

Studies from the EU CAP Network's Focus Group on competitive and resilient mountain areas



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GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:

Highland area of Dalarna
Sweden and Innlandet Norway

INVOLVED ACTORS:

Compétence center in Dalarna
DKL.

Storsteigen upper secondary
school (Norway)

Plus other

SOURCES OF INFORMATION, REFERENCES, WEBSITES:

Under development

CHALLENGES & RESEARCH NEEDS:

In different areas. But one would be - What are the factors for creating attraction to the area that make people take decision to move.

DESCRIPTION OF THE CONTEXT

Increased knowledge transfer to make more persons to study agriculture in forest/high land. By sharing experience cross boarder Swe Nor. Study made preparation of a larger scale project in process.

INNOVATION(S)/GOOD PRACTICE(S):

With low number of teachers/trainers/advisors in the similar challenging areas the aim is to look how good practises, sharing knowledge cross boarder.

Are there social innovations involved? If yes, please explain shortly.

Yes. To enable change of career. The focus group are who have studied other subjects.

BENEFIT/VALUE FOR COMPETITIVENESS and/or RESILIENCE

The overall idea are that production shall increase and more people move to the region

SUCCESS FACTORS:

The system on how to gather target group for involving in the development work. I.E existing cross boarder committee



<https://www.etifor.com/it/eventi/hackathon-rurale/>



GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:

Veneto, Italy

INVOLVED ACTORS:

Young people, startups, new businesses, cooperatives, voluntary associations

SOURCES OF INFORMATION, REFERENCES, WEBSITES:

<https://www.etifor.com/it/eventi/hackathon-rurale/>

CHALLENGES & RESEARCH NEEDS:

The challenges addressed were social innovation and entrepreneurship capacity-building and knowledge needs for rural young people; engagement and participation of public and private actors to promote social innovation; rural outmigration and ageing populations.

The research needs identified were enhanced social and environmental innovation and entrepreneurship capacity and knowledge needs, exploring the rôle of successful local action groups in social innovation, and how to activate social and environmental innovation and entrepreneurship systems in rural mountain areas.



This poster was presented at the 1st meeting of the European CAP Network Focus Group 'Competitive and resilient mountain areas' -21-22 November-2023
More information: <https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/>



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<https://www.bi-gd.org/site/projects-menu>



GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:

Gotse Delchev area,
South West Bulgaria

INVOLVED ACTORS:

Young people, NGOs, local business, LAG, community centres, public authorities,

SOURCES OF INFORMATION, REFERENCES, WEBSITES:

<https://www.bi-gd.org/site/projects-menu>

CHALLENGES & RESEARCH NEEDS:

Access to finance for youth business ideas in mountain areas





GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:
 Serra da Estrela Natural Park
 Gerês Natural Park
 Serpa Mountain

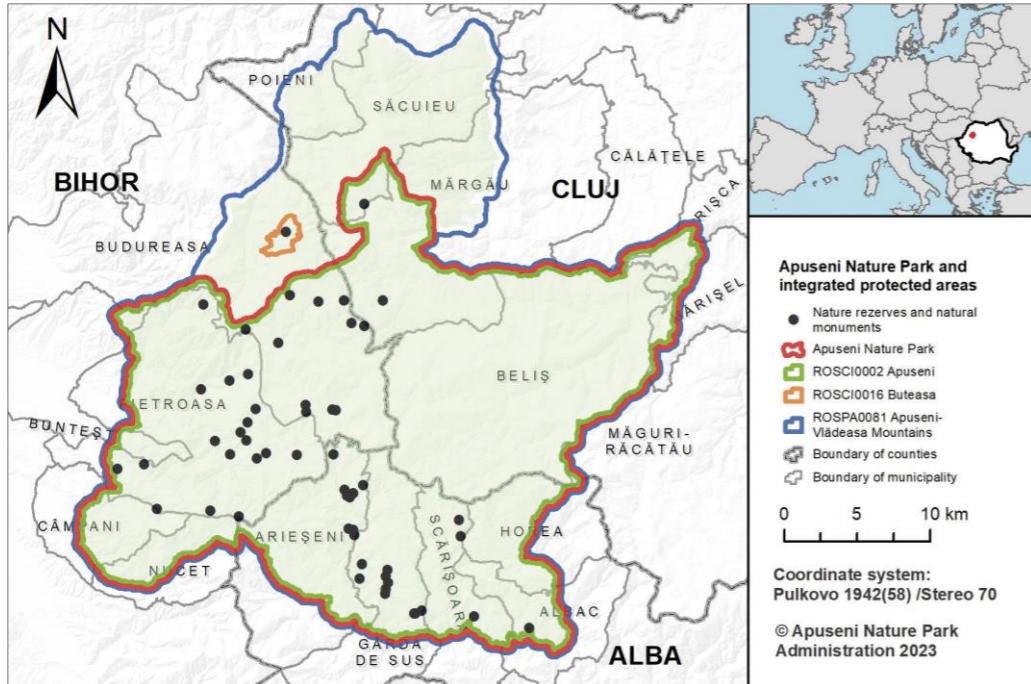
INVOLVED ACTORS:
 ONG ACTUAR, Agriculture Services DRAPC, Private companies (Vagari, Ervital), young farmers (three women and one man)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION, REFERENCES, WEBSITES:
In construction

