

UNIMONT- University of the Mountains

«Adapting educational and research activities  
to the needs of mountain communities:  
how is the University of Milano (UNIMONT)  
taking up this challenge?»



# Mountains as «marginal areas»

Mountains are peripheric areas, generally characterized by:

- Socio-economic disadvantages
- Depopulation
- Development delay



## Models of urban and metropolitan development

Have been inappropriately applied to develop and empower mountain areas

With lack of attention for mountain specificities and vocation

### Consequences:

- No sustainable development
- Loss of competitiveness of mountain areas
- Impoverishment
- Emigration and brain drain
- marginalisation



Uneven competition:  
Urban vs.  
Mountain Areas

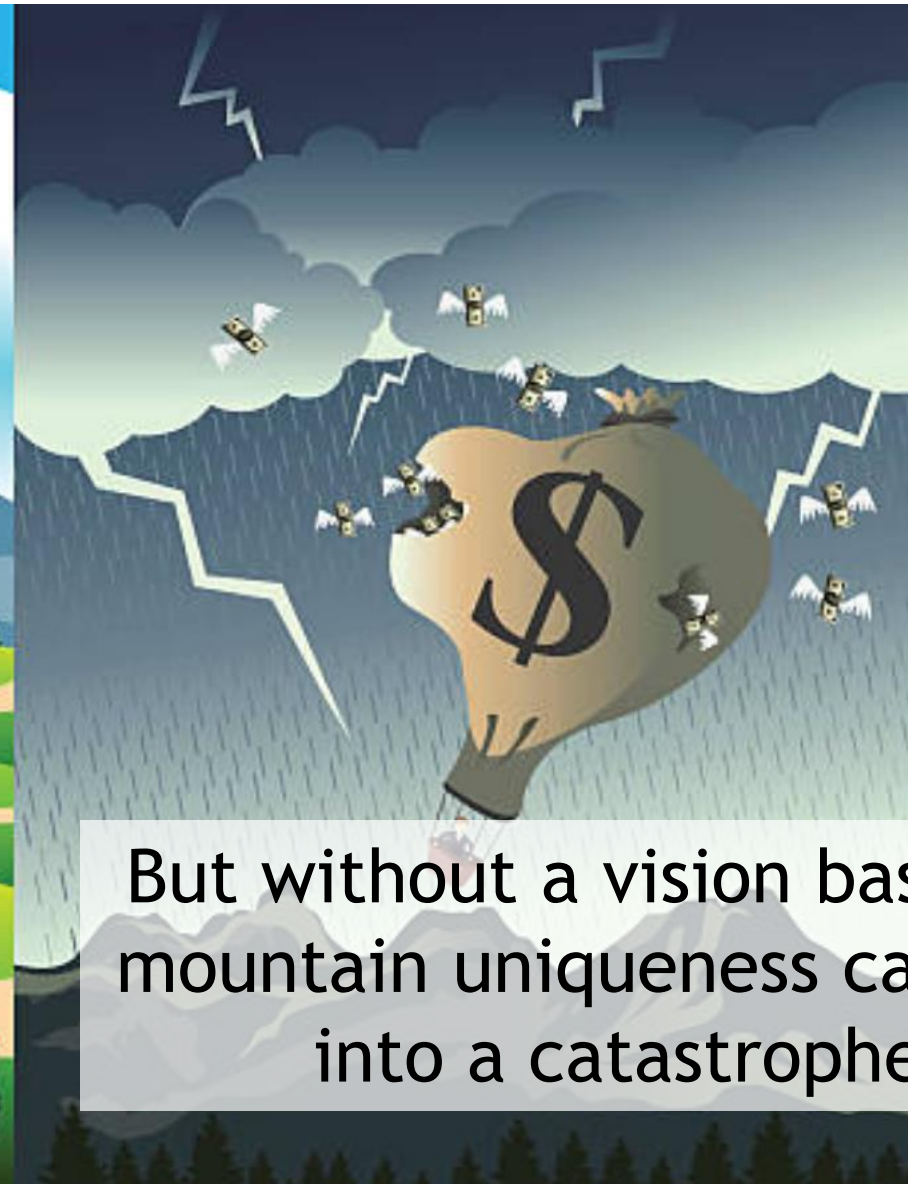




# Mountains as «marginal areas»



Economic compensation:  
mainly money to compensate  
disadvantages



But without a vision based on  
mountain uniqueness can turn  
into a catastrophe

# How to invert the trend?



- Design and implement site specific and resource-aware development models
- Specific and unique mountain resources as strategic development assets



# The strategic potential of INNOVATION

- **Specific resources** can become key-elements for the economic development of mountain areas by means of innovative approaches
- **Innovative approaches** are generated by Research and Education activities





# The framework matters!

To produce **relevant and useful results**, it is important to:

- **Live and work** in the place you want to analyse and understand
- Know that place quite well
- **Be aware about its specificities** (geographic, territorial, socio-economic, etc.)



