



Manfred Perlik

# **What is the role of social innovation in mountain areas in the framework of global urbanisation?**

EUROMONTANA: Rethinking territorial balances between urban and rural areas in the European Mountains: How can innovation support win-win solutions? 20 November 2019, Brussels



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# What is the role of social innovation in mountain areas in the framework of global urbanisation?

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This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 677622

# 1 The origins of the innovation approach

- *Crisis of welfare state (Fordism):*
  - «Limits to Growth» 1972 (loss of reputation)
  - Oil crisis 1973 (loss of cheap supply)
- *Consequences:*
  - Augment productivity and performance
  - Avoid the trap of comparative (dis)advantages, produce increasing returns (extra surplus) by new, unique (= innovative) products
  - vertical disintegration, global value chains, European desindustrialisation
  - individualisation, reduction of welfare state
  - double freedom of development (no prescription but also no aid), self responsibility
- Innovation = «*creative destruction*» (Schumpeter 1942)

**Mountains:** Loss of production systems – but not immediately

## 2 The renaissance of the cities

- Dans les zones de montagne: déclin jusqu'aux années 1970.
- Croissances disproportionnelle dans les régions non-urbaines, dépopulation des villes-centres entre 1974 et 1998.
- Depuis 1998, la croissance démographique s'est de nouveau concentrée sur les grandes villes et leurs zones périurbaines.



Pourcentage de la croissance annuelle en Suisse (bleu), dans les zones urbaines (rouge) et non-urbaines (vert) (sources : BfS).

Communes en périphérie	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2017	1970 - 2017
Lumnezia	2'527	2'262	2'254	2'309	2'216	2'047	-19,0%
Val-de-Travers	12'549	10'169	10'749	10'910	10'832	10'754	-14,3%
Ville centre d'une aire métropolitaine	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2017	1970 - 2017
Zurich	348'028	303'662	360'989	360'980	390'082	423'310	+21,6%

Développement démographique dans les cas d'étude SIMRA, Val Lumnezia et Val de Travers, en comparaison avec la ville de Zurich (sources : OfS et autres)

→ « Double renversement »

### **3 Change of Specific Mountain Production Systems**

#### **Decline**

- Agriculture, Manufacturing industries, Tourism

#### **Increase**

- Residences (multilocality, second homes)
- Parks, «wilderness» areas
- Extractive industries
- Day-tripping tourism

**Metropolises** → AAA-regions (Adaptivity, Attractiveness, Authority)

**Mountains** → RRR-regions (residences, raw materials, rents)

# 4 Mainstream Recommendations: Uniqueness and otherness

## Product innovations (economic and technical):

- Landscape esthetics
- Differentiated and labelled regional products: food & crafts
- Wellness and events
- Niche tourism, agro-tourism, *tourisme doux*, « revaluation »

## Problem:

- A-regions hold the **decision making** because of agglomeration effects
- R-regions hold the **weak value chains** (lacking agglomeration effects)
- The risk of a territorial **cleavage** between the strong and the weak
- The risk of **overuse**: the proposed products do no deliver size effects (not self-sustaining) – unless there is intensification



# 5. Recommendations 2.0: Social innovation

... but what does this mean?



# SIMRA (Social Innovation in Marginalised Rural Areas)

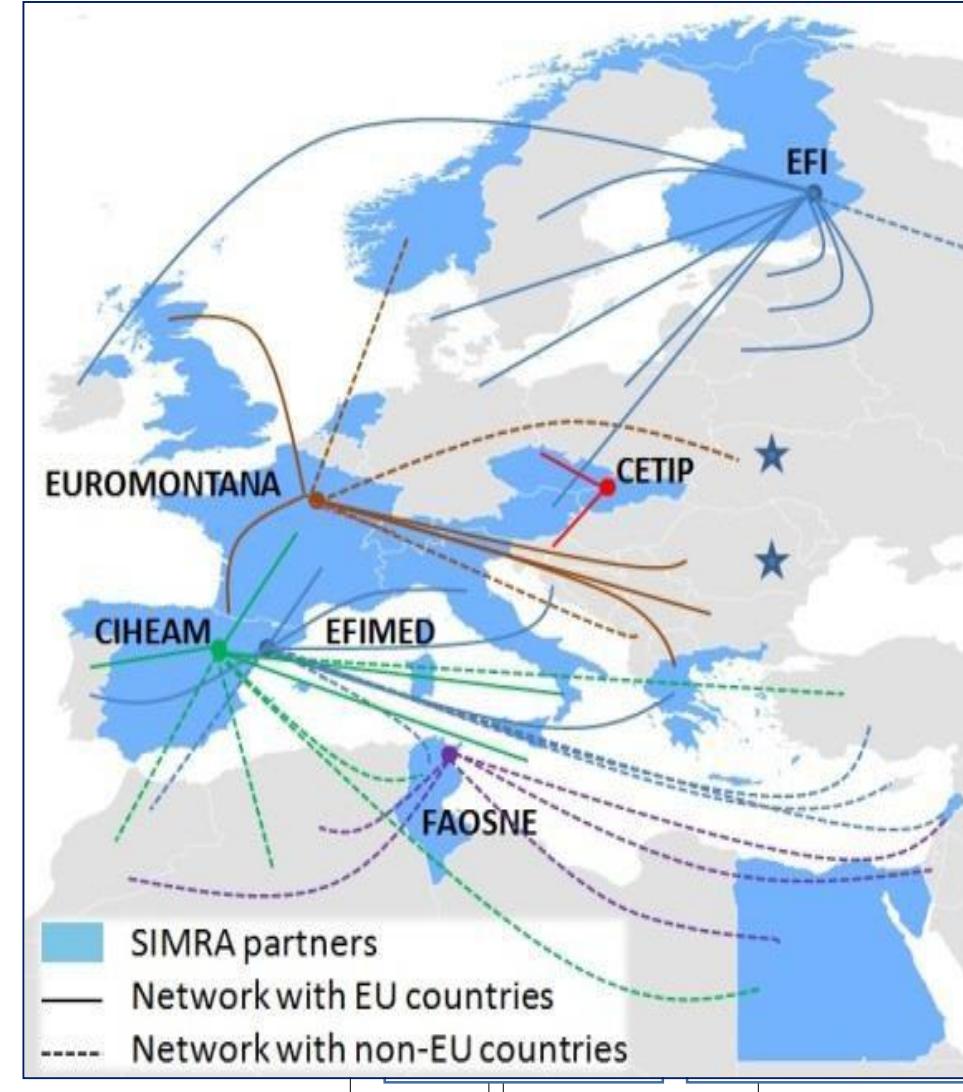
## Definition *Social Innovation*

A pragmatic definition of “Social Innovation”

« The **reconfiguring of social practices** in response to societal challenges which seek to enhance the outcomes on **societal well-being** and necessarily include the engagement of **civil society actors**. »



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## 5. Recommendations 2.0: Social innovation

... but what does this mean?

The international debate shows a mixture between **misunderstanding, euphemism and renewal**

- **Misunderstanding:** Social innovation is more efficiency on a social topic (→ application on value chains)
- **Euphemism:** When the welfare state is smashed, the regions suffer less paternalism and more liberty to develop region specific creativity (→ voluntarism)
- Renewal: New attitudes, new forms of collaboration
  - but which one?



## 6 Transformative SI in/for mountain areas

- Strengthening the regional get-together by **overcoming closeness**, intra-regional distinction and discrimination, gender inequality
- **Opening** against outside by accepting immigration and change and benefitting from external knowledge
- **Re-negotiation** on highland-lowland partnerships.
  - mountains have to understand external demands
  - metros have to accept a lower value adding in mountain areas



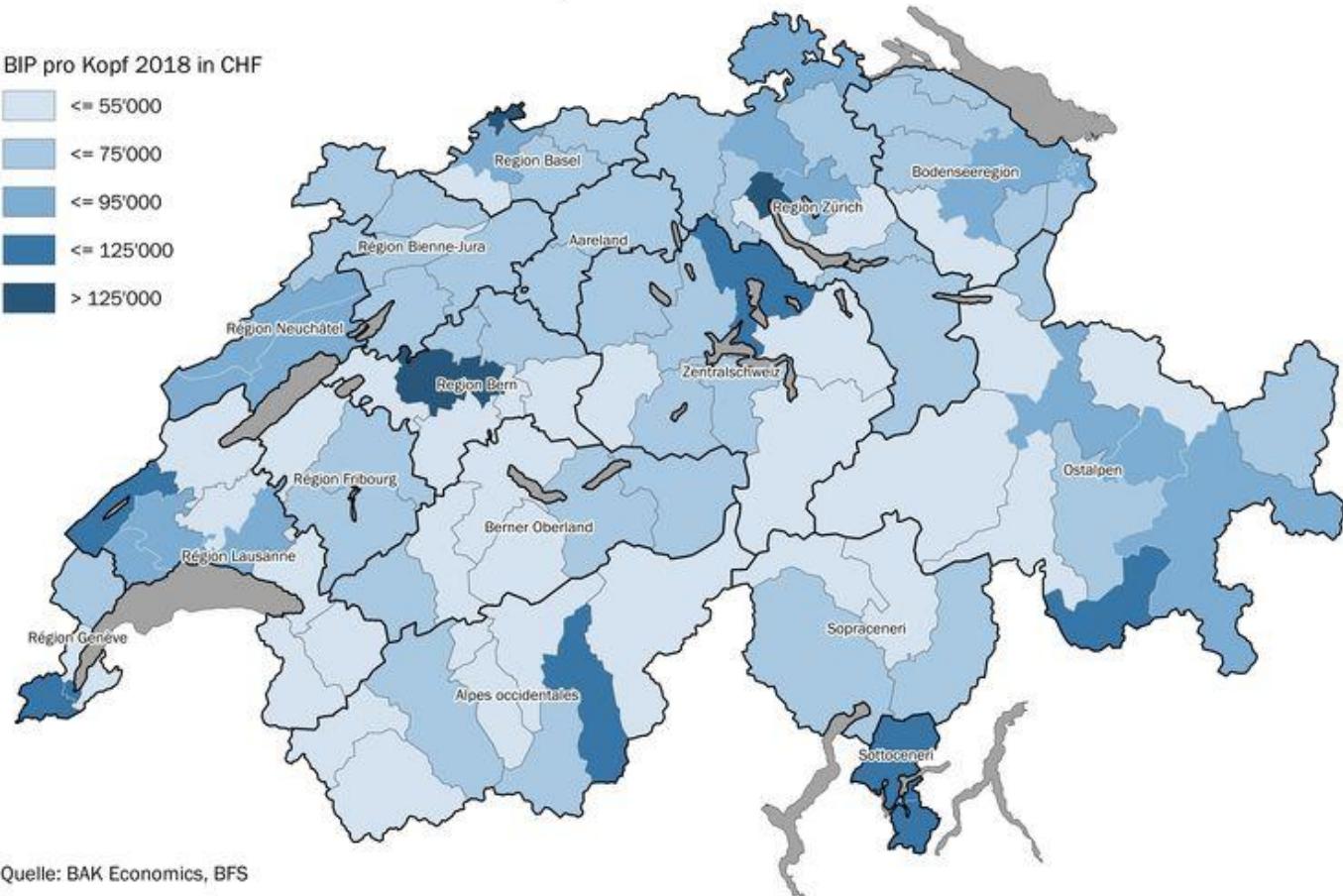
# Maintaining diversified regional production systems

## SIMRA Case study Réseau Urbain Neuchâtel

Wohlstand in den 101 neuen Arbeitsmarktregionen

BIP pro Kopf 2018 in CHF

- <= 55'000
- <= 75'000
- <= 95'000
- <= 125'000
- > 125'000



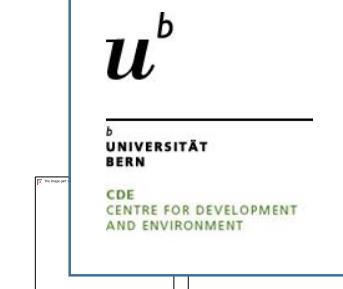
BAK Economics (2019): <https://www.bak-economics.com/leistungen/regionalanalyse/regionenschweiz/>

Schuler, M./Dessemontet, P. (2020): Productivity of Swiss mountain production systems compared to Swiss Plateau (working title). In: Sega, R./Perlik, M. (2020): *Les Alpes productives*. Grenoble: PUG. Forthcoming.