CHALLENGES & RESEARCH NEEDS:

(1) recover the community spirit, (2) co-operating *versus* collaborating, (3) valuation of intangible services and goods that are cognitively difficult to perceive




[website](#)


GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:

The Apuseni Mountains are a branch of the Carpathian Mountains, located in the west of Romania, in Transylvania. Not being connected by to the rest of the Carpathian chain, the Apuseni have the appearance of an island. The maximum altitude is 1,848 m a.s.l. (Bihor peak), so compared to the Carpathian Mountains as a whole, the Apuseni are of moderate altitude.

INVOLVED ACTORS:

Administration of the Apuseni Natural Park, University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine Cluj-Napoca, Villages on the area

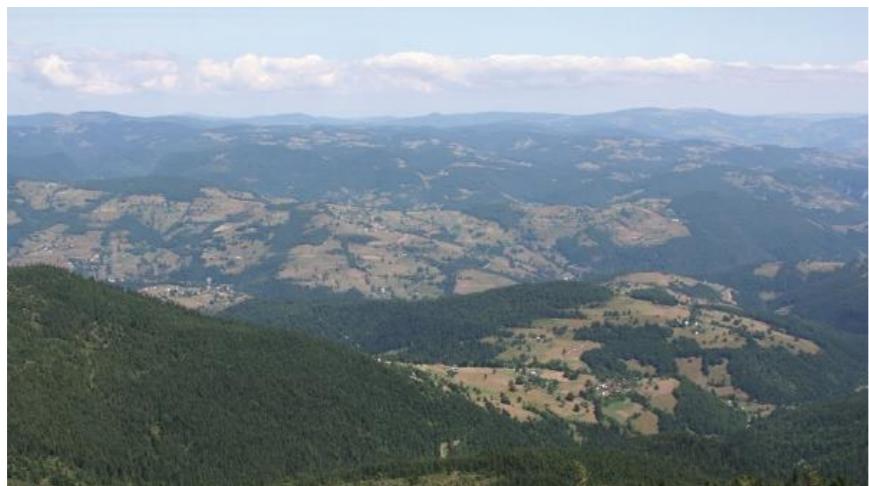
SOURCES OF INFORMATION, REFERENCES, WEBSITES:

eco.mont – Volume 16, Number 1, January 2024, ISSN 2073-106X print version – ISSN 2073-1558 online version: <http://epub.oeaw.ac.at/eco.mont>, <https://dx.doi.org/10.1553/eco.mont-16-15>

CHALLENGES & RESEARCH NEEDS:

To make known that the ecomuseum is like a craft product. No matter how hard you try to make one product similar to another, it will never be identical and consequently its value increases because it is unique.

It is necessary to identify the ancient customs and crafts that continue the lives of local people, remaining a legacy for future generations. It is up to us, now, to take notice of the intangible before it dissipates.



www.bergmilchvieh.at


GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:
Mountain Area in the Austrian Alps

INVOLVED ACTORS:
42 farm holders/farms
Austrian Chambers of Agriculture
Austrian Association of Organic Farming
Dairies
Austrian Council for Agricultural
Engineering and Rural Development
Research institutes and universities

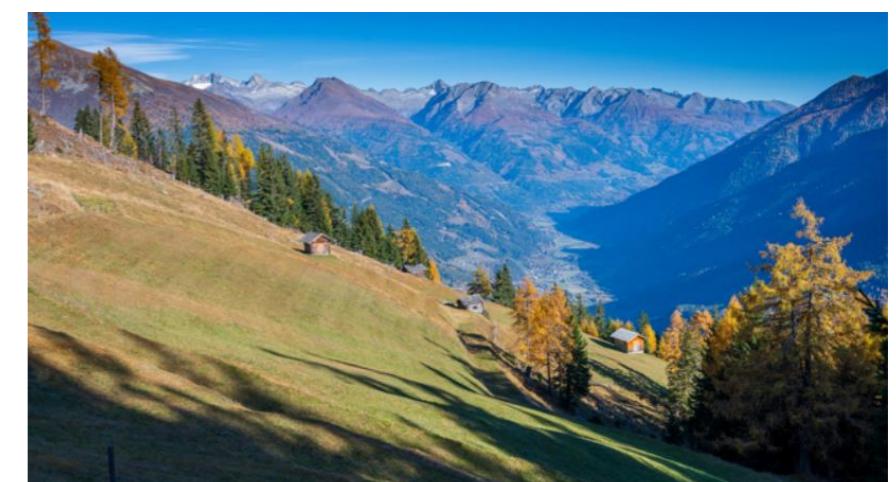
**SOURCES OF INFORMATION,
REFERENCES, WEBSITES:**
www.bergmilchvieh.at

