



# EUROMONTANA

## *Euromontana - sharing experiences on mountain agriculture and rural development*

Marie Clotteau, Director of Euromontana

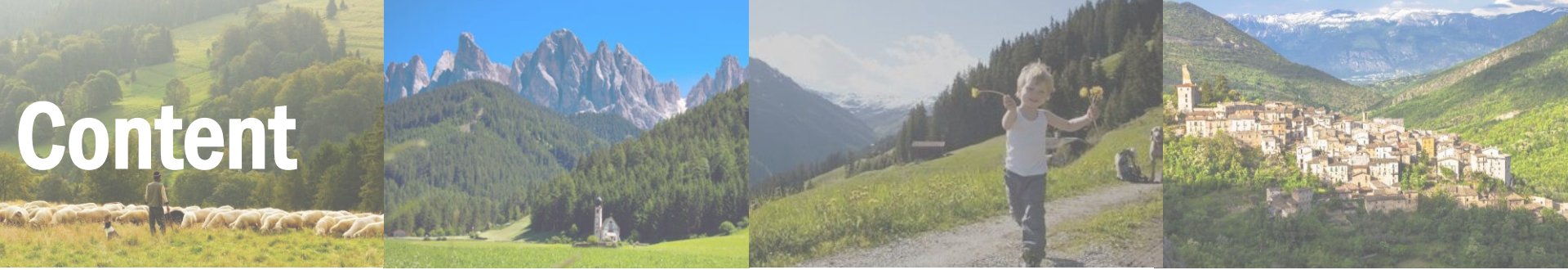
SARD Committee, Carpathian Convention

Vatra Dornei, Romania, 27th September 2018



EUROMONTANA

# Content

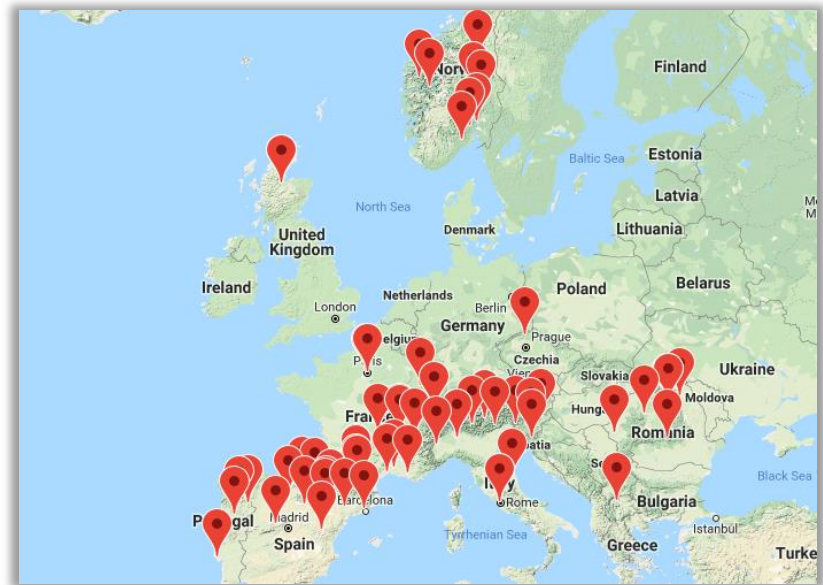


- ▶ **What is Euromontana?**
- ▶ **What is our vision of European mountains?**
- ▶ **What do we do?**
  - Overview
  - Focus on Agriculture and Rural Development
  - Focus on Mountain Products

# What is Euromontana?



- ▶ European **multisectoral** association for cooperation and development of mountain areas (since 1996)
- ▶ Around 70 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...



