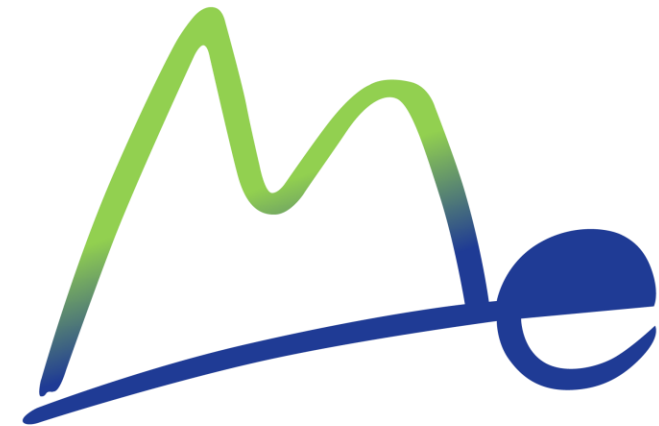


Memorandum of Cooperation Carpathian Convention and EUROMONTANA



EUROMONTANA

Carpathian Convention COP7
11-13 October 2023, Belgrade, Serbia



**eurac
research**

What is Euromontana?



- A European network dedicated to improving quality of life in mountain areas
- European **multisectoral** association for cooperation and development of mountain areas (since 1996 – founded by representatives of 14 states)

- Members from 17 countries

- Comprising:
 - regional and local authorities
 - regional development agencies
 - chambers of commerce and industry
 - agriculture organisations
 - environmental organisations
 - research organisations
 - training institutes...

- Answer to needs of all Members in different Mountain ranges



Facts and figures?

- 36% of continental Europe is mountainous
- 17% of Europeans (continental) live in mountain areas
- 18% of Europe's agricultural holdings are in mountain areas (15% of Europe's agricultural utilized areas)
- 35% of PDOs and PGIs are produced in mountain areas
- Total output of mountain farming: €23.4 billion, (~8% of the total EU agricultural output)
- 14% of mountain areas cover by Natura 2000 sites
- 43% of Natura 2000 areas are mountainous
- 41% of mountain areas cover by forests



Our vision on mountain areas: Mountains are potential!



- Strengths:

- The **positive image** of mountain areas
- Intense community life
- Very **rich culture**, traditions and heritage
- **The quality of life** of mountain populations
- Rare, preserved and **renewable resources**
- Production of **quality goods and services**
- Modern and often **dynamic governance**
- ...



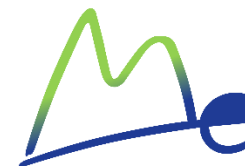
- Weaknesses:

- **Remoteness and accessibility**
- **Sparseness** of businesses and population
- **Competition** between economic development and environment
- Sensitivity to **climate change**



Our vision of European mountains.

- Our mountains are territories with a future and opportunities for Europe.
- Mountain areas are distinctive areas of Europe which need to be **addressed specifically**.
- We call for **private and public investment** in these areas. The return on investments might be longer but will be **more sustainable**.



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Working themes: all working topics



Territorial cohesion



Positives externalities



Agriculture & Rural Development



Mountain products



Youth



Research & Innovation



Forestry



Services of general interest



Education & training



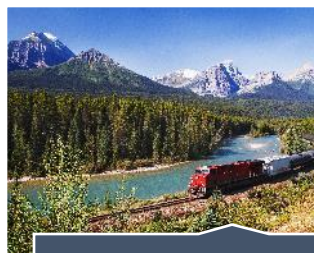
Energy



Tourism



Local & regional development



Mobility & ICT



Circular economy



Climate change

Why do mountain communities need to collaborate?



1. Need to have a collective voice and to have mountain communities represented at the European level

2. Need to collaborate: to get to know each other, exchange and share knowledge

3. Need to collaborate: developing projects together

4. Need for research and studies

Need of a collective voice and a representation at the European level

Euromontana's activities:



