Education in mountain areas: what correspondence between youth expectations, available offer and local needs?

Results from PADIMA project
Ancuța PAȘCA, EUROMONTANA
Policies against depopulation in mountain areas

8 Mountain partners

- Teruel: LP
- 5 county/regional councils
- Union of chambers of commerce and industry
- One regional development agency
- A European Coordinator
- Budget: 1,4 M€
3 key levers to improve attractiveness and fight depopulation

- Education and training possibilities
- Human and social capital
- A good territorial image
- A diverse and lively economy

Policies against depopulation in mountain areas

European Mountain Convention - Chambéry - 2012
Activities & outputs

- Surveys
- Exchange of good practices
- Capitalisation
- Inter-regional training sessions
- Data
  SWOT analysis
- Good practices sheets
- Analysis of transferability
  Interrelations
- GP & policy
  recommendations
  Guide
- Action plan for integration of GP

Policies against depopulation in mountain areas

European Mountain Convention - 2012
Key findings from surveys with young people -1-

Accessibility of education facilities

Table: average travelling time to nearest education institution

- Upper Secondary School
- University
Key findings from surveys with young people -1-
Key finds from surveys with young people -2-

- 57% of respondents plan to study at college or university
- do not point out the tourism & industry as interesting sector
Key finds from surveys with young people

- Would you consider living in your region when you have finished education?
  - Yes: 54%
  - Don't know: 30%
  - No: 16%

- If yes, what would be the most important reasons?
  - Job opportunities
  - Family and/or friends
  - Leisure activities/opportunities
  - Other

- If no, what are your reasons?
  - No job opportunities
  - Limited entertainment possibilities or leisure activity offers
  - Too transparent society
  - Not enough people at my own age living here
  - Other
In brief:

- A majority of young people think they could find a job in their area of origin after secondary school
- They would consider staying if they could
What do businesses say?

- Polled businesses:
  - do not require competences from higher education
  - report difficulties in recruiting employees possessing the skills needed locally or regionally
    - Agriculture & forestry
    - Tourism
    - Industry
What do businesses say?

- But there is also room for more qualified jobs:
  - Public administrations,
  - ICT business
  - E-health
  for example look for specific competences (& university degrees) but have difficulties in finding the right people
Bad correspondance between young people’s expectations, the education offer & job offers
Solutions?

- Improve the access to relevant studies and classes
- More contact between business, municipalities and schools
- More information for young people, at the right time
What have PADIMA partners done?

- Recruiting to wood industry (Buskerud, Norway)
- Diversifying via e-learning (ICT college Dalarna, Sweden)
- Specialised training in mechanics (Teruel, Spain)
- Higher education in the mountain region (Røros & Tynset, Hedmark, Norway)
On to our next session!

For more information visit www.padima.org

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