Diversity of members = strength → increased interest from institutions



# Euromontana in the Carpathian Convention countries



- ▶ CZECH REPUBLIC: Svaz Marginalnich Oblasti (Union of Marginal Areas)
- ▶ ROMANIA: CEFIDEC - Training and Innovation Centre for the Development of Carpathians
- ▶ ROMANIA: FAMD Dorna - Farmers Federation of the Mountain Vatra Dornei
- ▶ ROMANIA: Romanian Mountain Forum
- ▶ ROMANIA: Openfields Foundation (previously HEIFER Foundation Romania)
- ▶ ROMANIA: ROMONTANA

# EUROMONTANA

## History 1996 - up to now

### Founding members

- Albania, Bulgaria, UK (Scotland), Spanish Basque Country, France, Greece, Italy, Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Czech Republic

### Constitution

- “non-profit and scientific organisation, with international vocation, neutral in terms of religion and politics”
- NGO Law 1901 (registered in France)

### Object: Improving the living conditions of the mountain populations of Europe

- expression, promotion and **defense** of the cultural, economic, political and scientific **interests of the mountain populations**
- valorisation of research in mountainous areas
- informing public opinion on mountain problems
- encouragement of training and research in mountainous areas
- development of international cooperation to reduce inequalities between the mountain regions of Europe



# Euromontana structure

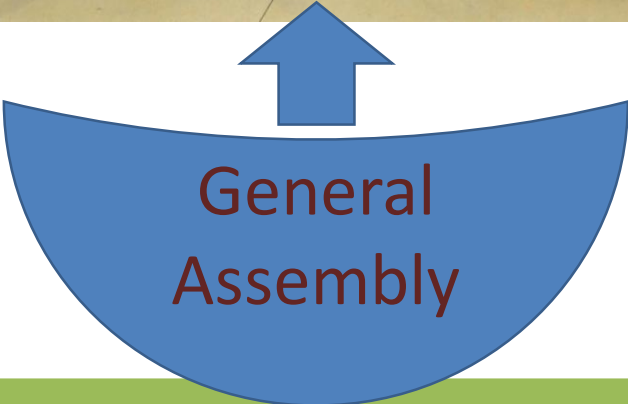
## BOARD OF DIRECTORS & SECRETARIAT

President  
Juanan  
Gutierrez



5 vice-  
presidents  
+ treasurer

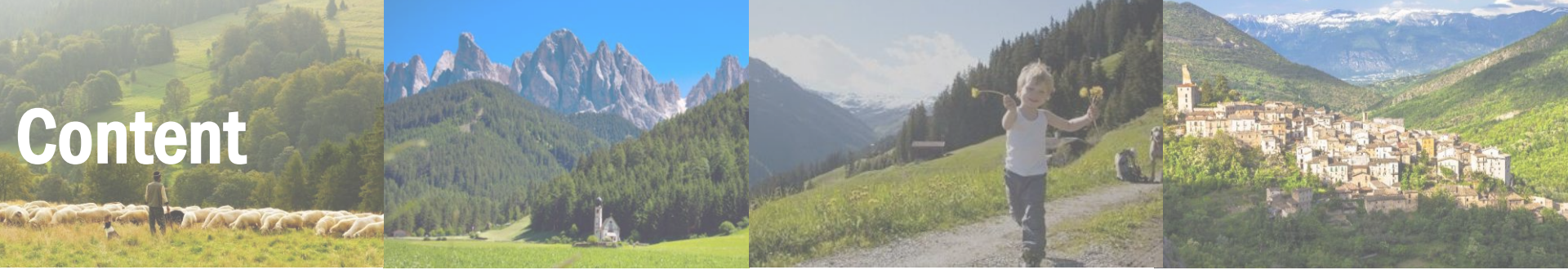
Secretariat



Euromontana formula:  
Small secretariat  
Active role of members taking  
leadership over activities



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# Our vision of 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**
- ...



