



THE MOUNTAIN DIMENSION OF COOPERATION

9th November 2018 | Conference Centre Albert Borschette, Room 0D, Rue Froissart 36, Brussels

The objective of the one-day seminar is to discuss on policies, projects and governance that contribute to the development of mountainous areas in the EU. It will bring together EU Institutions, Interreg programmes, stakeholders and representatives of the civil society.

Mountain settlements are often characterised by isolation, meaning considerable distance from urban or sub-urban hubs where services (education, health) and business or cultural opportunities can be widely accessed. This is per se not necessarily a handicap, when sufficient economic activities (especially in the fields of tourism and agriculture) allow to maintain the population in mountain areas; however, it is a fact that numerous settlements suffer from depopulation, brain-drain, ageing of resident population, which in turn leads to further decrease of the services offered, in a vicious circle.

Cohesion policy aims at ensuring equal opportunities wherever people live (access to jobs, services, transport, etc.). National and EU funds give the possibility to improve living situations in areas which otherwise would be easily abandoned. When support leads to the arising of sustainable economic activities, mountain areas are able to continue on their development path with less public funds.

Given that several mountain areas are across borders (Alps, Carpathians, Pyrenees, Balkans, Scandes), cooperation between several countries plays a fundamental role. “Development” requires cooperation both on the “national” level and “beyond borders”. This takes the form of cross-border cooperation, mountain-range based cooperation or transnational/interregional cooperation. It is therefore no surprise that several good practices/cooperation projects have been developed in mountain areas (shared services supply, joint initiatives).

The one-day event of 9th November 2018 will bring together actors from cooperation projects (programme authorities and beneficiaries), organizations dealing with mountain development and interested stakeholders. **The underlying message is that cooperation in mountain area is indispensable but also show that it leads to concrete results, and as such should be continued intensively in the future.**

CONFERENCE AGENDA

9:00 – 9:30

Registration

Moderation:

Marco Onida, *European Commission, DG REGIO D1 (Macro-regions, Transnational/Interregional Cooperation, IPA, Enlargement)*

Olivier Baudelet, *European Commission, DG REGIO D2 (Interreg, Cross-Border Cooperation, Internal Borders)*

9:30 – 9:45

Welcome words and introduction to the meeting

Lena Andersson-Pench, *European Commission, DG REGIO, Director European Territorial Cooperation, Macro Regions, Interreg and Programme Implementation I.*

9:45 – 11:30

Session 1: The mountain dimension of EU policies

What are the key challenges and opportunities for mountainous areas under current and future EU policies?

Cohesion policy

Wallis Goelen Vandenbroeck, *European Commission, Head of Unit DG Regio 03 (Inclusive Growth, Urban and Territorial Development)*

Stefania Fortunato, *ERAM - Euro Région Alpes-Méditerranée*

Agricultural policy

Antonia Luetteken, *European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development F.1 (Conception and Consistency of Rural Development)*

Environmental policy

Julie Raynal, *European Commission, DG Environment D2 (Biodiversity)*

Climate policy

Christopher Ahlgren, *European Commission, DG Climate Action A3 (Adaptation)*

Digital policy

Andrea Halmos, *European Commission, DG Connect A2 (Technologies and Systems for Digitising Industry)*

The view of the European Parliament

Herbert Dorfmann, *Member of the European Parliament*

The view of the Committee of the Regions

Representative *of the Committee of the Regions*

Questions 15'

11:30 **Coffee break**

12:00 – 13:30 **Session 2: Projects and experiences from mountain areas**

What lessons can we learn from selected Programmes and Projects?

Cooperation

Christina Bauer, *INTERREG Alpine Space Transnational Programme, Transnational Cooperation in the Alps*

Jakob Ebner, *Sweden-Norway INTERREG Programme, Cross-border Tourism Management of Fulufjället National Parks*

Véronique Veyrat – Elena Ferrario *INTERREG France-Italy ALCOTRA, Cross-border cooperation in the Western Alps*

Idoia Arauzo, *POCTEFA Programme INTERREG France-Spain-Andorra, The Pyrenees Observatory on Climate Change*

Kiriakos Fotiadis, *INTERREG Greece-Bulgaria, Cross-border Cooperation, Projects in the Pangaio/Rhodope Mountains*

The voice of the beneficiaries

Christoph Promberger, *Executive Director of the Foundation Conservation Carpathia (Romania)*

Enrica Zublena, *Mayor of Saint Marcel (Italy)*

Questions 10'

13:30 – 14:30 **Lunch break**

14:30 – 16:00 **Session 3: Types of Governance in mountainous regions**

How does the governance model affect the success of cooperation?

Macro Regional Strategies and mountain areas

Franziska Sielker, *British Academy Newton International Fellow, University of Cambridge*

The Alpine Convention

Marianna Elmi, *Vice Secretary General, Alpine Convention*

The Carpathian Convention

Klaudia Kuraś, *Carpathian Convention Specialist, Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention*

The Pyrenees

Jean-Louis Valls, *Director, Working Community of the Pyrenees*

The Mountain Partnership

Rosalaura Romeo, *FAO - Mountain Partnership Secretariat*

The role of civil society

Roland Stierle, *President, European Union of Mountaineering Association*

Gabriella Suzanne Vanzan, *Executive Committee, Mountain Wilderness International*

16:00 – 17:00 **Discussion**

17:00 **Closing remarks and end of the meeting**

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

REGISTRATION IS MANDATORY!

PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL TO: REGIO-MOUNTAIN-COOPERATION@ec.europa.eu, providing the following data (mandatory for accessing the Conference Venue): Name, First Name, Date of birth, Nationality, ID number and date of expiry

You will receive an email of confirmation after acceptance of your registration. The Commission reserves the right to reject registrations once the full capacity of the room is reached.

Language of the Workshop: English-French (simultaneous translation)

Location of the Conference Centre



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