## UNIMONT IS BASED ON THESE PILLARS a branch campus of a big university in a little village in the central italian Alps: **Edolo**



"In Italy 5,498 municipalities have less than 5,000 inhabitants and make up 70% of the municipalities of the Country.

Most of these are located in the mountains, where depopulation and socio-economic conditions are the usual problems."



“ FROM AN ALLIANCE BETWEEN  
THE UNIVERSITY & THE TERRITORY ”



2006

### Ge.S.Di.Mont. Research Centre

- Research and Innovation
- Permanent Training & Dissemination of Knowledge
- Services & Netowrking



1996

### Bachelor Degree

- Conservation and Sustainable Development of Mountain Areas

«in a small village a «bridge» connecting mountains and cities»





UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DI MILANO

# Bachelor Degree

## "Conservation and Sustainable Development of Mountain areas»

Established in 2006

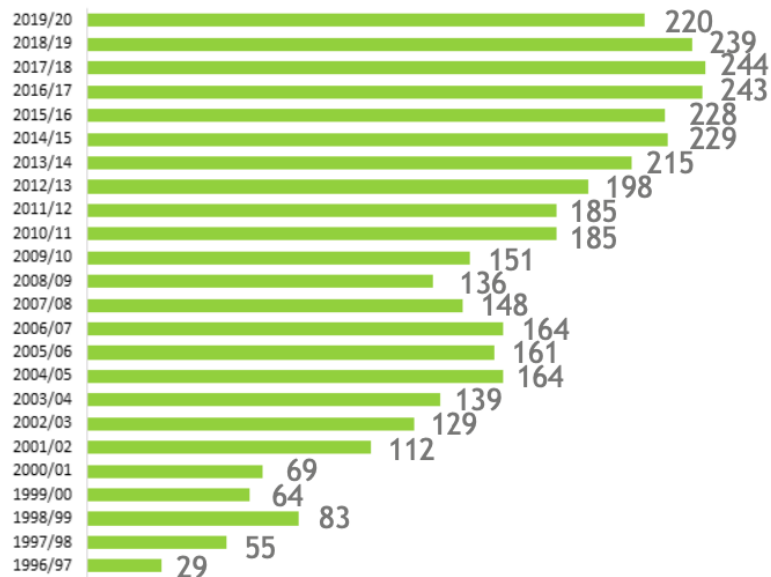




# Bachelor Degree

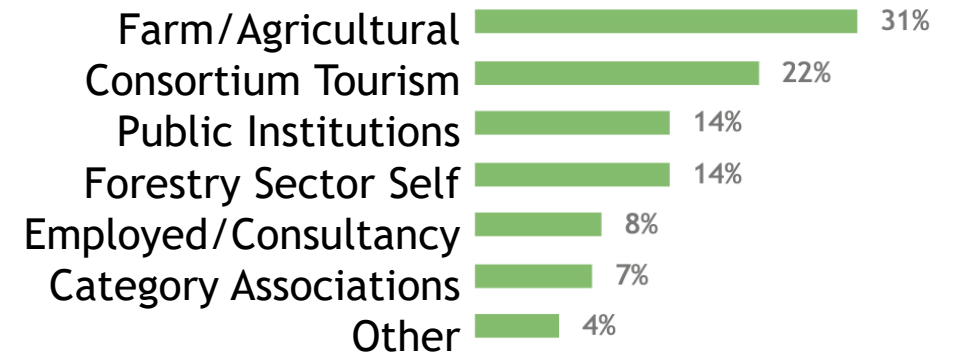
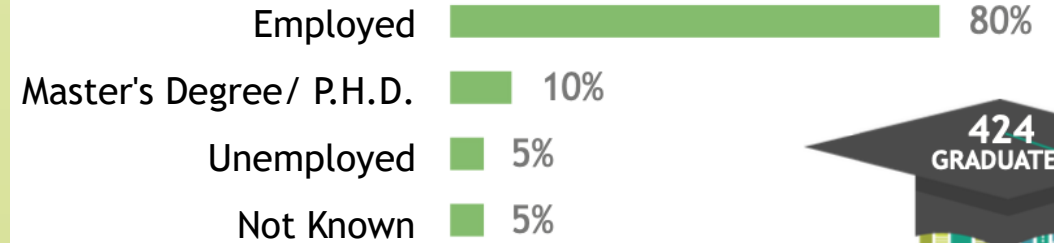


