



SHERPA

Project Presentation

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@ruralinterfaces



What is SHERPA?

SHERPA – **Sustainable Hub to Engage into Rural Policies with Actors** – is a four-year project (2019-2023) with 17 partners, funded by the Horizon 2020 programme and coordinated by Ecorys.

The project's objective is to contribute to the **formulation of recommendations for future policies** relevant to EU rural areas.

Its approach is through a **science-society-policy interface** which provides a hub for knowledge and policy.

4 Guiding principles

Flexible programming

Impartiality & transparency

Diversity of EU rural territories & multi-level interactions

Co-construction



Multi-Actor Platforms as Science-Society-Policy interfaces

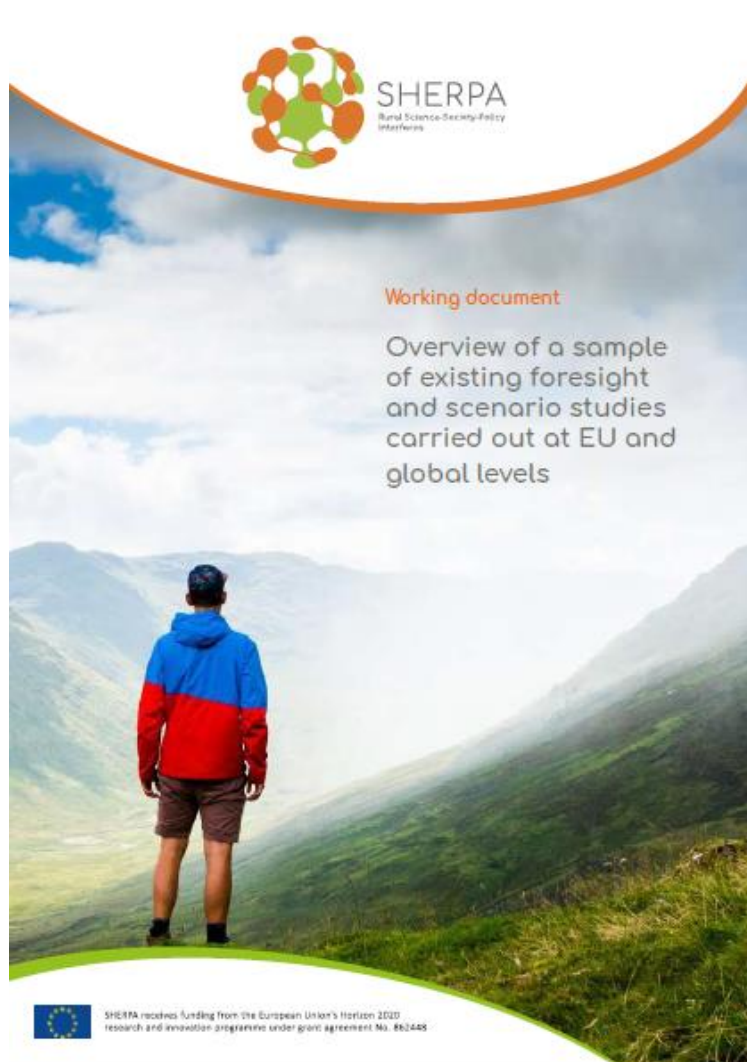


In SHERPA, Multi-Actor Platforms (MAPs) are the **rural interfaces** that provide a forum for two-way exchanges of ideas for **co-learning and co-creation of knowledge** with actors at European and regional levels.

- To engage representatives from civil society organisations, researchers and policy-makers
- To draw recommendations for developing modern rural policies
- To make concrete proposals for the future research agenda



Earlier foresight studies at EU and global level



- An overview of a sample of existing foresight and scenarios studies carried out at EU and global level which identify possible futures and scenarios for rural areas with a 2050 time horizon
- The studies were carried out between 2009 and 2019, **drawing on 17 scenarios from 10 projects** carried out between 2004 and 2019
- 5 projects funded by the EU (FP6 to H2020, and ESPON) and international organisations (OECD, World Economic Forum)
- Available on the [SHERPA website](#)



Salsa (H2020) scenarios



- Assessed the role of small farmers and small food businesses in regional food systems by 2050
- Structured around several drivers shaping more constraining or enabling environments for small operators, e.g. openness to international markets, concentration of value chains, legal requirements, consumers' food habits, ...
- The “Enabling” scenario combines limited concentration of value chains, low degree of openness to international markets and weak legal requirements – the most favourable for rural prosperity
- Even under less favourable conditions, role of small farmers and small food businesses in food security and beyond: landscape preservation, environmental services, support to rural community employment. Community and collective action.



