



« Our mountains are
territories with a future and
opportunities for Europe »

We assert that mountains are distinctive areas of Europe, because of their altitude, their slopes, their population density, their challenges and their opportunities, and consequently should be addressed specifically.

We call for public and private investment in these areas. The return on investment might indeed be longer in these areas than in urban areas or lowlands, but the investment itself will undeniably be more sustainable.

We are proud of **our strengths...**

The quality of life of mountain populations: an intense community life, a privileged living environment, very rich culture, traditions and heritage ;

The positive image of mountain areas ;

Rare, preserved and renewable resources (air, forest, water) ;

The production of goods and services : tourism, handicrafts, agriculture, industry ;

Efficient factors of production : human capital, natural resources capital (space, water, air, timber); business partnerships (clusters...);

Conditions for sustainable production : respect for the environment, preserved biodiversity, landscape management, innovative management of natural resources ;

Modern and often dynamic governance: natural 'handicaps' have always been a source of imagination, and territorial innovation is more developed in the mountains than elsewhere; hence these innovations have often inspired those living in other areas.



... and aware of **our weaknesses**

Problems of remoteness and accessibility; lack of services, lack of knowledge and skills, sometimes difficult relationships between residents and non-residents; infrastructures that, in some cases, remain to be developed ;

Problems related to competition in sustaining both economic activities and the environment ;

Sparseness of businesses, size of businesses, and difficulty in passing them on to younger generations ;

Sparseness of population ; difficulty of reaching the critical mass necessary to provide services of general interest; low attractiveness of seasonal jobs (low and precarious incomes) ;

Constraints on agricultural activity due to soils and climate, difficult access to land;

Mountain specificities are not sufficiently integrated in regional, national and European policies.



Euromontana's approach

1) To always be consistent with the concept of sustainable development :

Euromontana's proposals will always seek to put forward the three pillars of sustainable development: 1) environmental, 2) social, 3) economic.

2) To promote quality : in order to bring added value, our mountains must play the card of quality: quality of life but also quality of products and projects. Euromontana's proposals will systematically ensure that quality is promoted, especially through marks of quality.

3) To operate as a network : each project will be carried out by several organizations with a leader responsible for implementation and reporting to the Board of Directors. Communities of shared interests will be created to better analyse problems and to design solutions, building on the collective intelligence and solidarity among mountain populations.

4) To use new technological tools : the physical distance between Euromontana's members is a constraint to our efficiency. Hence we will use new technologies to communicate and work on a day-to-day basis: this will be our first contribution to minimizing energy expenditures. However, human contacts will never be replaced by technologies and each member organization will commit to participating in at least one event every year (seminar, colloquium, general assembly, conference).

The direction of our activity

1) Economic development : to increase the value given to existing economic activities and to diversify economies.

2) Human capital : to favour the passing on of businesses to younger generations; to promote entrepreneurship, and to develop training and the diversification of skills.

3) Natural and heritage resources : to better manage the environment, water, waste, energy, and landscapes, in the framework of an integrated approach (at the level of massifs, relationships between mountains and cities/lowlands, etc); to remunerate positive externalities; to adapt to climate change.

4) Services and networks : to rapidly solve problems of physical accessibility and of electronic communications; to support businesses in the use of ICT; to set up efficient public services.

5) Culture and traditions : to increase the value given to initiatives (promotion, events, links between education and mountains, etc.) while ensuring that all generations share the positive links between the economy and nature; for products in particular, to set up an efficient framework facilitating protection, recognition and adding value to mountain products.

6) Policies and governance in mountain areas : to reinforce subsidiarity at the European level, relying on national and regional policies, keeping in mind the need for an integrated approach taking into account mountain specificities, massif dimension, better connections between mountains and lowlands and their cities, and effective territorial cohesion.

Our concrete ACTIONS

1) Representing mountain communities by keeping in regular contact with European institutions, national governments and inter-governmental organizations involved in governance at the massif level; by making constructive proposals during the revision of European policies that impact mountain areas, and by elaborating these proposals with all members so that they are representative and strong.

2) Promoting the strengths of mountain areas and the added value for Europe of sustainable investment in these areas: by organising events (conferences, seminars, meetings, conventions, etc) and by publishing articles and reports.

3) Organising cooperation between mountain people by developing and managing European projects (research, territorial cooperation, training/exchanges, etc); by coordinating discussions and exchanges between members on priority action themes.

4) To carry out, participate in or compile studies that can enrich our collective knowledge on the situation of mountain areas and the orientations to take for their sustainable development.



The benefits of active membership in **EUROMONTANA :**

« **Euromontana is a decentralized network that prioritises linking its members and their initiatives, under the coordination of a small team. The benefits of participation will grow with the investment you put in!** »

To be an active member of Euromontana is :

TO CONTRIBUTE to the elaboration of policies that allow mountain areas to be actors in their own development, by strengthening a representative and unified group, concerned about mountain areas, that addresses the European Union and the Member States.

TO PROMOTE your vision, the actions of your organisation and your mountain area by informing other mountain actors and European institutions about them, through proposing events and disseminating the results of your work.

TO BENEFIT from a large multi-sectoral and diversified network of organisations actively involved in mountain development, to develop your projects, your partnerships, and your collaborations at the European scale and within your own country.

TO HAVE A PRIORITY INVOLVMENT in partnerships that Euromontana builds to develop European projects targeting issues affecting mountain areas.

TO RECEIVE vital information and analyses on issues of concern for European mountain areas (information via email, newsletters, access to a reserved section of the website, thematic exchanges, etc).

TO PARTICIPATE in high-level events such as the bi-annual European Mountain Conventions, European conferences, and information sessions for members.

Who are our members?

More than 70 organisations spread from over 15 countries have joined Euromontana : organizations for socio-economic development, collective authorities and territorial entities, environmental, forestry or development agencies, research institutes, training centers.

This diversity results in Euromontana's rich contribution of to the sustainable development of mountain areas and lively exchanges among members.

You are interested in membership?

Contact us at
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Contact us

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