81% from Lombardy  
of which:  
19% Province of Brescia  
17% Valcamonica  
45% Other provinces  
**19%**  
**OTHER REGIONS**



STUDENTS

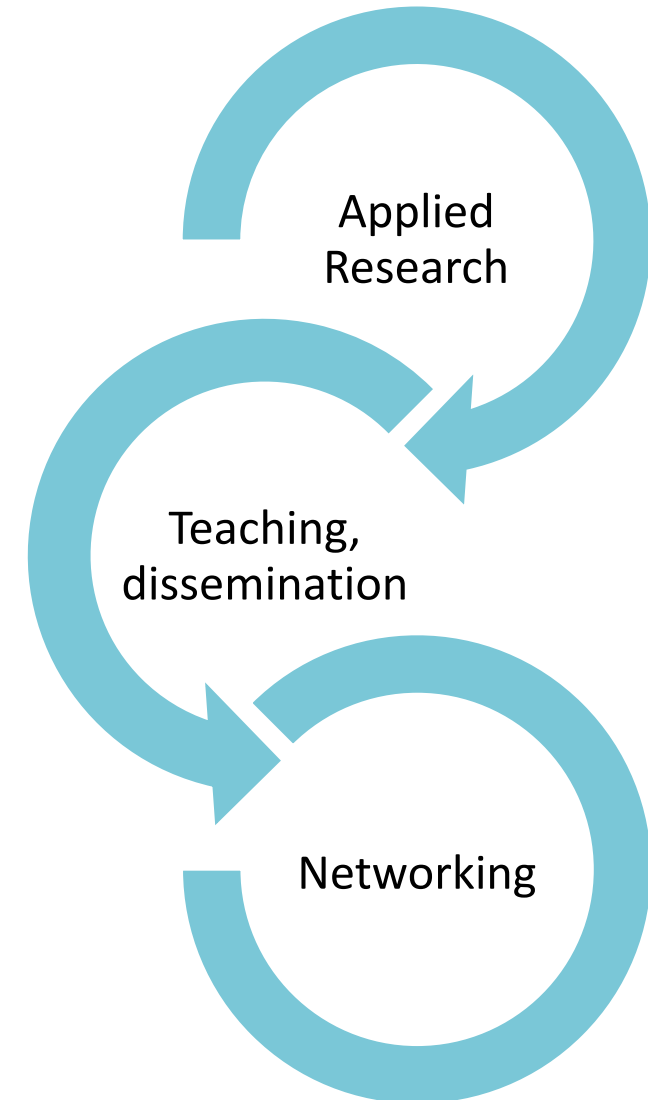
GRADUATES EMPLOYMENT



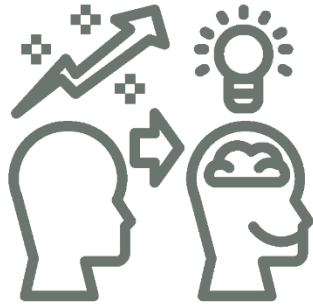
CrC Ge.S.Di.Mont.

Centre of Applied Studies for the Sustainable  
Management and Protection of Mountain Areas

*Funded in 2006*



Applied research on strategic topics for the socio-economic development of mountain areas.



Based on the necessity to promote sustainable development, the use of resources without over-consumption

## 3 Macro Areas





**76**  
**Scientific  
Publications**

19  
On National  
papers

56  
Participation in  
conferences

57  
On international  
papers

37  
Regional projects

7  
National projects

8  
European  
projects

**52**  
**Research  
Projects**

*«Research to innovate and make mountains competitive»*

A centre able to attract funding from a  
Local, Regional, National and  
International level



Territorial development

Youth entrepreneurship

European Projects

EUSALP

Projects in collaboration with local institutions and small mountain communities to draw up strategic programs to promote sustainable development processes





## Young Entrepreneurs in the Mountains

The mountains are “full of energy” and offer space for innovation and available markets; however adequate business services are lacking, bureaucracy is excessive.



**524** MOUNTAIN MUNICIPALITIES IN LOMBARDY



**11.207**  
MOUNTAIN BUSINESSES  
RUN BY YOUNG  
ENTREPRENEURS

**957.682**  
BUSINESSES IN LOMBARDY

**116.361**  
BUSINESSES IN THE  
MOUNTAINS OF LOMBARDY

# Research projects at EUROPEAN level



FINANCED BY  
**INEA**  
**CEF-TELECOM**

**5** PROJECT PARTNERS  
**2** COUNTRIES FROM THE ALPINE REGION

FINANCED BY  
**Interreg**   
Alpine Space

**11** PROJECT PARTNERS  
**6** COUNTRIES FROM THE ALPINE REGION

## RESEARCH ALPS

An online platform with an algorithm for the automatic collection of data about public and private Research and Innovation centres active in 7 European Countries.