Transmango (FP7) scenarios



- Assessed the impact of **global drivers on EU and global food production and consumption**
- **"The Price of Health"**: rural population increase, back to rural lives out of necessity, but also changing norms and values, improved connections and strong government policies on sustainability and self-reliance
- **"Retrotopia"**: shrinking, ageing and unhealthy population, high attention toward the environment fuelled by nostalgic notions of heritage and custodianship, especially in rural areas

Or examples from other EU projects

VOLANTE scenario framework: Willingness vs reluctance to change lifestyles, regionalized vs globalized world, weak vs strong public intervention

LEI Wageningen: game-changers



Key trends and drivers

1. Population ageing and migration
2. Global production shifts
3. Rise of emerging economies
4. Climate change and environmental pressures
5. Technological breakthroughs
6. Integrated rural policies
7. Taxation – changes in the tax base of local govt

These drivers and trends have informed the SHERPA Discussion Paper on the LTVRA



Relevant scenarios

Scenario	Project	Description
Enabling	SALSA	Thriving rural communities with high numbers of small farmers and small food business.
The price of health	TRANSMANGO	Europeans returning to rural lives, encouraged by improved communication technologies.
European Localism	VOLANTE	Agriculture is more regionalised and less specialised. Multifunctional landscapes as key elements.
Lettuce surprise u	LEI Wageningen	Environmental awareness grows, as does demand for sustainably produced food. Agriculture in core production regions becomes high-tech, clean and relatively small scale.
Clustered networks	LEI Wageningen	Migration away from polluted urban areas is encouraged. New medium-sized cities outside the main urban centre are created.
Local Sustainability	SoilCare	A large part of the agricultural sector transforming into a more boutique style of farming with a regional focus, and a reduction in food imports from across the world. Not everyone can afford the premium prices of high-quality food.
Caring and sharing	SoilCare	Widespread societal awareness that an urgent change in behaviour is needed. Strong, visionary leaders step up and propose drastic changes .

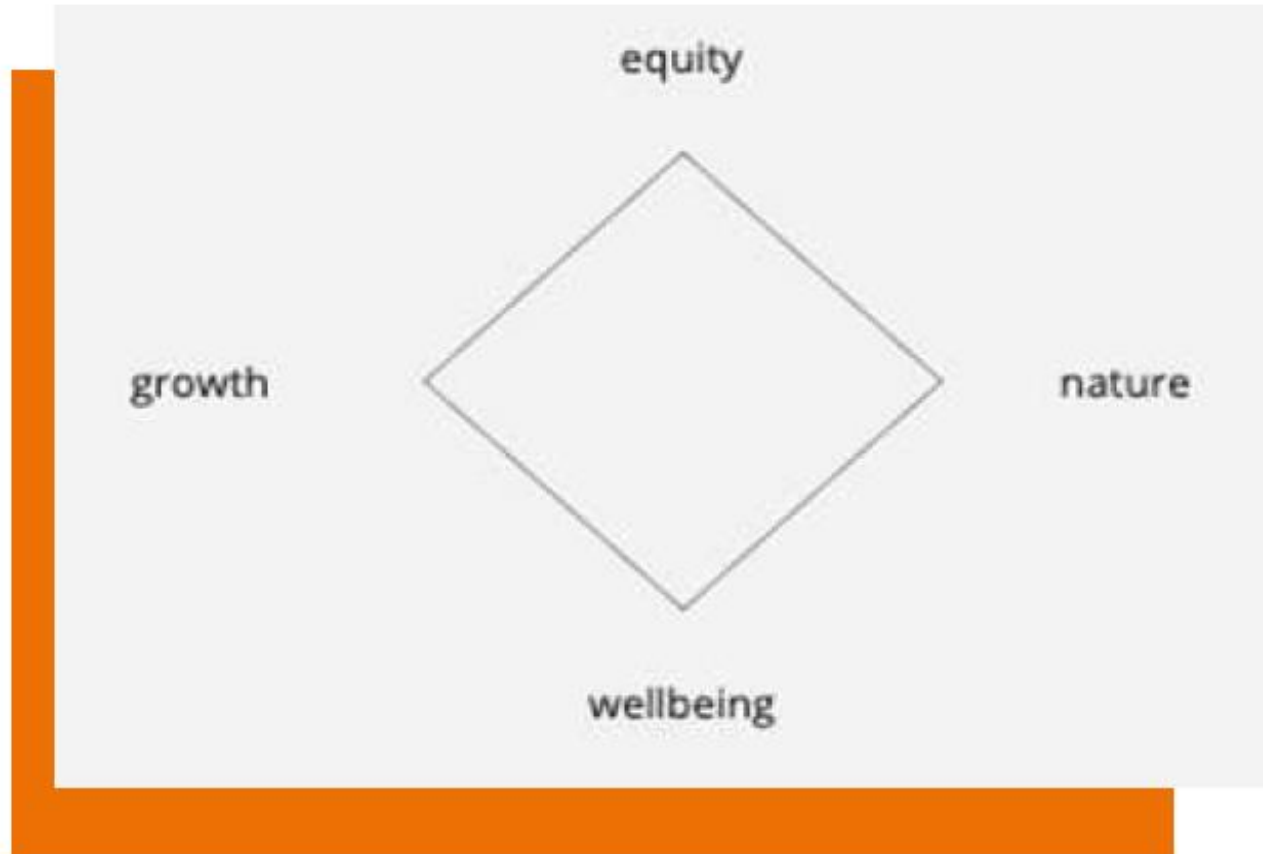
Citizens-consumers' awareness

State intervention

Diversification of rural economies



Key messages



Source: SHERPA, 2020

- **Rural areas are different and have different needs**
- **Rural-urban linkages** are critical for the future development of rural areas
- Rural diversity reflects **different opportunities and constraints**

Thank you

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