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PRACTICE ABSTRACT

# The role of evidence-based science in the functioning of the Multi-Actor Platform in Hungary



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Addressing the accelerated environmental change caused by climate change requires better communication between scientists, managers, decision-makers, media and the public to find the most effective solutions to environmental issues as soon as possible. For farmers, responses to environmental and climate challenges often involve costs and changes in land use practices. Therefore, it is of paramount importance that policy proposes and promotes solutions that are applicable and effective based on scientific evidence.

The setting up and implementation of Multi-Actor Platforms (MAPs) has confirmed this expectation, speeding up and improving communication between policy, science and society actors.

The SHERPA Discussion Paper provided local MAP members with short and systematic summaries of relevant international and European research scientific results, providing an opportunity to learn more about scientific evidence in the specific topic. Such summaries of the state of the art saved considerable time, accelerated the flow of information and enabled MAP members to focus on local specificities.

In addition to the focus on research, there has been a progressive increase in attention on developments and innovations to improve management practices. The involvement of society can also play a catalytic role in this process, as civil society can contribute to the identification of good practices developed by farmers. Supporting these local innovations with scientific evidence can accelerate the identification of best practices that can be easily and quickly applied in practice.

The MAPs could also be effective in identifying knowledge gaps that need to be demonstrated by scientists and researchers. In this sense, the existence of MAPs enables scientific actors to focus on the production of high-quality knowledge that can be applied to solve practical problems as they arise.

## MAP Land-use planning for climate neutrality

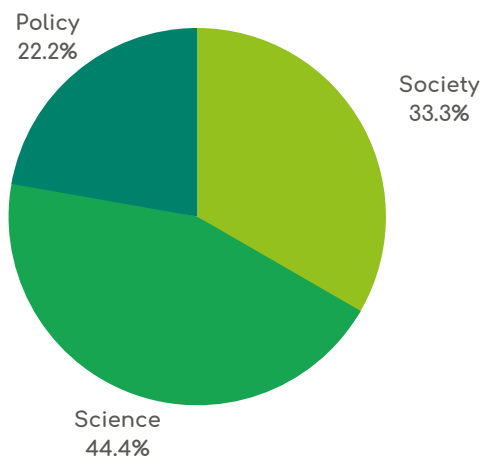
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### MAP membership:





## ABOUT THE MAP

The MAP Land Use Planning for Climate Neutrality was founded in 2021 and it is coordinated by the research group of the Department of Social Research at the Institute of Agricultural Economics in Hungary. This MAP operates at the national level as Hungary is considered a region by the EU Rural Development policy.

The MAP brings together selected members of the “Agri-Environment and Climate” subgroup set up by the Ministry of Agriculture to support the Common Agricultural Policy strategic planning process. The platform plans to analyse Hungarian rural areas’ specificities to achieve the EU Green Deal and climate neutrality goals. The main challenge is the need for optimal land-use ratios and techniques that simultaneously ensure the production of competitive and quality food raw materials, as well as climate-neutral solutions.



## OBJECTIVES

The Multi-Actor Platform was invited to discuss the following key questions:

- What are the needs of the area covered by the MAP in relation to climate change and land use?
- What are the policy interventions already in place, and what are examples of actions taken by local actors addressing these needs implemented in the area covered by the MAP?
- Which policy interventions (i.e. instruments, measures) are recommended by MAP members to be implemented at the local, regional, and/or national levels, and how can the EU support these interventions?
- What are the knowledge gaps, and what new research evidence is needed?



## MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

First, the “Climate Change and Environmental sustainability” discussion paper was discussed in the framework of a workshop in the autumn of 2021. One of the main conclusions of the workshop was that sustainable land use planning is the most important challenge related to climate change. The land sector has a significant strategic role in food security, which covers large areas and, as a result, has a profound impact on water, air, climate and nature. Climate change poses challenges to land use that cumulate with other non-climate related challenges, such as population growth, increasing demand for limited resources by diverse actors, and land degradation. Moreover, improper land-use management can intensify hazards including flooding and heat stress, hence intensifying the exposure of communities to such hazards.

Based on "Climate change and land use" discussion paper in 2022 the MAP focused on the topic of the significance and importance of land use planning related to agriculture. The topic was examined from the perspective of the three subgroups (science, politics and society). The outputs of the MAP discussions served to prepare the MAP Position Paper on Climate Change and Land Use. MAP members identified 9 challenges that could significantly change land uses and affect climate change and climate protection efforts. Additional scientific evidence, which was not included in the discussion paper, was also listed to justify the challenges. The existing policy interventions were examined, the MAP members identified the policy gaps and their possible causes. After that, main proposals for rural policy were formulated (9 pieces) and the research areas (6 pieces) where additional evidence for effective application would be needed were defined. The MAP members have identified EU and domestic good practices that can be an opportunity to develop appropriate land use planning and sustainable land uses. In addition, this MAP produced a MAP Fiche on governance in rural areas.



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