# Maintaining weak regional production systems



SIMRA Case study  
Val Lumnezia Grisons



# Attracting new people

**Accommodation with integration:** Making refugee reception a part of the local trajectory. Cooperative Pacefuturo at Pettinengo, Biella province, an old industrial district of textile industry.



# 7 Summary

**Social innovation is necessary to:**

- Avoid «homogeneous» segregated territories
- Transform the current individualised regional development regime
- Maintain fragile regional production systems in agriculture, manufacturing and tourism
- Promote cohesive societies
- Strengthen transborder relations of mountain areas



**BAK Economics (2019):** <https://www.bak-economics.com/leistungen/regionalanalyse/regionen-schweiz/>

**Fourny, M.-C. (2018) :** Montagnes en mouvements. Dynamiques territoriales et innovation sociale. Grenoble: PUG.

**Moulaert, F., MacCallum, D., Mehmood, A. & Hamdouch, A. (eds) (2013).** The International Handbook on Social Innovation. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.

**Moulaert, F., Martinelli, F., Swyngedouw, E. & González, S. (2005).** Towards alternative model(s) of local innovation. *Urban Studies*, 42(11): 1969-1990.

**Perlik, M. (2019).** The Spatial and Economic Transformation of Mountain Regions: Landscapes as Commodities. London: Routledge.

**Perlik, M./Membretti, A. (2018):** Migration by Necessity and by Force to Mountain Areas: an Opportunity for Social Innovation. *MRD* 38(3): 250-264

**Pecqueur, B. (2015).** L'approche par les ressources: pour une vision renouvelée des rapports entre écon. et territoire. In Torre & Vollet: Partenariats pour le développement territorial. Versailles: Quæ.

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**Schuler, M., Perlik, M. & Pasche, N. (2004).** Non urbain, campagne ou périphérie – où se trouve l'espace rural aujourd'hui ? Berne: ARE.

**SIMRA:** [www.simra-h2020.eu](http://www.simra-h2020.eu)

# Thank you!



## ForAlps

Foreign immigration in the Alps

[www.foralps.eu](http://www.foralps.eu)

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**Publications:** Researchgate

**BAK Economics (2019):** <https://www.bak-economics.com/leistungen/regionalanalyse/regionen-schweiz/>

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### 3 Which understanding of SI?



- Hosting refugees in mountain areas does not prevent poverty in the world as it helps only a small group of individuals.
- It concerns many goals indirectly.
- But, in mountain areas, also directly: Goal 10, 11, 16



# L'Ecosystème socio-Economique du tourisme sportif de montagne et l'innovation collaborative

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**Conférence Euromontana  
Equilibres territoriaux**  
Bruxelles, 20 novembre 2019

Ce travail a été réalisé grâce au soutien financier du LABEX ITEM (ANR-10-LABX-50-01) dans le cadre du programme « Investissements d'Avenir » géré par l'Agence Nationale de la Recherche

# Contexte

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Recherche pluridisciplinaire financée par le Labex Innovation en territoire de montagne (ITEM) sur le sujet de l'innovation écosystémique en tourisme sportif de montagne en Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes

L'objectif principal ici est de montrer comment cet écosystème socio-économique peut créer les conditions favorables au développement d'une métropole à caractère montagneux.

L'hypothèse : *les interactions entre des logiques de différentes natures (e.g. institutionnelle et entrepreneuriale, académique)* rendent possible ou freinent les innovations collaboratives majeurs.

# France



# Grenoble Alpes Métropole et la montagne

*Faire le lien pour mieux innover*





## Quelques chiffres clefs

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- Le PIB régional AURA = 242,5 Mds €
- 1ère région de montagne en Europe en terme de taille
- Les massifs représentent 80% du territoire régional
- Le CA du tourisme régional > 11 Md€ (130 000 emplois)
- La Consommation Touristique régionale > 20 Md€
- C'est 14 % de la CT française et 8 % du PIB régional
- Plus de 160 stations de ski (domaine skiable mondial)
- 350 entreprises (94% = TPE-PME) d'aménagement touristique en montagne (Poma, MND, GMM...)
- 328 entreprises d'articles et de matériels de sports outdoor (Rossignol, Lafuma, Petzl...)
- Mais aussi plusieurs centaines d'entreprises de services sportifs, des agences de sports outdoor, ....

# Le tourisme sportif en Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes

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- Le tourisme est essentiellement fondé sur les sports de montagne
- Les Alpes constituent un avantage comparatif naturel (neige, dénivelé, thermes, spots, etc.)
- Le tourisme de montagne dispose d'avantages construits compétitifs (infrastructures, savoir-faire local, tissu d'entreprises, etc.)
- La demande est très importante (Locale, régionale, nationale et internationale)
- Plus de 50% des entreprises (industries et services) sont localisées sur le territoire régional
- La compétitivité des acteurs régionaux est dépendante de l'innovation et des nombreux bénéfices délivrés aux clients



**L'écosystème régional du « sport et tourisme de montagne » remplit les conditions de spécialisation selon les indices de l'Union européenne (Cf. European Cluster Observatory)**

**DoMex8 : sport, montagne et tourisme**

# L'écosystème d'affaires (ESA)

## Quelle définition?

James Moore (1993) emprunte l'idée d'écosystème biologique (Arthur Tansley, 1935) où coexistent des espèces naturelles différentes interagissant pour leur maintien et celui du site.

Pour Moore les acteurs en présence dans un écosystème d'affaires visent un objectif commun : accroître les bénéfices accordés à leurs clients pour en attirer d'autres. Pour ce faire, produire de l'innovation collectivement devient le moyen approprié.



L'écosystème d'affaires introduit l'idée de coévolution et coopération par l'intermédiaire de l'innovation collective.

Cette idée est valable face aux problèmes ou situations les plus complexes où les acteurs pris individuellement n'ont pas les compétences, ressources et connaissances pour produire les solutions tout seul.

- Ex d'ESA : aérospatial à Toulouse, l'automobile , le web, le Smartphone, etc.

# L'écosystème d'affaires quelques caractéristiques

----- **Les acteurs (y compris les entreprises) sont de natures différentes** -----

- L'innovation écosystémique est souvent radicale et collaborative (ouverte, collective)
- **Aucun des acteurs de l'écosystème ne possède toutes les compétences**, les ressources et les connaissances nécessaires à ce type d'innovation
- Chacun des acteurs maîtrise son domaine et possède une capacité d'adaptation rapide
- **Alignment de l'ensemble des acteurs sur la même vision**
- Existence d'un système de relation inter-firmes permettant le partage des contributions
- Existence d'un système d'échange avec les clients internes et externes pour orienter l'innovation
- Développement de compétences internes et intégration des compétences externes (compétences écosystémiques)
- **L'existence d'entreprises pivots ou leaders**
- Coexistence d'acteurs de l'exploration et de l'exploitation
- Existence de conditions favorables à l'émergence de start-up

# L'écosystème du tourisme sportif de montagne en AURA

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- **Ancrage territorial fort dans les massifs et dans les Alpes**
- **Articulation de plusieurs filières** (ski, aménagements, matériels sportifs, etc.) **et secteurs** (hébergement, services sportifs, industries, sécurité, etc.)
- Institutions et acteurs publics forts et impliqués
- **Alignement de l'ensemble des acteurs sur une même politique régionale en matière de développement du tourisme de montagne**
- Existence d'un système de relations inter-firmes : Clusters, agences régionales, groupements de professionnels, CCI et CMA, etc.
- Existence d'associations de pratiquants et présences de fédérations sportives
- Développement de savoir-faire local, de formations spécifiques, etc.
- **L'existence d'entreprises leaders dans leurs domaines**
- Coexistence d'acteurs de la recherche, R&D et de la production
- Présence de structures d'investissements et d'investisseurs (Banques, fonds privés, business Angels, etc.)

# **Le tourisme sportif de montagne: un écosystème social et économique (ESE) spécifique**

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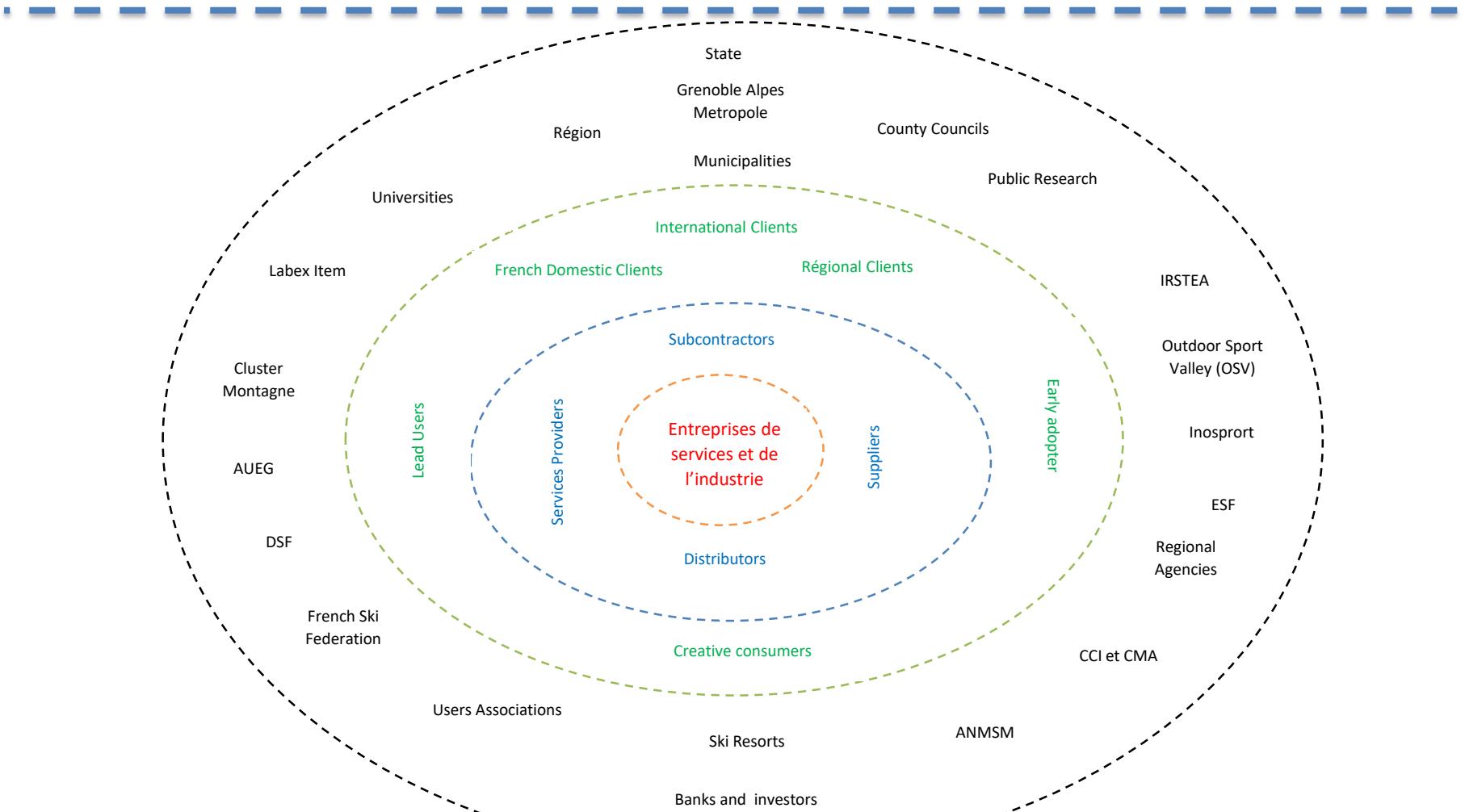
- ancrage dans le territoire régional
- dépendance des avantages comparatifs et construits que représente la montagne,
- dépendance du savoir-faire des populations locales
- implication des élus et des collectivités territoriales