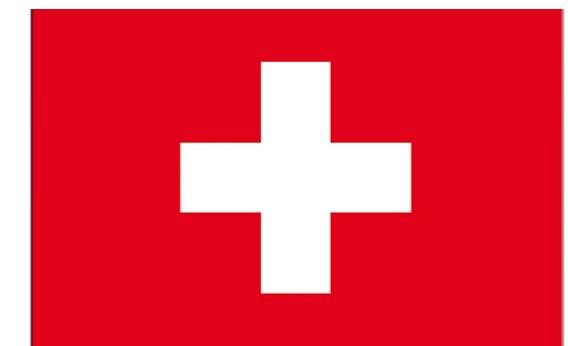
<https://raumberg-gumpenstein.at/projekte/eip-projekt-bergmilchvieh.html>

[Projects | EIP-AGRI \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/eip-agri/projects/eip-agri_en)

CHALLENGES & RESEARCH NEEDS:

Small-scale mountain (dairy-)farming faces major structural and financial challenges. Further studies are necessary with regard to competitive mountain farming from a European perspective.





Rike Stotten, Paul Froning
University of Innsbruck

<https://foodalternatives.at/>



GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:

Switzerland, Val Poschiavo, Grisons
Italian speaking valley south of the Bernina Pass bordering with Italian Valtellina

INVOLVED ACTORS:

Diverse stakeholders

SOURCES OF INFORMATION, REFERENCES, WEBSITES:

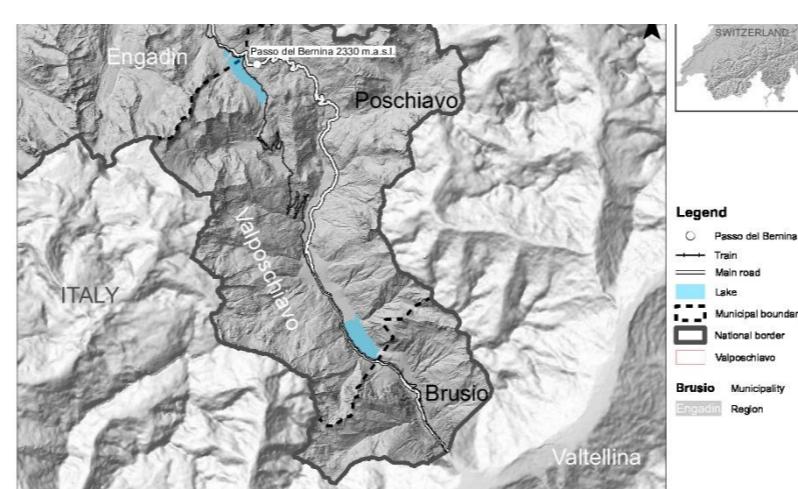
Vercher, N. (2022). Territorial Social Innovation and Alternative Food Networks: The Case of a New Farmers' Cooperative on the Island of Ibiza (Spain). *Sociologia Ruralis* 61(1), 163-189. doi: 10.1111/soru.12321.

Luminati, C.; Rinallo, D. (2021): Smart and organic - A swiss valley stakes its future on sustainable territorial development. In R. Romeo, S. R. Manuelli, M. Geringer, V.

Barchiesi (Eds.): Mountain farming systems. Seeds for the future. Sustainable agricultural practices for resilient mountain livelihoods. Rome: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, pp. 81–83. Available online at <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/fr/c/cb5349en/>, checked on 8.2.2023.

CHALLENGES & RESEARCH NEEDS:

- Governance structure of organic region still unclear
- Specific power relations in territorial social innovations unclear



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www.somiedoturismo.es



GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:

Somiedo is the second municipality with the lowest population density in Asturias. The whole council is considered a Biosphere Reserve and part of the natural park of Somiedo. It has an area of 291.38 km² and a population of 1,150 inhabitants.

