



SHERPA
Rural Science-Society-Policy
Interfaces

GOVERNANCE IN RURAL AREAS



MAP GALICIAN RURAL INTERFACES, SPAIN

The Spanish Galician Rural Interfaces MAP uses the Galician Association of Local Action Groups as a support and starting point.

The Galicia region is governed by four levels of governance, each designing and implementing policies that affect the rural region: the EU, Spanish central government, the autonomous community (regional), and local governments. In this multilevel governance scheme, delimitation of competences and coordination presents challenges leading to uncoordinated policies, with duplicities and shortages in certain situations. Policies affecting rural areas are characterised by a top-down approach with limited mechanisms for social participation in their design, implementation, and assessment.



RECOMMENDATIONS

Future rural policy

- Apply measures to create base conditions for greater social participation of the rural population.
- Improve existing participatory mechanisms, the dissemination of information, and adaptation and implementation of policies relating to participatory processes.
- Add new mechanisms and participation structures in policies at the regional and national levels.
- Extend the LEADER methodology and bottom-up approach to other policies, improving its real-world application.

Future rural research

- Effectively transmit to the rural population existing knowledge on topics such as EU financial mechanisms, and the design, results, and impacts of different policies and measures.
- Conduct studies on the Galicia region on topics of governance in rural areas, data and studies on participation mechanisms, and rural policies.
- Further research on LEADER programs and their application and impact on generation of social impact in different territories.

KEY STRENGTHS

- The existence of participative local structures and organizations (rural women's associations, cultural associations, common land communities, cooperatives ...).
- The recognition that the LEADER participatory methodology has among the population.
- The existence of a local level of governance very close to the rural population, able to listen to their needs but sometimes lacking the financial means to respond to real needs

KEY NEEDS

- Establish new participation structures and introduce new participation mechanisms within existing structures, and adapt them to the rural population.
- Adapt public policies to local needs, to increase the interest of the rural population in participating in policy design and implementation.
- Offer feedback to the rural population on their inputs received through participation, to demonstrate how their opinions and interests are being considered.
- Improve formal and informal participatory mechanisms, while ensuring these are accessible and active outreach is being conducted to engage with rural populations.



EXAMPLE OF GOOD PRACTICE

Communal land communities

Also known as Comunidades de Montes Veciñais en Man Común, these are groups of owners of common lands. These groups are often the vehicle for the organisation and participation of the local community, and thus the revitalisation of the territory.