Le tourisme sportif de montagne est un **écosystème social et économique spécifique** au territoire.

Donc non délocalisable constituant des avantages pour le développement économique et social du territoire

# Schéma de l'Ecosystème Social et Economique du Tourisme Sportif en AURA



## **Pourquoi l'ESE TSM est-il favorable à l'innovation collaborative Quelques explications**

- A/ Le mode de gouvernance de l'innovation collaborative est pas encore écosystémique
- B/ Les entreprises bien que concentrées sur leur propre marché sont ouverte aux interactions avec les autres acteurs (en particulier les institutions et la recherche académique)
- C/ La présence de plusieurs cadres de partenariat entre les universités et les entreprises, les université et les collectivités
- D/ Les liens avec les autres écosystèmes locaux et régionaux

## La conclusion

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- *La Métropole est une représentation de l'écosystème socio-économique régional*
- *Elle coopère avec les entreprises et les usagers de la montagne sur l'ensemble des territoires*
- *Elle met en place des politiques de gouvernance visant l'équilibre entre la périphérie (montagne) et le centre (ville)*
- *Elle coopère avec la recherche publique pour produire les connaissances utiles à son développement*



# Merci pour votre attention

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Labex Item – Université Grenoble Alpes-France

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# P-IRIS & rural – urban cooperation

Danijel Bertović, Local development agency Pins, Croatia



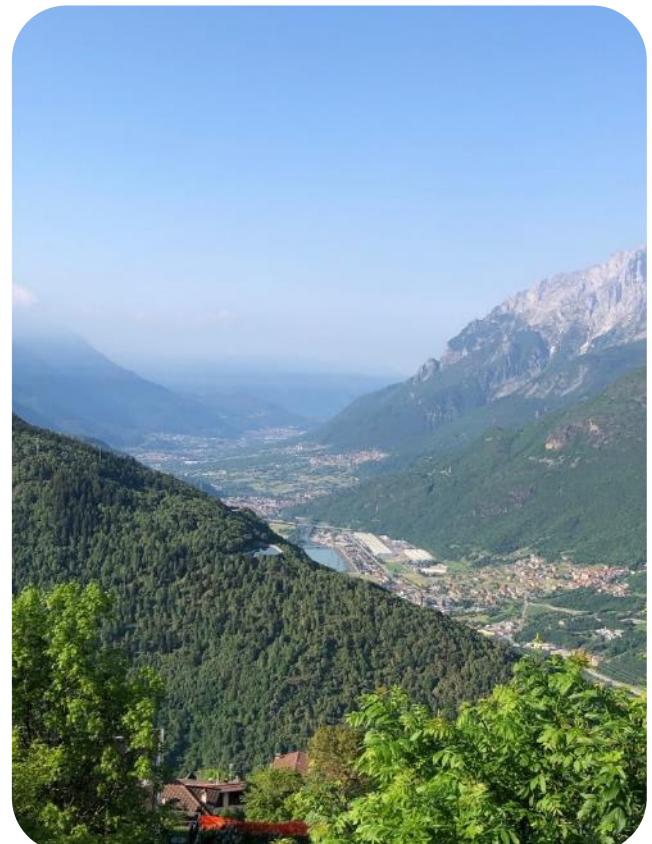
*“Policies to improve rural areas' innovation systems by professionalising networking activities and use of innovation tools”*

**The overall objective:**

To improve policies related to 3H or 4H cooperation in rural innovation systems

**P-IRIS phase now:**

Starting the 01.07 2019: Actions



## Why innovative networks

Innovation depends on our abilities to share knowledge and skills efficiently

Innovation networks are infrastructure (the arena) for sharing of knowledge and skills

## 1. Developing our own skills

To manage efficient

- To initiate
- To develop
- When needed; to restructure

} Innovation networks



....to be attractive both locally and for external partners

## 2. To access tools important for an innovation process

- Finance
- Advice
- Infrastructure as test and demonstration facilities

### 3. To overcome distance - rural urban co-operation

To make incomplete innovation networks more complete by hub co-operation

- Including R&D
- Including lacking entrepreneurial players
- Including test and demonstration facilities
- Including investors

Both ways

- Rural areas have contributions; e.g. practical skills / tacit industrial know-how / resource management

# How this look in practice?

Rural co-working areas

Creation of an innovation technicians' network to support companies in rural areas

Raising awareness, strengthening links and attracting young people to countryside by using digital technology

# Rural coworking areas

Rural business support institution – coordinator

P-Iris project will develop 2 rural coworking spaces

- 1 in Slovenia
- 1 in Croatia



# Rural coworking areas

## Next steps:

Organisation of educational and motivational workshops for existing and potential local entrepreneurs

Equipping coworking space

Conducting networking activities between triple helix partners

Establish appropriate approaches for internal and external networking and knowledge sharing

# Conclusions

Using and developing local institutions in mountain regions  
(existing know-how)

Support of building human resources in rural and mountain areas

Support networking through Smart villages policy





European Union  
European Regional  
Development Fund

Any questions?

**UNIMONT- University of the Mountains**

**«Adapting educational and research activities  
to the needs of mountain communities:  
how is the University of Milano (UNIMONT)  
taking up this challenge?»**



# Mountains as «marginal areas»

Mountains are peripheric areas, generally characterized by:

- Socio-economic disadvantages
- Depopulation
- Development delay



# Mountains as «marginal areas»

## Models of urban and metropolitan development

Have been inappropriately applied to develop and empower mountain areas

With lack of attention for mountain specificities and vocation

### Consequences:

- No sustainable development
- Loss of competitiveness of mountain areas
- Impoverishment
- Emigration and brain drain
- marginalisation



# Mountains as «marginal areas»

Uneven competition:  
Urban vs.  
Mountain Areas



# Mountains as «marginal areas»



Economic compensation:  
mainly money to compensate  
disadvantages



But without a vision based on  
mountain uniqueness can turn  
into a catastrophe

# How to invert the trend?



- Design and implement site specific and resource-aware development models
- Specific and unique mountain resources as strategic development assets

# The strategic potential of INNOVATION

- **Specific resources** can become key-elements for the economic development of mountain areas by means of innovative approaches
- **Innovative approaches** are generated by Research and Education activities



# The framework matters!

To produce **relevant and useful results**, it is important to:

- **Live and work** in the place you want to analyse and understand
- Know that place quite well
- **Be aware about its specificities** (geographic, territorial, socio-economic, etc.)

# A unique pole in the heart of the central alps

**UNIMONT IS BASED ON THESE PILLARS**  
a branch campus of a big university in a little village in  
the central italian Alps:  
**Edolo**



"In Italy 5,498 municipalities have less than 5,000 inhabitants and make up 70% of the municipalities of the Country.

Most of these are located in the mountains, where depopulation and socio-economic conditions are the usual problems."

“ FROM AN ALLIANCE BETWEEN  
THE UNIVERSITY & THE TERRITORY ”



LA STATALE



COMUNE  
DI EDOLO



Comune del Comitato S.I.M.  
di Valsesia



PROVINCIA  
DI BRESCIA



Comunità Montana  
di Valsesia

2006

1996



### Ge.S.Di.Mont. Research Centre

- Research and Innovation
- Permanent Training & Dissemination of Knowledge
- Services & Networking

### Bachelor Degree

- Conservation and Sustainable Development of Mountain Areas

«in a small village a «bridge» connecting mountains and cities»

# Bachelor Degree

"Conservation and Sustainable Development of Mountain areas»

