

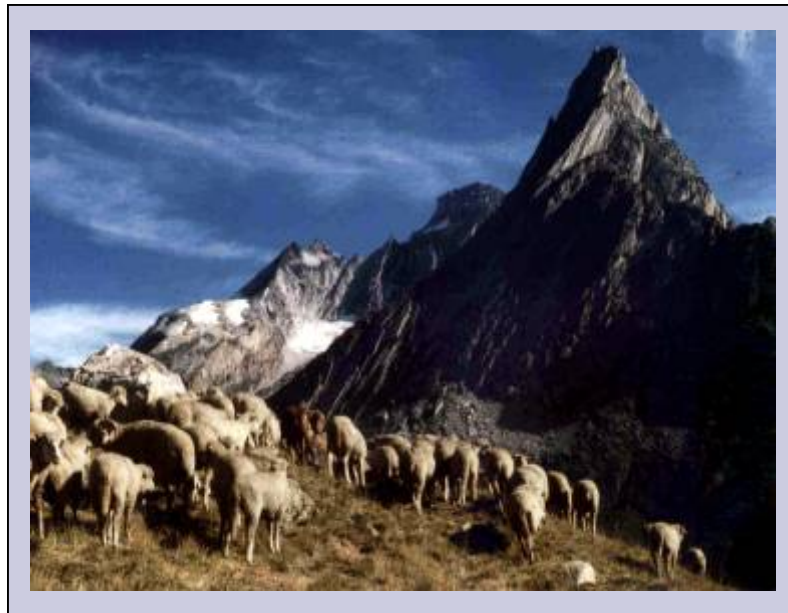


ACTIVITY REPORT

EUROMONTANA

2008

DRAFT



DATE: 06 SEPTEMBER 2008

This report is a synthesis of the activities of Euromontana during the year 2008 produced for the Euromontana General Assembly in 2008. Detailed information on each project or event described is available from the secretariat or on the web site www.euromontana.org.

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2. THE PROJECTS

2.1. EuroMARC– Mountain food products in Europe, their consumers, retailers and local initiatives

The main objective of the EuroMARC project is to assess the perception for and interest of European consumers and retailers of mountain food products, in order to find ways of adding value to these products.

The 3 years project started on 1.2.2007. In 2007, the main activities were the development of the literature framework and of the methodology of the research. In 2008, surveys have been done in the 6 countries studied (France, Scotland, Norway, Romania, Slovenia, Austria) to collect data from consumers, and retailers. In addition to that, the teams have carried out shelves survey in shops and studied at least two case study products per country (with interviews at different processing stages) and two local initiative (LEADER-like). Interviews have also been carried out on the policy development stage.

Meetings of the project:

- Working meeting with the ICDM team the 15.5.2008 in Sibiu, Romania (M. Guitton)
- Meeting 4, the 9-10.06.2008 in Edinburgh, Scotland, hosted by SAC (M. Guitton)
- Meeting 5, the 6-7.11.2008 in Brussels, Belgium, organised by Euromontana – public meeting on the 6th (hosted by the Brussels' office of the region Languedoc-Roussillon).

A specific page about the project was opened on the website: www.mountainproducts-europe.org

2.2. Project on supporting development and attractiveness of rural areas

In the framework of the call for tender launched by the French Ministry of Agriculture on development and attractiveness of rural areas, in connection with the “law on the development of rural areas”, Euromontana presented in 2006 a 3-year project that focuses on the exchanges of experience. Every year a specific, separate theme is studied and the annual funding is subject to the validation of the work program proposed by Euromontana at the beginning of the year.

Project 2007: Challenges of Pastoralism

The final report of the 2007 project has been approved by the French Ministry of Agriculture and translated into English.

The French and English version of the report are available on Euromontana's website.

Project 2008: collective initiatives as a tool for local development

Euromontana proposed to work in 2008 on collective initiatives in the field of tourism, culture and heritage. The initiatives can gather public and private persons (physical or moral).

Two sub-themes were identified with the ministry of agriculture:

1. initiatives aiming to find alternative to snow tourism and to prolong tourist season beyond winter and summer season

2. the role of national and regional park in enhancing initiatives in the field of tourism.