INVOLVED ACTORS:

The Municipality Council, with all the services linked to the social and economic development of the municipality, the management team of the Natural Park and the Rural Development Group Camin Real de la Mesa, along with social agents and individual entrepreneurs.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION, REFERENCES, WEBSITES:

https://somiedoturismo.es/
https://parquenaturalsomiedo.com/
https://www.somiedo.es/

DESCRIPTION OF THE CONTEXT

Somiedo is located in a high mountain in the municipality of Asturias, region that belongs to northern Spain. It's a council that has lost thousands of inhabitants but currently, the decline has been attenuated. The historical basis of its economy were agriculture and livestock farming. In the last decades, it has diversified its economy, increasing the importance of high quality tourism, respectful with the environment and adapted to different tourism profiles that look for the deseasonalization.

INNOVATION(S)/GOOD PRACTICE(S):

Based on a global idea of rational and sustainable integral development, the tourism has three goals: deseasonalization, specialization and integration. Somiedo has the first trail fully adapted for blind people and people with reduced mobility in Spain, trails and companies for mountain routes with snowshoes and viewpoints or guided routes to see wild bears and without interfering in their habitat.

BENEFIT/VALUE FOR COMPETITIVENESS and/or RESILIENCE

The search of touristical activities that make tourism less seasonal and also the search of new users of the touristical offert of Somiedo, guarantees a better local economic development. This will make Somiedo more competitive compared to other municipalities with similar characteristics, being more attractive, diverse and a more resilient territory.

SUCCESS FACTORS:

The integration of a defined tourism model and different from its environment, based on its endogenous resources and adapted to new emerging markets, with specific actions (adapted trails, bear viewing points, winter snow routes) promoted by the public and private sectors, guarantee the social, economic and environmental sustainability of this mountain municipality.

CHALLENGES & RESEARCH NEEDS:

The challenge of maintaining and trying to increase the population and the guarantee of the triple sustainability of the territory are the most important necessities. The challenge for the future is to continue looking for new market niches and activities that can be developed in the winter months.




Prof. dr. Mugurel JITEA
https://horticultura.usamvcluj.ro/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/CV_engleza_Mugurel_Jitea_2022.pdf


GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:
Tarlisua Village, Bistrita Nasaud County, Romania

INVOLVED ACTORS:
Somes-Tibles-Meles Farm Cooperative (130 small-size family farmers)
University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine Cluj-Napoca

SOURCES OF INFORMATION, REFERENCES, WEBSITES:
Research Case – Study, G4AE Thematic Network
<https://grazing4agroecology.eu/>

CHALLENGES & RESEARCH NEEDS:

Milk processing & product differentiation (GIs or local brand);
Access to funding & binding sanitary-veterinary regulations.



manfred.perlik@unibe.ch


GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:

- Val Lumnezia, Canton of Grisons (LUM)
- Val de Travers, Canton of Neuchâtel (VdT)

INVOLVED ACTORS:

Heads of cantonal administration. Corporate organisations of Crafts and of Industries. Civil society, NGOs of Environment (LUM).

SOURCES OF INFORMATION,

<http://www.simra-h2020.eu>

<https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/13/7/3823>

DESCRIPTION OF THE CONTEXT

Social Innovation in marginalised rural areas (SIMRA), Horizon 2020. CDE and SAB Case Studies:

- LUM: agro-tourist profile
- VdT: manufacturing profile

INNOVATION(S)/GOOD PRACTICE(S)

- Pioneers in collaboration with environmental NGOs (still an exception in the Alps) (LUM)
- Maintaining the industrial profile by close cooperation between manufacturing enterprises of different sectors (covering the range from luxury products to mass products) (VdT)
- Merging of small municipalities on village level to one municipality for the valley (both)

SOCIAL INNOVATION?

Yes. It created active citizenship and increased the visibility of these valleys on cantonal and national level

BENEFIT/VALUE FOR COMPETITIVENESS

Adaption to the challenges in national (and international) regional policies of the 1990s:

- Renaissance of the large cities
- Regional policies with subsidies only for rural regions being economically competitive
- Turn of regional development from an administrative, democratically controlled planification to an offer-oriented business model

SUCCESS FACTORS

- New social actors of a younger generation
- Entrepreneurial craftsmen (LUM) and Heads of administration (VdT)

CHALLENGES & RESEARCH NEEDS:

To avoid social innovation as a new buzzword for new disruptive business models.
 How to avoid social and greenwashing when promoting social innovation?





