



Manfred Perlik

What is the role of social innovation in mountain areas in the framework of global urbanisation?

EUROMONTANA: Rethinking territorial balances between urban and rural areas in the European Mountains: How can innovation support win-win solutions? 20 November 2019, Brussels

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This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 677622

1 The origins of the innovation approach

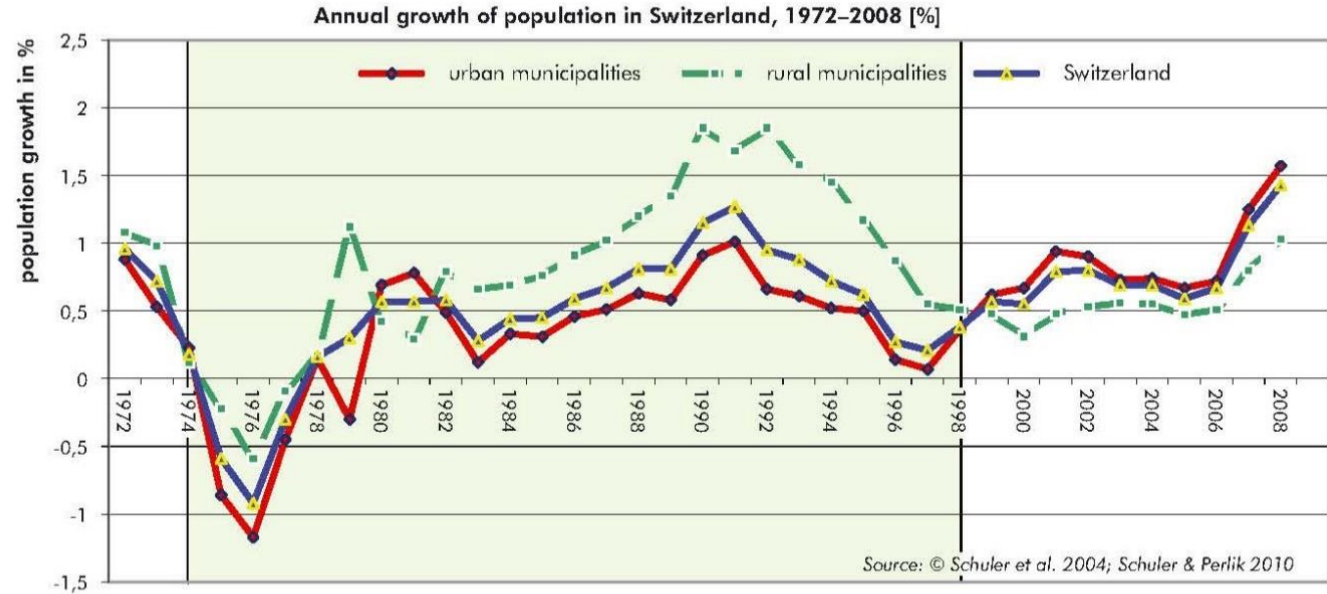
- *Crisis of welfare state (Fordism):*
 - «Limits to Growth» 1972 (loss of reputation)
 - Oil crisis 1973 (loss of cheap supply)
- *Consequences:*
 - Augment productivity and performance
 - Avoid the trap of comparative (dis)advantages, produce increasing returns (extra surplus) by new, unique (= innovative) products
 - vertical disintegration, global value chains, European desindustrialisation
 - individualisation, reduction of welfare state
 - double freedom of development (no prescription but also no aid), self responsibility
- Innovation = «*creative destruction*» (Schumpeter 1942)

Mountains: Loss of production systems – but not immediately

2 The renaissance of the cities

- Dans les zones de montagne: déclin jusqu'aux années 1970.
- Croissances disproportionnelle dans les régions non-urbaines, dépopulation des villes-centres entre 1974 et 1998.
- Depuis 1998, la croissance démographique s'est de nouveau concentrée sur les grandes villes et leurs zones périurbaines.

→ « **Double renversement** »



Pourcentage de la croissance annuelle en Suisse (bleu), dans les zones urbaines (rouge) et non-urbaines (vert) (sources : BfS).

