



Inspiring Programming for Living European Mountains by 2020

*Conference co-organised by the Italian Rural Network and Euromontana
6-7 June 2013
ROMA EVENTI – Fontana di Trevi
Piazza della Pilotta, 4
00187 Rome - Italy*

**Overview on the mountain policies in OECD Countries:
governance solutions, innovative approaches**

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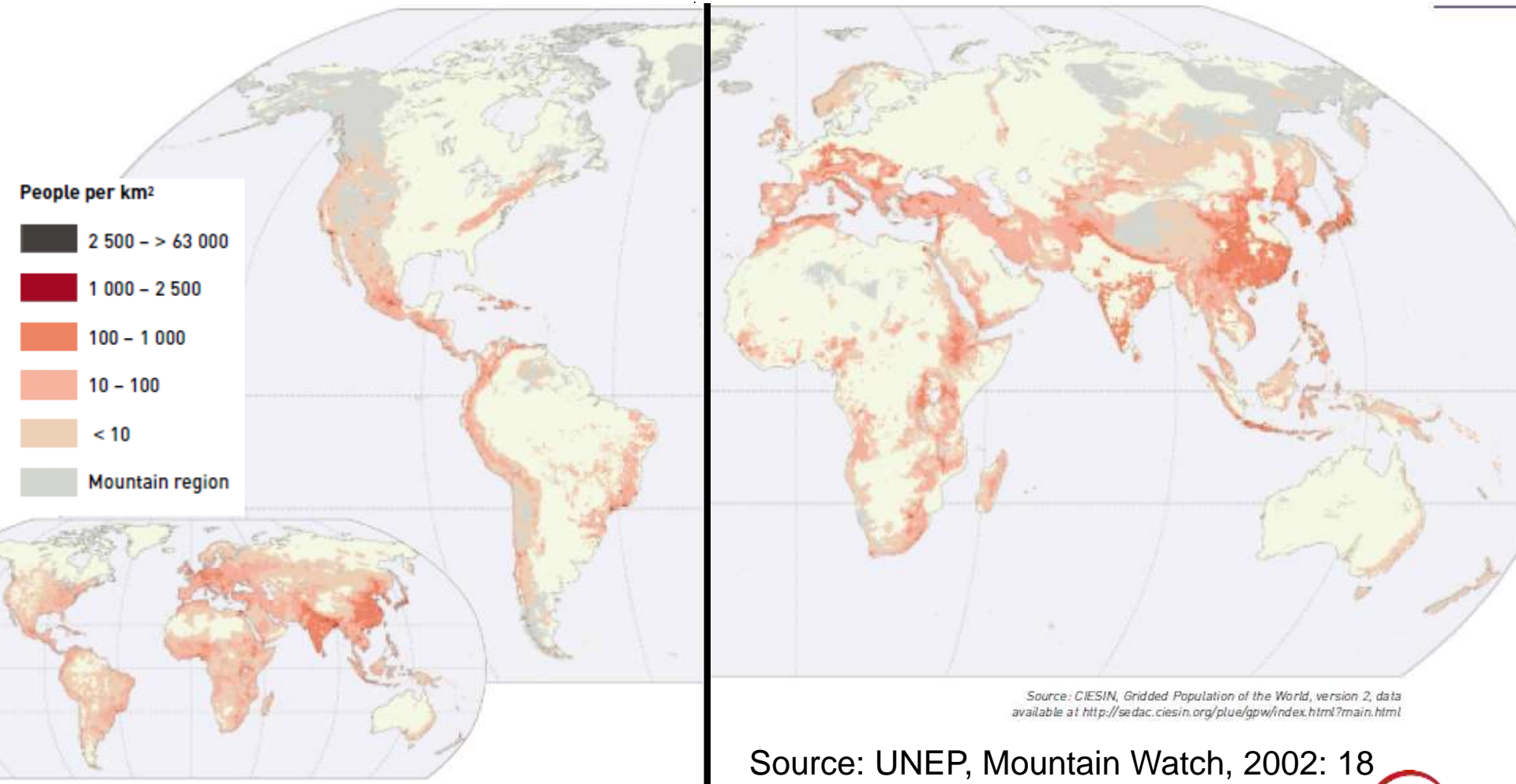
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OECD – GOV / TDPC

establishing a territorial perspective

- ▶ Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- ▶ Territorial Development Policy Committee (WPTI, WPURB and WPRUR)
- ▶ internationally agreed Regional Typology: PU – IN – PRC and PRR
- ▶ Mountains, regions with geographic specificities (EU: 29% of area and 13% of population; global: 24% area/ 20% population; in 53 countries more than 50% of territory)

Population in mountain areas and worldwide (inset)