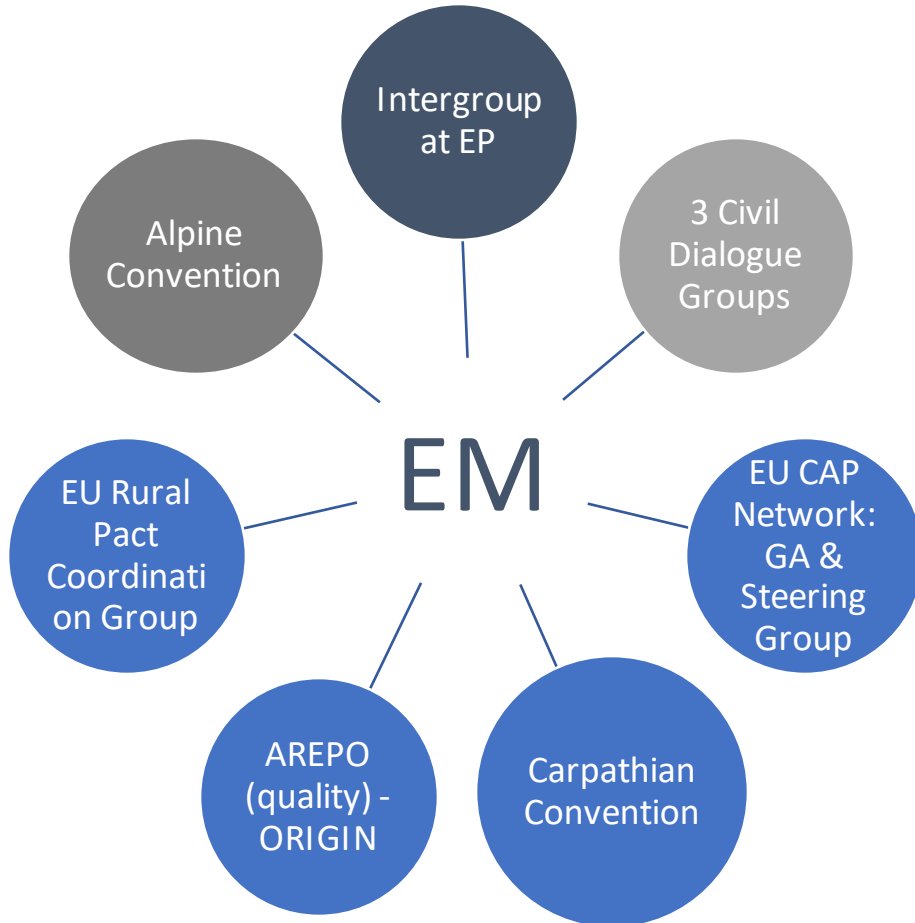
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External network



EUROPE



WORLD



Mountain Partnership
Rio+20

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Memorandum of Cooperation



Objective:

to enhance the capacity of countries in the Carpathian region to promote sustainable agriculture and rural development in the Carpathians, providing benefits to the local people, based on the exceptional nature, landscapes and cultural heritage of the Carpathians.

Memorandum of Cooperation



Scope:

- Identifying, documenting, and disseminating successful experience and best practices on sustainable agriculture and rural development;
- Promoting exchange of data and information on sustainable agriculture and rural development;
- Mutually recommending experts upon request that could contribute technical expertise to related projects;
- Promoting networks of professional experts in fields related to sustainable agriculture and rural development;
- Develop joint projects;
- Mutual assisting in organizing conferences, seminars, training workshops, outreach and other extension services, and technical meetings on matters related to sustainable agriculture and rural development;
- Communicating the results of their joint work through joint press releases, via internet postings, joint publications in public, and general and professional media.

Key areas of collaboration

Pastoralism

- Focus on knowledge sharing between pastoral schools
- Focus on pastoralism as key instrument of landscape management
- **In the pipeline:** Horizon Europe project proposals on those issues
- **Looking to join/build a consortium** for Horizon Europe call for proposals on « [Agro-pastoral/outdoor livestock systems and wildlife management](#)”
- **Open to collaboration** for 2026’s international year of pastoralism (joint event, other communication initiatives)



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Key areas of collaboration



Climate change adaptation

- Euromontana will be building a « Community of Practice » on climate change adaptation as part of the [MountResilience](#) project (2023-2027) to disseminate good practices to other regions through knowledge sharing activities. More news in the coming months.
- Carpathian mountains already involved in the project:
 - Râu Sadului, RO, as demonstration region
 - Podkarpackie, PL, as replicator region

=> Opportunity to use those partners as dissemination hubs in the Carpathians, with support from Euromontana?

Key areas of collaboration



Other areas of strong interest

- **Economic diversification and resilience** in mountain areas
- Retaining and attracting **skills and youth** in mountain areas
- The future of the **Cohesion and Common Agriculture Policies**
- **Mountain food products** (impact on farmers, consumer perception)
- **Energy** issues
- More...

Open to case by case collaboration.

ALWAYS LOOKING FOR GOOD PRACTICES from the Carpathian regions on those themes and more. Any ideas to share? Get in touch.

What comes next? Highlights



2023

- 21 November – Conference [« Skills for mountains in transition »](#)
- End 2023 – Updated study on the Optional Quality Term « **Mountain Product** » ([original study here](#))
- End 2023 – Publication of (short) study on **climate change adaptation** in mountain areas, with focus on tourism and water
- End 2023 – Publication of good practices the conservation of grasslands through pastoral activities (Part 1)
- End 2023 – Launch of **new Euromontana website**, with brand new **database of good practices** for sustainable mountain development

What comes next? Highlights



2024

- Early 2024 – Policy workshop on the future of the EU’s Long Term Vision for Rural Areas (TBC)
- Mid 2024 – Conference on pastoralism and landscape management (location and date TBC)
- Mid 2024 – Publication of good practices the conservation of grasslands through pastoral activities (Part 2)
- 16-18 October – European Mountain Convention on « **Smart mountain economies** », Catalonia, Spain – **Save the date!**

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What comes next? Highlights



2025 - 2026

- End 2025 – Policy conference on pastoralism (topic + location TBC) ahead of 2026's international year of pastoralism
- May 2026 – Final conference of the RUSTIK project on new knowledge for rural development.
- 2026 – Dissemination event: good practices and knowledge sharing for pastoralism



Thank you!

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