

The project ***Sustainable Hub to Engage into Rural Policies with Actors – SHERPA*** (<https://rural-interfaces.eu/>) is a coordination and support action funded by the EU's Horizon 2020 program, implemented during 4 years (2019-2023).

The project is implemented by a consortium of 17 partner organizations coordinated by the international research and consultancy company Ecorys from Belgium, under contract with the European Commission, within Grant Agreement 862448.

SHERPA aims to engage all stakeholders (members of the scientific community, society, and the policy sector) in formulating recommendations for future policies relevant to rural areas in the European Union. The project has three main objectives:

- Providing input for the design of future research policies, with a focus on preparing work programs within the Horizon Europe Program;
- Supporting the implementation of policies relevant to rural areas during the 2021-2027 programming period;
- Supporting the orientation of rural policy in the next programming period (after 2027).

The interaction between science, society, and policy will take place within 40 stakeholder platforms (MAPs) in 20 European countries, and within a platform at the EU level, between 2020 and 2023.

Territorial coverage of SHERPA multi-actor platforms



The SHERPA stakeholder platforms are forums where actors from science, policy, and society meet, exchange knowledge, and co-produce knowledge on rural topics. In this way, SHERPA supports the development of EU long-term vision for rural areas, Horizon 2040.

Each platform has designated Facilitator and Monitor. These people are members of the project consortium and are responsible for leading the MAP, facilitating interactions with platform members, and consolidating and aggregating territorial perspectives into proposals for rural revitalization in the long run.

In Romania, SHERPA is implemented by the Institute of Agricultural Economics, as a third party of the ERDN. The IEA team coordinates three territorial platforms that are representative of the country's socio-economic and territorial diversity.

