
- Encourage collaboration between regions and decision-making processes related to rural development.

Further establish the transfer of responsibilities to the regional level.



EXAMPLE OF GOOD PRACTICE

Programmes in the region of Attica

Successful programmes are in place: the rural development programme of the Ministry of Rural Development, the fishing programme, and the National Strategic Reference Framework that finances innovative processes in the agri-food sector and develops rural development laws. They have helped the development of the agri-food sector in the region and provide financing for the creation of modern agricultural units or the modernisation of existing ones.