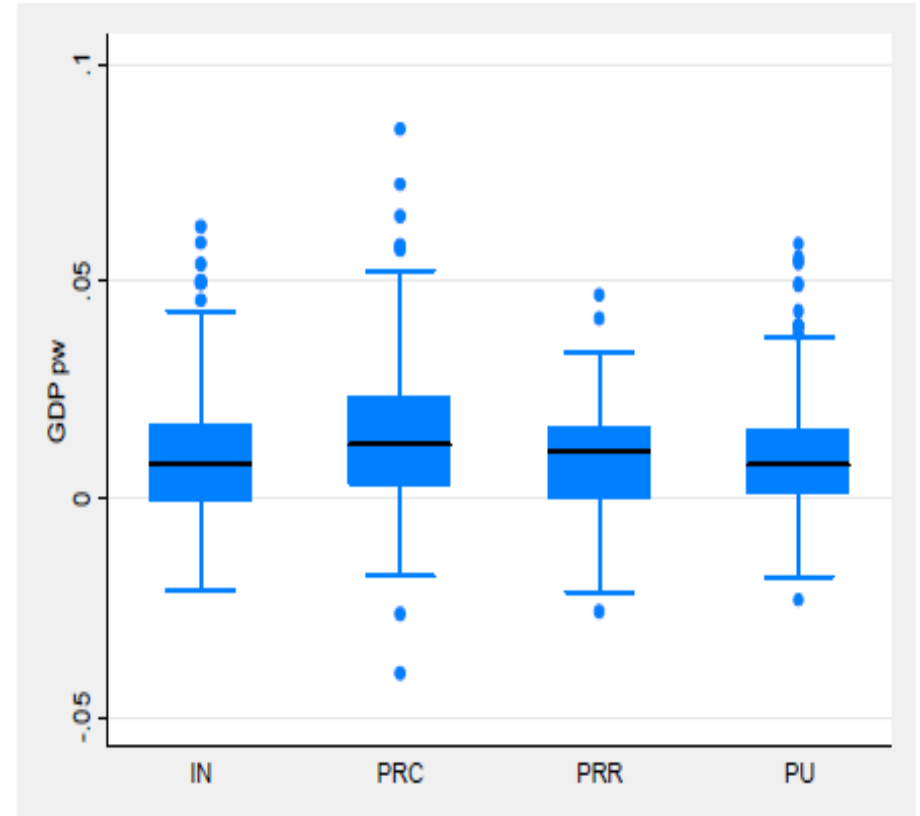
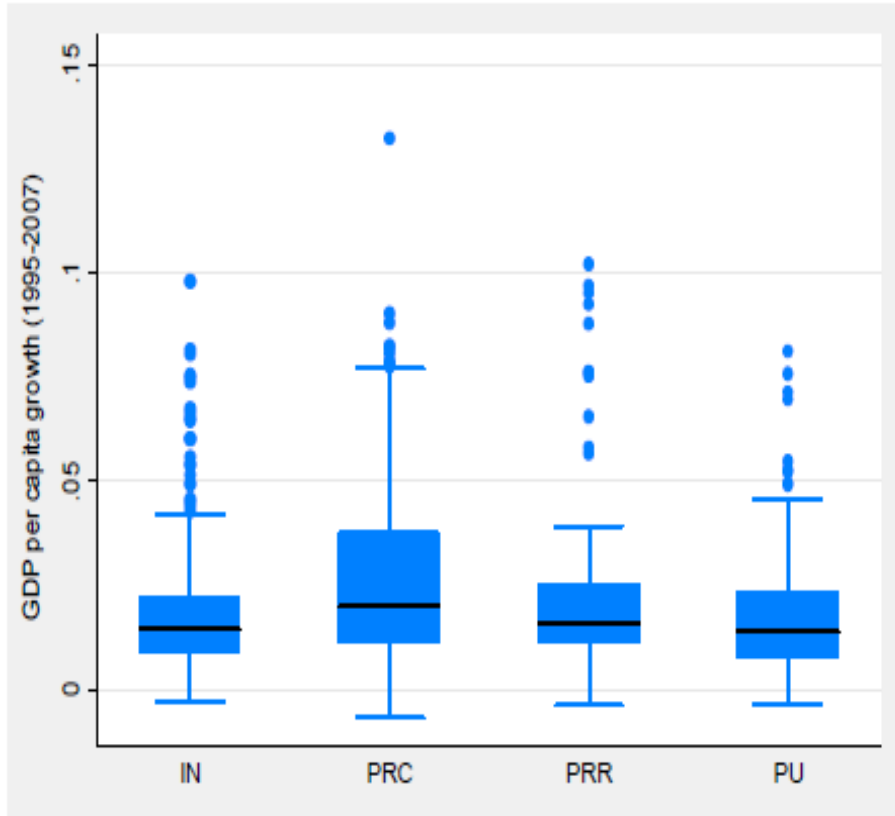