## SMART ALTITUDE

Development of policy and governance tools for the reduction of the impact of ski areas.

## A-RING

To promote dialogue among the worlds of Research, Public Administration and Businesses to define common and strategic objectives for research in the Macro-Regional Alpine area.

## IMPULS 4ACTION

An alliance among 4 Alpine countries for soil conservation and sustainable development.

FINANCED BY  
**Interreg**   
Alpine Space



**11** PROJECT PARTNERS  
**5** COUNTRIES FROM THE ALPINE REGION



FINANCED BY  
**ARPAF**  
ALPINE REGION  
PREPARATORY  
FUNDS

**5** PROJECT PARTNERS  
**4** COUNTRIES FROM THE ALPINE REGION

# EUSALP: EU Strategy for the Alpine Region



**7**  
ALPINE  
COUNTRIES

**48**  
ALPINE  
REGIONS

**9**  
ACTION  
GROUPS



**Action Group 1:**  
to develop an effective Research and  
Innovation ecosystem

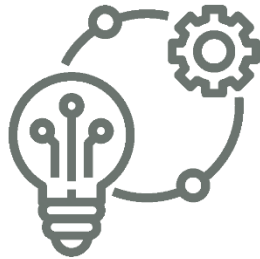
## EUSALP ACTION GROUP 1

Coordination of Action Group 1 in collaboration with Lombardy region.

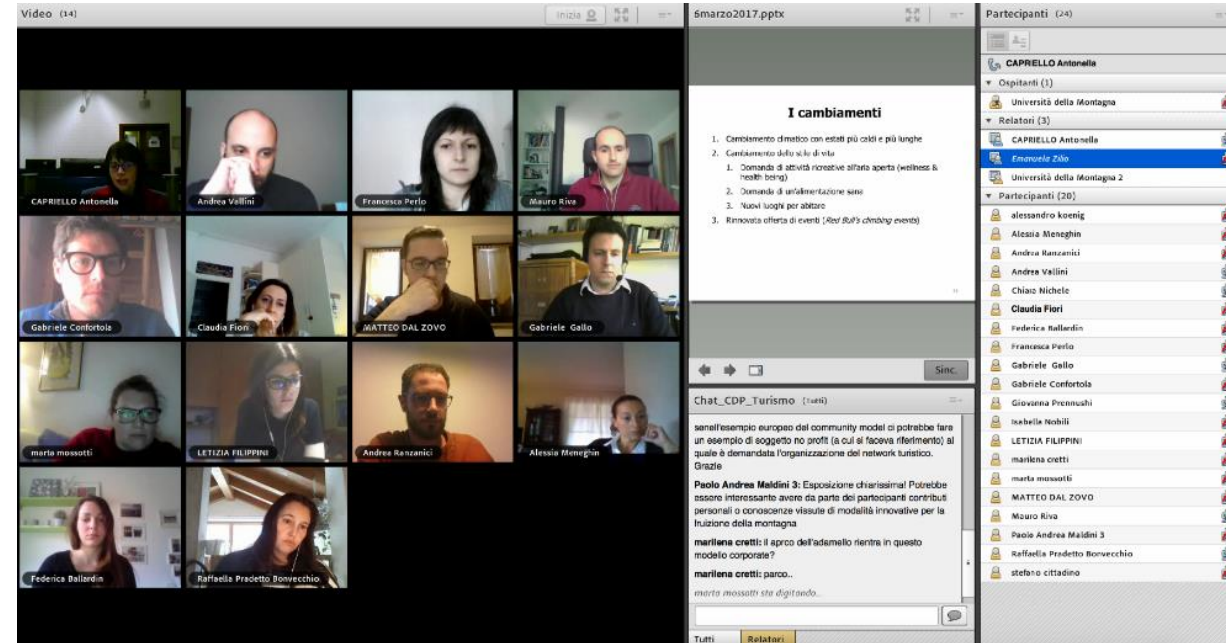
The objective of Action Group 1 is to encourage networking and collaboration between Research Centres, Universities, Public Administrations and Businesses to promote innovation in strategic sectors for the development of the Alpine region.



## Blended learning and eLearning courses



- to overcome limits due to distances (orographic barriers) between different mountain areas and to reach the largest number of users in a **time and money saving way**.