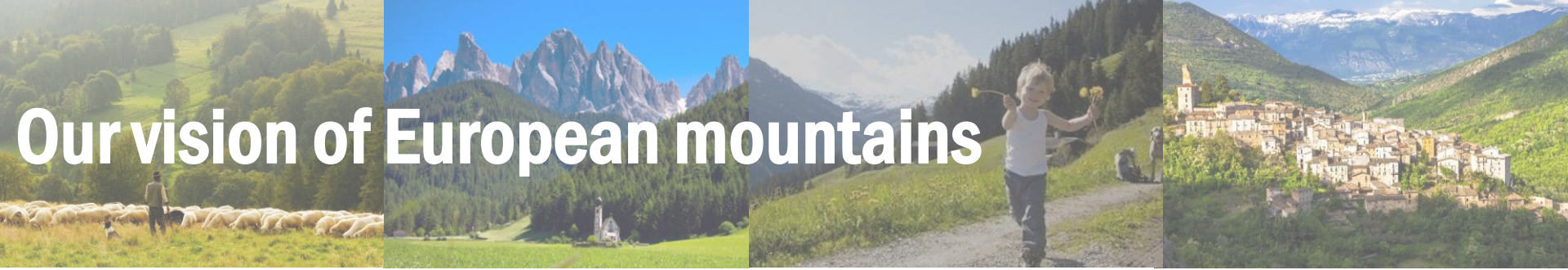
## ► Weaknesses:

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

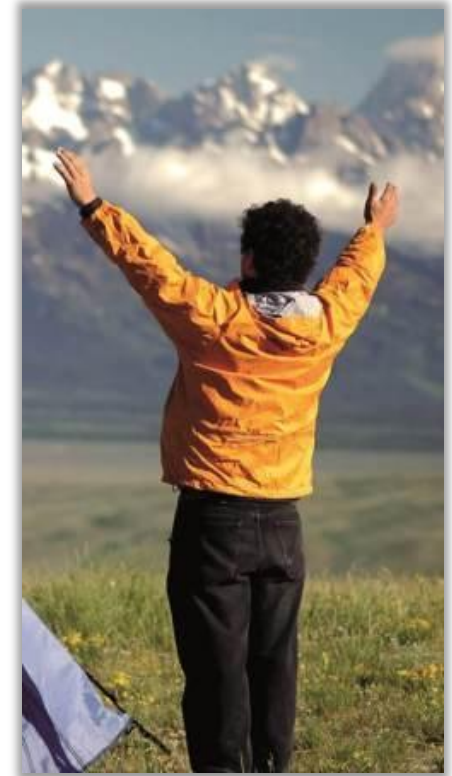




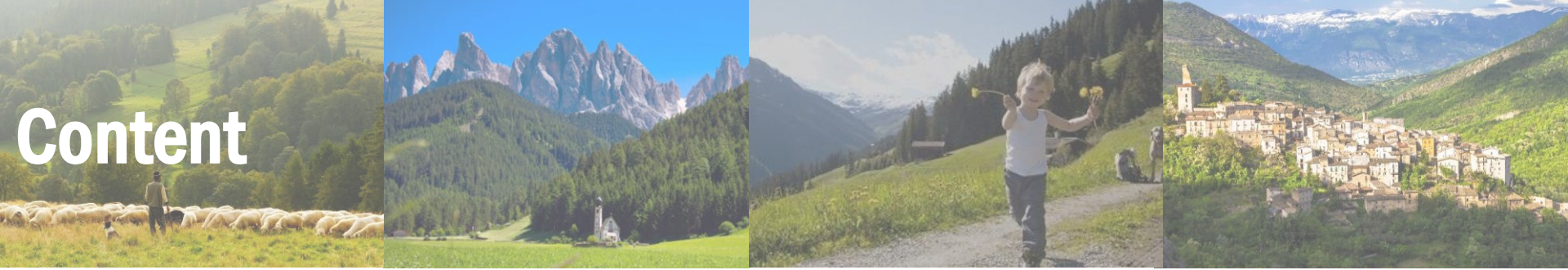
# Our vision of European mountains



- ▶ **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**.
- ▶ **29% of Europe's area** and are home to **13% of the EU population**