Communes en périphérie	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2017	1970 - 2017
Lumnezia	2'527	2'262	2'254	2'309	2'216	2'047	-19,0%
Val-de-Travers	12'549	10'169	10'749	10'910	10'832	10'754	-14,3%

Ville centre d'une aire métropolitaine	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2017	1970 - 2017
Zurich	348'028	303'662	360'989	360'980	390'082	423'310	+21,6%

Développement démographique dans les cas d'étude SIMRA, Val Lumnezia et Val de Travers, en comparaison avec la ville de Zurich (sources : OfS et autres)

3 Change of Specific Mountain Production Systems

Decline

- Agriculture, Manufacturing industries, Tourism

Increase

- Residences (multilocality, second homes)
- Parks, «wilderness» areas
- Extractive industries
- Day-tripping tourism

Metropolises → AAA-regions (Adaptivity, Attractiveness, Authority)

Mountains → RRR-regions (residences, raw materials, rents)

4 Mainstream Recommendations: Uniqueness and otherness

Product innovations (economic and technical):

- Landscape esthetics
- Differentiated and labelled regional products: food & crafts
- Wellness and events
- Niche tourism, agro-tourism, *tourisme doux*, « revaluation »

Problem:

- **A**-regions hold the **decision making** because of agglomeration effects
- **R**-regions hold the **weak value chains** (lacking agglomeration effects)
- The risk of a territorial **cleavage** between the strong and the weak
- The risk of **overuse**: the proposed products do not deliver size effects (not self-sustaining) – unless there is intensification



5. Recommendations 2.0: Social innovation

... but what does this mean?



SIMRA (Social Innovation in Marginalised Rural Areas)

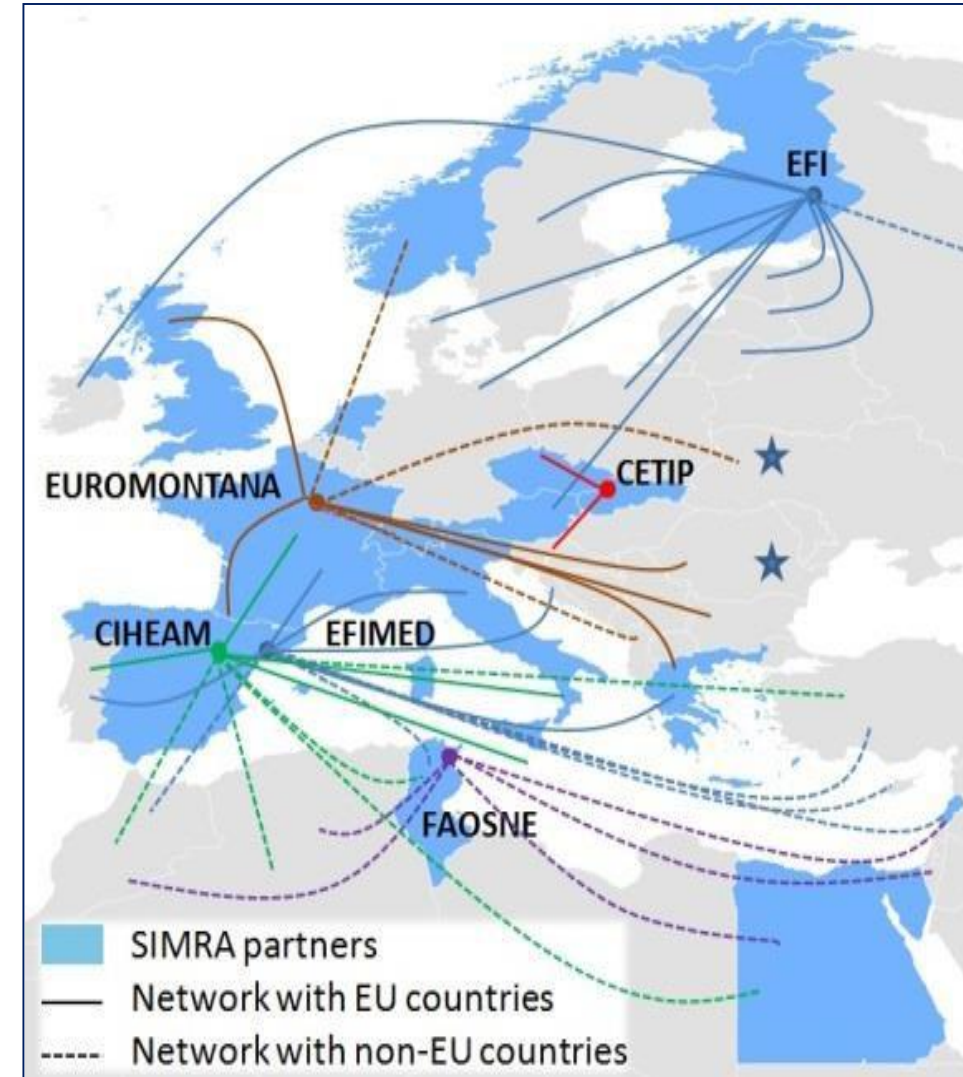
Definition *Social Innovation*

A pragmatic definition of “Social Innovation”

