



SHERPA
Rural Science-Society-Policy
Interfaces

GOVERNANCE IN RURAL AREAS



MAP ZIELONE SĄSIEDZTWO, POLAND

The Zielone Sąsiedztwo MAP operates at the regional level in Poland and is based on an existing Local Action Group (LAG) complemented by research actors. The MAP covers the biggest Polish voivodeship (region) Mazowieckie and is the most diverse in terms of the socio-economic situation of rural areas, with Warsaw, the largest city and capital also being situated in the region, a factor that greatly shapes the communities across the region. The Russian invasion of Ukraine has shaped the region, as over 1.1 million Ukrainians fled to Warsaw, with 100,000 of them continuing to stay after more than a year.



RECOMMENDATIONS

Future rural policy

- Ensure stable and sufficient share in PIT and CIT revenues so regional and local governments can better plan their long-term policies.
- Improved quality of governance, rule and law and accountability at all administrative levels, ensuring objectivity when selecting projects for funding.
- Increase knowledge and access to information regarding administrative units, their powers, and responsibilities.
- Increased monitoring and evaluation at the national level.

Future rural research

- The methods to get youth to see the need and possibilities of getting involved in the local community; use of technology to increase their participation.
- The methods for codifying and replicating good practices also need to be explored.
- Research into inter-generational responsibility and accountability.
- How to conduct public debate on a complex issue such as the green transition.

KEY STRENGTHS

- Local people in the region have a better understanding of their needs and situation, as national/EU statistics show the situation at a high level of generality or do not address all problems.
- Expression by local community representatives of their expectations, demands.
- Increase in activity in the region; the accumulation of knowledge and results of actions drives further action.
- Acquisition of a social partner for action, instead of a passive consumer of rural policies.

KEY NEEDS

- More support for grassroots, local leaders in the rural policy-making process.
- Good communication and frank flow of information and discussions, including during difficult and crisis situations.
- Open-mindedness of attitudes on both sides of the dialogue.
- Respect for different interests and diversity of attitudes.
- Create opportunities for active participation in discussion forums, workshops.
- Introduce new participatory methods to all wider participation of the local community in the decision-making process.
- Create a better system of incentives for community participation in the rural policy-making process.



EXAMPLE OF GOOD PRACTICE

Village Fund – the best initiative

The Regional Rural Areas Network in Mazowieckie organised a competition for villages who used their village fund to finance/co-finance a project between 2010-2022. The competition was aimed at activating rural residents to take initiatives for rural development, and providing participants knowledge and information on implementing local projects. The winning village won a financial prize and the right to compete in a national competition.

