



EU CAP Network Brokerage event 'Accelerating the innovation process through Horizon Europe multi-actor projects'

Antwerp, Belgium
19-20 October 2023

SHERPA and GRANULAR

Giulia Martino
Ecorys, Belgium

SHERPA - Rural Science-Society-Policy Interfaces



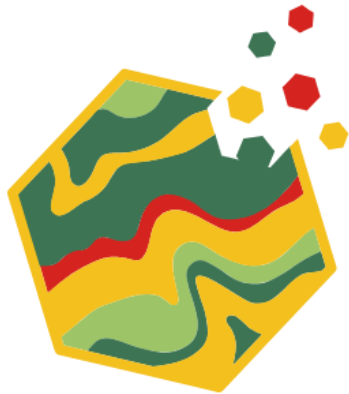
SHERPA and GRANULAR

Giulia Martino - Ecorys

17 October 2023

EU CAP Network Brokerage event

'Accelerating the innovation process through Horizon Europe multi-actor projects'



GRANULAR - Better knowledge for better rural policies



About SHERPA

- ***Sustainable Hub to Engage into Rural Policies with Actors (SHERPA)***
- Four-year project (2019-2023)
- Funded by the Horizon 2020 programme
- Coordinated by Ecorys, Belgium, in consortium with 17 partners
- SHERPA aims at gathering knowledge that contributes to the formulation of recommendations for future policies relevant to EU rural areas, by creating a science-society-policy interface which provides a hub for knowledge and policy.



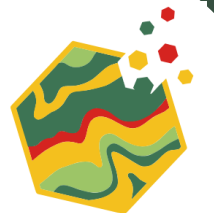
<https://rural-interfaces.eu/>

About GRANULAR

- ***Giving Rural Actors Novel Data and Re-Usable Tools to Lead Public Action in Rural Areas***
- Four-year project (2022-2026)
- Coordinated by IAMM Montpellier, France, in consortium with 23 partners (similar core group than SHERPA, with more technical partners)
- Co-funded by the Horizon Europe programme (UK participants in the GRANULAR project are supported by UKRI)
- GRANULAR aims at identifying, developing and providing novel data and reusable tools to understand the characteristics, dynamics and drivers of rural areas and hence supporting place and evidence-based policy making



<https://www.ruralgranular.eu/>





MAA to co-construct evidence

Both GRANULAR and SHERPA use **co-creation** and **participatory methods** in different territories across Europe to capture the diversity of rural situations from a local perspective

SHERPA

41 MULTI-ACTOR PLATFORMS (also called MAPs or “interfaces”):

- To co-construct recommendations for future rural policies and research agendas at European and regional levels

1 EU-level PLATFORM

- To work on ready-to-be-used knowledge drawn from MAP position papers, supporting the formulation of key policy recommendations



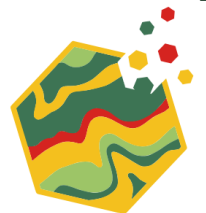
GRANULAR

7 LIVING LABS

- To co-create policy-relevant indicators
- To test and validate the tools and data produced
- To collect data based on the data collection method designed in the project