Meeting of the project:

- first meeting with the Ministry of Agriculture (Jack Plaisir and Max Barbier) and Pierre Savy, FNSEA, Paris, 23.6.2008 (Marie Guitton)

2.3. Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development– Mountain Policy Project (SARD-M)

In an Adelboden Group bureau meeting in Rome in March 2008 the bureau decided to launch a programme for funding **pilot projects for payment for environmental services / positive externalities for mountain communities and environments** using PIP (policies, institutions and processes).

The Adelboden group wants to support pilot projects that would allow studying, developing and learning from systems of payments for environmental services or positive externalities. The case studies could also concern commercialization through tourism or mountain products for example, as long there would be some innovative elements and some tangible benefit / payments going to the local communities.

Euromontana will be supporting the development of the pilot programme and participating in the identification and elaboration of pilot projects in eligible European countries.

Discussions are still undergoing regarding details but the work would most likely be organised in two phases. In the first phase (2008-2009), we would look at methodologies for valuing positive externalities in terms of feasibility, accuracy and policy relevance, and above all at the manifestation of the methodologies in the mountain context in relation to agriculture, possibly including cultural products, applied to concrete case/s. The approach should not be academic, but rather very concrete and practical and, most of all, policy relevant. The question would be: what are the methodologies that are producing results and convincing policy-makers? Euromontana, as a focal point for Europe, would focus mainly on European cases.

This work would serve the second phase conducted from 2010 onwards consisting on implementing concrete pilot projects on positive externalities.

2.4. Development of new projects within Euromontana

DG Agri Information actions 2008

Euromontana has applied in Autumn 2007 for funding from the DG Agriculture information actions 2008 for a potential conference on: “Europe’s mountain bonus – how communities and land management provide positive externalities for European society, and the related policies and opportunities”, Basque Country, Spain, March 2009. Unfortunately, the submission has been rejected in May 2008.

Interreg IVC

1. Mountain Transhumance

Euromontana was approached by the Oppland Region to develop an Interreg project on Pastoralism and Transhumance. Given the work already in progress under the project with the French Ministry of Agriculture, and the importance of the future of this activity for mountain areas, Euromontana

considered it relevant to work on this proposal.

The overall objective of the project was to strengthen the capacity and capability of sustainable economic development of rural communities where transhumance is still taking place in an active form and encourage the upholding of the transhumance and mountain pastoralism system and practice with all its added values.

The project was submitted for the call for projects on 15.1.2008.

Unfortunately the project was rejected based on a formality, but the partnership aims to revise and resubmit it to the second Interreg IVC call in the autumn of 2008 (applications to be submitted on 30.1.2009 at the latest).

2. Territories attractiveness (Teruel)

Euromontana and the association Habitate from Teruel Province, have proposed to develop an Interreg project targeting strategies that help to reinforce attractiveness of mountain territories. The activities would concern initiatives aiming at facilitating the setting-up and integration of new inhabitants (access to the labour market and to accommodation, improvement of public services, promotion of rural habitat and easier transport ...), strategies of territorial marketing and collective initiatives regarding tourism, culture and heritage.

The project is under construction and will be presented in the call that should be submitted in fall 2008.

3. Euromountains.lag

ADRAT circulated a proposal aiming at building a network between local action groups (LAG). This project would be in the continuity of euromountains.net. It will have as an objective to exchange good practices on methodologies for rural development, to write a manual for good practices, to organise technicians exchanges between organisations and to set-up a european network of mountain LAGs.

The proposal would also be submitted to the 2008 call.

ESPON Priority 2 project proposals

Euromontana participated as a stakeholder to an ESPON Priority 2 project application entitled “**Identifying future potentials in European mountain areas - towards a more refined mountain typology**” promoted by the Federal Office for Spatial Development ARE from Switzerland. Unfortunately the project was rejected based on a formality, but the partnership aims to promote it for ESPON Priority 1 or resubmit it for the next Priority 2 call.

Euromontana also participated as a stakeholder to another Priority 2 application entitled “**Territorial Diversity**” with the Norwegian Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development as a lead applicant. The results concerning this application are not yet available.

3. MEETINGS, SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES OF EUROMONTANA

3.1. 6th European Mountain Convention - How to generate added value from Europe's mountains? 8-10 October 2008, Switzerland, Canton of Valais, city of Brig

Euromontana, in cooperation with the Swiss Centre for mountain regions (SAB) is organising the VI European Mountain Convention in the city of Brig. In the year 2008, Brig is Alpine city of the year, which provides an ideal background for the Mountain Convention.