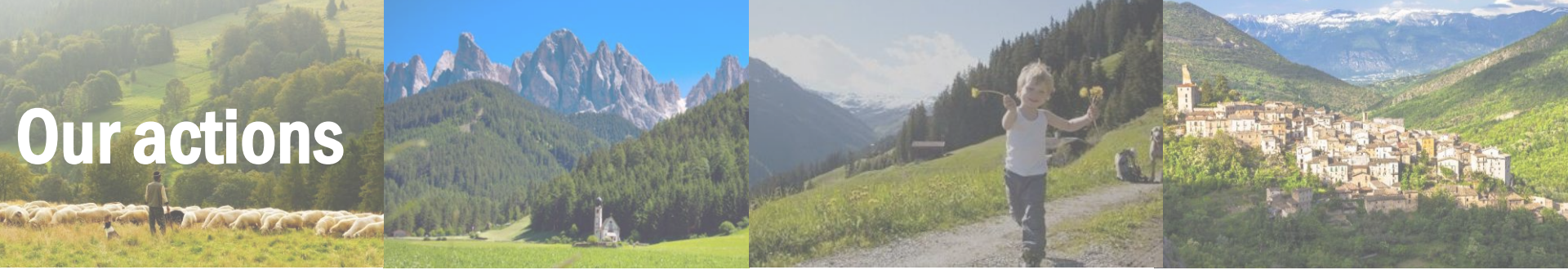


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# Our actions



## ► Represent mountain communities:

- Regular links with EU institutions (EU Parliament, EU Commission)
- Experts in Civil Dialogue Groups, networks
- Observer at Alpine & Carpathian Conventions

## ► Promote strengths

- Events, articles, external communication, sharing Good practices

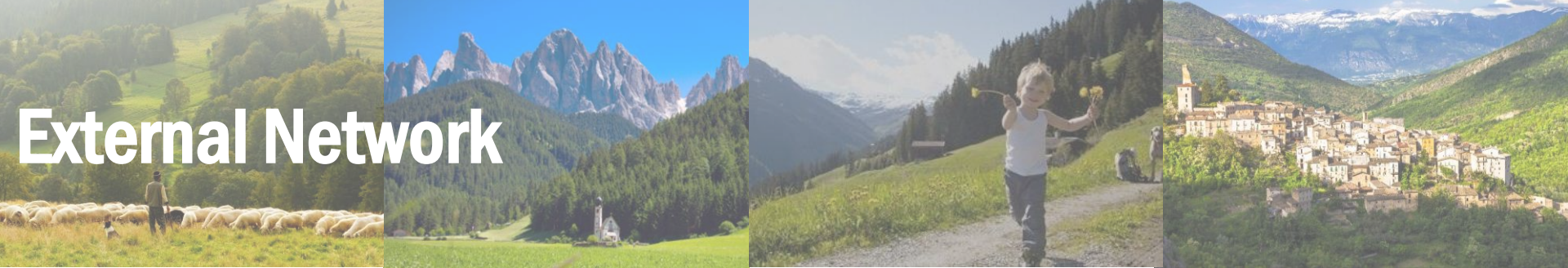
## ► Organise cooperation amongst mountain people

- Informal
- EU projects (H2020, Interreg IV C, Life)
- European Mountain Conventions