Established in 2006

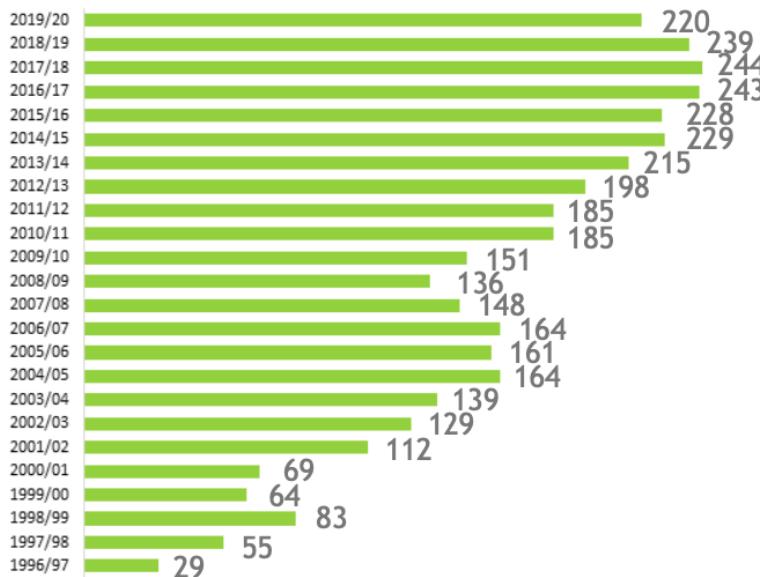


# Bachelor Degree

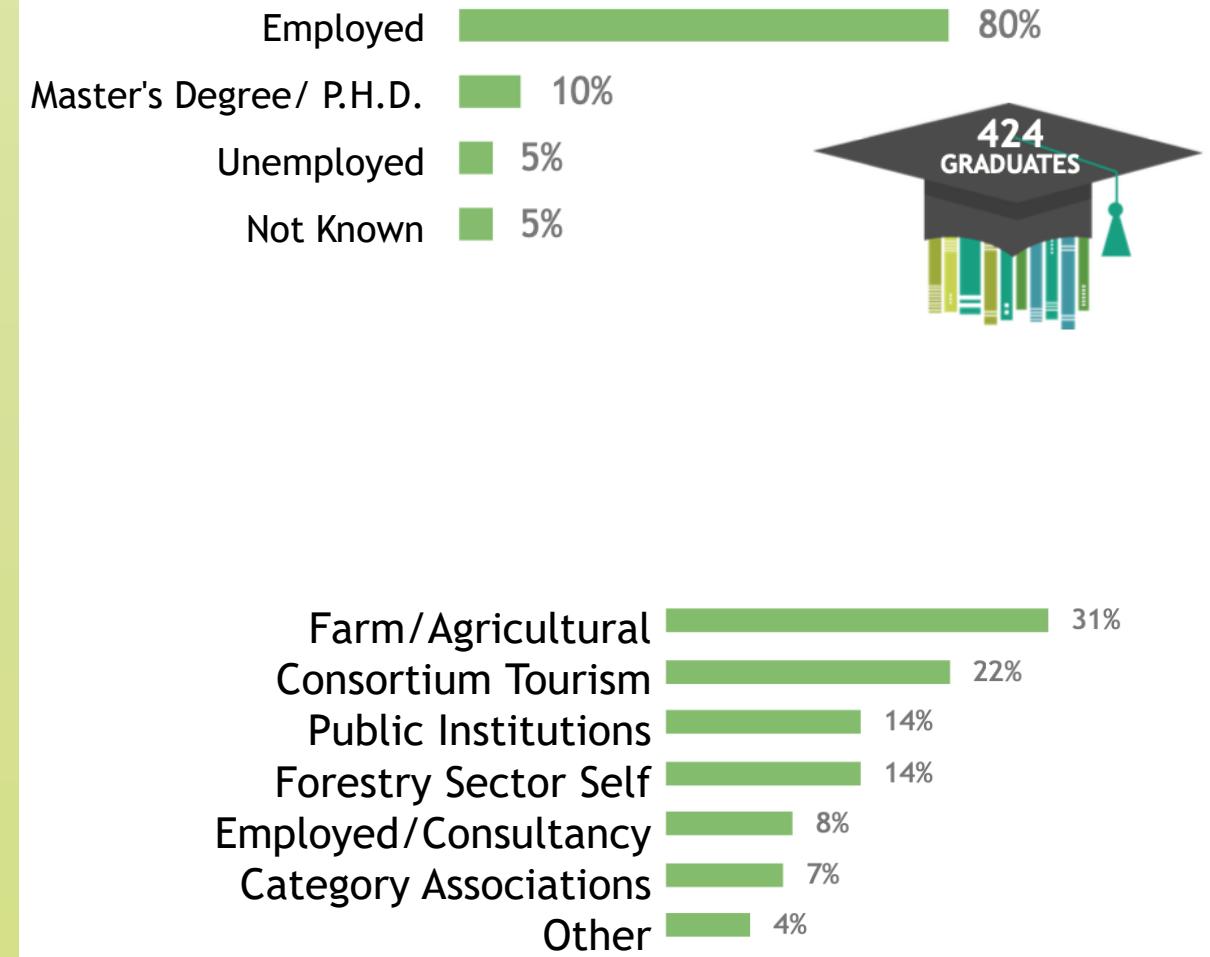
## STUDENTS



81% from Lombardy  
of which:  
19% Province of Brescia  
17% Valcamonica  
45% Other provinces  
**19%**  
**OTHER REGIONS**



## GRADUATES EMPLOYMENT

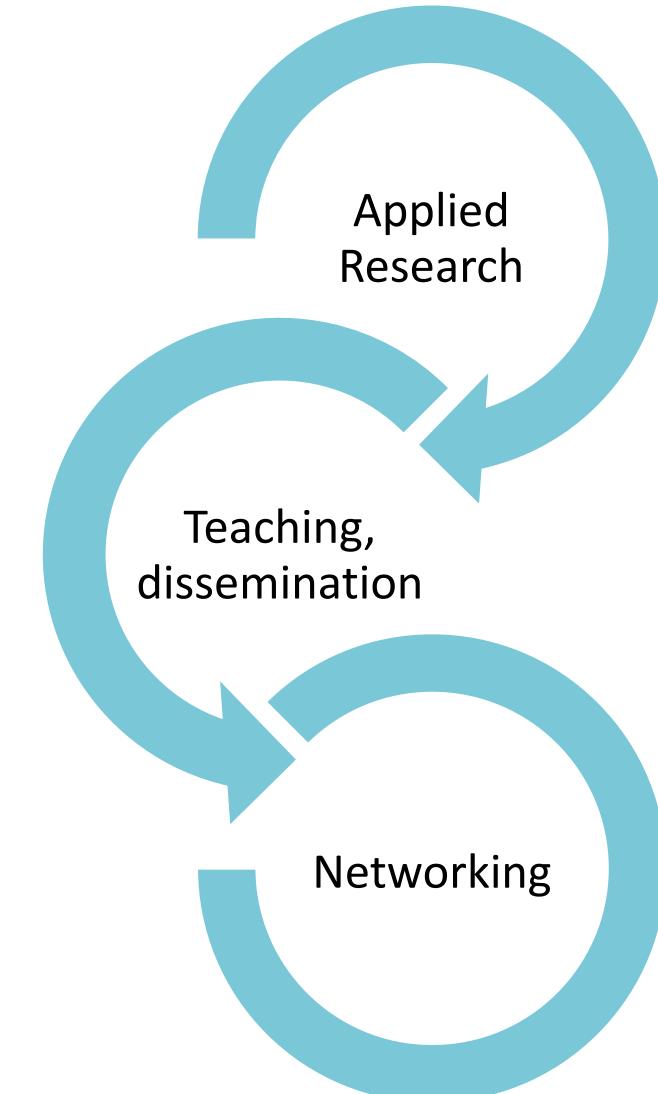


# Ge.S.Di.Mont. Research Centre

CrC Ge.S.Di.Mont.

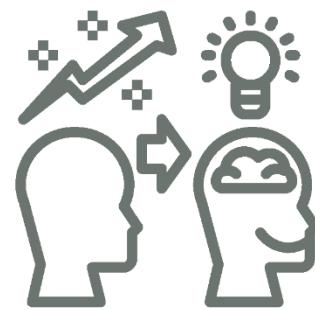
Centre of Applied Studies for the Sustainable Management and Protection of Mountain Areas

*Funded in 2006*



# Ge.S.Di.Mont. Research Centre

Applied research on strategic topics for the socio-economic development of mountain areas.



Based on the necessity to promote sustainable development, the use of resources without over-consumption

## 3 Macro Areas



**76**  
**Scientific  
Publications**

19  
On National  
papers

57  
On international  
papers

56  
Participation in  
conferences

37  
Regional projects

7  
National projects

8  
European  
projects

**52**  
**Research  
Projects**

# Ge.S.Di.Mont. Research Centre: Research

«Research to innovate and make mountains competitive»

A centre able to attract funding from a Local, Regional, National and International level



Territorial development

Youth entrepreneurship

European Projects

EUSALP

# Territorial Development

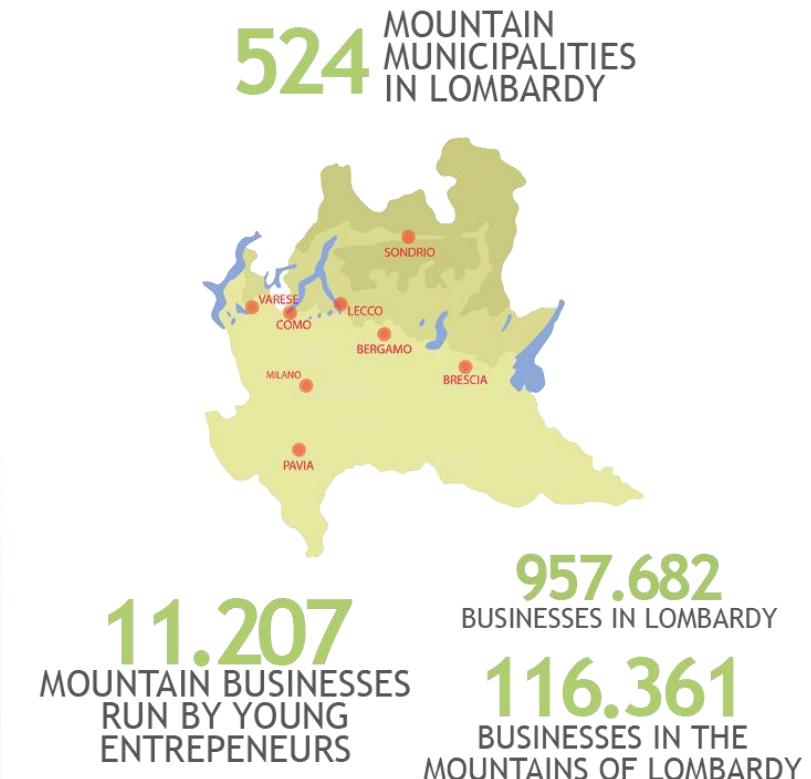
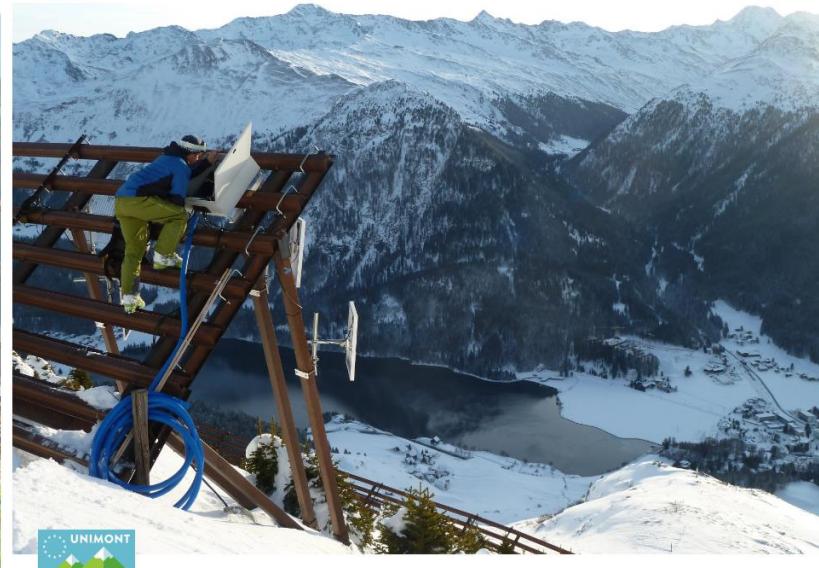
Projects in collaboration with local institutions and small mountain communities to draw up strategic programs to promote sustainable development processes



# Youth Entrepreneurship

## Young Entrepreneurs in the Mountains

The mountains are “full of energy” and offer space for innovation and available markets; however adequate business services are lacking, bureaucracy is excessive.



# Research projects at EUROPEAN level



FINANCED BY  
**INEA**  
**CEF-TELECOM**

**5** PROJECT  
PARTNERS

**2** COUNTRIES  
FROM THE  
ALPINE REGION

## RESEARCH ALPS

An online platform with an algorithm for the automatic collection of data about public and private Research and Innovation centres active in 7 European Countries.

## SMART ALTITUDE

Development of policy and governance tools for the reduction of the impact of ski areas.