Source: UNEP, Mountain Watch, 2002: 18

Innovation in rural regions

- ▶ Understanding regional growth:
„Regions Matter“ (2009)
 - ▶ A more effective approach to sustainable regional development
 - ▶ Policy messages and governance
- Shaping a **New Rural Paradigm** (NRP; 2006);
assessing regional performance (territorial reviews),
revisiting NRP (OECD Rural Development
Conferences)
and promoting urban-rural linkages (RURBAN project)

GDP per capita and productivity growth by OECD regional types, 1995-2007



Source: OECD 2012a: 11

How do rural regions perform?

- ▶ More than half of OECD population in non-urban regions (fairly stable proportion over last 15 years)
- ▶ Rural regions lower economic base, but: highest rate of growth in GDP per capita and productivity (part. PRC)
- ▶ Demographic development: PRC – attract population; PRR – population decline; increasing immigration in rural regions
- ▶ PRR part. hit by effects of crisis since 2008
- ▶ Need for a differentiated rural policy

OECD rural policy dialogue

- ▶ „Innovation“ and „modernisation“: key aspects to trigger regional performance
- ▶ Learn from successful country experiences
- ▶ Adjust rural development policies to changing rural context

Implications:

- ▶ Strengthen internal and external markets; focus on human capital; understand entrepreneurship and innovation
- ▶ Change narrative on rural areas, to make use of opportunities
- ▶ Place-based approach addressing location specific assets and policy coherence (transition to practice of NRP)

Scope of mountain policy approaches

wide variation of approaches towards mountain policies

- ▶ Sectoral policies
(addressing mountain specificities)
- ▶ Multi-sectoral development recognised
(coordination activities)
- ▶ More integrated policy approaches
(mountain laws, „mountain policy“);
Territorial Cohesion and mountain areas

Mountain policy framework

Recent stronger **territorial** orientation (sector policies, CAP, SF, including trans-border cooperation and Territorial Cohesion)

- ▶ **Main sector policies**
(agriculture, forestry, tourism, infrastructure, public services; environment, risk management, nature conservation; spatial planning)
- ▶ **Trans-national cooperation** (including international agreements: Alpine and Carpathian Conventions; Interreg programmes)
- ▶ **Integrated** approaches (pilot action, including Leader in mountains, national priorities and action)
- ▶ **Mountain development discourse**
(research and development: Mountain Forum, Rio/Johannesburg process, IYM 2002, Mountain Partnership, SARD-M „remunerating positive externalities“)