## ► Carry out, participate in or compile studies

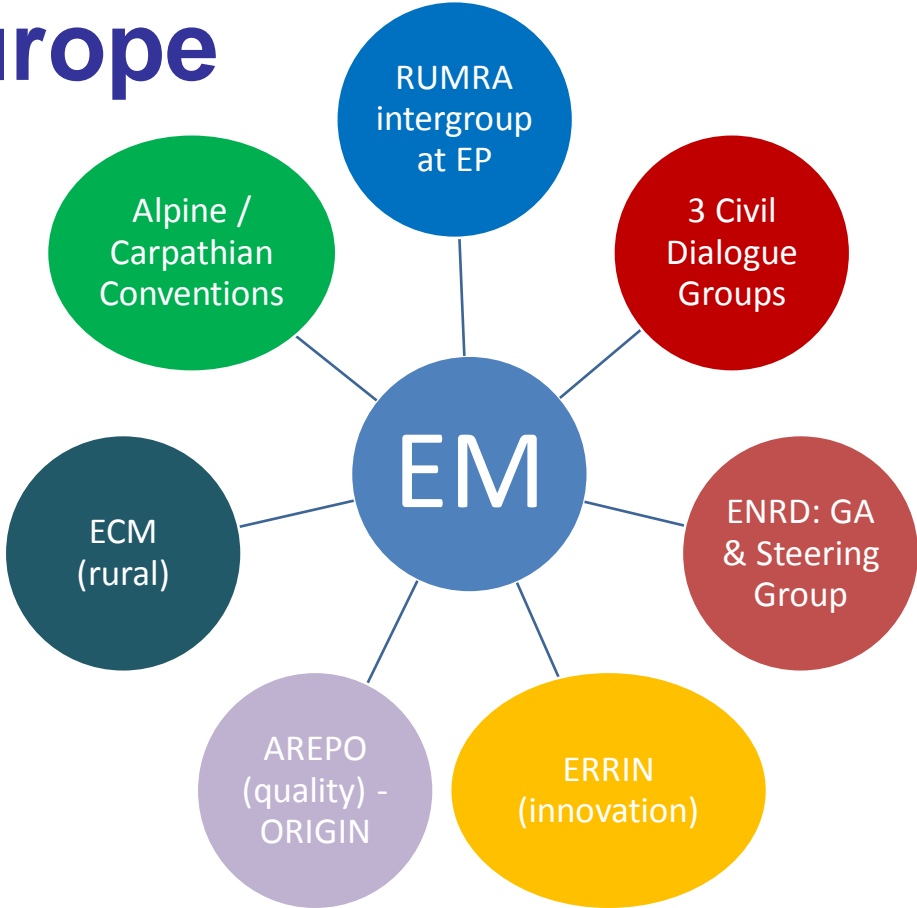
- On pastoralism and on forestry (2010) for the French Ministry of Agriculture; on circular economy in forestry (2017)





# External Network

## Europe



## World



Mountain Partnership  
Rio+20



# Working themes: Main transversal themes



## TERRITORIAL COHESION

Mountain people have the right to the same opportunities



## POSITIVE EXTERNALITIES

Mountains deliver goods and services to society



**Agriculture and rural development**

**Youth**

**Education and training**

**Mountain products**

**Local & regional development**

**Forestry & wood**

**All themes are interrelated**

**R&I**

**Energy**

**Need for an Integrated approach!**

**Mobility & ICT**

**Circular economy**

**Sustainable tourism**

**Services of general interest**

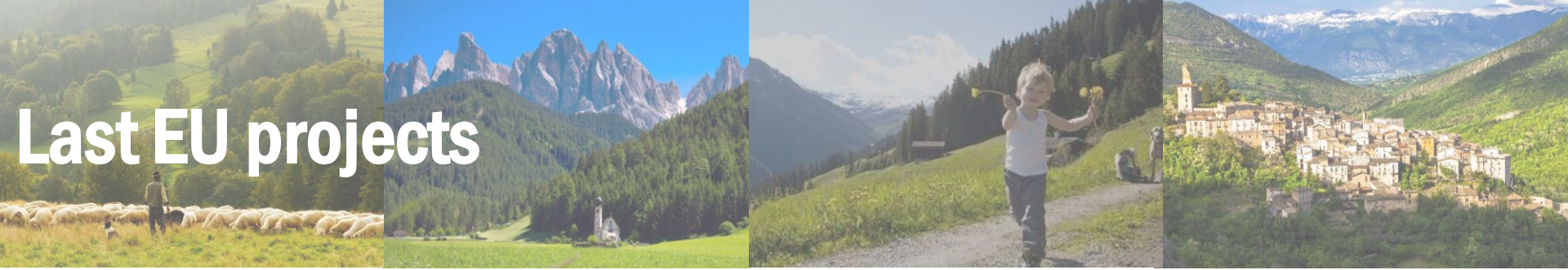
**Climate change**

**Environment & Ecosystem services**





# Last EU projects



## ► Research and Development (FP and H2020):

- EuroMARC (2007-2010)
- Mountain.TRIP (2010-2012)
- PEGASUS: Public Ecosystem Goods And Services from land management – Unlocking the Synergies (2015-2018)
- SIMRA: Social Innovation in Marginalised Rural Areas (2016-2020)