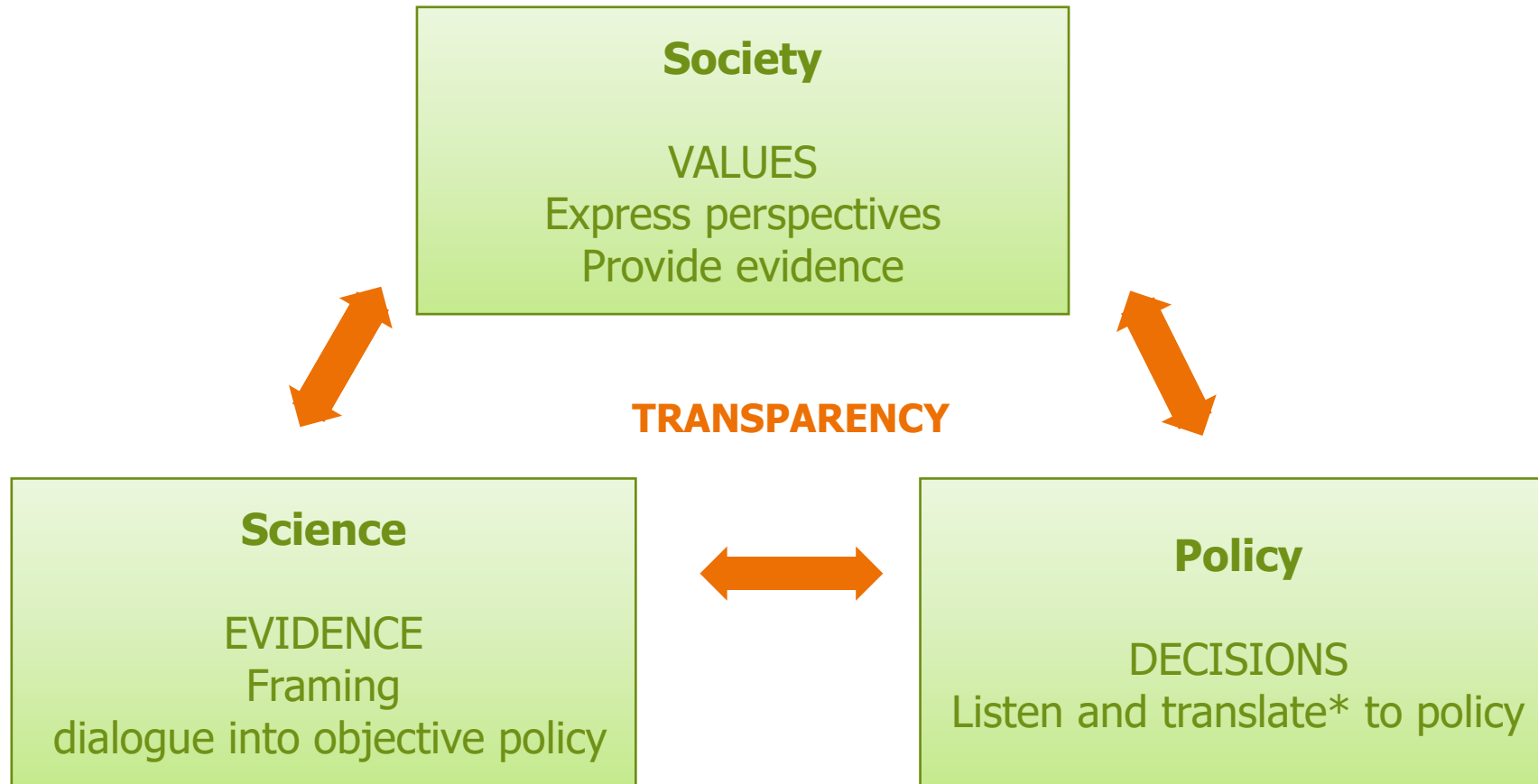
9 REPLICATION LABS

- to assess how to replicate the tools and methods in other rural contexts

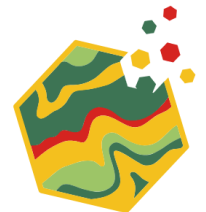




Archetype of Science Society Policy interfaces used in SHERPA and GRANULAR



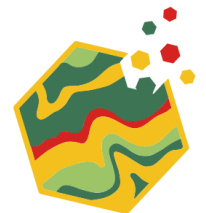
*Not always possible as policy cycles are not aligned with project timelines





Creating a consortium fulfilling the requirements of MAA

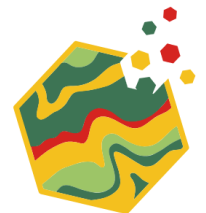
- Rely on pre-existing collaborations and successes → *GRANULAR consortium largely builds on SHERPA experience and connections*
- Involve partners that are themselves already representing networks
- Involve living labs/ platforms as partners in the consortium and provide them with a dedicated budget (i.e. to cover over-heads etc) → *it empowers the "life" of the multi-actor platforms!*





Implementing the MAA in practice: Challenges

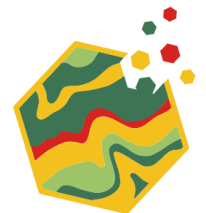
- Managing expectations on what research can and will achieve (especially valid for actors at local level that might not be aware of steps of research process, methods, etc).
- Balancing out different degrees of availability and involvements of certain categories (e.g. civil servants, farmers) → *bias in the constructions of the platform in terms of representativeness!*
- Dealing with controversial topics: *how and when to find consensus across different actors?*
- Thinking ahead: *how to ensure sustainability of the platforms after the project?*





Implementing the MAA in practice: Opportunities

- By increasing transparency, MAA applied to rural policy can foster the involvement and contribution of different actors to the policy making process
- Creating momentum for rural areas: putting the needs and challenges of rural areas back in the local policy agenda
- MMA stimulate a wider collaboration and exchange “spirit”, including across different regions and territories facing different challenges (experience from SHERPA)
- Having a science-based approach framing the MAA is particularly helpful (e.g. the SHERPA process based on research-based discussion paper)
- Science-based activities performed by local actors involved in MAA also has ripple positive effects for the actors in terms of capacity building





SHERPA receives funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 862448.

SHERPA - Rural Science-Society-Policy Interfaces



www.rural-interfaces.eu

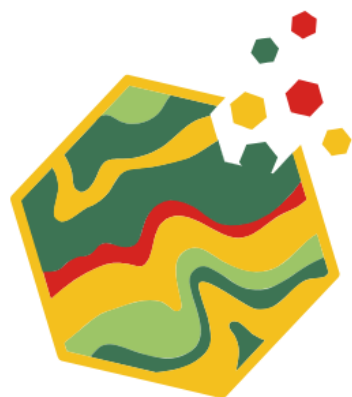


[@ruralinterfaces](https://www.facebook.com/ruralinterfaces)



[@ruralinterfaces](https://twitter.com/ruralinterfaces)

Thank you!



GRANULAR - Better knowledge for better rural policies



GRANULAR has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe Research and Innovation Programme under Grant Agreement No.101061068.



[@ruralgranular](https://www.facebook.com/ruralgranular)



[@ruralgranular](https://www.linkedin.com/company/ruralgranular)



[@ruralgranular](https://twitter.com/ruralgranular)



www.ruralgranular.eu

EU CAP Network Brokerage event ‘Accelerating the innovation process through Horizon Europe multi-actor projects’

19-20 October 2023
Antwerp, Belgium

All information on the brokerage event is available on the event webpage:

https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/events/eu-cap-network-brokerage-event-accelerating-innovation-process-through-horizon-europe_en