This Convention aims to discuss how to generate added value within Europe's mountain areas and the sessions will be treating specifically new European policies in mountain areas, the right political framework for mountains and their way to competitiveness and innovation, transformation of the industrial sector in mountains and mountain economy, developing entrepreneurship in mountain areas as well as ways of adaptation to climate change.

The Convention is combined with another international event in Brig, organised by the "Fondation pour le développement durable des regions de montagne", held on October 6 to 10, which creates one big international week of the mountains. The field trips are therefore combined between the two events. The Mountain Convention is made possible through the support from the Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture, the Canton of Wallis and the city of Brig as well as numerous other sponsors

3.2. European information seminars to the members

Round Table Discussion on the implications of the Territorial Cohesion Green paper for mountain and similar areas, 19th February 2008

Euromontana organised on the 19th February in its premises a half-day discussion on the implications of the Territorial Cohesion Green paper for mountain and similar areas. The event attended by around 50 Euromontana members and cooperation partners aimed to prepare the Euromontana contribution to the Territorial Cohesion Green Paper, due to be released by the European Commission in September 2008. Euromontana had invited a panel of experts consisting of European Commission representatives Patrick Salez, the author of the Green Paper from the DG Regio and Jean-Michel Courades from DG Agri, Jean-Didier Hache from the CPMR Islands Commission, Nicolas Evrard from AEM, Seppo Heikkilä from the Nordic Sparsely Populated Areas and Arve Skjerpen from the Norwegian Ministry of Regional and Local Development to discuss the issue, led by Frank Gaskell, the President of Euromontana and Thomas Dax from the Austrian Federal Institute of Less Favoured and Mountain Areas who is preparing the Euromontana contribution.

Active Marketing solutions to the depopulation problem on depopulated mountain areas, 29th May 2008

Euromontana in cooperation with the Arc Latin network and the Deputation of Teruel, Spain organised a seminar, the main goal of which was to exchange active marketing solutions to fight against depopulation in mountain areas. The goal was successfully achieved through the analysis of different marketing strategies to maintain in and attract new population in the territories. Case studies

from Teruel, Spain were analysed along with cases from the Highlands in the UK, Oppland Norway and Massif Central in France. The DG Employment and DG Regio from the European Commission gave an important contribution exposing their points of view and ideas on the issue.

A short summary is available in the August newsletter and the presentations are available in the members only area section of the website.

The Future of the European Mountain Agriculture, 26th June 2008

A seminar organised by Euromontana in cooperation with Departamento de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación del Gobierno Vasco and Gune6 (Basque grouping of organisations around agriculture, fisheries, food products and rural development) allowed Euromontana members to discuss the current ongoing evolutions of the CAP (Health check and evolution of the LFAs) and to gather their views on the position to take on this subject. The presentations of the points of view of diverse national and European organisms and case studies from different countries were followed by exchanges with the participants. The remarks gathered allowed Euromontana on the future of the CAP and agriculture in mountain areas.

A short summary is available in the August newsletter

4. POLICY MONITORING AND POSITIONS

4.1. Reply to the European Commission Consultation on the CAP Health Check

Euromontana submitted a reply to the EU consultation on the CAP Health Check on 15.01.2008.

Consultation reply is available at the Euromontana website

4.2. Reply to the European Commission Cohesion Consultation

Euromontana submitted a reply to the Cohesion Consultation of the European Commission on 27.1.2008.

Consultation reply is available at the Euromontana website.

4.3. Euromontana contribution to the Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion

After discussions with the European Commission officials responsible for the issue, Euromontana decided to prepare a contribution for the Green paper on Territorial Cohesion before the European Commission finalized its own internal draft.

Euromontana contacted Thomas Dax from the federal Institute for Less-Favored and Mountainous Areas to cooperate on the issue. Members and other stakeholders were involved in the process through a half-day seminar organized in Brussels (See section 3.2.) before starting to draft the contribution.

The final resulting report was sent to the relevant stakeholders and Commission officials in charge of drafting the Green Paper on the 1st May 2008.

The document is available at the Euromontana website.