<https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/find-connect/projects/valor-jarmelista->



GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:
Guarda, Portugal

INVOLVED ACTORS:
ACRIGUARDA
IPG
ISAC

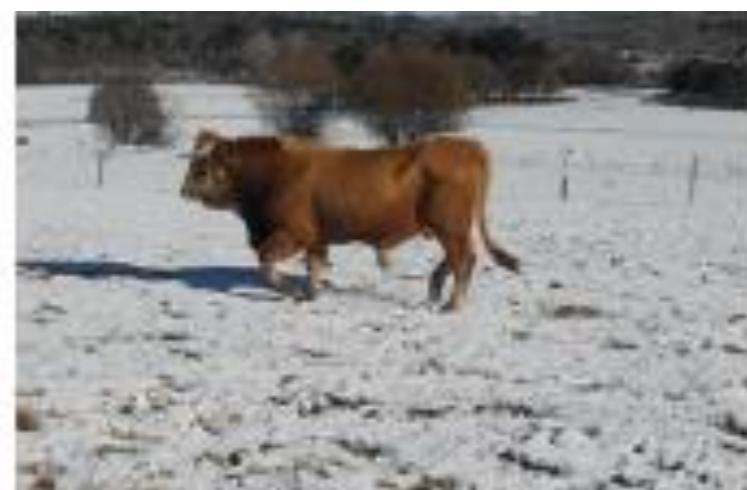
SOURCES OF INFORMATION, REFERENCES, WEBSITES:

https://politecnicoguarda.pt/projetos_investigaca/valor-jarmelo/

<https://www.ipc.pt/ipc/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Valor-Jarmelista-VSfinal.pdf>

CHALLENGES & RESEARCH NEEDS:

Human resources and the amount of farmers that have the will to raise this breed.





<https://www.elhatoymelgarabato.com/>



GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:

Arribes del Duero, a region along the Spanish-Portuguese border known for its rugged terrain, distinctive climate, and rich viticultural history

INVOLVED ACTORS:

The project is a collaborative effort involving local vineyard owners, winemakers, community members, and international wine experts. Partnerships with local and regional bodies are key to our operation.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION, REFERENCES, WEBSITES:

Additional information can be found on our website <https://www.elhatoymelgarabato.com/> which includes details about our winemaking practices, the history of the region, and our community initiatives. And also in the website or <https://www.variedadesminoritarias.es/> a Project we are working on.

CHALLENGES & RESEARCH NEEDS:

The main challenges include promote climate change adaptability of local varieties, enhancing market reach for our unique products, and continuing to reverse the trend of rural depopulation. Ongoing research into sustainable viticulture practices, autochthonous grape profiles (and other local productions) and market expansion strategies is needed.





<https://www.vrachikeratiki.gr> (currently in Greek only)



GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:

Mountain (and some island) areas of Greece

INVOLVED ACTORS:

- Greek Shorthorn Cattle Breeders' Association (GSCBA, est. 2016)
- Ministry of Rural Development and Food (CAP measures in general, and specifically on the support to endangered native breeds)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION, REFERENCES, WEBSITES:

www.geneticresources.eu/ecompendium, www.vrachikeratiki.gr.

CHALLENGES & RESEARCH NEEDS:

- (1) Preparation and implementation of agricultural policy measures, designed specifically for mountainous and disadvantaged areas, taking into account their particularities at the national and international (EU) level;
- (2) Funding of research on the effects (social, economic, environmental) of land abandonment in EU countries, including de-populated mountain areas in the Balkans and the Mediterranean.





[website](#)



GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:

Ireland

INVOLVED ACTORS:

Talamh Beo

Talamh Beo is a representative organisation for farmers and citizens in Ireland which works for Food Sovereignty and the regeneration of our land people and communities.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION, REFERENCES, WEBSITES:

Talamhbeo.ie

DESCRIPTION OF THE CONTEXT

Soil provides us with food, fibre, fuel and medicine. It filters and stores water. It hosts a quarter of the Earth's biodiversity and has a vital role to play in mitigating and adapting to climate change. The answers to many problems we face may well be right under our feet on every single farm.

Talamh Beo recognises that it is farmers themselves who are best placed to make decisions on how to improve and augment the health of their soils.

INNOVATION(S)/GOOD PRACTICE(S):

To make informed decisions, farmers need to learn from their practices and have the capacity to share the results of their work with one another. They come to clearly understand the result of choices they make in the management of their land.

Participating farmers are conducting trials and documenting physical innovations on their farms - for example, soil biological activators, mineral amendments, biochar, green manures, compost & compost teas and inoculants. Peer-to-peer exchanges deepen the knowledge and experience.

Are there social innovations involved? If yes, please explain shortly.

The Project teaches agency by putting chemical and biological analysis, tools and education of how to build healthy, biodiverse soils in the hands of farmers. The project comprised of 16 farms from different land use sectors all across the country. Peer to Peer engagement was a critical component of success.