« The **reconfiguring of social practices** in response to societal challenges which seek to enhance the outcomes on **societal well-being** and necessarily include the engagement of **civil society actors**. »



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5. Recommendations 2.0: Social innovation

... but what does this mean?

The international debate shows a mixture between **misunderstanding**, **euphemism** and **renewal**

- **Misunderstanding:** Social innovation is more efficiency on a social topic (→ application on value chains)
- **Euphemism:** When the welfare state is smashed, the regions suffer less paternalism and more liberty to develop region specific creativity (→ voluntarism)
- **Renewal:** New attitudes, new forms of collaboration
 - but which one?



6 Transformative SI in/for mountain areas

- Strengthening the regional get-together by **overcoming closeness**, intra-regional distinction and discrimination, gender inequality
- **Opening** against outside by accepting immigration and change and benefitting from external knowledge
- **Re-negotiation** on highland-lowland partnerships.
 - mountains have to understand external demands
 - metros have to accept a lower value adding in mountain areas

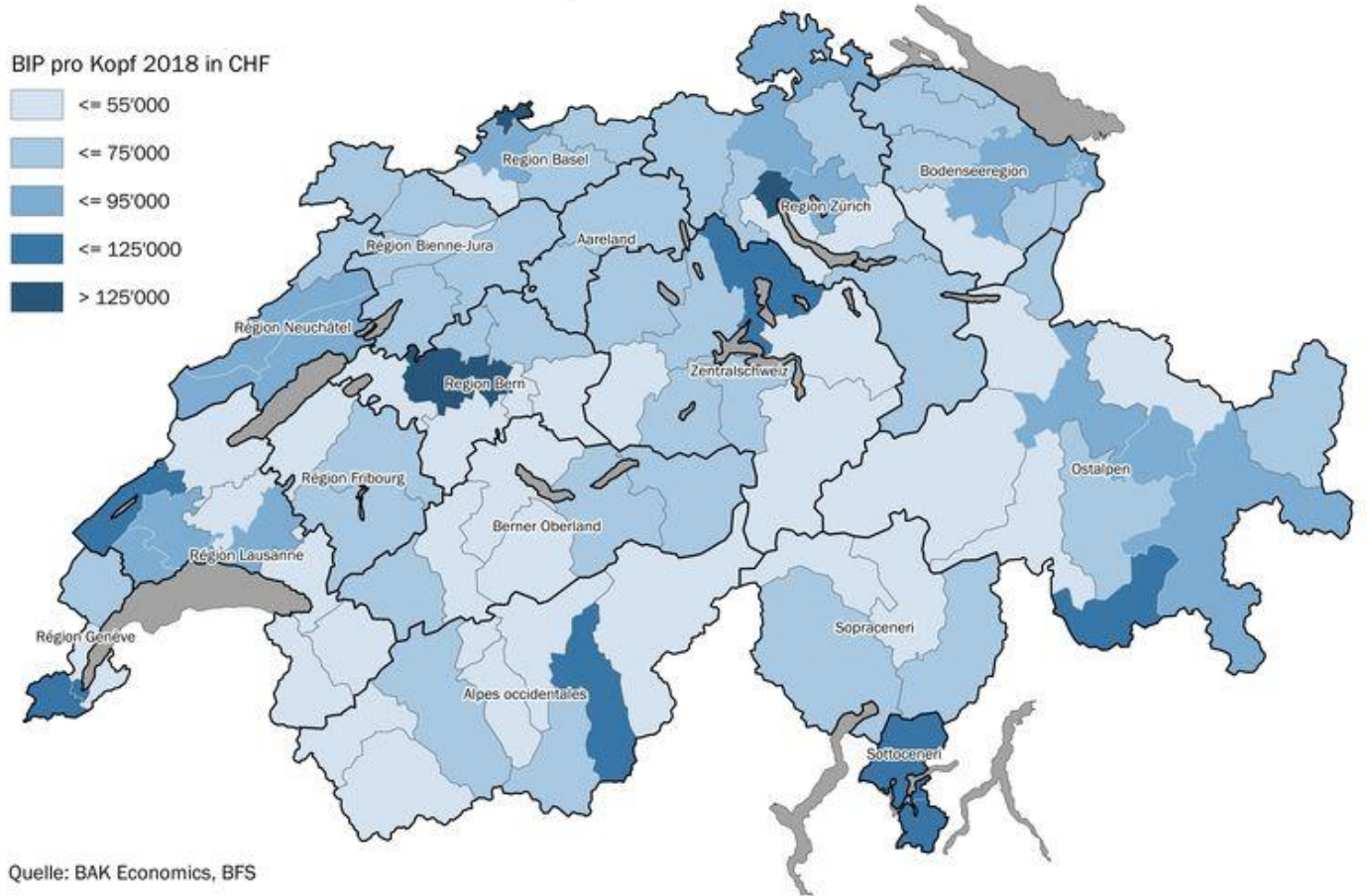
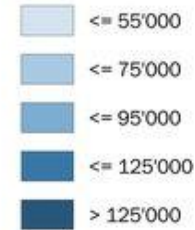