## ► Territorial Cooperation (Interreg IV C /Interreg Europe):

- PADIMA (2010-2012)
- *MOG: sustainable transport (2012-2014)*
- *DANTE: ICT and tourism (2012-2014)*
- *SILVER SMEs (2018 -2023)*

## ► Communication action on mountain products (DG AGRI):

- *A New CAP – Mountains of opportunities (2014-2015)*

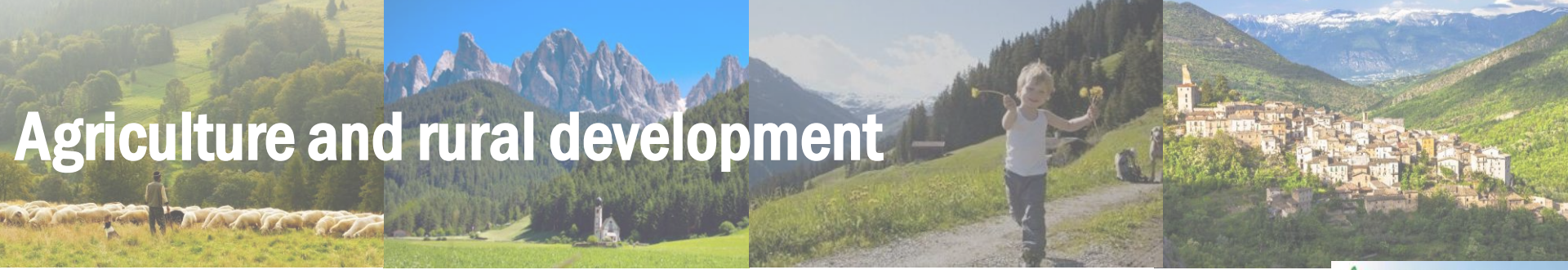
## ► Erasmus +:

- *Silver Tourism (2015-2017)*

## ► Life

- *Oreka Mendian (2016 – 2021) on permanent grasslands*

# Agriculture and rural development



## ► What does Euromontana do?

- Follow-up of legislative proposals and lobby
- Write a document on the Cork Declaration (2016)
  - “Implement the Cork Declaration: solutions for and from mountain areas”
- Answer to public consultation (2017)
- Comment the opinion of MEP Dorfmann on CAP Communication (January 2018)
- Participate in public hearings and comment reports (CoR /EESC)
- Is an expert and holds Chairmanship in the Civil Dialogue Groups of the Commission

 **EUROMONTANA**  
European association of mountain areas



# Agriculture and rural development



## –Active participation in ENRD and EIP-AGRI networks:

- ✓ Subgroup on innovation
- ✓ Thematic group on Smart Villages

## –Smart Villages:

- ✓ Bled conference, April 2018
- ✓ RUMRA breakfast: “How Social Innovation can help Villages become Smarter”, June 2018 at the European Parliament
- ✓ Work with Smart-Socio-Eco Villages Project on the EU definition

## –Participate in EU projects:

- ✓ SIMRA: Social Innovation in Marginalised Rural Areas
- ✓ Oreka MENDIAN on pastoralism in mountain areas (Pyrenees)
- ✓ PEGASUS on ecosystem services



# 15 years of work on mountain foods: From research to European legislation to implementation

1999-2000

- First working group
- DG AGRI study
- **EMC Trento on Quality**



2002-2004

- FP5 project **“European Mountain quality food products”**
- Mountain foods are **specific**
- Strong **territorial** impact



2005

- **European Charter for mountain Quality Food products**
- European Parliament
- 69 signatories from 12 countries



2007-2010

- FP6 **EuroMARC**
- Consumers interested in a mountain sign
- Need to strengthen the offer



2010-2012

- EU Policy debate
- Impact assessment
- IPTS study (ISARA-EM-UHI)



2012-2013

- Regulation CE 1151/2012, article 31: an **optional quality term “mountain product”**

2014-2015

- **Delegated act 665/2014**
- **European Mountain Convention on Mountain products** (New CAP – Mountains of Opportunities Project)