BENEFIT/VALUE FOR COMPETITIVENESS and/or RESILIENCE

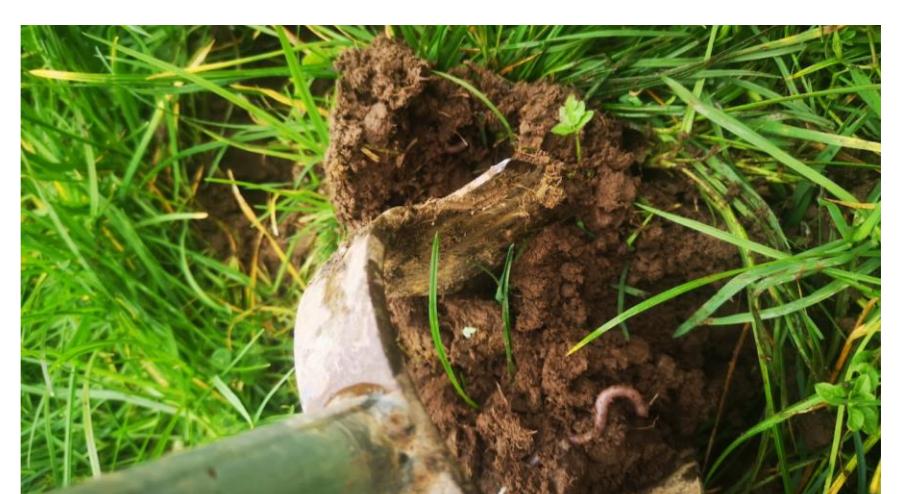
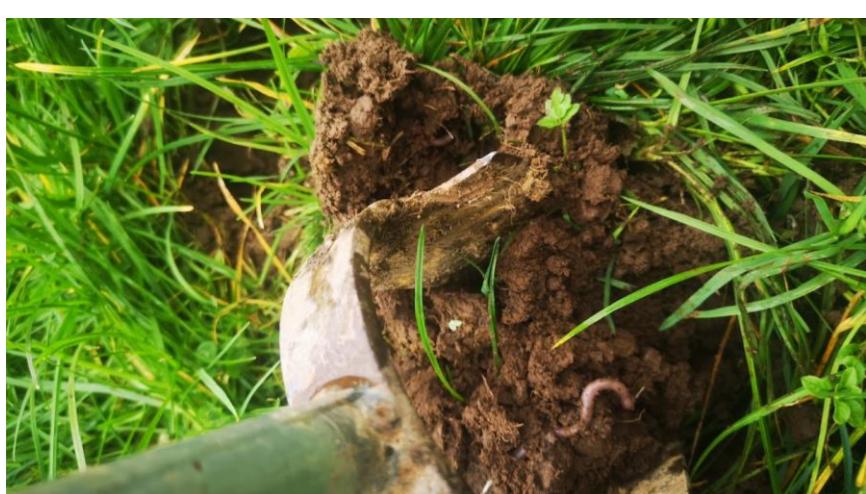
The participating farmers will continue with their learning and experiments, acting as lighthouses for how farmers around the country can go about increasing the health and value of their natural capital, soil.

SUCCESS FACTORS:

16 Living laboratories engaged in peer-to-peer learning

CHALLENGES & RESEARCH NEEDS:

Farmers need assistance and engagement from academia – both to extrapolate the learnings from their experiments and to provide research where needed.





<https://alpageecoledesulens.wixsite.com/website>

DESCRIPTION OF THE CONTEXT



The mountain pasture school is an essential educational tool for passing on the specific know-how involved in the harmonious, integrated management of a mountain pasture and the processing of farmhouse cheese. Although pastoral practices go back a long way, they require specific agro-ecological knowledge if they are to be adapted to today's agricultural context and environmental challenges. The increasing scarcity of land on the plains is making it more and more necessary to develop high-altitude pastures. In the mountain pastures, the great diversity of flora enables the production of quality milk, which contributes to the rich flavour of the cheeses. It plays an important role in the agricultural economy of the Northern Alps.

INNOVATION(S)/GOOD PRACTICE(S):

Serving education and the farming profession, the mountain pasture school aims to train young people and adults in pastoral activities, from animal husbandry to cheese-making, while respecting the environment, local practices and available resources. With the help of numerous partners, the site aims to become a genuine resource and innovation centre for pastoralism, in terms of teaching, applied research, economic activity and raising public awareness.

Are there social innovations involved? If yes, please explain shortly.

The aim of the Alpage School is to create an experimental site that will set an example and enable neighbouring mountain pastures to replicate an innovative, profitable economic model that is in harmony with the challenges of biodiversity in the context of climate change.

BENEFIT/VALUE FOR COMPETITIVENESS and/or RESILIENCE

Young and less young people becoming farmer in mountain areas, visitors and locals

SUCCESS FACTORS:

The mountain pasture school is a unique concept in France. Educational training on cross-cutting topics and not only farming.

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:

Municipality of Sulens / Community of municipalities Vallées de Thônes, Haute-Savoie (France)

INVOLVED ACTORS:

Auvergne Rhône Alpes region, Department of Haute-Savoie, Professional higher agriculture school of Contamine-sur-Arve National School of Milk and meat industry, Community of municipalities Vallées de Thônes,...

