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
► 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

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

President
Juanan Gutierrez

5 vice-presidents + treasurer

Secretariat

General Assembly
What is Euromontana?

What is our vision of European mountains?

What do we do?

- Overview
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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
What is Euromontana?

What is our vision of European mountains?

What do we do?

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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**
External Network

Europe

- Alpine / Carpathian Conventions
- ECM (rural)
- RUMRA intergroup at EP
- 3 Civil Dialogue Groups
- ENRD: GA & Steering Group
- AREPO (quality) - ORIGIN
- ERRIN (innovation)

World

- Organisation des Nations Unies pour l’alimentation et l’agriculture
- Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development
- Mountain Partnership
- Family Farming
- Mountain Policy Project
Working themes: Main transversal themes

**POSITIVE EXTERNALITIES**
Mountains deliver goods and services to society

**TERRITORIAL COHESION**
Mountain people have the right to the same opportunities
All themes are interrelated

Need for an Integrated approach!
Research and Development (FP and H2020):
- EuroMARC (2007-2010)
- Mountain.TRIP (2010-2012)
- 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):

Erasmus +:
- Silver Tourism (2015-2017)

Life
- Oreka Mendian (2016 – 2021) on permanent grasslands
► 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
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
  - Work with Smart-Socio-Eco Villages Project on the EU definition

- Participate in EU projects:
  - SIMRA: Social Innovation in Marginalised Rural Aras
  - 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

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

2010-2012
- EU Policy debate
- Impact assessment
- IPTS study (ISARA-EM-UHI)

What’s next?
- Support development on the ground
- Further legislative support
- RUR 1 Call on adaptation of mountain supply chains
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
### A slow adoption at MS level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Countries directly applying the EU regulation, without a specific national adaptation</th>
<th>Austria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The countries who have adapted or are in the process of adapting the OQT regulation at the national level</td>
<td>France – Romania – Italy – Germany – Slovenia – Czech Republic - Bulgaria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Countries that have not yet adapted their national laws</td>
<td>Croatia – Portugal – Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No feedback received</td>
<td>Cyprus, Finland, Greece, Slovakia, and Sweden</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
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
What does Euromontana do?

- Organise an internal workshop:
  "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!
Thank you!

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Let’s keep in touch