

SHERPA
Rural Science-Society-Policy
Interfaces

PRACTICE ABSTRACT

Identifying and sustaining the channels to influence policy and research in Argeş county



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SHERPA has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under Grant Agreement No. 862448. The content of the document does not reflect the official opinion of the European Union. Responsibility for the information and views expressed therein lies entirely with the author(s).



The SHERPA MAP Argeş was set-up at the level of Argeş county (Romania) as a local support group for sustainable and resilient rural development.

To achieve this, the MAP Arges advocated the horizontal and vertical integration level of local actors in the agri-food supply chain.

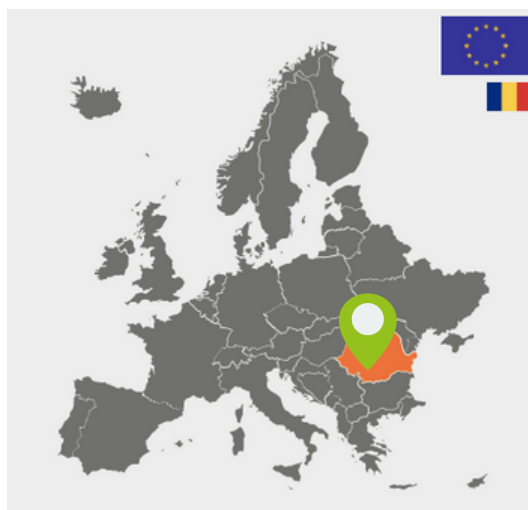
The meetings organized with the MAP members highlighted the importance of increasing the connections between research, policy and production/farmers as an essential condition for solving agricultural producers' specific problems, but also for validating the research' results.

From their perspective, constructive dialogue with representatives of different policy, research and agricultural organisations, active cooperation with other SHERPA MAPs in Romania, and open debates regarding the MAP's Position Paper have the potential to influence policy.

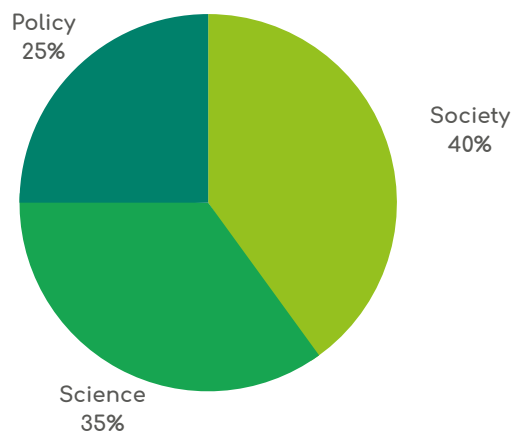
Based on several discussions, MAP Arges members outlined the following recommendations to support the main channels that can influence policy and research:

- Extend the MAP network at local and regional platform level through a sustained involvement of Local Action Groups, that can empower people to actively participate in the local governance process, including the elaboration of studies that can support a commune local strategy;
- Include, in the local governance process, universities, research centres and institutes from the area;
- Promote constant and active dialogue between representatives of different institutions participating in the local governance process;
- Identify local, national and European funding scheme to support the activities of MAPs, and (hence sustain their influence on policy and research).

MAP Argeş
Location Argeş county, Romania
MAP contacts Facilitator: Cristian Popescu Monitor: Mihai Alexandru Chitea, Monica Mihaela Tudor, Lorena Florentina Chitea
More info SHERPA Regional Multi-Actor Platform Argeş - SHERPA (rural-interfaces.eu)



MAP membership:





ABOUT THE MAP

The Multi-Actor platform (MAP) Argeş was established during 2022 and it operates in the Argeş county (NUTS 3 region), in Romania. It is coordinated by the European Rural Development Network (ERDN) and the Institute of Agricultural Economics of the Romanian Academy facilitates the activities of the platform.

The members of the MAP are farmers and farmers' organisations, agri-food chains actors working on vertical and horizontal integration, education and research representatives, administrative and policy decision makers. The MAP was setup as a reflection group for discussing the current themes regarding the sustainable rural development in the Argeş county.

The platform aims to support the prosperity of the rural areas, with a special focus on mountain and hilly communities, through building a local environment that can support sustainable and resilient rural development and integration of rural local economy actors in sustainable value chains.



OBJECTIVES

The activities of MAP Argeş are designed to achieve the following specific objectives:

- To set up a group of active and involved MAP members to discuss the main needs of rural areas in terms of sustainability of local economy.
- To identify possible actions to support the building and integration of local actors in sustainable value chains.
- To reach an agreement, at the level of MAP members, on the key dimensions of sustainable value chains for future rural resilience in rural areas of Argeş county.



MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2022, MAP Argeş was set up after some preliminary steps, including the recruiting of the MAP facilitator, and identifying the moderators and members of this new MAP. Through internal and informal discussions, the MAP elaborated its dynamic action plan.

In the first MAP cycle, MAP Argeş focused on the sustainable integration of farms (small and medium) in the agri-food value chains. Two physical meetings with the MAP members were organised in 2022. The first one, in June 2022, was set up as a focus group discussion on four questions addressing the topic: identified needs, existing interventions and actions, recommendations from the MAP, knowledge gaps and future research projects.

Opinions, suggestions and recommendations from MAP members were collected and integrated into the first draft of the MAP Position Paper. The second meeting, from September, aimed to validate the content of the position paper and to collect further recommendations from MAP's members regarding possible improvements to the document.

Based on the discussions during the two meetings, the main results of MAP Argeş are summarised in the MAP Position Paper – Towards sustainable & resilient value chains. In addition, MAP Argeş produced a MAP Fiche on governance in rural areas together with other two Romanian MAPs.



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