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## SHERPA Final Conference

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Register now so you don't miss the SHERPA Final Conference! The event will take place on 1-2 June at the European Committee of the Regions in Brussels, Belgium.

[Read more](#)



## SHERPA NEWS

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## areas

Across Europe, rural areas have great potential to become a home for empowered and vibrant local communities. SHERPA developed its recommendations to tackle ongoing issues and trigger rural revitalisation in its Position Paper on “Social Dimension of rural areas”.

[Check it out!](#)



## SHERPA Position Paper on rural digitalisation is out!

The SHERPA project just published its Position Paper “Digitalisation in rural areas”, with recommendations and good practices to enhance digital skills, digital education and digital access in rural areas. This document follows up the SHERPA Discussion Paper on digitalisation (2022) and it builds on the discussions of the SHERPA MAPs’ as well as the 3<sup>rd</sup> SHERPA Annual Conference.

[Learn more](#)



## Co-creating rural futures: read SHERPA conference report!

In 2023, SHERPA third Annual Conference and the first in-person after the COVID pandemic, looked back at the achievements reached over the past year. The conference covered the four key topics discussed by the 41 SHERPA MAPs in 2022, including rural digitalisation, climate change and land use, resilient and sustainable value chains, and social issues in rural areas.

[Learn more](#)



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Few months ago, Nordregio – partner of the SHERPA project- had published the SHERPA Discussion Paper on “Empowering rural areas in multi-level governance”. This Discussion Paper has been used to trigger the discussion within SHERPA MAPs on the topic of multi-level governance. Reflections and highlights as these discussions have been presented during the SHERPA Cluster Meeting of Governance.

[Check it out!](#)

## Rural policy framework post-2020

A new report has been published by two of our SHERPA partners, the Institute for European Environmental Policy and the CIHEAM Montpellier, on the post-2020 policy framework impacting rural areas. The report illustrates current overarching political strategies and the policies within them that impact EU rural areas. the Long-Term Vision for Rural Areas and the European Green Deal, including its Farm to Fork and Biodiversity Strategies.

[Check it out!](#)



## MAPS IN FOCUS





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Based on the experience accumulated in supporting the SHERPA MAPs, Laura Barros Matrán, student at the Polytechnic University of Madrid, conducted a study in Castilla-León (Spain) on the quality of life in this rural region. In this blog post, she presents the main outputs of her study and suggests some policy recommendations.

[Read more](#)

In this blog post, Marie Trantinová reports the experience of SHERPA MAP VENUS. Situated in Czechia, this MAP mainly worked on the topic of climate mitigation from the angle of creating and supporting new energy communities in rural areas.

[Read more](#)

## EUROPEAN NEWS

### EU Startup Village to revitalise the rural economy

On 28<sup>th</sup> February, the Joint Research Research jointly with the European Commission has organised the 2023 edition of the European Startup Village Forum. Launched in 2021, the European Startup Village Forum is a flagship initiative of the European Commission and it aims to drive startup-driven innovation in rural areas.

[Learn more](#)

### Targets & tools for a Smart rural Europe

On 15<sup>th</sup> March, the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) voted the Opinion on "Targets and Tools for a Smart Rural Europe". This Opinion was presented by CoR's rapporteur on the Long-Term Vision, Radim Srsen, who is also Mayor of the Municipality of Dolní Studénky in Czech Republic and supporter of SHERPA Final Conference.

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## opportunities in rural Europe?

The Silver Economy refers to the economic opportunities that arise from expenditure related to population ageing. Population ageing can pose many challenges, but it can also create opportunities for enterprises. Find out more on the opportunities unlocked by the silver economy in rural areas based on the findings of the Interreg Europe SILVER SMEs project.



[Read more](#)

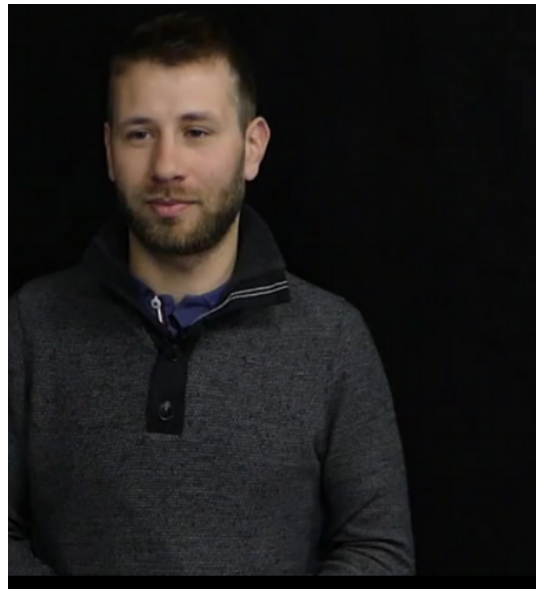
## OTHER H2020 PROJECTS



### MOVING briefing on natural protected areas

The conservation of mountain areas is a key factor for sustainable development, but what are its implications on mountain value chains?

MOVING published a study on the implications on natural protected areas on the mountain value chains covered by its activities.



### GRANULAR: a 2-minute video to discover how it addresses the needs of rural areas

GRANULAR's motto and reason to exist is "better knowledge for better rural policies". In a video of less than 2 minutes, Tristan Berchoux- GRANULAR Coordinator points out the three main objectives for our project to be a fundamental milestone to accelerate sustainable development in rural areas.

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## RUSTIK: first report on rural functional areas

RUSTIK published its first report! In this report, it defines the concept of Functional Rural Area as well as the differences and similarities with the current definitions of rural areas at the European level (including EU and non-EU countries).

[Find more](#)



## DESIRA & RURALIZATION organised their final conferences

The DESIRA and RURALIZATION projects are both ending soon. Their final conferences took place in April 2023. Find out more on their outputs in their respective websites.

[Find more](#)

## EVENTS

2-7 May 2023

Sweden

Swedish Rural Week

3-4 May 2023

Sweden

Rural Pact Conference- Sharing experiences and learning for the future

31 May-1 June 2023

Brussels, Belgium

EU Agricultural Research and Innovation Conference

1-2 June 2023

Brussels, Belgium

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Brussels, Belgium

20-22 June 2023

Brussels, Belgium

## EU Sustainable Energy Week

26-29 June 2023

Groningen, Netherlands

## 3rd European Rural Geographies Conference

28 June-3 July 2023

Romania

## Smart Village Forum

3-7 July 2023

Rennes, France

## European Society for Rural Sociology Congress: Crises & future of rural areas

9-12 Oct. 2023

Brussels, Belgium

## European Week of Regions and Cities



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