How to govern smart in mountain areas?

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Introduction

Smart governance: This new wave of “smart governance” implies more inclusive and participatory processes in decision making but not only through ICT (online consultations, votes etc.)

Co-construction process of policies with public institutions, private organisations and civil society to build a long-term strategy for their territory.

Smart governance is a more than relevant issue for mountain areas:
- Because of geographic constraints
- Because mountain areas gather many different sectors and interests.
Massif Committees
Romania
Massif Committees
Romania

**Issues addressed:** integrated governance, smart regional development (beyond administrative borders), recognition of the potential of mountain areas

**Governance model:**
- 9 Massif Committees
  - 18 members: local & regional institutions, stakeholders managing resources (forests, water etc.), environmental organisations, representatives from all relevant sectors (agriculture, tourism etc.)

- 1 National Mountain Council
  - Chair: Prime Minister of Romania
  - Presidents of the 9 Massif Committees
  - Representatives of Ministers
Massif Committees
Romania

Massif Committees:
- Collaborate with local stakeholders, associations, businesses, LAGs, universities etc.
- Divide into technical committees for each topic
- Provide local expertise
- Develop relevant policy recommendations

Outcomes & successes:
Integration of all sectoral issues at the most relevant territorial scale
Based on French successful model (participation in shaping regional policy & designing OPs).
Ability to convene the National Mountain Council to be clarified
Massif Committees
Romania

Extra info:
Follows the adoption in July 2018 of the Mountain Law

“Cohesion Policy in Mountain Areas: How to increase the contribution from mountains and benefits for mountains territories?”, analysis from the French model
GAYA - Governance and Youth in the Alps
GAYA - Governance and Youth in Alps
Alps

Issues addressed: Involving young people in public life & encouraging generational renewal

Governance model: Tailor made, Youth participation processes should not be a one-day event, but a spiral-shaped, never-ending process.

Be clear about what can and cannot be influenced. Be transparent, honest, and clear about the purpose, the limits of what can and cannot be influenced, and what can happen as a result.

Feedback, feedback, feedback.
Outcomes & successes: There is actually no such thing as ‘the youth’. While young people do not necessarily engage in party politics, they are (often politically) active on social media and in diverse cultural, sport and social organizations. Young people are very much interested in societal challenges and international matters.

Resources needed: Around 1 million €, all tools available online
Extra info: One of the project’s outputs is the creation of a Tool Box targeting policy makers and administrators. The Tool Box offers:

- different communication material concerning youth participation (posters etc.)
- examples of past successful inclusive governance activities in the Alpine region to inspire more municipalities
- a guide to fight stereotypes about the youth and politics and explaining how to listen to the youth
Mountain Parliament
France
Mountain Parliament
Occitanie - France

Issues addressed: population participation to public policies, focus on all sectors, attention to mid-mountain areas

Creation 2018

Governance model:
- Online opened platform – 700 members
- Plenary sessions (2x / year)
- Collective projects for 2019:
  - Making seasonal employment more secure
  - Including mountain storytelling in touristic marketing
  - Promoting non-foods Geographical Indication to maintain value in the area
Mountain Parliament
Occitanie - France

Governance model:
No binding effect
Mountain local think tank
Different from Massif Committees

Outcomes & successes:
- Collaboration of the “renewable energies” group with the Regional Agency for Energy & Climate to write the part on acceptability of the Mountain Plan
- Launch of a participatory budget Mountains of Occitanie, lands of life and innovation with a 1,2 million euros budget 2019/2020
Outcomes & successes:
- Members: 50% civil society, 50% public institutions
- More than 150 participants for the Mende plenary session in April 2019

Resources needed:
- 2 officials from the Region from the Directorate for Territorial Development + connections with other services for content related issue
- 60,000 – 80,000 euros / year
Governance in MED areas
Mediterranean mountains
MEDstrategy - Governance in MED areas
Teruel - Spain

**Issues addressed:** MedStrategy project aimed at improving and address territorial governance of Med rural areas towards sustainability through an innovative integrated Planning Model (PM). The process focuses on 3 themes:

1. the integration of economic, social, environmental dimensions of sustainability in planning;
2. the development of integrated & shared strategies and actions through the cooperation of local authorities and the engagement of local communities for the innovation of territorial governance;
3. the setting up of common objectives & activities for local and transnational synergies of rural areas.

**Governance model:** Strategic planning with stakeholders discussion implemented in 4 pilot territories.
MEDstrategy - Governance in MED areas
Teruel - Spain

Outcomes & successes:
- 4 Strategic plans
- Training courses to provide opportunities for learning and getting qualified experts and improving the involvement of local community through training.
- Pilot action of implementing self-employ agriculture and livestock farming (Result of 13 farms of focus on sheep breeding)

Resources needed: Around 1 million € and deliverables available online
MEDstrategy - Governance in MED areas
Teruel - Spain

Extra info:
- Teruel’s topic Re-introduction of ranching activities - ovine/goats- in villages of Teruel where the activity has been important in the past but has now decreased or disappeared
- Italy (Tindari-Nebrodi) and Malta focus on tourism
- Crete focus on agrifood promotion
Discussion

How to govern smart in mountain areas?

How to encourage smarter and more inclusive governance, involving citizens’ expertise? How to transfer existing good practices?

At which territorial scale to encourage smarter governance in mountain areas?

How to encourage a smarter governance for the designing of Operational Programmes and CAP Strategic Plans?