SOURCES OF INFORMATION, REFERENCES, WEBSITES:

<https://alpageecoledesulens.wixsite.com/website>

CHALLENGES & RESEARCH NEEDS:

In general, the living and work conditions of shepherds, social recognition of the profession, Which challenges needs to be faced in future ?





<https://www.osjz-smolyan.com/Indexus.htm>



GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:

Smolyan, Southern Bulgaria

INVOLVED ACTORS:

Farmers, scientists, business, non-governmental organizations and local authorities.

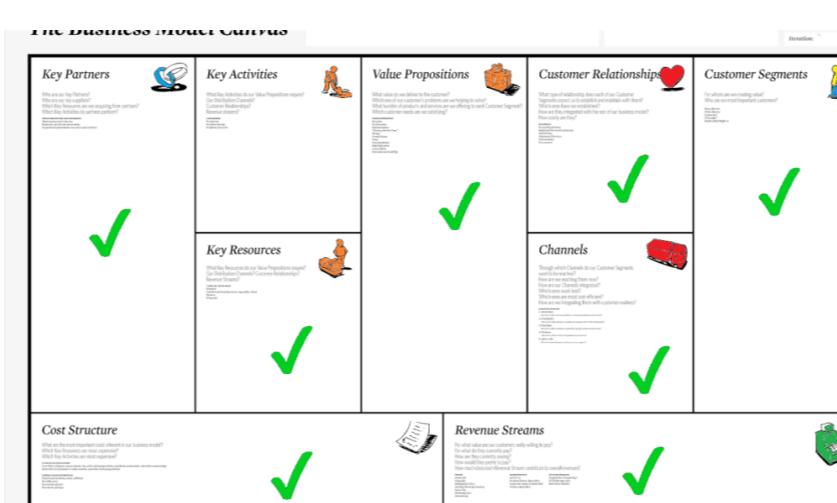
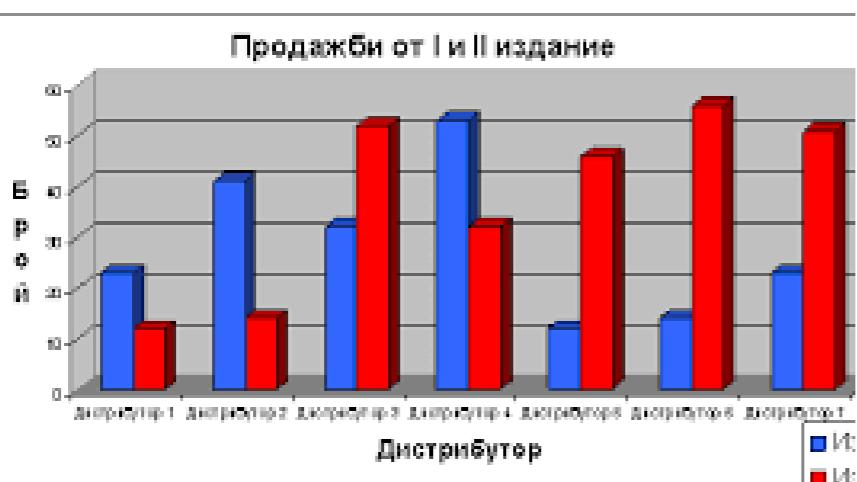
SOURCES OF INFORMATION, REFERENCES, WEBSITES:

<https://www.osjz-smolyan.com/Indexus.htm>

<https://www.mzh.govment.bg>

CHALLENGES & RESEARCH NEEDS:

1. Collection and publication of statistical data related to mountainous regions;
2. Creation of new business models based on technological, social and ecological innovations suitable for mountain areas;
3. Improving infrastructure in mountainous areas by introducing digital technologies, offering solutions on agri-environmental climate public goods



