



SHERPA
Rural Science-Society-Policy
Interfaces

GOVERNANCE IN RURAL AREAS



MAP CBIOLIT, LITHUANIA

The Multi-Actor Platform Circular Bioeconomy (CBioLit) is a MAP operating at the national level in Lithuania, and consists out of representatives of civil society, NGOs, business organisations, farmer organisations, innovation agencies, research institutes, universities, the central government, and the chamber of agriculture.

In Lithuania, the modern paradigm of public administration has been increasingly recognised by the national government, who has implemented reforms focused on reducing bureaucracy. However, bureaucracy remains one of the most hindering factors for community-led innovations and the development of rural areas in Lithuania.



RECOMMENDATIONS

Future rural policy

- Making strong and consistent use of existing and established initiatives such as the Long-Term Vision for Rural Areas, the Rural Pact, Local Action Groups, and the LEADER approach.
- Training of rural development experts, coaches, and consultants to be done at the EU level.
- Erasmus-like exchange policy for small farmers, NGOs, communities, and local authorities to see practices of how others live more sustainable, cleaner, better, and more communal lives.

Future rural research

- Need for specialised and topic-focused research on governance and stakeholder engagement, particularly at the regional level and in rural areas.
- An in-depth analysis to disclose the existing specific barriers and how to overcome them as part of a case study approach.
- Models for the transition to renewable natural resources/circular economy at the community level.
- Financial incentives and tools for rural actors to be more involved in local governance.

KEY STRENGTHS

- Strong existing local networks that already involve rural and urban actors.
- There is increasing collaboration among policy level and stakeholder groups across society, policy, and science dimensions.
- Trust between authorities and society is increasing.
- There is the integration of 'new rural residents' innovative business models that collaborate in bringing newcomers to rural areas.
- There is an increasingly active role of rural communities and LAGs when promoting the participation of local people in rural areas.

KEY NEEDS

- There is currently lack of tools to encourage greater involvement of local communities in participation in governance.
- Better collaboration is needed for governance and local economic development with public procurement practices, to engage and support local communities and businesses.
- Continuous creation of cooperation networks to promote the consumption of local food.
- Getting the support and interest from cities to strengthen rural-urban links.



EXAMPLE OF GOOD PRACTICE

Druskininkai Local Action Group

The LAG is very active in cooperation with the Druskininkai municipality, municipalities' rural communities and villagers. Through continuous cooperation, they 'earned' a good perception of trust from the municipality and local community members, as it continues to initiate and implement many social initiatives and projects that contribute to the prosperity of the region.