Maintaining diversified regional production systems

SIMRA Case study
Réseau Urbain Neuchâtel

Wohlstand in den 101 neuen Arbeitsmarktregionen

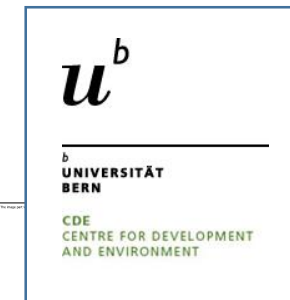
BIP pro Kopf 2018 in CHF



Quelle: BAK Economics, BFS

BAK Economics (2019): <https://www.bak-economics.com/leistungen/regionalanalyse/regionenschweiz/>

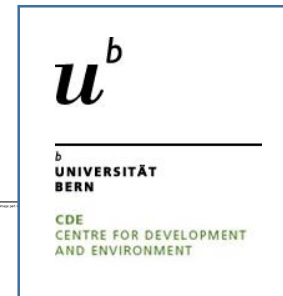
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Maintaining weak regional production systems



SIMRA Case study
Val Lumnezia Grisons



Attracting new people

Accomodation with integration: Making refugee reception a part of the local trajectory. Cooperative Pacefuturo at Pettinengo, Biella province, an old industrial district of textile industry.



7 Summary

Social innovation is necessary to:

- **Avoid «homogeneous»** segregated territories
- **Transform the current** individualised regional development regime
- **Maintain fragile** regional production systems in agriculture, manufacturing and tourism
- Promote **cohesive** societies
- Strengthen **transborder relations** of mountain areas



BAK Economics (2019): <https://www.bak-economics.com/leistungen/regionalanalyse/regionen-schweiz/>

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SIMRA: www.simra-h2020.eu

Thank you!



شركاء



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فترة المشروع

أبريل (تيسان) 2016 مارس (أذار) 2020



تلقى هذا المشروع تمويل من برنامج البحث والابتكار للاتحاد الأوروبي أفق (HORIZON) 2020 بموجب اتفاقية منحة 677622.

شارك معنا في مشروع SIMRA

- شارك في ورش العمل التي سنعقدتها
- اشترك معنا في دراسات الحالة
- ساهم في مدونتنا على الانترنت
- تابعنا على صفحات التواصل الاجتماعي

لتسجيل اهتمامك بمشروع SIMRA يرجى الاتصال بنا على العنوان التالي:



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Publications: Researchgate

ForAlps

Foreign immigration in the Alps

www.foralps.eu

BAK Economics (2019): <https://www.bak-economics.com/leistungen/regionalanalyse/regionen-schweiz/>

Fourny, M.-C. (2018) : Montagnes en mouvements. Dynamiques territoriales et innovation sociale. Grenoble: PUG.

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SIMRA: www.simra-h2020.eu

3 Which understanding of SI?



- Hosting refugees in mountain areas does not prevent poverty in the world as it helps only a small group of individuals.
- It concerns many goals indirectly.
- But, in mountain areas, also directly: Goal 10, 11, 16