**11** PROJECT  
PARTNERS

FINANCED BY  
**Interreg**  
Alpine Space  


**5** COUNTRIES  
FROM THE  
ALPINE REGION

**11** PROJECT  
PARTNERS

FINANCED BY  
**Interreg**  
Alpine Space

**6** COUNTRIES  
FROM THE  
ALPINE REGION

## A-RING

To promote dialogue among the worlds of Research, Public Administration and Businesses to define common and strategic objectives for research in the Macro-Regional Alpine area.

## IMPULS 4ACTION

An alliance among 4 Alpine countries for soil conservation and sustainable development.



FINANCED BY  
**ARPAF**  
ALPINE REGION  
PREPARATORY  
FUNDS

**5** PROJECT  
PARTNERS

**4** COUNTRIES  
FROM THE  
ALPINE REGION

# EUSALP: EU Strategy for the Alpine Region



7  
ALPINE  
COUNTRIES

48  
ALPINE  
REGIONS

9  
ACTION  
GROUPS



Action Group 1:  
to develop an effective Research and  
Innovation ecosystem

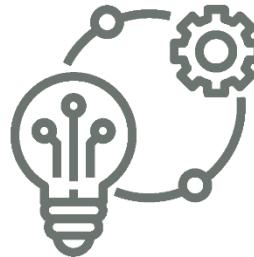
## EUSALP ACTION GROUP 1

Coordination of Action Group 1 in collaboration with Lombardy region.

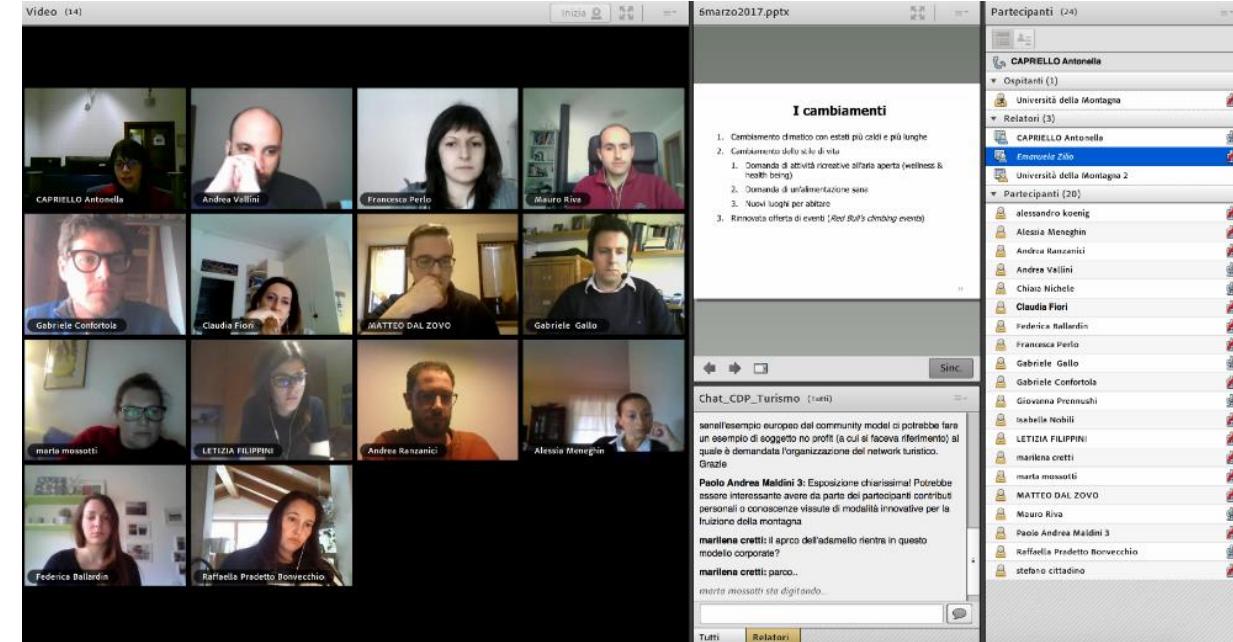
The objective of Action Group 1 is to encourage networking and collaboration between Research Centres, Universities, Public Administrations and Businesses to promote innovation in strategic sectors for the development of the Alpine region.

# Ge.S.Di.Mont. Research Centre: teaching

## Blended learning and eLearning courses



- to overcome limits due to distances (orographic barriers) between different mountain areas and to reach the largest number of users in a **time and money saving way**.

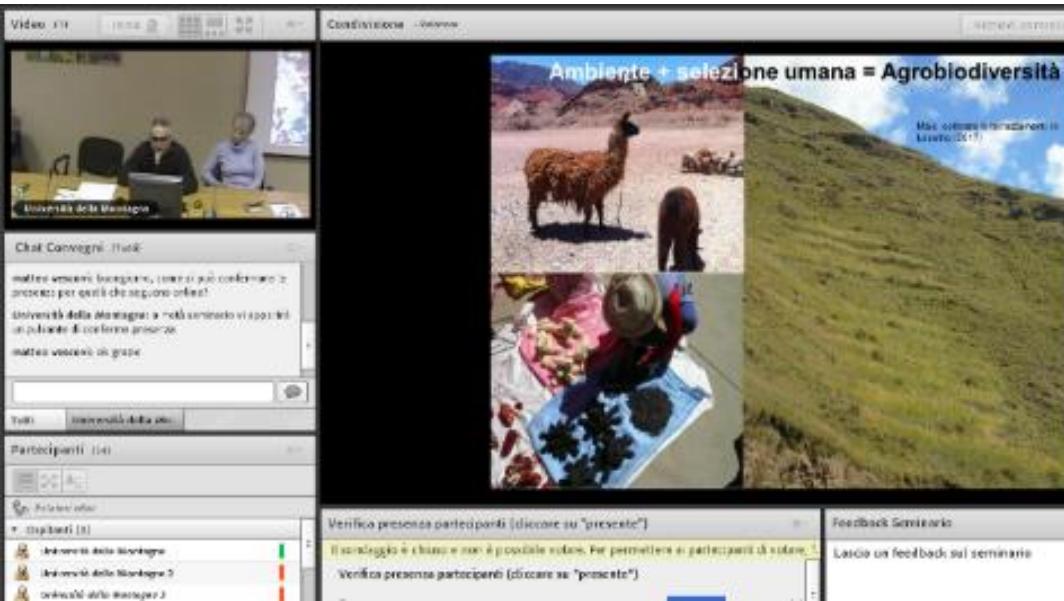


The screenshot shows a video conference interface with a grid of 16 participants. The participants are labeled with their names below their respective video feeds. To the right of the video grid is a chat window titled "Chat\_CDP\_Turismo". The chat window contains several messages in Italian, indicating a discussion about mountain tourism and community models. On the far right, there is a sidebar titled "Partecipanti (24)" which lists all the participants by name.



# Ge.S.Di.Mont. Research Centre: teaching

*"The Virtual Classroom  
as a real meeting place  
for mountain  
communities"*



**118**

AVERAGE NUMBER OF  
PARTICIPANTS AT  
EACH SEMINAR

**308**

SEMINARS  
SINCE 2012

**36.264**

TOTAL PARTICIPANTS  
SINCE 2012



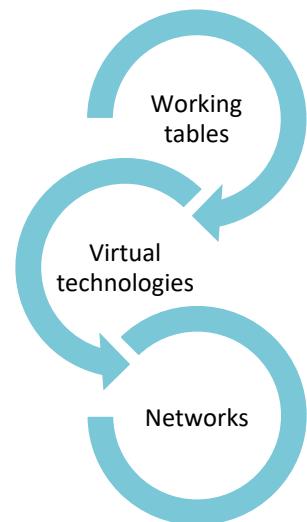
**7.927**  
ON-SITE

**24.848**  
ON-DEMAND  
THROUGH THE  
MULTIMEDIA  
SECTION

**3.489**  
THROUGH  
LIVE  
STREAMING

# Win 2 Win Networking

"In constant dialogue with the territory and mountain stakeholders"



# Win 2 Win Networking: Working tables



Working tables for sharing ideas between different stakeholders of mountain areas



