

SHERPA  
Rural Science-Society-Policy  
Interfaces

PRACTICE ABSTRACT

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



Nordregio

**Authors:** Linnea Löfving, Nordregio

**Reviewers:** Carla Lostrangio, Merveille Ntabuhashe, Serafin Pazos Vidal, AEIDL; Jorieke Potters, Wageningen University & Research; Brigit Zomer, Ecorys

**Editor:** Maite Iglesias, AEIDL



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).



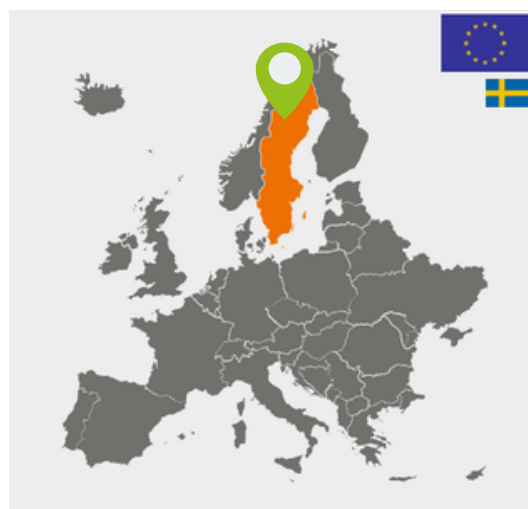
Evidence-based science have been important for the work in SHERPA MAP Norrbotten, Sweden. The SHERPA Discussion paper was sent out before meetings and presented in Swedish by the Facilitator and Monitor at the beginning of meetings and workshops. Produced by SHERPA partners and based on scientific evidence, this document worked as a background for the follow-up discussions. In addition to the Discussion paper, material produced or collected by the MAP members was also utilised. The Discussion paper was foremost important to find a common ground in the discussions and to start the conversation.

In addition, the MAP members from the research sector presented their work and gave suggestions on articles and other studies. Simultaneously, members from regional and national authorities provided the MAP members with statistics and information from reports and studies.

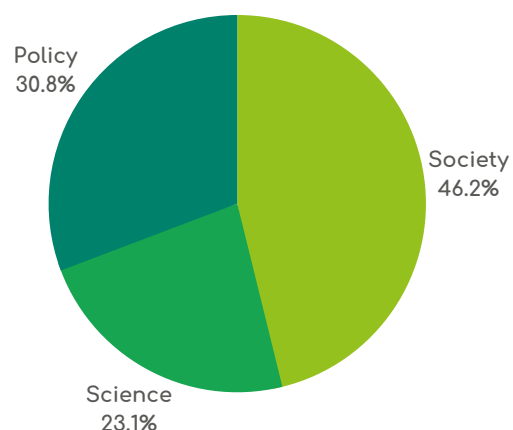
It is worth noting that the Norrbotten region differs from several other European regions represented in SHERPA because of its location in the north, its large size and sparsely populated areas. Therefore, some aspects highlighted in the Discussion paper did not apply to Norrbotten, whereas some important issues that are important for the MAP members were not mentioned in the Discussion paper. However, the Discussion paper provided an opportunity to compare Norrbotten to other European regions and standards, hence also contributing to a deeper understanding of the local circumstances. Most participants in MAP Norrbotten are active on the local or regional level and the MAP members appreciated the inclusion of the national and European perspectives.

In the instance of the SHERPA project, where several actors with different backgrounds and thematic focuses come together, evidence-based science is central to establishing common ground and a benchmark from where the discussion starts. This becomes even more important given the limited time and number of meetings involved in this process.

MAP Norrbotten
<p><b>Location</b> Norrbotten, Sweden</p>
<p><b>MAP contacts</b> Facilitator: Linnea Löfving Monitor: : Linnea Löfving</p>
<p><b>More info</b> <a href="#">SHERPA Regional Multi-Actor Platform   Norrbotten - SHERPA (rural-interfaces.eu)</a></p>



### MAP membership:





## ABOUT THE MAP

The [MAP Norrbotten](#) is coordinated by Nordregio, a research centre in regional development and planning established by the Nordic Council of Ministers.

The MAP Norrbotten is geographically centered around the northernmost region in Sweden. It is a large and diversified region, spanning over 97 000 km<sup>2</sup>, with a coastline, vast forests, and mountainous areas. Norrbotten is one of 21 regions in Sweden and have about 250 000 permanent inhabitants.

The region borders with both Norway and Finland, which indicate additional inhabitants that commute for work and tourism as temporary inhabitants throughout the year. The MAP Norrbotten operates on a regional level and was established at the end of 2021. During 2022, the MAP focused on the topic digitalisation and during 2023 the MAP is continuing to work on the topic of digitalisation in relation to governance.



## OBJECTIVES

The MAP Norrbotten has the following objectives:

- Establish a dynamic group of MAP members and guests, to discuss openly, challenges in the rural areas, needs and opportunities through cooperation;
- Discuss and formulate strong position papers on central policy issues in the EU in order to use the 'motorway to EU' to strengthen the political framework for development of the rural areas.



## MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

Five digital workshops/meetings and one lunch-to-lunch workshop in Norrbotten were carried out during the first digitalisation cycle 2021-2022. In addition to these, three digital workshops/meetings have been carried out during the second cycle focused on governance 2022-2023.

The outputs of the MAP discussions have been used to produce a [MAP Position Paper Digitalisation in rural areas](#) and a [MAP Fiche on multi-level governance in rural areas](#). The MAP Norrbotten is also the leading author of the SHERPA Discussion paper – Digitalisation in rural areas and the [SHERPA Discussion paper – Empowering rural areas in multi-level governance processes](#).



SHERPA  
Rural Science-Society-Policy  
Interfaces



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM  
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA



[www.rural-interfaces.eu](http://www.rural-interfaces.eu)