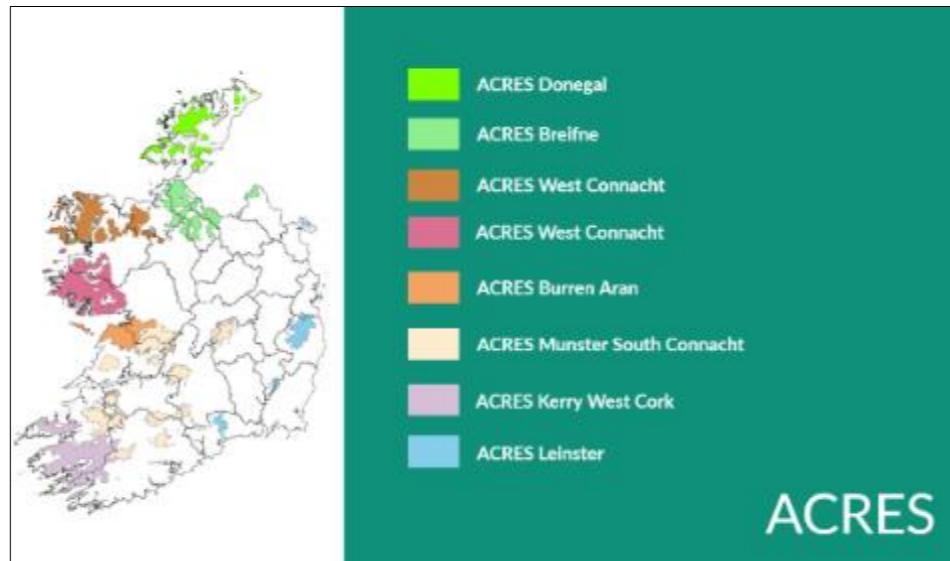
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<https://www.gov.ie/en/service/f5a48-agri-climate-rural-environment-scheme-acres/>



ACRES

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION: Irish uplands

INVOLVED ACTORS:

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, farmers, agricultural advisors and Co-Operation Project (CP) teams.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION, REFERENCES, WEBSITES:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/service/f5a48-agri-climate-rural-environment-scheme-acres/>

CHALLENGES & RESEARCH NEEDS:

The challenge is to motivate farmers to avail of payments available under ACRES CP to carry out improvements to the upland habitats



Mark Redman

www.moving-h2020.eu



GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:

The MOVING project works in 23 mountain regions (reference landscapes) in 16 countries

INVOLVED ACTORS:

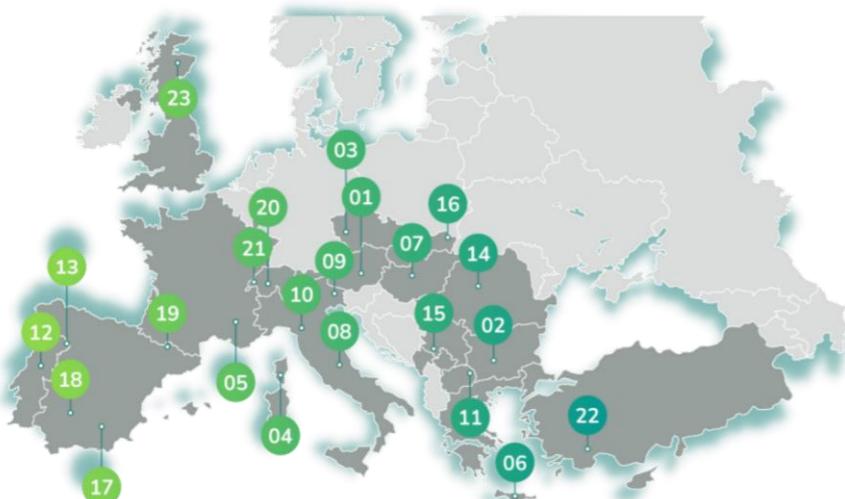
A diverse consortium of 23 partner organisations, together with 23 regional Multi-actor Platforms (MAPs) plus one European-level MAP

WEBSITE:

www.moving-h2020.eu
@MOVINGH2020

VISION:

Seven objectives have been identified as a vision for how mountain product value chains may contribute to enhancing the resilience and sustainability of mountain areas: 1) Human capital, 2) Cooperation, 3) Sustainable use of local assets, 4) Inclusiveness, 5) Adaptive capacity, 6) Ecological resilience, and 7) Attractiveness and well-being.



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GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:

Tuscany but in general for all the European mountain area

INVOLVED ACTORS:

LAG, local government agencies, farms, agricultural associations

**SOURCES OF INFORMATION,
REFERENCES, WEBSITES:**

<https://www.toscana.info/itinerari-toscana/toscana-a-cavallo/>

<https://eroica.cc/it>

DESCRIPTION OF THE CONTEXT

Enhancement of traditional agri-food products through the promotion of experiential tourism packages, through the creation of a network between local government agencies and farms. Promote this experiential tourism through promotion of cycle tourism and horse trails

Focusing LEADER funds and programs on marginal mountain areas.
INNOVATION(S)/GOOD PRACTICE(S):

Promotion of experiential tourism

Are there social innovations involved? If yes, please explain shortly.

**BENEFIT/VALUE FOR COMPETITIVENESS
and/or RESILIENCE**

Tying the promotion of mountain agricultural products with equestrian and bicycle tourism, increasing the competitiveness of these areas compared to other tourist areas with different characteristics

SUCCESS FACTORS:

Increased equestrian and bicycle tourism activities.

CHALLENGES & RESEARCH NEEDS:

Promote mountain areas through new tourist, experiential, bridleway-related, cycling and trekking routes.