4.4. Ovine and caprine report of the European Parliament

Euromontana sent its comments on the conclusions of the ovine and caprine report of the European Parliament on the 22.2.2008.

4.5. LFA Consultation of the European Commission

Euromontana submitted a reply to the EU consultation on 30.06.2008.

Consultation reply is available at the Euromontana website.

4.6. Euromontana position paper on the future of the CAP in mountain areas

Following the consultation of the European Commission on the Health Check that closed in January 2008, IKT and the Basque ministry of agriculture, in collaboration with Euromontana, took the initiative of setting up a Euromontana position paper on the future of the CAP and of agriculture in mountain areas. The document was further developed thanks to the results of a seminar in Brussels on the future of mountain agriculture (see 3.2).

The final version is available at the Euromontana website.

4.7. Comments to the draft European Parliament report on the situation for hill and mountain farming by Michl Ebner

Comments on the draft were sent to Michl Ebner on the 10.6.2008.

5. EXTERNAL NETWORK: NEW PARTNERSHIPS, REPRESENTATION, PARTICIPATION

5.1. European Commission DG Agriculture Advisory Group on “Rural Development”

Frank Gaskell and Marie Guitton participated in the meeting of the DG Agriculture Advisory Group on rural development on 3.4.2008 in Brussels.

Reminder: Euromontana became a member of the Advisory group on Rural Development for the Directorate General for Agriculture on 23 April 2004. This designation allows Euromontana to have one seat as member and one seat as observer in each meeting of the group. The advisory group comprises of European agriculture organisations, NGOs and professional organisations involved in rural development.

5.2 Coordination committee of the European rural development network

Euromontana has been chosen as one of the twelve European NGOs designated to take part in the coordination committee of the European network for rural development that will be set-up from autumn 2008.

5.3. Member of the Interim Board of the Adelboden Group and European focal point for the SARD-M project of FAO

Following an international conference on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in Mountain Regions (Adelboden, Switzerland, June 2002), the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development (September 2002), FAO prepared a multi-donor project to promote policies that promote sustainable agriculture and rural development in mountain regions (SARD-M). Euromontana is the regional focal point for Europe of the SARD-M project.



Kristiina Urpalainen participated in the meeting of the SARD-M Focal Points in Rome 3-5 March 2008.

See section 3.5. for further information on activities under the SARDM project.

5.4. Alpine Convention

Euromontana is an observer at the Alpine Convention.

5.5. International Partnership for the Sustainable Development of Mountain Regions

Euromontana is a member of the International Mountain Partnership created at the initiative of FAO in the end of the International Year of the Mountains in 2002. It is a voluntary alliance of partners dedicated to improving the lives of mountain people and protecting mountain environments around the world.

5.6. European Mountain Forum

Kristiina Urpalainen participated in the board meeting of the EMF in Chambéry, France on the 15th of January. Kristiina Urpalainen is the treasurer of the association, newly launched in 2007.

5.7 The United Nations Committee on Non-Governmental Organisations

The United Nations Committee on Non-Governmental Organisations has granted Euromontana a special consultative status of the United Nations Economic and Social Committee.

Special consultative status is granted to NGOs which have a special competence in, and are concerned specifically with, only a few of the fields of activity covered by the ECOSOC. Non-governmental organizations with a special consultative status, that express their wish to attend the relevant international conferences convened by the United Nations and the meetings of the preparatory bodies of the said conferences shall as a rule be accredited for participation.

For more information see <http://www.un.org/esa/coordination/ngo/>

5.8. Group 158

Euromontana has joined forces with Association Européenne des Elus de Montagne (AEM), European Small Islands Federation, “Islands Commission” of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR), Network of the Insular Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the European Union (INSULEUR) and Northern Sparsely Populated Areas (NSPA) to form a “Group 158”.

The name of the group refers to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union Article 158 that stresses that certain categories of regions will require “particular attention”; amongst which those which “suffer from severe and permanent natural or demographic handicaps”. The northernmost regions with very low population density, the islands, and the mountain regions are explicitly mentioned. The “Group 158” umbrella organization will function at a unanimity principle to defend the “real” territorial cohesion principle and foresees to issue political statements, press declarations or documents, organise common events, send joint delegations and pool their political resources when needed.

