



SHERPA
Rural Science-Society-Policy
Interfaces

GOVERNANCE IN RURAL AREAS



MAP P10 CLIMATE SMART RURALITIES

The P10 Climate Smart Ruralities MAP focused on territorial approaches to climate adaptation in different regions of the Netherlands, and engaged members from science, society and policy participated in dialogues.

Organising regional and national dialogues on multilevel governance in the context of climate adaptation, MAP P10 developed valuable insights on how to link multiple levels of governance for the best results on the ground. The experiences and network of the P10 plays a key role in strengthening rural governance by connecting 31 municipalities to learn together and make rural voices heard. The P10 deliberately aims to represent the shared rural interests at municipal levels to provincial, national and European level.



RECOMMENDATIONS

Future rural policy

- European policies should offer clear guidance on the direction & scope of change while avoiding the burden of specific requirements.
- Avoid urban bias and prioritise the unique needs & potential of each rural region.
- Give rural areas the autonomy to develop area-based approaches tailored to their unique characteristics and challenges.
- The EU and national governments should aim to be reliable partners and support the developments in rural areas while maintaining steadfast governance.
- Clear communication on long-term perspectives and rationale for policy is key to facilitate actor involvement and connecting the area-based process to the European vision.
- Provide support, space, and trust to rural actors to collaboratively address societal challenges.
- Create space and stimulate knowledge exchange & cross border collaboration on specific challenges and dilemmas in organising integral areas-based processes.
- While ensuring justification for the expenditure of public funds, allow flexibility to integrate local problems and ambitions on an equal basis with provincial, national, and European agreements.

KEY STRENGTHS

- Well-established connections with the diversity of actors in the area; different ways (e.g. art, games, research of history) to raise awareness and enter into conversations to develop valuable solutions.
- Creating spaces for exchange of experiences with place-based governance in climate transitions in different regions.
- Experiences with new integral approaches building new culture; make a territorial plan and ask each policy level what they can contribute to the region and strengthen the area.
- Well-placed investment in facilitating territorial processes pays back in efficiency in policy implementation. The benefits of actor participation, largely outweigh the costs.

KEY NEEDS

- Development of experience, capacity and attitudes to navigate scales of governance without losing the meaning and connection.
- Responsibility and trust that each policy level does their part and that each sectoral challenge is given the attention it deserves.
- Development of spaces for joint learning (e.g. how to link long-term with short-term, how to connect European with national and provincial with the municipal level, how to balance public with private interests and investments).
- Find ways to connect local assignments to broad societal challenges.
- Organisation of capacity to facilitate the process and involvement of the local level in the conversations.



EXAMPLE OF GOOD PRACTICE

P10, an association of bigger rural municipalities, is an example of empowering rural areas within the framework of multilevel governance. The formulation of a Rural Agenda and the participation in EU projects supports the connection with regional, national, and European governing bodies to advocate for rural municipal interest. P10 will host a participatory lab during the European Week of the Regions and Cities 2023 to foster reflections on the emancipation of rural areas in policy-making processes.