The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting in progress. The main window displays a grid of 14 participants. On the right, there is a presentation slide titled "I cambiamenti" with the following content:

**I cambiamenti**

1. Cambiamento climatico con estati più caldi e più lunghe
2. Cambiamento della silva di vita
3. Domanda di attività ricreative all'aperto (wellness & health & beauty)
2. Domanda di un'alimentazione sana
3. Nuovi luoghi per abitare
3. Rinnovata offerta di eventi (Ref Bull's climbing events)

Below the slide is a chat window titled "Chat\_CDP\_Turismo (14/0)" with the following text:

senell'esempio europeo del community model ci potrebbe fare un esempio di soggetto no profit (a cui si faceva riferimento) al quale è demandata l'organizzazione del network turistico.  
Grazie  
Paolo Andrea Maldini 3: Esposizione chiarissima! Potrebbe essere interessante avere da parte dei partecipanti contributi personali o conoscenze vissute di modalità innovative per la fruizione della montagna  
marilena cretti: il sprco dell'ademollo rientra in questo modello corporate?  
marilena cretti: parco...  
marilena cretti sta digitando.

At the bottom right, there is a list of participants:

Partecipanti (24)

- Relatori (3)
- OSPITANTI (1)
- Partecipanti (20)

Seminars

Seminar  
courses,  
webinars

Post-  
degree  
courses

*"The Virtual Classroom  
as a real meeting place  
for mountain  
communities"*

118

AVERAGE NUMBER OF  
PARTICIPANTS AT  
EACH SEMINAR

308

SEMINARS  
SINCE 2012

36.264

TOTAL PARTICIPANTS  
SINCE 2012



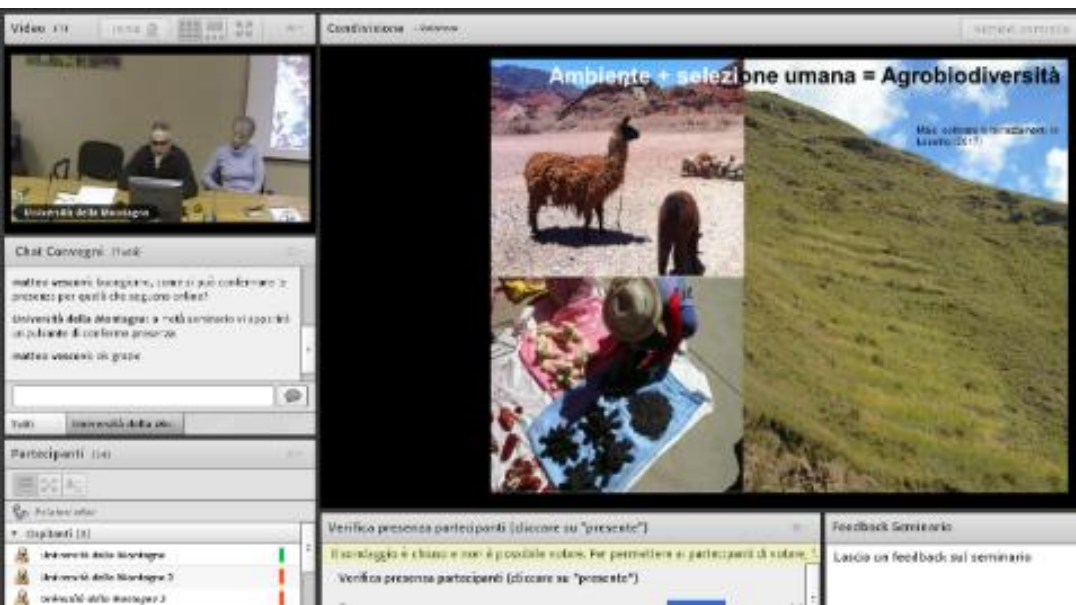
7.927  
ON-SITE



24.848  
ON-DEMAND  
THROUGH THE  
MULTIMEDIA  
SECTION

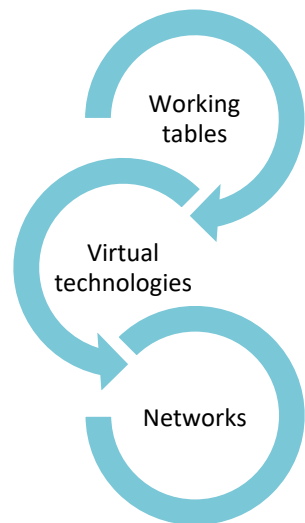


3.489  
THROUGH  
LIVE  
STREAMING





"In constant dialogue with the territory and mountain stakeholders"