5.9. Individual meetings and new contacts

Francis Fay, Deputy Head of Unit Agricultural products quality policy, Brussels, 30.1.2008
Frank Gaskell and Marie Guitton

County of East Agder, Norway, Brussels, 27.3.2008
Kristiina Urpalainen

Meeting with the member of the Parliament Pierre Morel à l'Huissier, Paris, France, 9.4.2008
Marie Guitton and Thierry Percie du Sert

Kjell Vaagen, Hedmark County Council, Brussels, 17.4.2008
Kristiina Urpalainen

Francis Fay, Brussels, 20.5.2008
Frank Gaskell, Marie Guitton, Elena DiBella and Olivier Beucherie

Meeting with the new HIE Director Alex Patterson, Brussels, 28.5.2008
Frank Gaskell and Kristiina Urpalainen

Meeting with Asylbek A. Aidaraliev, Special representative of President of Kyrgyz Republic for Sustainable Development, Brussels, 3.6.2008
Kristiina Urpalainen

Meeting with Christina Stadlbauer, Brussels representative of CIPRA international, Brussels, 2.6.2008
Marie Guitton

5.10 Interventions

Norwegian Mountain Cooperation meeting, Flåm, Norway, 12.3.2008
Kristiina Urpalainen

LFA meeting Brussels, 14.3.2008
Frank Gaskell, Marie Guitton, Sylvain Marmier (FNSEA, FR), Eider Arrieta (IKT, ES), Petr Krogman (Union of Marginal Areas, CZ)

General Assembly of the CPMR Islands Commission, Palma, Spain, 10.4.2008
Frank Gaskell

Seminar "Promotion of seasonal migration of livestock", UPA, Avila, Spain, 27.5.2008
Marie Guitton

5.11. Other participation in meetings

Dairy Sector CAP Health Check Consultation Meeting, DG Agri, European Commission, Brussels 11.1.2008
Jean-Louis Cazaubon and Marie Guitton

CPMR Future of Regional Policy seminar, Sevilla, Spain, 18.1.2008
Frank Gaskell

ESPON Launching event, Brussels, 21.1.2008
Frank Gaskell and Kristiina Urpalainen

Salon d'Agriculture, Paris, France, 27.2.2008
Marie Guitton

CPMR seminar on the CAP, Brussels, 25.3.2008
Marie Guitton

Conference on the Future of Cohesion Policy, Maribor, Slovenia, 7-8.4.2008
Frank Gaskell

Hearing on Territorial Cohesion, Brussels, 15.4.2008
Frank Gaskell and Kristiina Urpalainen

Natura 2000 – an opportunity for or an obstacle to development, European Parliament and the Committee of the Regions, Brussels, 16.4.2008
Ana Cardoso

Evaluation of first draft of mountain assessment report, European Environment Agency, Copenhagen, Denmark, 29.4.2008
Kristiina Urpalainen

Final Conference of the Top-Mard project, Brussels, 7.5.2008
Marie Guitton

COFAMI-project final conference, Brussels, 8.5.2008
Marie Guitton

Advisory Group on Quality of Agricultural Production, Brussels, 13.5.2008
Marie Guitton

Directors General Meeting on territorial Cohesion, Slovenia, 14.5.2008
Frank Gaskell

Sustainable Agriculture and Soil Conservation (SoCo) Project, Brussels, 22.5.2008
Patricia Bruneau and Drew Ratter

Conference on the theme: "A Transatlantic Dialogue on Agriculture and Rural Development", Brussels, 8.7.2008
Ilias Papageorgiou

