

SHERPA
Rural Science-Society-Policy
Interfaces

PRACTICE ABSTRACT

The role of society actors in a Multi-Actor Platform in Southeast Drenthe



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The benefits for society actors who participate in a multi-actor dialogue include exchanging experiences, networking with other actors and voicing their perspective and being heard.

In the SHERPA MAP Southeast Drenthe participants were personally invited to join the dialogue through well-known contacts. Some participants joined out of curiosity or a desire to share their experiences and vision, while others joined due to their specific interest. The citizens who took part in the MAP dialogue in Southeast Drenthe were all actively involved in citizen initiatives for the natural environment. For them, participation had the potential to contribute to the improvement of their initiative or their living conditions. The dialogue provided a platform for discussing and interacting with other societal actors, as well as with actors from policy and research.

The benefit and the role of society actor were nicely aligned in this MAP. Society actors shared a diverse range of experiences related to their local initiatives for managing natural areas, including both their successes and the challenges they encountered. One notable challenge was establishing new relationships and finding effective ways of collaborating with the municipal services, which have the overall responsibility for managing the natural resources in the environment.

The key lesson for engaging society actors in policy processes is to dedicate time and effort to establish strong connections between the dialogue topic and the everyday reality of the society actors. It is meaningful to elucidate to citizens and other actors how policy at various levels influence the local context and the issues at hand. This deserves due attention before and during the multi-actor dialogue.

It is important to recognise that citizen involvement in nature and land use planning should not be solely viewed as nature management. Instead, it should be valued as a comprehensive social intervention that makes significant contributions to social cohesion and broad prosperity.

MAP Southeast Drenth

Location

Southeast Drenthe, the Netherlands

MAP contacts

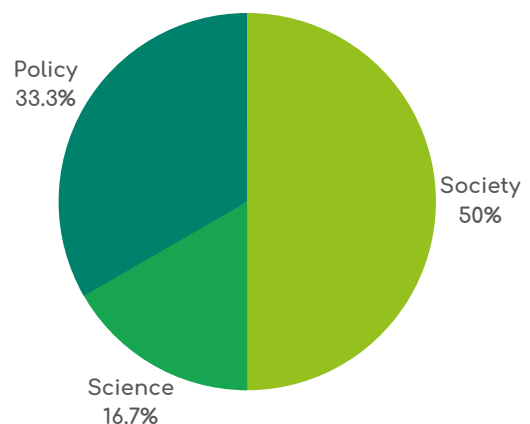
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More info

[SHERPA Regional Multi-Actor Platform | Southeast Drenthe - SHERPA \(rural-interfaces.eu\)](#)



MAP membership:





ABOUT THE MAP

MAP Southeast Drenthe was newly established and operates at the regional level in Southeast part of the province of Drenthe. The MAP was organised as a dialogue more than a platform. It was coordinated by Hanze Hogeschool and Wageningen Research in collaboration with KKNN and BOKD.

In the MAP Southeast Drenthe, organisations, citizens, local and regional government and researchers exchanged experiences with citizens' involvement in nature and landscape management. They discussed how citizen initiatives contribute to the vitality and broad prosperity in rural areas. This MAP focused on citizens' involvement in developments in the immediate environment: landscape, nature and quality of life.

This topic combines different aspects of broad prosperity and the core qualities of the south-east Drenthe region. Furthermore, it exemplifies a movement towards more participatory governance in rural areas.



OBJECTIVES

The objectives this MAP are the following:

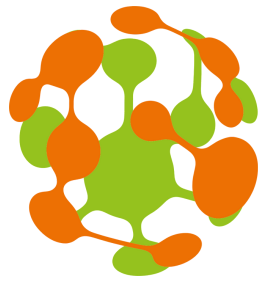
- Facilitate the exchange of experiences among citizen initiatives for nature management to understand the added value of involving residents in nature and landscape development;
- Explore possibilities to improve the collaboration between citizen initiatives and government bodies, with a focus sharing knowledge and balancing responsibilities;
- Identify requirements and ideas for better listening to and involving the voices of residents, both within villages and at the municipal level. What obstacles and opportunities can be identified to better organise the different policy areas?



MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

The MAP dialogue consisted of a preparatory phase during which different bi- and multilateral inquiries and coordination meetings were organized to understand different perspectives and interests and facilitate actor engagement. This phase led to an agreement on the overarching focus of this MAP.

The dialogue was documented for the participants and resulted in the following concrete products, including a [MAP Position Paper on the social dimension of rural](#) areas and a [MAP Fiche on governance in rural areas](#).



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