# Win 2 Win Networking: Working tables



Working tables for **sharing ideas** between different stakeholders of mountain areas

**3** VIRTUAL WORKING TABLES

**689** ACTIVE MEMBERS

**SAFFRON**

**146** ACTIVE MEMBERS

**AGRO BIODIVERSITY OF THE LOMBARDY MOUNTAINS**

**25** ACTIVE MEMBERS

**BEE-KEEPING**



DARA

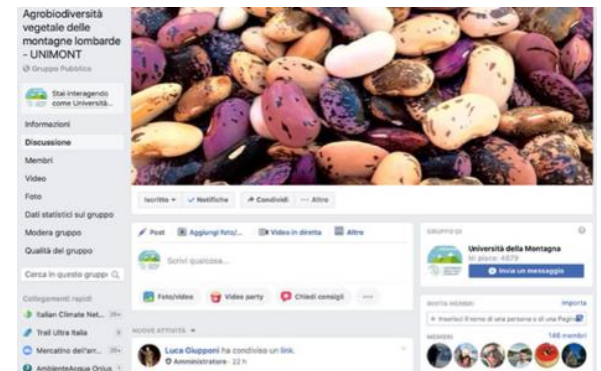
**SCIENCE AND CULTURE OF MOUNTAIN AREAS**  
TABLE COORDINATION

**EU MACRO-REGIONAL STRATEGIES AND NEW EU PLANNING**  
TABLE COORDINATION

**TECHNICAL TABLE ON OFFICIAL PLANTS**  
TABLE PARTICIPATION



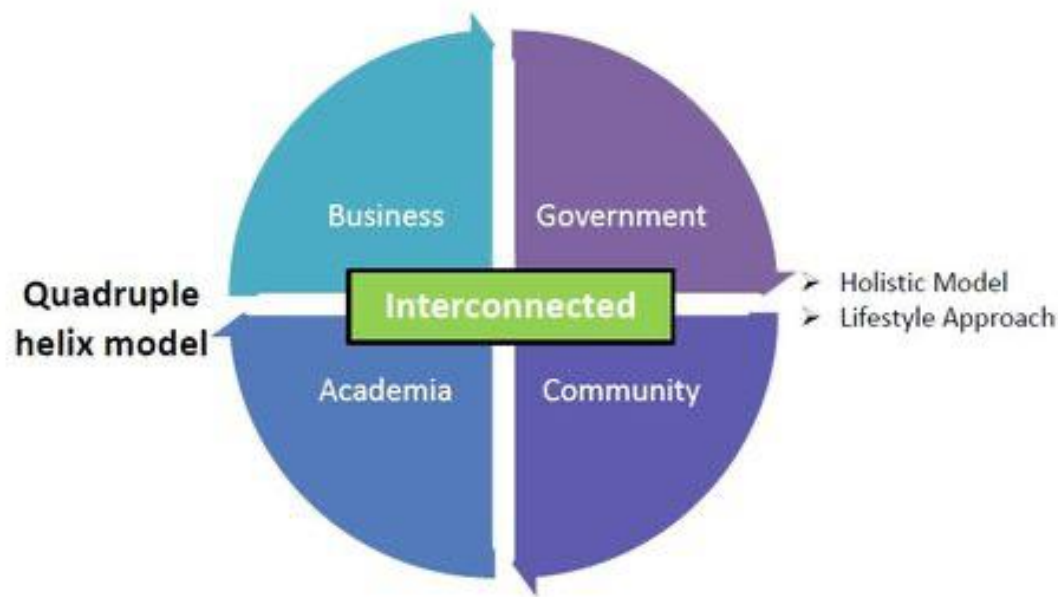
Ministero delle politiche agricole alimentari e forestali