6. MEMBERS OF EUROMONTANA 2008

BULGARIA	BULMONTANA
CYPRUS	Panormos Research Institute
CZECH REPUBLIC	Svaz Marginalnich Oblasti (Union of Marginal Areas)
CZECH REPUBLIC	South Bohemian University, Ceské Budejovice, Czech Republic
FRANCE	L'APAMAC—Association pour la Promotion de l'Artisanat du Massif Central
FRANCE	APCA - Permanent Conference of the Agricultural Chambers
FRANCE	ARPE - Agence régionale pour l'Environnement Midi-Pyrénées
FRANCE	COPAMAC-SIDAM Massif Central Interdepartmental Service for agricultural and rural development
FRANCE	Rhone Alpes Regional Council
FRANCE	ENITA Clermont-Ferrand - Agricultural and Food Institute
FRANCE	FNSEA - National Farmers Union
FRANCE	ISARA-Lyon - Agricultural Institute of Rhone Alpes
FRANCE	SIME Languedoc Roussillon - Interdepartmental service for agricultural and rural development
FRANCE	SUACI Montagne Alpes du Nord -Interdepartmental service for agricultural and rural development
FRANCE	SUAIA Pyrénées -Interdepartmental service for agricultural and rural development
FRANCE	Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie des Vosges
FRANCE	Conseil Général du Gard
FRANCE	UCCIMAC
FRANCE	CNIEL- Centre National Interprofessionnel de l'Economie Laitière
GEORGIA	Georgian Mountain Federation
GREECE	Technological Education Institute of Kavala, Dep of Forestry and Natural Environment Management at Drama
INTERNATIONAL	OEFM - European Observatory of Mountain Forests
ITALY	Provincia di Belluno
ITALY	Provincia dell'Aquila
ITALY	Confederazione Italiana Agricoltori - Italian Farmers' Union
ITALY	Federbim - Federazione Nazionale dei Consorzi di Bacino Imbrifero Montana
ITALY	IREALP - Reserach Institute on Ecology and Economy Applied to Alpine Area
ITALY	Province Autonome de Trento
ITALY	Provincia di Torino
ITALY	Sudtiroler Bauernbund
MACEDONIA	MAKMONTANA - Association for the development of mountain regions
NORWAY	Buskerud County Council
NORWAY	Board of Mountain Regions
NORWAY	Sogn og Fjordane County Council
NORWAY	Telemark County Council
NORWAY	Oppland County Council
NORWAY	Hedmark County Council
POLAND	Polish association for mountain development
POLAND	Karpacki Instytut Rozwoju Regionalnego
PORTUGAL	AJAP, Association des Jeunes Agriculteurs du Portugal
PORTUGAL	Associação de Desenvolvimento do Pinhal Interior Sul - Regional Development Agency
PORTUGAL	ADRAT - Agence de développement de l'Alto Tamega
PORTUGAL	Centro de Investigação de Montanha (CIMO)
ROMANIA	ROMONTANA
ROMANIA	ADJMM Mountain Association of the Region of Mures
ROMANIA	CEFIDEC - Training and Innovation Centre for the Development of the Carpathians
ROMANIA	FAMD Dorna - Farmers Federation of the Mountain Vatra Dornei
ROMANIA	CEDER - Mountain Reserach Institute

ROMANIA	Agri-tourism association Montana Borsec
ROMANIA	Asociatia AGROMRO – Centre de Formation en Agriculture
ROMANIA	Fundatia Adept Transilvania
SLOVAKIA	ZPD - Federation of Agricultural Cooperatives of Slovakia
SLOVENIA	Ministry of Agriculture
SLOVENIA	University of Maribor, Faculty of Agriculture
SLOVENIA	Centaure Slovenia
SPAIN	Basque Government
SPAIN	Junta de Andalucia
SPAIN	Consejeria de Agricultura y Pesca - Principado de Asturias
SPAIN	Asociación Pais Romanico - Coordinator Group "Mover Montañas"
SPAIN	Habitata, Asociación de Entidade por la Poblacion de Teruel
SWEDEN	Kommunförbundet Västerbotten
SWITZERLAND	Conseil d'Etat du Canton du Valais, Service de l'Agriculture
SWITZERLAND	Groupement suisse pour les régions de montagnes (SAB)
SWITZERLAND	Federal Office for Agriculture (Observer)
UK	Argyll and Bute Council
UK	Highlands & Islands Enterprise
UK	International Center for the Uplands in Cumbria
UK	Scottish Natural Heritage
UK	The Crofters Commission
UK	The Forestry Commission
UK	The Highland Council
UK	UHI Millennium Institute



Euromontana is the European multisectoral association for co-operation and development of mountain territories. It embraces regional and national mountain organizations throughout greater Europe, including regional development agencies, local authorities, agriculture organizations, environmental agencies, forestry organizations and research institutes.

Euromontana's mission is to promote living mountains, integrated and sustainable development and quality of life in mountain areas.

In order to achieve this, Euromontana facilitates the exchange of information and experience among these areas by organizing seminars and major conferences, by conducting and collaborating in studies, by developing, managing and participating in European projects and by working with the European institutions on mountain issues.



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