



SHERPA
Rural Science-Society-Policy
Interfaces

GOVERNANCE IN RURAL AREAS



MAP SVARUN, SLOVENIA

The SVARUN MAP is a national MAP operating in Slovenia whose membership includes a rural development network, youth association, business organisations, farmers organisations, central government, universities, and research institutes.

On the topic of governance, the SVARUN MAP focused their attention on governance within the context of the MAP itself, looking at the MAP's history and experiences, key elements needed and recommendations to ensure the future success of the MAP. From this, these recommendations and examples were extracted to provide this fiche for others to learn from their knowledge and experiences.



RECOMMENDATIONS

Future rural policy

- There is a lack of specialised central institutions and a culture of close cooperation between science, politics and society is undoubtedly a phenomenon that is also characteristic of some other EU Member States.
- To address rural development issues better, systemic support at the EU level should be implemented, which would take this lack into account and institutionally encourage the long-term existence of this type of cooperation.

Future rural research

- There is a clear need for dialogue and scientific support for the strategic planning of the CAP in Slovenia, in particular with topics that require new knowledge for the purposes of designing new measures.
- There is a need for research at the national level on rural development, that should be done systematically.
- Investment in data sources and research infrastructure targeting rural development.

KEY STRENGTHS

- There is potential of the dialogue between representatives of science, politics, and interest spheres in the debate on key development topics to enact a more fact-based execution of policy.
- Offering scientific support to constructive dialogue in the field of agricultural and rural policy is possible, beneficial and needed, especially when discussing controversial (hot) topics.
- The best effect was achieved on topics that related to the need for additional knowledge and understanding of specific measures and guidelines of public policies (landscape features and social issues in rural areas).

KEY NEEDS

- There is no comprehensive supply of knowledge, that would enable a more fact-based execution of policy, as most research on various issues is atomised and tied to a few individuals.
- The institutional environment in the field of rural development can be so scattered, disjointed and closed in terms of sectoral aspects, it can be challenging to speak to the willingness of all stakeholders to be involved.



EXAMPLE OF GOOD PRACTICE

Conditions for Effective Dialogue

Through experience, the SVARUN MAP has identified and worked towards having clearly define conditions for effective dialogue which are: a clearly defined topic, the existence of knowledge on a certain topic, an institutional environment that enables dialogue, and the relevance of results of the dialogue to form policies at the national or supranational level.

These conditions were originally created for the MAP, but could easily be adapted by other MAPs or multi-stakeholder groups.