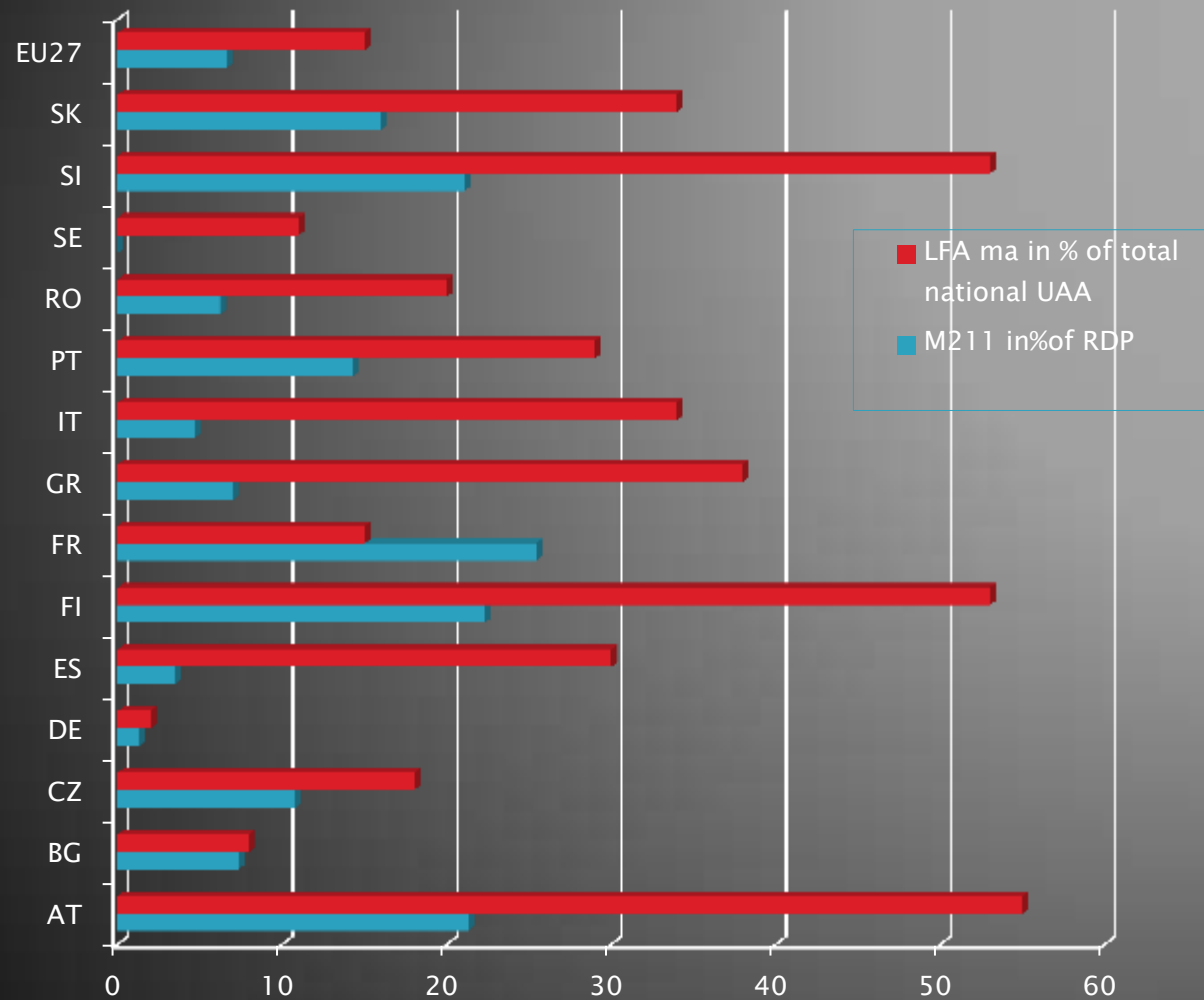
Territorial dimension of CAP

Main findings (ESPON project 2.1.3):

- ▶ **Pillar 1** in favour of core areas,
 - regions with larger farms: higher levels of support
 - fruit or vine production: less support
 - positively correlated with accessibility

- ▶ **Pillar 2** with limited compensation effect:
 - regions of northern Europe: prioritise agri-environment and LFAs
 - RDP funds, based on historical spend
 - co-financing requirements restrict shifts towards pillar 2 spending

LFA scheme in mountain areas



Source: EC 2009

Local action in mountain development

Need for **innovative approaches** beyond LFA scheme

- ▶ Bottom-up approaches (since 1970s), pilot action towards mainstreaming (Leader etc., community capacity building, cooperation – governance)
- ▶ Two aspects of local capacity building:
 - ▶ „diversification“ of farm households
 - ▶ general spatial relevance of rural action (types of rural regions)
- ▶ Best-practice and success dimensions

Lessons from project examples in mountain regions

- (1) Professionalization in **region-specific** production and services (processing und marketing, tourism and linkages, new services, wood/energy, cultural landscapes, water resources ...)
 - (2) Address **high quality** production („mountain products“ label)
 - (3) Focus on **skills** development, capacity building and enhancement of community development
 - (4) Role of **participation** in local initiatives
 - (5) valuation of **positive externalities** provided by mountain areas to external regions
- ▶ harness mountain **amenities**, and apply **multi-sectoral** approaches

Success factors

- ▶ Professionalising local action
- ▶ Develop/review local strategies
- ▶ Local **network structures** (local actors/interest groups; participation and cooperation; institutional development)
- ▶ **Development path** (from disadvantage to amenities; diversity a potential; role of „change“; evaluation processes)
- ▶ **Trans-regional linkages** (regional development agencies: to promote internal/external relationships; institutions to reflect experiences; exchange with external areas)
- ▶ **Rural innovation:**
 - enabling innovation (all spheres)
 - focus on **amenities** of mountain areas
 - address **complex system** of innovation (product, socio-cultural, institutional) and
 - of **regional governance** (multi-level gov.)

Key policy messages – for effective regional governance

- ▶ Rely on **responsible** institutions (coordinator)
→ mechanisms for **dialogue** and coordination
(vertical/horizontal)
- ▶ Install **strategic** public support (long-term commitment, targeted and place-based approach)
- ▶ Work at appropriate **scale**(s) for supplying local public goods and services
- ▶ Address spatial **relationships** (trans-regional; urban-rural; mountain-lowland)
- ▶ Strengthen **local capacity** and nurture rural **amenities**
- ▶ Ensure policy **learning** (evaluation experience)

Thank you for your attention

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