2016-2017

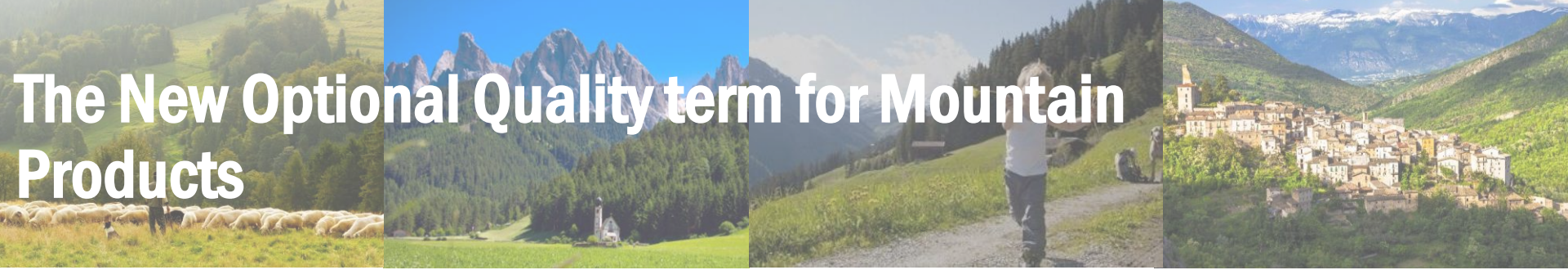
- Study on the implementation of the legislation
- 2016 Charter
- 2017 event on the follow-up of the legislation

What's next?

- Support development on the ground
- Further legislative support
- RUR 1 Call on adaptation of mountain supply chains



# The New Optional Quality term for Mountain Products



- ▶ Art.31 Regulation 1151/2012: definition of an optional quality term “Mountain products”:
  - **both the raw materials and the feedstuffs for farm animals** come essentially from mountain areas
  - in the case of processed products, **the processing also takes place in mountain areas**
- ▶ Precised in the Delegated Act 665/2014



# The New Optional Quality term for Mountain Products - Implementation

## ► A slow adoption at MS level

Countries directly applying the EU regulation, without a specific national adaptation	Austria
The countries who have adapted or are in the process of adapting the OQT regulation at the national level	France – Romania – Italy – Germany – Slovenia – Czech Republic - Bulgaria
Countries that have not yet adapted their national laws	Croatia – Portugal – Spain
No feedback received	Cyprus, Finland, Greece, Slovakia, and Sweden



# The New Optional Quality term for Mountain Products - Implementation

## ► Some important differences between MS:

### – Distance derogation:

⌈ 30 km in France, Austria

⌈ 10 km only for milk and milk products in Italy

⌈ 0 km in Romania

### – Pre-authorisation:

⌈ no prior declaration anymore in France and no authorisation in Austria

⌈ notification to regional authorities (once used) in Italy

⌈ prior authorisation before using in Romania

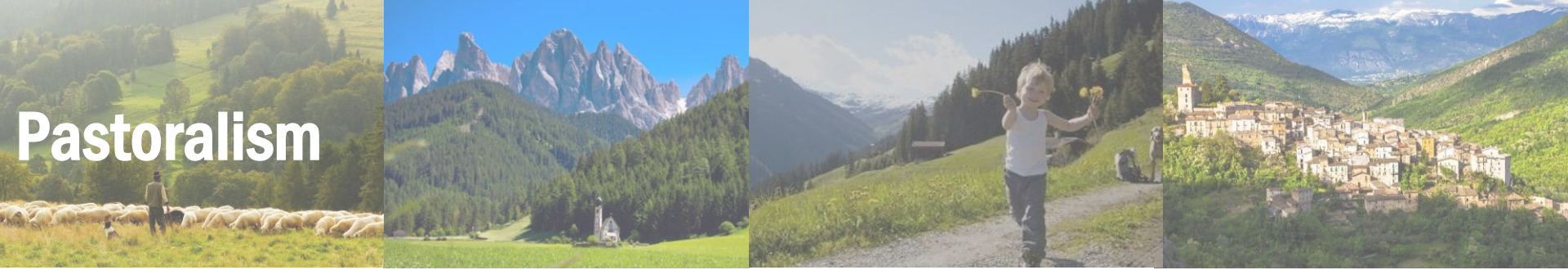
### – Register:

