

SHERPA

Rural Science-Society-Policy
Interfaces

PRACTICE ABSTRACT

Showing the added value of Science-Society-Policy interfaces in Zachodniopomorskie



Authors: Agnieszka Kurdyś-Kujawska and Barbara Wieliczko, European Rural Development Network

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

Editor: Maite Iglesias, AEIDL



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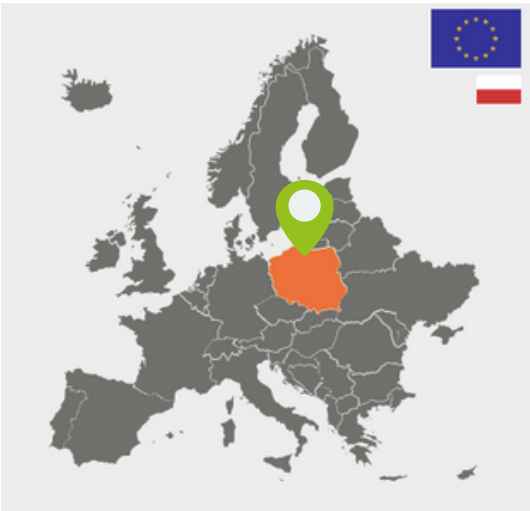
The SHERPA MAP Zachodniopomorskie operates at the regional level and covers the area of Zachodniopomorskie voivodeship in Poland. This region is diverse in terms of its level of socio-economic development, and most of it is typically devoted to agricultural production.

The MAP consists of members representing different groups of the local community: people with different educational backgrounds, fulfilling different functions in institutions and organisations, living and/or operating in functionally different rural areas of the region. In addition, the MAP was joined by a group of scientists conducting research and analysis related to rural issues in the Zachodniopomorskie voivodeship. The diversity of SHERPA MAP members provides the opportunities to consider the experience, perspectives and knowledge of representatives of different backgrounds. This provides scientific knowledge and "tacit" knowledge, i.e., often personal knowledge based on experience.

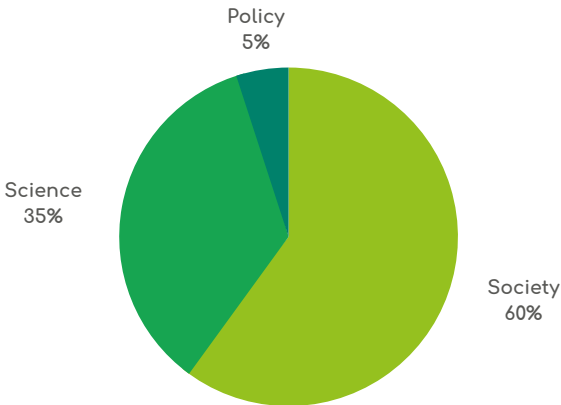
The chance to speak freely, unhindered, on a given topic meant that it was easier to come to final conclusions together. The idea was to fully involve all meeting participants as co-authors of recommendations and guidelines. In their own words, *"it was an interesting experience for them"*, while at the same time wondering *"how to create such forums for the exchange of ideas and discussions in their small communities, how to create a community of people, thinking together, identifying with the place"*.

The MAP activities resulted in very practical and valuable knowledge pointing out recommendations for the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). An added value was the active participation of people from different age groups and different areas to ensure their needs and priorities could be considered. These people also felt that they were listened to. From the researchers' point of view, the MAP meetings provided an opportunity to look at rural problems in a broader perspective, not only that a problem exists, but also what its important consequences are for the community and how it can be solved considering the needs of the local community.

MAP Zachodniopomorskie	
Location	Zachodniopomorskie voivodeship, Poland
MAP contacts	Facilitator: Agnieszka Kurdyś-Kujawska Monitor: Barbara Wieliczko
More info	SHERPA Regional Multi-Actor Platform Zachodniopomorskie - SHERPA (rural-interfaces.eu)



MAP membership:





ABOUT THE MAP

The SHERPA MAP Zachodniopomorskie is coordinated by the European Rural Development Network. This platform is centred around the Zachodniopomorskie voivodeship, which is located in the northern part of Poland. Zachodniopomorskie voivodship is a typically agricultural region with 94% of its area covered by rural areas. The voivodship's area can be classified as having favourable natural and organisational conditions for efficient agricultural production.

The voivodship's rural areas are highly diversified in terms of the level of socio-economic development. This is due to the presence of several natural and functional zones which range across coastal, lake and country border areas. However, they are dominated by areas of economic recession, high unemployment and significant impoverishment of the population. The region is characterized by a difficult economic situation due to the legacy of post-socialist farming villages, the associated structural unemployment and unresolved social problems. The weakest link in the socio-economic structure of the region is the social passivity of the inhabitants in public life.

The MAP Zachodniopomorskie operates at a regional level and was established in 2022 to discuss topical themes on building resilience, adaptive capacity and transformation of rural communities. In 2022 MAP focused on analysing contemporary land use trends and identifying the relationship between climate change and land use. In 2023 MAP focuses on the theme of increasing local community engagement in the process of civic participation and building more resilient rural communities.



OBJECTIVES

The specific objectives of this MAP are the following:

- To identify challenges and opportunities for land management in a changing climate.
- To identify land management practices conducive to the implementation of climate change adaptation and mitigation actions in Zachodniopomorskie voivodship.
- To identify policy measures needed to implement required land use changes.



MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

One physical meeting with MAP members was organised in 2022. The workshop held as part of the meeting provided added value in the area of formulating opinions and recommendations for all institutions interested in creating the right conditions for increasing rural adaptation to climate change.

To provide evidence to the MAP activities, desk research was carried out and included a literature review, analysis of statistics, industry reports, provincial office websites, provincial status reports, provincial strategic documents.

In 2022, field research was carried out and 40 face-to-face interviews were conducted using a survey questionnaire aimed at farmers (agricultural producers). In 2023, two physical meetings with MAP members were organised: in Gryfice at the 'Z Pomysłem' Association (February); in Łowicz Walecki at the Siedem Ogródów Foundation (March). In 2023, interviews were conducted with researchers from the Faculty of Economics at Koszalin University of Technology dealing with rural development issues in Zachodniopomorskie voivodeship.

Key outputs of this MAP are the MAP Position Papers “A Vision for Rural Areas”, “Change in Production and Diversification of the Rural Economy”, “Land uses and climate change” and the MAP Fiche “Governance in Rural Areas”.



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ALMA MATER STUDIUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA



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