

SHERPA
Rural Science-Society-Policy
Interfaces

PRACTICE ABSTRACT

Identifying and sustaining the channels to influence policy and research in Hungary



Authors: Csaba Bálint, Institute of Agricultural Economics

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).



The issue of sustainable and resilient value chains, that was the topic discussed by the SHERPA MAP Hungarian Rural Prosperity in the 2022, requires a highly complex approach. The backbone of this MAP was the Science-Society-Policy interface. These actors shared their knowledge and experience and reflected on their demands and self-imposed tasks in formulating policy and research proposals. The involvement of policy actors included officials from sectoral ministries and agricultural advocacy bodies, experts who are themselves actively involved in agricultural policy planning, implementation, and evaluation, and in the operation of information and advisory systems. The academic sector was represented by universities and research institutes with a background in agriculture, agro-economics and rural development.

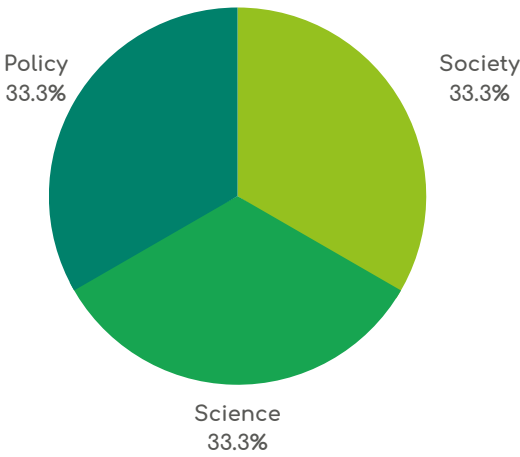
The activities of this MAP opened new perspectives for both policy and research. First of all, the MAP drew attention to the importance of rural and agri-food value chain issues. Secondly, it created a chance for dialogue between actors with different backgrounds and interests. And thirdly, it provided an opportunity for individual and collective policy and research proposals to be made, on a reciprocal basis. This means that policy actors in the MAP could point out their needs in terms of knowledge and information that science should address for better programme design and implementation. At the same time, researcher members could share their findings and experiences with policy makers and translate them into concrete policy recommendations. Of course, the society subset was equally empowered and involved in this joint reflection and proposal process.

The experience of the MAP showed that a sincere dialogue can develop between the actors of the different groups, identifying and focusing on common objectives, accepting and discussing differences of opinion and bringing together many points of view. This Position Paper is part of the knowledge base that can shape future policy and research. By attending SHERPA conferences, MAP members (especially policy actors) took advantage of the opportunity to network internationally.

MAP Rural Prosperity	
Location	Hungary
MAP contacts	Facilitator: Csaba Bálint Monitor: Katalin Mozsgai
More info	SHERPA Regional Multi-Actor Platform Rural Prosperity - SHERPA (rural-interfaces.eu)



MAP membership:





ABOUT THE MAP

A research team of the Department of Social Research at the Institute of Agricultural Economics (AKI) coordinates the SHERPA MAP Rural Prosperity in Hungary. This MAP was established in August-September 2021 and was initially named as Hungarian Rural Economy MAP.

The MAP operates at the national level since it expects to have the greatest impact if the territory is not further subdivided. The group consisted of 12 members in the third SHERPA MAP cycle, with a balanced representation of policy, science, society and business stakeholders.



OBJECTIVES

This MAP has the following objectives:

- To carry out an analysis of the current situation and needs assessment in the given territory;
- To explore knowledge gaps and research needs regarding the state of the different actors and levels of the agri-food value chain, their relations with each other, their level of bargaining power and capacity to advocate, the distribution of income and risk, as well as social needs and environmental sustainability;
- To take into account the specificities of bioeconomy value chains and rural economies.



MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

In January 2022, the MAP members contributed to the recommendation of keywords for the topic "Entrepreneurship and social economy, just transition, including sustainable value chains". Based on the choice of topic, the MAP has been operating named 'Hungarian Rural Prosperity MAP' since.

After circulating the SHERPA Discussion Paper on the topic, the questions to be answered (current situation, identified needs, existing policy interventions, actions taken by local actors, and recommendations) in the Position Paper were discussed in the form of a personal meeting, on the 8th of June, 2022. The main findings of the meeting are presented in the MAP Position Paper. Consequently, the members of the MAP contributed to the SHERPA Position Papers.

In 2023, the MAP in collaboration with the other two national MAPs (AKIS, Land use and climate change) worked on the topic of rural governance in the fourth MAP cycle in 2023.



SHERPA
Rural Science-Society-Policy
Interfaces



ALMA MATER STUDIUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA



www.rural-interfaces.eu