⌈ systematic in Romania before the use

⌈ post-use in Italy

### – How to control the respect of the rules? Controls don't use the same criteria

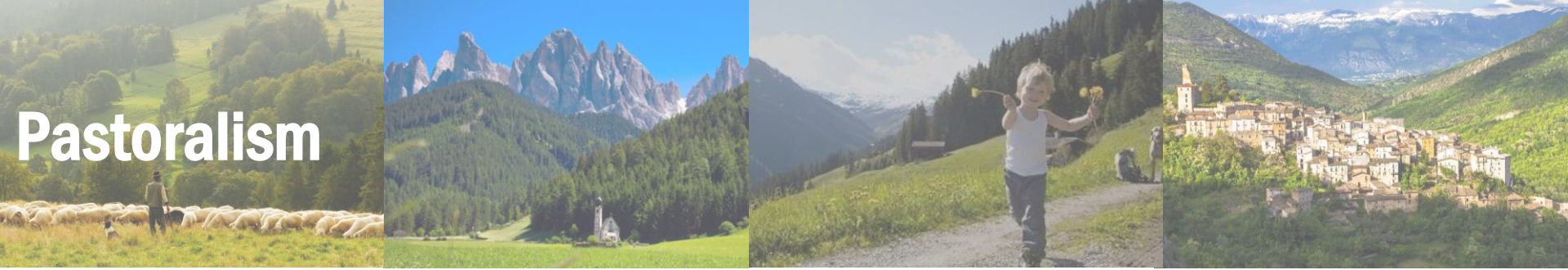
# Pastoralism



## ► A debate on large carnivores at EU level more visible and still very sensitive

- Interparliamentary conference on “Defending pastoralism: towards a European plan for the wolf”, May 2018
- Field visit in the French Alps of MEPs, July 2018
- Multiplication of management plans in new regions
  - South Tyrol-Bolzano / Saxony-Anhalt
- EP study published on the impact of wolves on rural areas, September 2018

# Pastoralism



## ► What does Euromontana do?

– Organise an internal workshop:

*M* “Which future for pastoralism in Europe? The cohabitation with large carnivores and the attractiveness of the pastoral jobs in question” Moûtiers, 7 March 2018

– Disseminate proceedings and define some red lines, including on large carnivores

– Visit pasturelands in Southern French Alps, August 2018

– Communicate about discussions in events

– Work on OREKA MENDIAN







# How to increase collaboration between Euromontana and the Carpathian Convention?

## ► First simple ideas if you are interested:

- Register to our projects' newsletters:

 SIMRA / SILVER SMEs

- Follow our news / events sections on our website, several GP also published

- Participate in our events:

 European Mountain Convention

 Thematic events in Brussels (EP / CoR/ EESC)

 Events links to projects: several to come on social innovation in marginalised rural areas! Let us know if you are interested

- Let us know if you organise some mountain events: we can help to disseminate info!

## ► A closer cooperation through the Project proposal on adaptation of mountain supply chains to climate change



# How to increase collaboration between Euromontana and the Carpathian Convention?

- ▶ Summaries of the main publications /projects' results of the Carpathian Convention could be disseminated
- ▶ Possibilities to bring some political messages together, ex: European Parliament (events /amendments), European Commission
- ▶ Possibilities of joint technical and institutional visits
- ▶ A specific day to develop networking and project brokerage (project partnerships)
- ▶ Other ideas welcome!



A man in a dark blue jacket and black pants is hiking on a grassy mountain ridge. He is carrying a young child on his back in a grey and red backpack. The child is wearing a black beanie and a red jacket. They are looking out over a vast mountain range under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The foreground is filled with tall, golden-brown grasses.

# Thank you !

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