



SHERPA
Rural Science-Society-Policy
Interfaces

GOVERNANCE IN RURAL AREAS



MAP SOUTHERN REGION, FRANCE

The PACA Sud MAP in the South region of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur France joined together to explore the topic of governance in the framework of governing transitions in rural areas.

The MAP explored the challenges faced by territories concerned with smart governance of transitions, considering how EU funds and policies at the international, national, and regional level could be developed and implemented to ensure these transitions were done in a sustainable and efficient way.



RECOMMENDATIONS

Future rural policy

- The EU must set minimum percentages of ERDF & EAFRD budgets dedicated to rural development to secure enough funding to enable the implementation of the LTVRA.
- The €300,000 per project within the framework of the rural ERDF, excluding key beneficiaries (small municipalities & private and associative project leaders) must be questioned.
- Maintain and strengthen the LEADER program and the capacity of the LAGs to ensure innovative projects in a sustainable manner.

Future rural research

- What are the relevant levels of rural governance?
- What are efficient delivery mechanism?
- What engineering, territorial contractualisation and animation should be put into place?
- What policy instruments, funding, monitoring and evaluation tools should be used?
- How can rural dwellers be better involved in transitions' governance?

KEY STRENGTHS

- Specific territorial engineering support is available in the the Hautes Alpes department (Ingénierie territoriale IT05) and in the Alpes-de-Haute-Provence department (Agence de développement IT04).
- The Arles region has a territorial coherence plan that is integrated into the contract for recovery and ecological transition (CRET).
- New forms of citizen involvement are growing such as citizens' councils, eco-delegates, the movement of towns in transition, etc.

KEY NEEDS

- Lack of coherence across multiplicity of European, national, and regional administrative structures and schemes.
- Increasing complexity of administrative tools and procedures, especially European and LEADER funding.
- Inadequate funding tools for long-term projects and difficult pre-financing conditions.
- Lack of project engineering for small communes and communities.
- Little involvement of rural dwellers in the development and implementation of territorial development strategies.
- Need for training of elected representatives to better inform them of the issues and how to mobilise and realise funding.



EXAMPLE OF GOOD PRACTICE

Support for municipalities to access EU funding

The Southern Region in France set up a system to facilitate support for engineering and project management assistance in accessing European funds for municipalities and inter-municipalities. Selected candidates can benefit from assistance in preparing their application for calls for projects within the framework of the rural ERDF, LIFE program, Interreg Alpine Space program, as well as equality, rights and values programs.

