Workshop 4

Mountains and research
Some key issues

• Representation of mountain areas:
  – ‘handicapped’ or ‘privileged’?

• Diversity / heterogeneity
  – Between & within mountains

• How specific are mountains compared to other regions?
Recent / ongoing research

- National (CH, A, D, Sw, N, F)
- EU: Framework RTD programmes, DGs, Interreg
  - Natural science priority
  - Socio-econ research more scattered
  - Few comparative studies (between ranges, mountain vs. non-mountain)
  - Action-oriented research difficult to implement
Mountain Partnership

Objectives from Cusco meeting

- Wider dissemination of knowledge
  - Research activities, organisations, funding
    - E-consultation
- Consultative process
  - 1st set of priorities
    - Issues assessment (MRI)
Involvement of stakeholders

Transdisciplinary research

• desirable and increasingly required by funders, but
  – budgets and time allotted often insufficient
  – often difficult to engage with local community; mostly with activists
  – not all kinds of research suitable for involvement of stakeholders
Dissemination of research outcomes

• few resources to ensure dissemination after projects are complete
• often difficult to communicate results to user groups
• invite researchers to future Euromontana conferences, but to address issues together with stakeholders, policymakers, etc.
• publish key papers on Euromontana website?
Research issues (1)

Mountains provide diverse services to mountain and wider populations

• altitudinal linkages between land uses over seasons
• multifunctional land uses
• mountain-lowland linkages

➢ how to evaluate these and communicate the resulting values to inform policy development
Research issues (2)

Need for comparisons of mountain & non-mountain areas

• economies, employment (esp. pluri-activity)
  – differences between functional and jurisdictional boundaries
  – functional linkages between mountains and surrounding areas; mountains are not isolated
Research issues (3)

• Building social capital
  – institutions and best practice

• Information and communications technologies
  – constraints and potential benefits

• Global changes influencing mountain areas
  – climate change, water
Education / training

EU Research Training Network?

• BOKU, Austria (forests)
• Clermont Ferrand, France (middle mountains)
• UHI, Scotland (online MSc)
  – link into European Master’s degree?