

SHERPA  
Rural Science-Society-Policy  
Interfaces

PRACTICE ABSTRACT

# Creating and sustaining meaningful engagement and dialogue in Iași county



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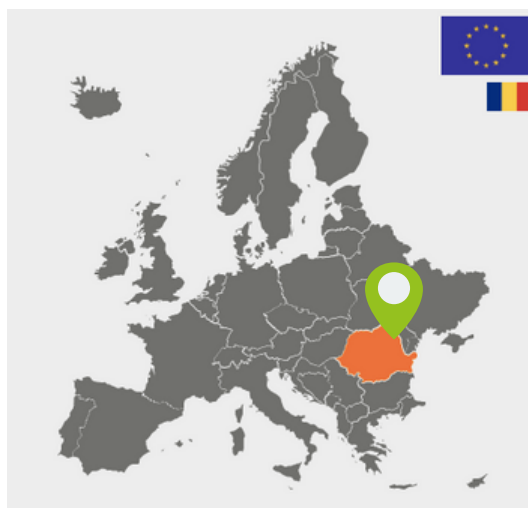
Creating meaningful engagement and dialogue has been one of the main objectives of the SHERPA MAP Iași in Romania.

The diverse composition of MAP Iași members contributed to the development of a responsible community for the acquisition and consumption of agrifood products and supporting the connection between small local producers and final consumers. This diversity enabled a constructive dialogue between local public authorities, producers, researchers and civil society representatives. In particular, members of this MAP included actors already involved in developing a responsible community regarding the acquisition and consumption of agrifood products and supporting the connection between small local producers and final consumers.

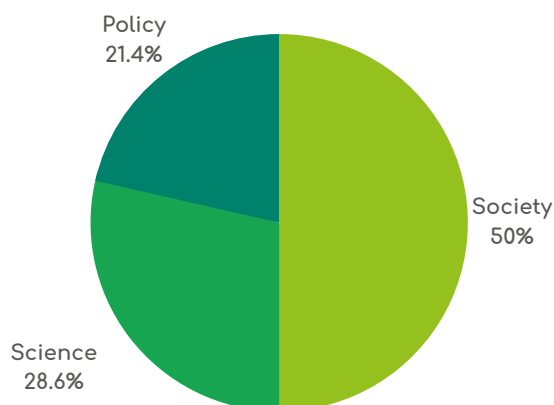
The identification of common problems, finding the solutions and implementing them, contributed to the development of a long-term dialogue between stakeholders involved in the MAP Iași that, based on the results, will most likely continue overtime and evolve in new forms of collaboration. The public events organised with the participation of actors involved in MAP Iași highlighted some recommendations regarding the creation of an active involvement and support for a constructive dialogue:

- Bringing together the quadruple helix representatives (authorities, business environment, research and NGOs);
- Identifying common problems and solutions for the development of sustainable short supply chains;
- Enhancing the interests of relevant actors involved in short supply chains in order to achieve a long-term cohesion between participants;
- Involving members of MAP Iași as stakeholders in other projects with local, national or European funding in order to extend the engagement and constructive dialogue process.

MAP Iași
<b>Location</b> Iași county, Romania
<b>MAP contacts</b> Facilitator: Lucian Tanașă Monitor: Codrin Dinu Vasiliu, Ioan Sebastian Brumă, Mihai Alexandru Chitea
<b>More info</b> <a href="https://www.sherpa-platform.ro/iași-sherpa-rural-interfaces.eu">SHERPA Regional Multi-Actor Platform   Iași - SHERPA (rural-interfaces.eu)</a>



### MAP membership:





## ABOUT THE MAP

In Romania, the European Rural Development Network (ERDN) coordinates the Multi-Actor Platform Iași, which operates at a regional level (NUTS III). The Institute of Agricultural Economics of the Romanian Academy facilitates the activities of the platform.

The main challenges in rural areas of Iași county are the dual structure of the farming system (small number of very large holdings and prevalence of small farms), demographic shift, labour shortages, low integration of local farmers in food chains, and lack of cooperation among farmers.

This MAP aims to improve the value added of farming and agri-food activities by supporting the building of sustainable short-food supply chains valorising the rural-urban linkages and fructifying the opportunities generated by the appetite of consumers on local agri-food products. The members of the MAP are actors that act on vertical and horizontal integration of agri-food chains, NGOs, Local Action Groups, farmers, research and local government representatives.



## OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this MAP are the following:

- Establish a group of active and involved MAP members to discuss the main needs of rural areas for developing sustainable short-food supply chains;
- Identify potential actions to support the building and integration of local farmers on short food chains;
- Build consensus on the key dimensions of sustainability of short food chains in rural areas of Iași county.



## MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

During the first two years of SHERPA, IDRA has actively contributed to improving the coordination between relevant stakeholders and informing policy-makers regarding decisions for future policy-making concerning rural areas. The ultimate goal is to contribute to the slowdown of the depopulation trend.

The work has consisted of the arrangement of several activities, including three workshops for the first MAP cycle (discussing the long-term vision for rural areas in Aragón) and three workshops for the second MAP cycle (discussing the economic diversification of rural areas in Aragón) with the MAP members. In addition, additional interviews have been carried out where more in-depth information has been sought. Also, a survey with a very high response rate (+400 responses) was undertaken during the first MAP cycle. The facilitator and moderator have also participated in training regarding the facilitation and moderation of Multi-Actor Platforms.

This has resulted in the drafting of one MAP discussion paper inspired by the SHERPA discussion paper, and one MAP position paper, which in turn have contributed to the SHERPA position paper (see here the SHERPA Policy Papers). The second cycle will result in a second position paper in October 2021.



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