DARA

SCIENCE AND CULTURE  
OF MOUNTAIN AREAS  
TABLE COORDINATION

EU MACRO-REGIONAL  
STRATEGIES AND NEW EU  
PLANNING  
TABLE COORDINATION

mipaaf

Ministero delle  
politiche agricole  
alimentari e forestali

TECHNICAL TABLE  
ON OFFICIAL PLANTS  
TABLE PARTICIPATION



3 VIRTUAL  
WORKING  
TABLES

689  
ACTIVE  
MEMBERS

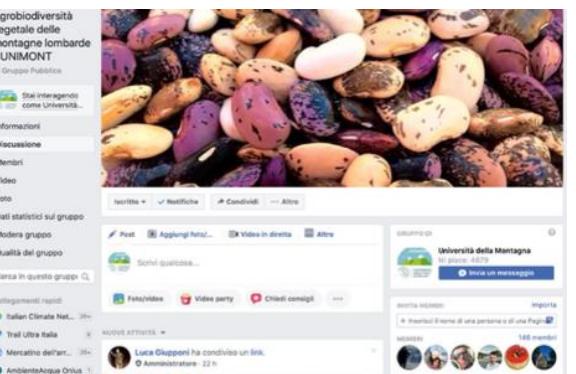
146  
ACTIVE  
MEMBERS

25  
ACTIVE  
MEMBERS

SAFFRON

AGRO  
BIODIVERSITY  
OF THE LOMBARDY  
MOUNTAINS

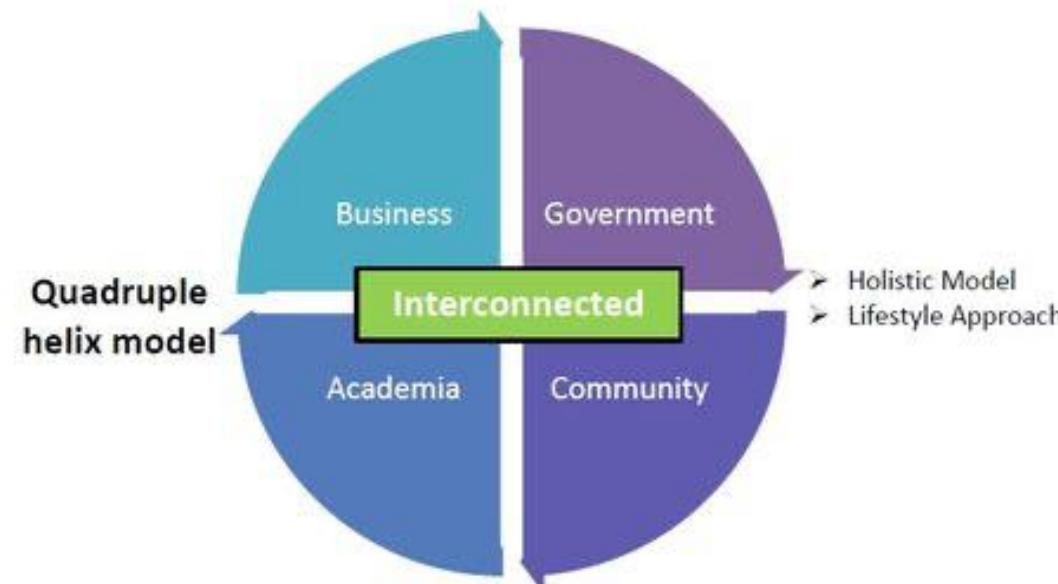
BEE-KEEPING



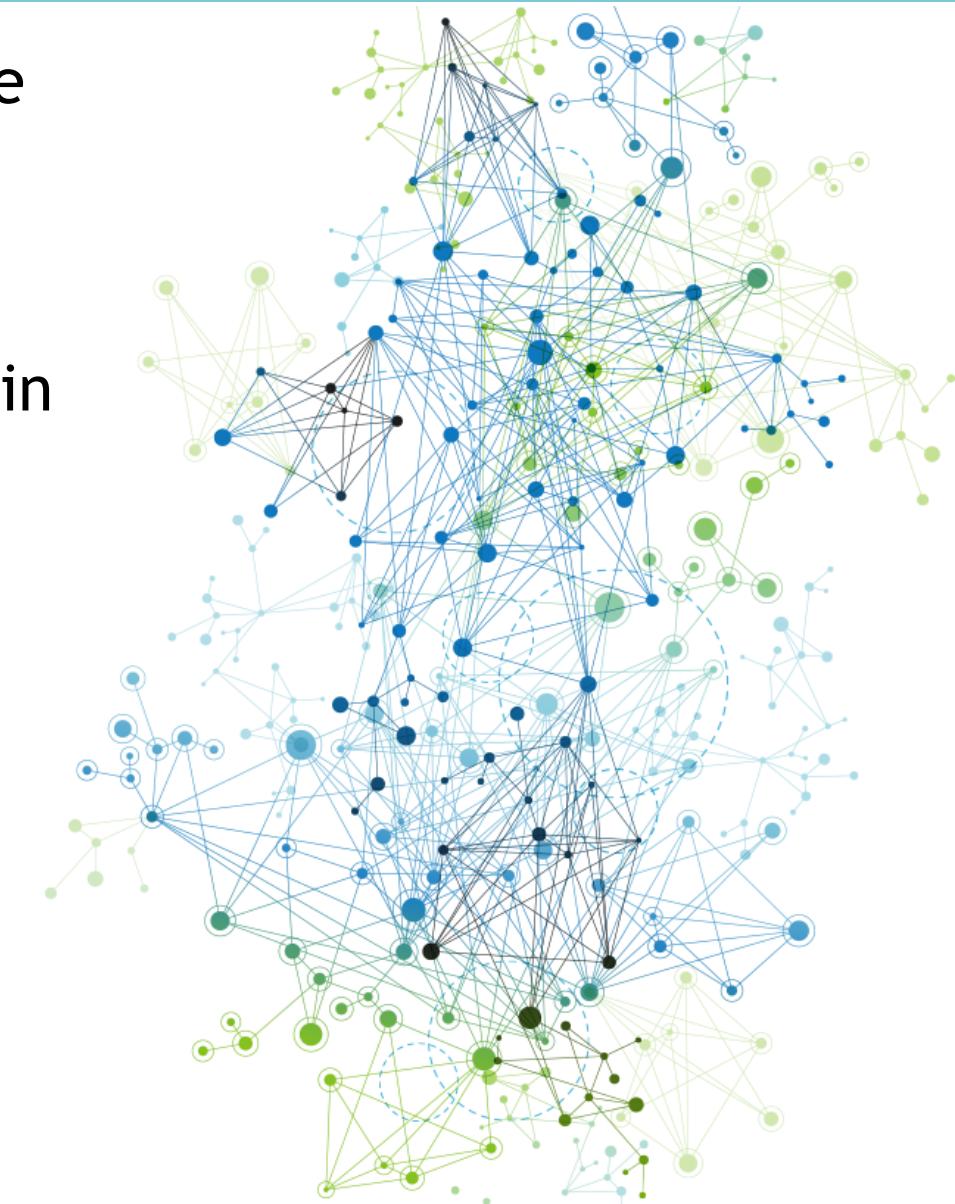
# Win 2 Win Networking

Creation of a «virtual community» in addition to the on-campus one (students, researchers, experts and enthusiasts share a common interest and interact)

Connecting the academic world dealing with mountain topics with institutions and business players



A vehicle to promote excellence and knowledge exchange across 4 key sectors



# Win 2 Win Networking

- Support young entrepreneurs and young innovators (think tank, virtual desk, etc.)
- Collaborate and share good/best practices
- Facilitate interaction and dialogue with local, regional, national and EU institutions

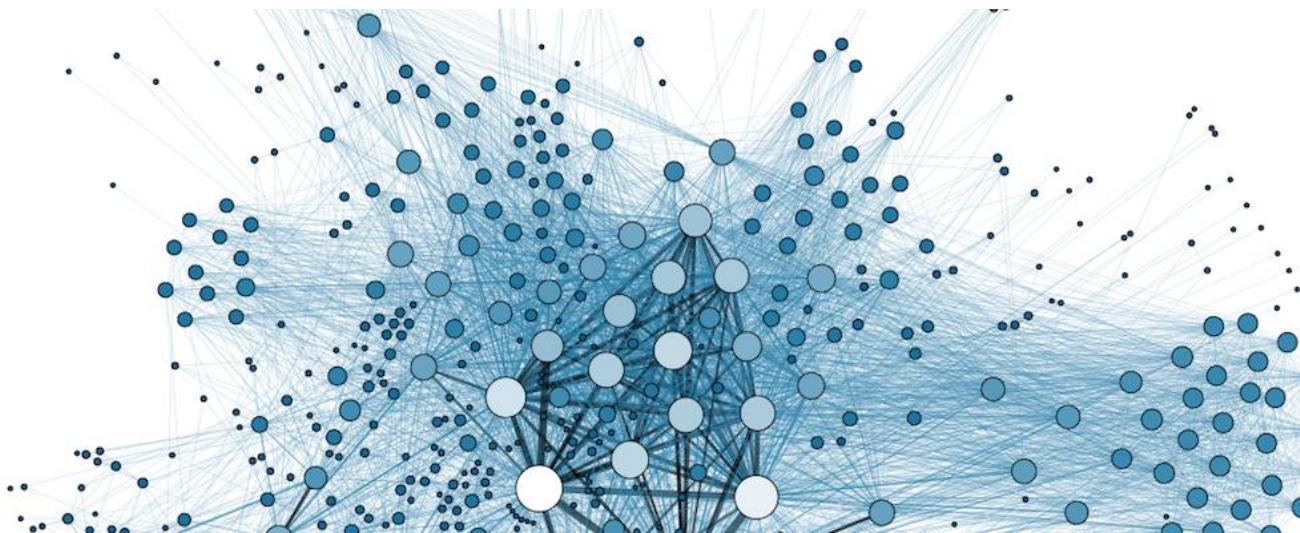


UNIMONT promotes  
an **extensive, well-  
organized dynamic  
networking**

# Win 2 Win Networking

Intense networking activity to create and implement national and international networks for research and development of mountain areas.

**UNIMONT** participates in and coordinates different networks.



**ISCAR**  
INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH IN THE ALPS  
-Active members, past presidency-

**EUROMONTANA**

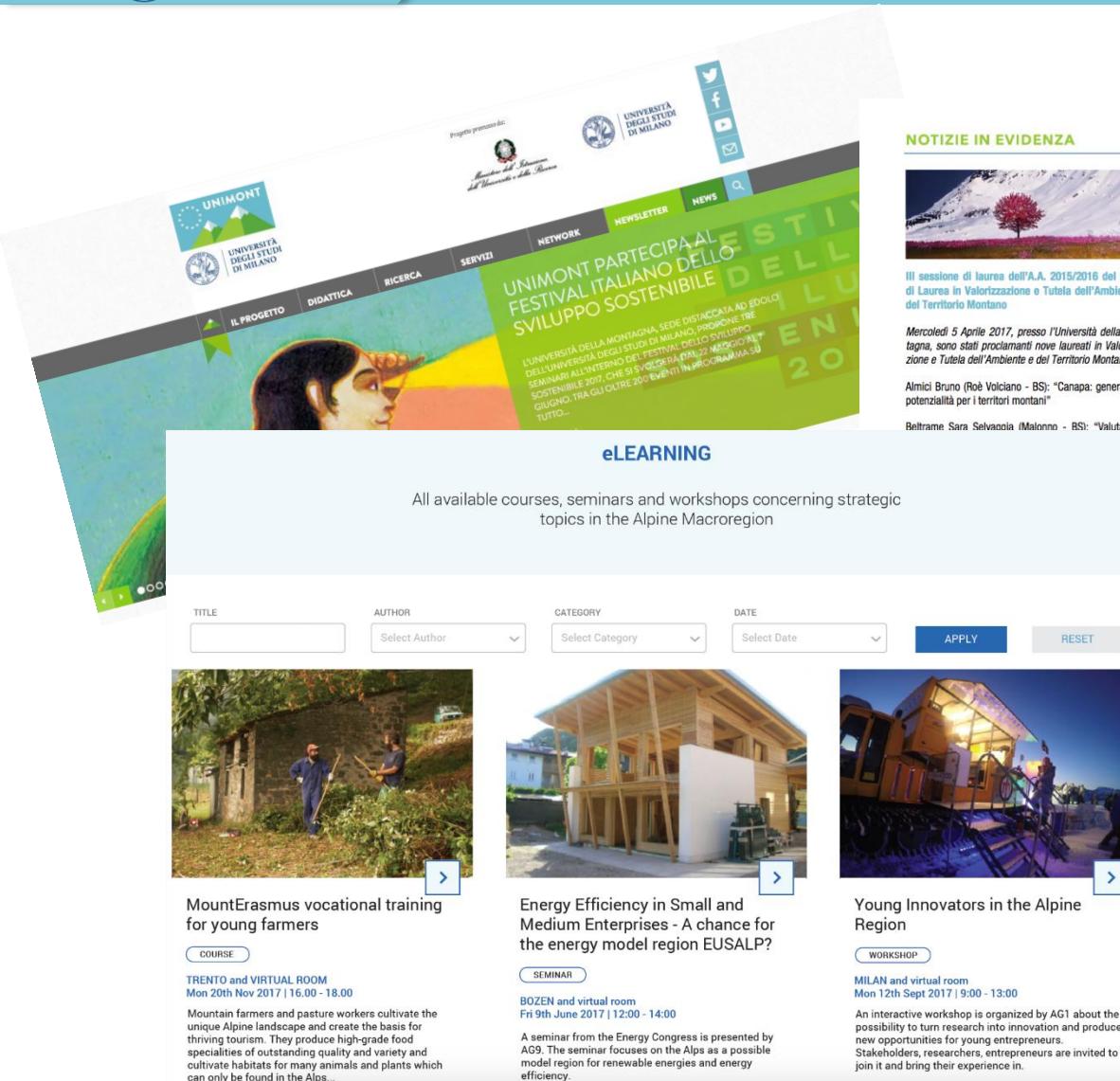
-Active members-

**NEMOR**  
EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR THE MOUNTAINS  
-Funding members-

**MRI**  
MOUNTAIN RESEARCH INITIATIVE  
-Active members-

**CO.R.I.MONT.**  
COORDINATION OF ITALIAN NETWORKS FOR THE MOUNTAINS  
-Founders-

# Communication & Interaction with the communities



The screenshot shows the UNIMONT website's main page. At the top, there's a banner for the "FESTIVAL ITALIANO DELLO SVILUPPO SOSTENIBILE" (Italian Festival of Sustainable Development) featuring a tree in a snowy landscape. Below this, the "eLEARNING" section displays a grid of course thumbnails, each with a title, author, category, date, and a "VIEW" button. One visible course is about vocational training for young farmers.

