



# PADIMA

## Policies Against Depopulation In Mountain Areas

Final conference of the project

### Strategies to increase the attractiveness of mountain areas – exchanges with successful regions

27<sup>th</sup> of June 2012, 2.30 -6.00 pm

#### Outline of the event

This event is the final conference of the INTERREG IVC projet PADIMA (*Policies Against Depopulation In Mountain Areas*). Around 100 participants are expected, mainly policy makers working at different levels: local, regional, national and European level.

**The aim of this conference is to raise awareness on the risks related to depopulation and demographic change faced by most European mountain regions at present and to offer policy recommendations and examples of successful strategies to counter that trend and improve mountain areas attractiveness.**

Demographic change is a very complex issue that needs to be looked at a proper scale and with great care: the picture is varied across European mountains and demographic trends are not totally homogenous. This is the result of, on one side, specific characteristics and history of the different areas and, on the other side, of strategies implemented by local and regional authorities in the past years to attract new inhabitants and businesses.

**PADIMA partners consider demographic change as both a challenge and an opportunity for mountain areas.** Many problems come from insufficient strategic thinking on this matter from national, regional or local authorities facing this change, from insufficient work on the territorial image, and from the lack of infrastructures and public services to offer to mountain current or potentially new inhabitants. Therefore, we believe PADIMA results can provide useful material to debate with other regions' representatives what we have learnt and what we still need to achieve!

The meeting will be organized under the **high patronage of Ms Veronica Lope Fontagné**, Member of the European Parliament, Aragon, Spain, who is very sensitive to this problematic. To place our discussion in the wider European context, we will link it with the European Parliament report *Demographic change and its consequences for the future Cohesion Policy of the EU*, 2010/2157 (INI), adopted on 15/11/2011.

**The core part of the event will be dedicated to the communication of the main results from the project.** Seven regions participated in this 3-year exchange. To cope with time constraints, we will focus on only 4 regional interventions during this conference. Project partners believe the problem of depopulation must be addressed at policy level and especially at regional and local policy level. They have produced policy recommendations on how to tackle this problem. They will be presented and discussed in the framework of a final round table.

This project is co-financed by the FEDER and the INTERREG IVC programme.



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## Policies Against Depopulation In Mountain Areas

### Agenda

**Languages:** English, French, Spanish

**Venue:** European Parliament, Brussels, room B1 - 4<sup>th</sup> floor, PHS

#### Opening

**2.30 Welcoming speech and elements on “How will demographic change be addressed in the future regional policy?”** Veronica Lope Fontagné, Member of the European Parliament, Spain

**2.50 What is PADIMA and why is it important?** Maria Grazia Perdana, ERSAF-Lombardy region, Italy

#### Demographic challenge: what perspectives from mountain areas?

**3.05 What demographic trends have been observed during the last 20 years in the study areas?** Federica Corrado, Province of Torino, Italy,

**3.20 How to approach depopulation in an integrated way?** Presentation of 2 strategies to raise the attractiveness of mountain areas in:

- Hedmark county, Norway, Rønning Dag, Chairman of the County Council
- Region Dalarna, Sweden, Leif Nilsson, president of the region

**3.45 Why do people move to mountain areas?** Video play with testimony from people who recently moved in mountain areas

**3.55 From theory to practice: How to transfer PADIMA good practices to improve the existing situation?** “Welcome” project, Kjerstin Spångberg, project manager, Buskerud, Norway

#### Discussion with the audience 30’

#### What policies are needed to foster the attractiveness of mountain areas?

**4.40 Round table discussion chaired by André Marcon,** Euromontana and UCCIMAC President

##### Introductory speeches:

- **Presentation of PADIMA policy recommendations,** Carmen Pobo Sánchez, President of the Teruel Province, Spain,
- **Services, a condition for quality of life in mountain and rural areas,** Jaime Escribano Pizarro, professor of rural geography at the University of Valencia, Spain

##### Panel discussion with:

- Veronica Lope Fontagné, Member of the European Parliament, Spain
- Fiorello Provera, Member of the European Parliament, Italy
- Jens Nilsson, Member of the European Parliament, Sweden
- Jan Edøy, Councillor for Regional Policy and Local Government, Mission of Norway to the EU

**5.50 Conclusions of the day,** by André Marcon, Euromontana and UCCIMAC President

#### Aperitif - photo exhibition “Mountains –welcoming territories”

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