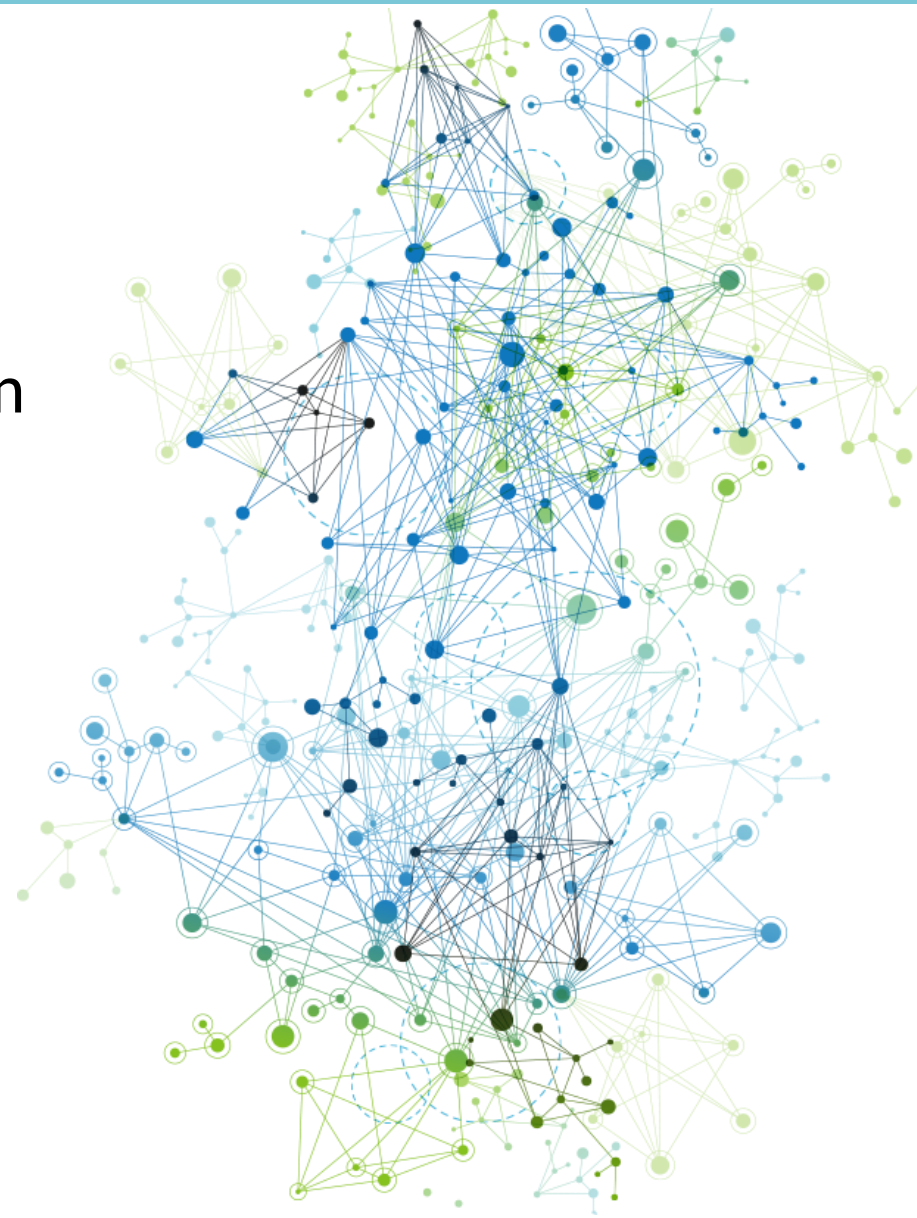
# Win 2 Win Networking

Creation of a «**virtual community**» in addition to the on-campus one (students, researchers, experts and enthusiasts share a common interest and interact)

Connecting the academic world dealing with mountain topics with institutions and business players



A vehicle to promote excellence and knowledge exchange across 4 key sectors



# Win 2 Win Networking

- Support young entrepreneurs and young innovators (think tank, virtual desk, etc.)
- Collaborate and share good/best practices
- Facilitate interaction and dialogue with local, regional, national and EU institutions



UNIMONT promotes an **extensive, well-organized dynamic networking**



# Win 2 Win Networking

Intense networking activity to create and implement national and international networks for research and development of mountain areas.

**UNIMONT participates in and coordinates different networks.**



**ISCAR**  
INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC  
COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH  
IN THE ALPS  
-Active members, past presidency-

**EUROMONTANA**  
-Active members-

**NEMOR**  
EUROPEAN NETWORK  
FOR THE MOUNTAINS  
-Funding members-

**MRI**  
MOUNTAIN  
RESEARCH  
INITIATIVE  
-Active members-

**CO.R.I.MONT.**  
COORDINATION OF  
ITALIAN NETWORKS  
FOR THE MOUNTAINS  
-Founders-

**NOTIZIE IN EVIDENZA**

**IL PROGETTO DIDATTICA RICERCA SERVIZI NETWORK NEWSLETTER NEWS**

**UNIMONT PARTECIPA AL FESTIVAL ITALIANO DELLO SVILUPPO SOSTENIBILE**

**eLEARNING**

All available courses, seminars and workshops concerning strategic topics in the Alpine Macroregion

TITLE AUTHOR CATEGORY DATE APPLY RESET

**MountErasmus vocational training for young farmers** COURSE

**Energy Efficiency in Small and Medium Enterprises - A chance for the energy model region EUSALP?** SEMINAR

**Young Innovators in the Alpine Region** WORKSHOP

Notiziario N° 102 - UNIMONT

L'Università della Montagna in onda su Radio 24

Sabato 8 Aprile alle 7.15 è andato in onda su Radio 24 un servizio dedicato all'Università della Montagna di Edolo, il centro universitario di ricerca e formazione legato al territorio montano.