Notiziario N° 102 - UNIMONT

L'Università della Montagna in onda su Radio 24

Sabato 8 Aprile alle 7.15 è andato in onda su Radio 24 un servizio dedicato all'Università della Montagna di Edolo, il centro universitario di ricerca e formazione legato al territorio montano.

La troupe radiofonica di Radio 24 si è recata presso l'Università della Montagna, sede distaccata ad Edolo (BS) dell'Università degli Studi di Milano, per raccontare attraverso un reportage la struttura universitaria, i suoi percorsi didattici voltati alla valorizzazione delle aree montane e gli sbocchi professionali possibili a seguito di una laurea in questo settore.

Durante il servizio è stata fatta un'intervista alla Professoressa Anna Giorgi e ad alcuni studenti del corso di Laurea Triennale in "Valorizzazione e tutela dell'ambiente e del territorio montano". Si è parlato anche della cospicua attività di ricerca che Ge.S.D.I.Mont. (Centro di Studi Applicati per la Gestione Sostenibile e la Difesa della Montagna) ha condotto in questi anni.

Nel corso del tempo, l'Università della Montagna è stata anche in grado di stabilire proficue collaborazioni, sia con altre università italiane, sia con enti e organizzazioni nazionali e internazionali. UNIMONT è un network molto esteso con una comunità di numerosi utenti, animati da newsletter che presentano e invitano a partecipare alle svariate e numerose iniziative proposte dall'Università e rivolti non solo ai giovani studenti. La missione di UNIMONT è dunque quella di valorizzare e trasferire conoscenze riguardanti il territorio e le aree montane, a un pubblico sempre più vasto.

Non solo in radio, ma anche sui giornali. Giovedì 6 Aprile l'Università della Montagna è stata citata nell'articolo "Montagna disincantata. Il futuro è la rivelazione dello sguardo" di Aldo Bonomi, all'interno dell'inserto "Il manifesto in movimento" in cui si parla di un movimento di ritorno alle aree montane, per valorizzare e conservare il territorio.

L'Università della Montagna al convegno "Montagna: infrastruttura verde d'innovazione e sviluppo"

Mercoledì 3 Maggio 2017, Anna Giorgi dell'Università della Montagna di Edolo interverrà al convegno organizzato da LUMSA - Libera Università Maria Santissima Asunta, con il patrocinio della Società Geografica Italiana.

Il convegno "Montagna: infrastruttura verde d'innovazione e sviluppo" mira a raccogliere tutti coloro che sono interessati alla montagna, quindi i protago-

## UNIMONT PORTAL: OVER 205,189 VISITS PER YEAR, OVER 47,000 VISITORS PER YEAR



### 25.000 CONTACTS ANIMATED THROUGH:

- EMAIL MARKETING,
- SCIENTIFIC DISSEMINATION,
- SOCIAL NETWORKS AND  
NETWORKING

# UNIMONT as a living lab

The Mountain University is a living lab where **Research Activities**, results and derived **Innovation Tools** are transferred on the territory to promote socio-economic development.

«Humans» are an essential **key factor** to trigger the development of these territories!



# A unique pole in the heart of the central alps



## It wasn't easy....

- To establish the relation with the local dimension
- Everything to be adapted or invented
- A new model to be developed:
  - In teaching
  - In defining the priorities for research activities
  - In interacting with «the rest of the world» overcoming the distances, following the formula:
    - 1. TO DO USEFUL THINGS
    - 2. TO DO THINGS WELL
    - 3. TO SPREAD THE MESSAGE ALL AROUND, LET PEOPLE KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING

# A unique pole in the heart of the central alps

## It was quite easy....

- To define the list of «PRIORITIES»

To stay in a mountain little village is an effective way to realize which are the main things to do based on the day life needs!

a very pragmatic approach:

- Specific methods to be used
- How to overcome distances
- Connection with «outside»
- Bring in modernity
- Need of technological solutions and innovation
- Innovate methods and tools



# Which are the key succes factors? LESSON LEARNT



Be integrated with the local dimension and connected with the «global» one



Empower young people



New vision for mountain development based on specificities



Capitalisation



Knowledge sharing



Innovation



Technology



Networking

# UNIMONT as a living lab: young entrepreneurs



# UNIMONT as a living lab: young entrepreneurs



ONE MORNING WHILE I WAS DRIVING THE SNOWMOBILE AND CONSIDERING MY COOKING CAREER I DECIDED TO MERGE THE TWO THINGS IN ORDER TO FEEL FREE AGAIN



Subscribe to our newsletter & visit our portal  
**[Unimontagna.it/en](http://Unimontagna.it/en)**



“THE MOUNTAINS  
ARE OF THOSE  
WHO  
LOVE THEM,  
CHOOSE THEM,  
LIVE IN THEM”



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DI MILANO

# ESPON BRIDGES

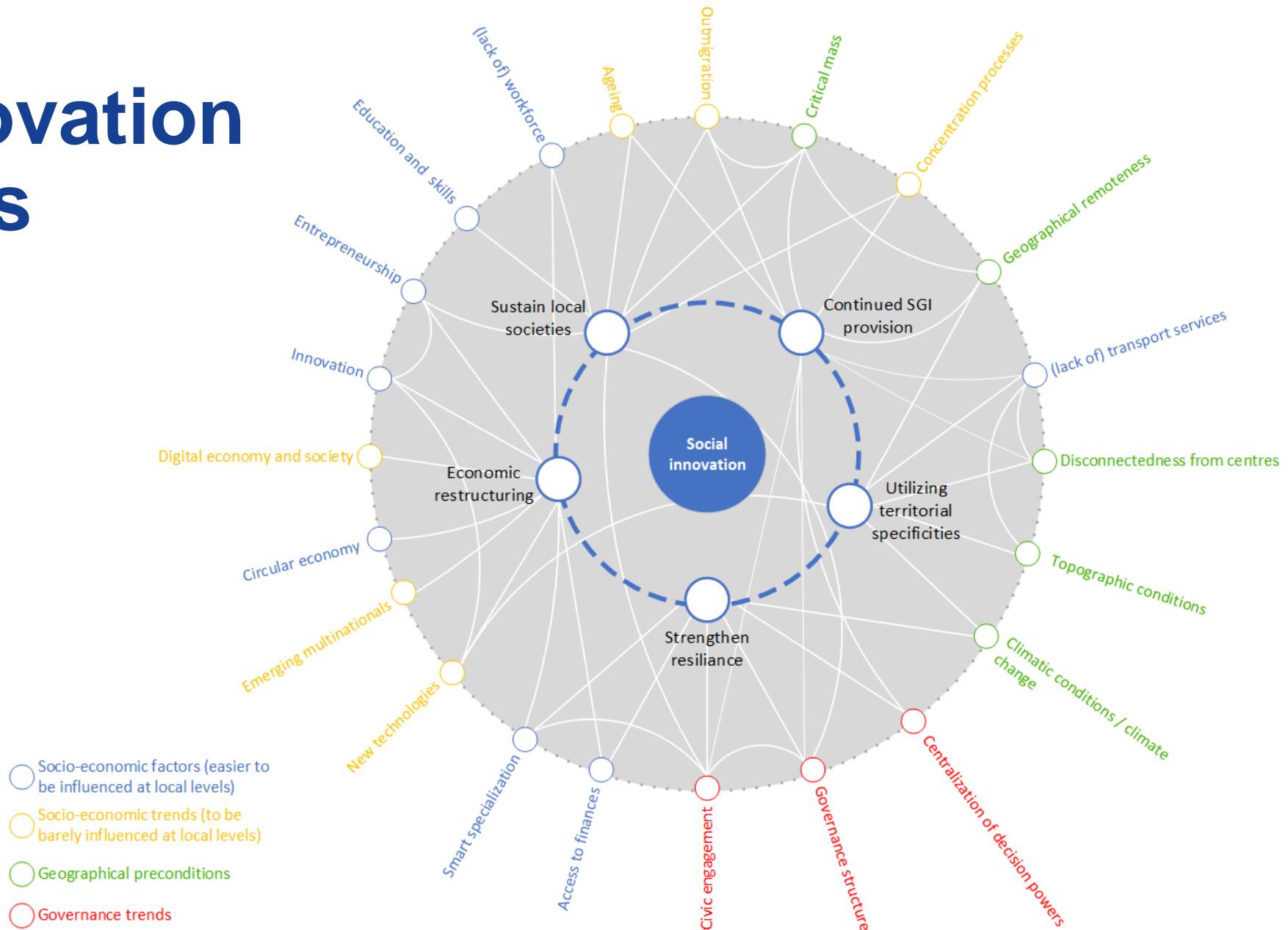
## Key findings on innovation

Erik Gløersen, Spatial Foresight

Euromontana conference, 20<sup>th</sup> November 2019

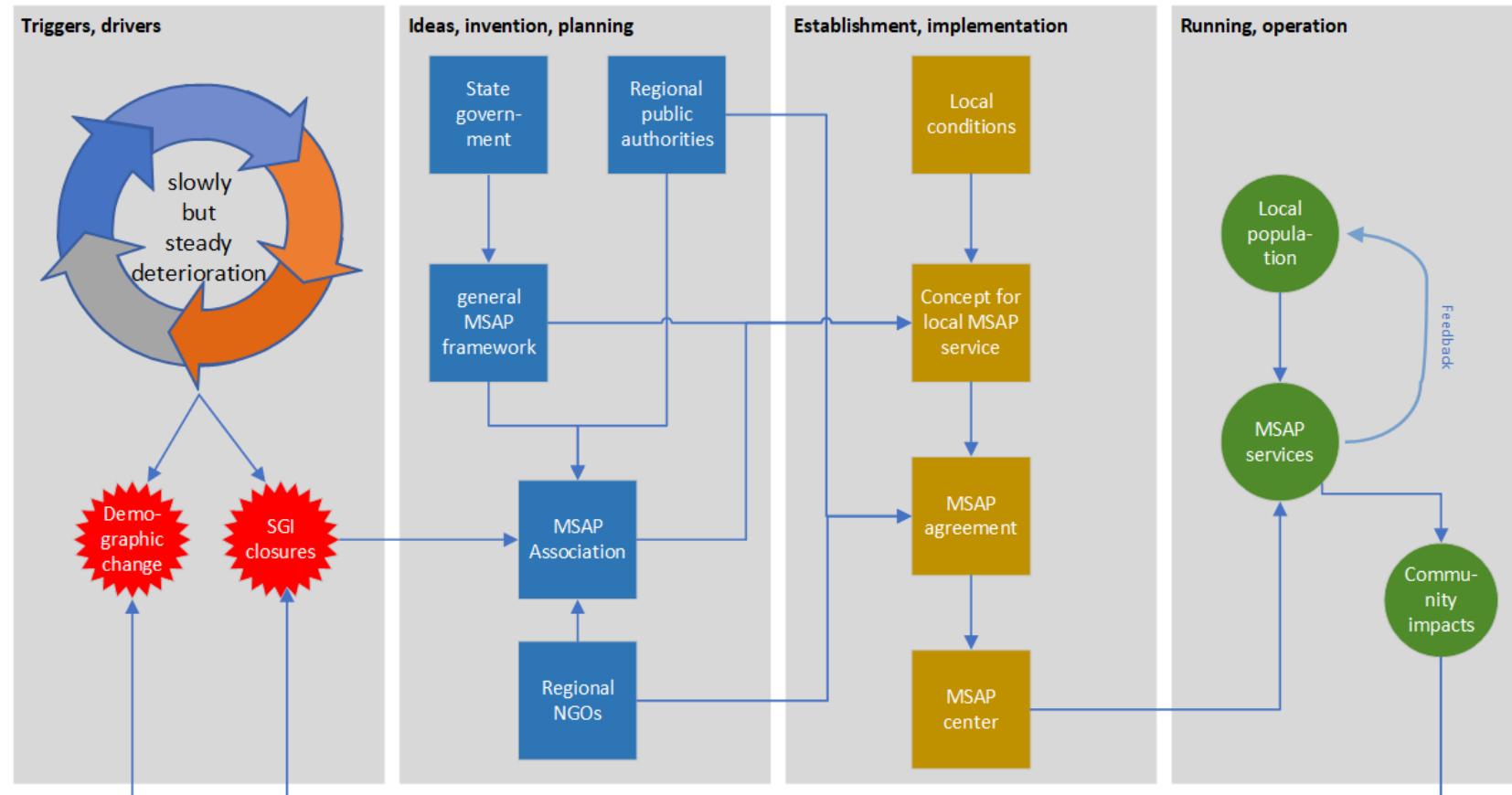
Rethinking territorial balances between urban and rural areas in the European Mountains:  
How can innovation support win-win solutions?

# Social innovation dimensions



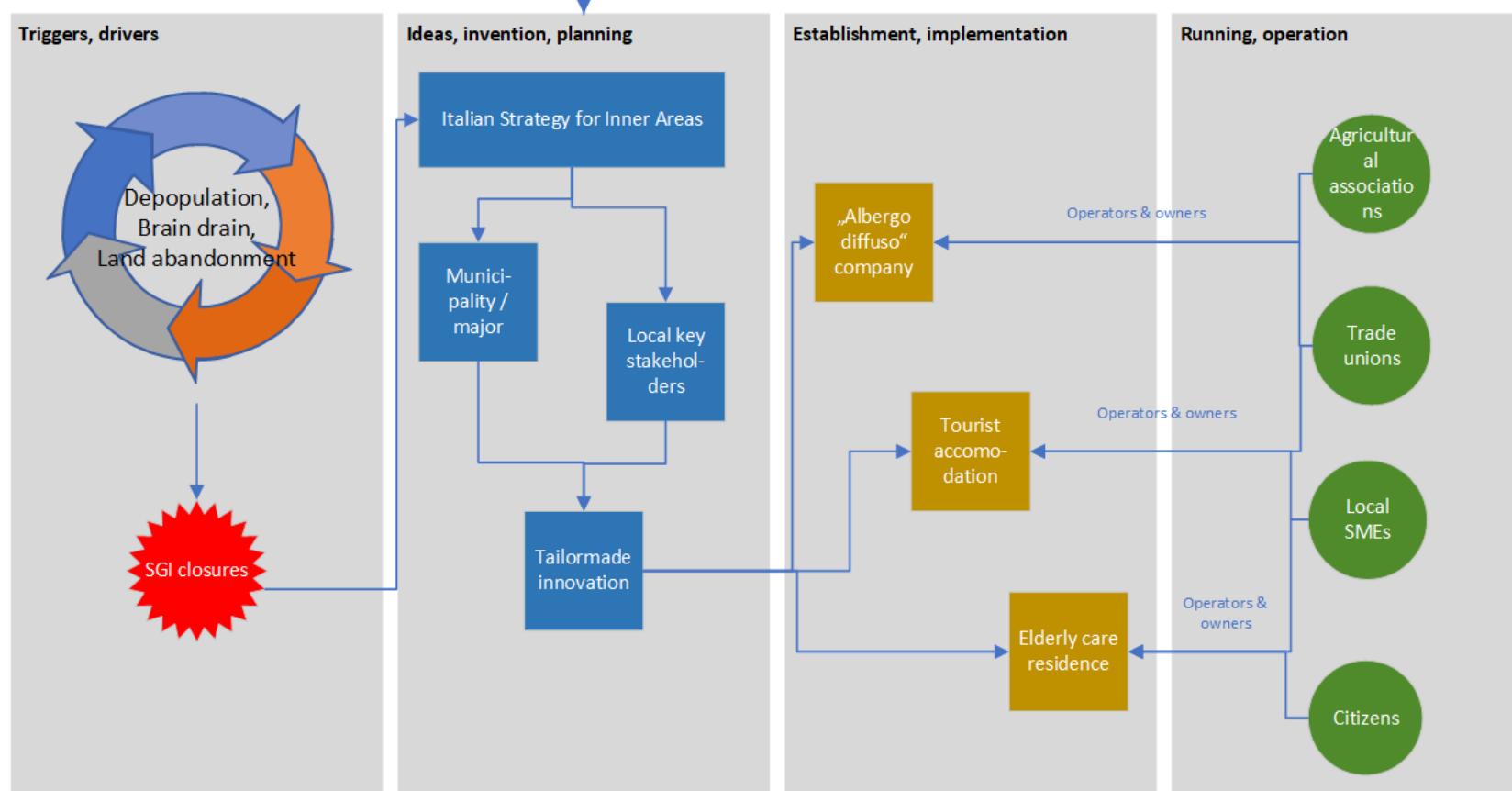
# Framework for the assessment of social innovation initiatives

- Inland of Côte d'Azur (FR)
- Maisons des services au public (MSAP)
- Top-down social innovation



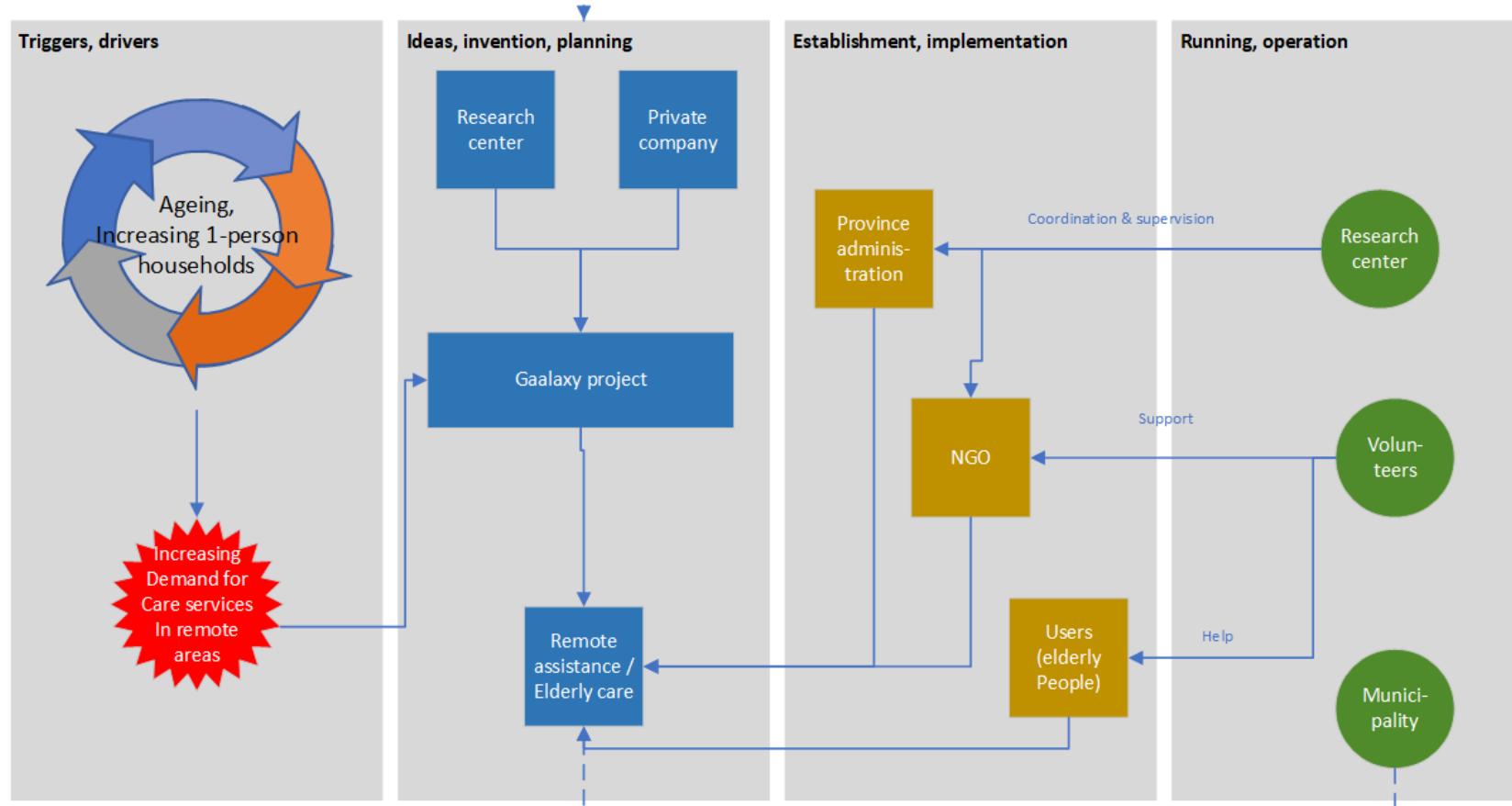
# Framework for the assessment of social innovation initiatives

- Isernia (IT)
- Strategy for Inner Areas
- Top-down social innovation



# Framework for the assessment of social innovation initiatives

- South Tyrol (IT)
- Galaxy project
- Bottom-up social innovation involving local administration



# Critical factors for technological innovation

- Network relations between knowledge creators and users
- Knowledge absorption capacity of firms
- Entrepreneurial state of mind
- Number of skilled entrepreneurs
- Capacity to counter brain drain
- Openness to change
- ICT access
- Usage of ICT

# Specificity of mountain innovation processes

- High profile
- Industrial traditions
- Small communities
- Challenges in service-provision
- Specific vulnerabilities

# Challenges and opportunities

- Innovation needs are specific
- Regional smart specialisation strategies fail to reflect the specific challenges and opportunities of mountain areas
- Building on local entrepreneurial traditions
- Quality of living environment as a lever to attract talents

# Policy perspectives

- Identifying innovation bottlenecks precisely
  - Infrastructure, usage, skills, attitudes, institutional frameworks
- Building mountain innovation networks
  - Sub-regional, cross-border or transnational
- Policies targeting flows of talents and workers
  - Transitional labour markets
- Better integrating social and technological innovation
  - Innovation centred on the specific needs and aspirations of mountain communities



Co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund

Inspire Policy Making with Territorial Evidence

// Thank you

Erik Gløersen, Spatial Foresight

[erik.gloersen@spatialforesight.eu](mailto:erik.gloersen@spatialforesight.eu)