La troupe radiofonica di Radio 24 si è recata presso l'Università della Montagna, sede distaccata a Edolo (BS) dell'Università degli Studi di Milano, per raccontare attraverso un reportage la struttura universitaria, i suoi percorsi didattici volti alla valorizzazione delle aree montane e gli sbocchi professionali possibili a seguito di una laurea in questo settore.

Durante il servizio è stata fatta un'intervista alla Professoressa Anna Giorgi e ad alcuni studenti del corso di Laurea Triennale in "Valorizzazione e tutela dell'ambiente e del territorio montano". Si è parlato anche della cospicua attività di ricerca che Ge.S.Di.Mont. (Centro di Studi Applicati per la Gestione Sostenibile e la Difesa della Montagna) ha condotto in questi anni.

Nel corso del tempo, l'Università della Montagna è stata anche in grado di stabilire proficue collaborazioni, sia con altre università italiane, sia con enti o organizzazioni nazionali e internazionali. UNIMONT è un network molto esteso con una comunità di numerosi utenti, animati da newsletter che presentano e invitano a partecipare alle svariate e numerose iniziative proposte dall'Università e rivolte non solo ai giovani studenti. La missione di UNIMONT è dunque quella di valorizzare e trasferire conoscenze riguardanti il territorio e le aree montane, a un pubblico sempre più vasto.

Non solo in radio, ma anche sui giornali. Giovedì 6 Aprile l'Università della Montagna è stata citata nell'articolo "Montagna disincantata. Il futuro è la rivoluzione dello sguardo" di Aldo Bonomi, all'interno dell'inserto "Il manifesto in movimento" in cui si parla di un movimento di ritorno alle aree montane, per valorizzare e conservare il territorio.

L'Università della Montagna al convegno "Montagna: infrastruttura verde d'innovazione e sviluppo"

Mercoledì 3 Maggio 2017, Anna Giorgi dell'Università della Montagna di Edolo interverrà al convegno organizzato da LUMSA - Libera Università Maria Santissima Assunta, con il patrocinio della Società Geografica Italiana.

Il convegno "Montagna: infrastruttura verde d'innovazione e sviluppo" mira a raccogliere tutti coloro che sono interessati alla montagna, quindi i protago-

## UNIMONT PORTAL: OVER 205,189 VISITS PER YEAR, OVER 47,000 VISITORS PER YEAR



### 25.000 CONTACTS ANIMATED THROUGH:

- EMAIL MARKETING,
- SCIENTIFIC DISSEMINATION,
- SOCIAL NETWORKS AND NETWORKING



# UNIMONT as a living lab

The Mountain University is a living lab where **Research Activities, results** and derived **Innovation Tools** are transferred on the territory to promote socio-economic development.

«Humans» are an essential **key factor** to trigger the development of these territories!





# A unique pole in the heart of the central alps



## It wasn't easy....

- To establish the relation with the local dimension
- Everything to be adapted or invented
- A new model to be developed:
  - In teaching
  - In defining the priorities for research activities
  - In interacting with «the rest of the world» overcoming the distances, following the formula:
    1. TO DO USEFUL THINGS
    2. TO DO THINGS WELL
    3. TO SPREAD THE MESSAGE ALL AROUND, LET PEOPLE KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING



# A unique pole in the heart of the central alps

## It was quite easy....

- To define the list of «PRIORITIES»  
To stay in a mountain little village is an effective way to realize which are the main things to do based on the day life needs!

a very pragmatic approach:

- Specific methods to be used
- How to overcome distances
- Connection with «outside»
- Bring in modernity
- Need of technological solutions and innovation
- Innovate methods and tools



# Which are the key succes factors? LESSON LEARNT



Be integrated with the local dimesion and connected with the «global» one



Capitalisation



Knowledge sharing



Empower young people



Innovation



Technology



New vision for mountain development based on specificities



Networking



# UNIMONT as a living lab: young entrepreneurs



# UNIMONT as a living lab: young entrepreneurs







UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DI MILANO

Subscribe to our newsletter & visit our portal  
**[Unimontagna.it/en](http://Unimontagna.it/en)**



“ THE MOUNTAINS  
ARE OF THOSE  
WHO LOVE THEM  
CHOOSE THEM  
LIVE IN THEM ”



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