

How to foster the effective uptake of Cohesion Policy funds in mountain areas?

20th September 2022 ○ 10:00 – 16:30

Committee of the Regions, Brussels – Belgium
Rue Van Maerlant 2, 1000
Room VMA3
Web-streaming

The European Union – via the Cohesion Policy - introduced dedicated measures to pay a **“particular attention to mountainous regions”** (Article 174 TFEU). These measures can be used to finance many initiatives that improve the quality of life of mountain citizens. However, as stated by the 8th Cohesion Report, the **“cohesion in the European Union has improved, but gaps remain”** especially in rural regions. Potential beneficiaries of these funds in mountain areas are too often **unaware of the opportunities** offered by the Cohesion Policy and face **a number of barriers** limiting the uptake of these funds in their regions. What are the barriers hindering the uptake of the Cohesion funds in mountain regions? How can Managing Authorities and other relevant actors **better inform** mountain actors on the opportunities of the 2021-2027 Cohesion Policy in their region? What **kind of support is needed to help** mountain stakeholders **make the most of these funds**?

Montana174 is a one-year communication campaign to inform and engage mountain citizens on the Cohesion Policy in five European mountain regions. Capitalizing on its findings and activities, Montana174's final conference will be an opportunity to share lessons learnt on the needs and challenges faced by mountain stakeholders as well as to discuss upon different **practices** to foster the **uptake of the Cohesion Policy funds** in mountain areas over the 2021-2027 period.

Simultaneous interpretation will be available in English, French and Polish.

Moderation: Maria Carla Lostrangio, Project Manager at Euromontana

9:15 – 10:00 **Registration**

How does the Cohesion Policy shape mountains?

- 10:00 – 10:20 **Welcome & introduction**

Marie-Antoinette Maupertuis, President of the Regional Assembly of Corsica and rapporteur on the Opinion on the Cohesion Policy support for regions with geographic and demographic handicaps (Art. 174 TFEU) at the Committee of the Regions

- 10:20 – 10:40 **The Cohesion Policy in the Carpathian macro-region**

Władysław Ortyl, President of the Podcarpackie Region, Poland, and rapporteur on the Carpathian Macro-regional Strategy at the Committee of the Regions

- 10:40– 11:00: **Examples of projects financed in mountains**

Barbara Cerdan Fortea, Provincial Government of Teruel, Spain

11.00- 11.30 **Coffee break**



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What is the uptake of the Cohesion Policy in mountains? What are the barriers?

- 11:30 – 11:45 **Mountains in the new Cohesion Policy**

Wallis Goelen Vandebroek, European Commission, DG REGIO

- 11.45- 12.00 **Do funds go always to the centre? Analysis on the uptake of Cohesion Policy funds across Romanian regions**

Florian Marin, Member of the European Economic and Social Committee

- 12.00 – 12.15 **Feedback from mountain actors: what barriers do they encounter?**

Klavdija Gornik, Regional Development Agency of Podravje – Maribor

- 12.15-12.45 **Discussion with speakers and audience: “What are the main barriers and challenges to the uptake of Cohesion Policy funds in mountain areas?”**

Moderation: Adrian-Radu Rey, Vice President of Euromontana and President of Romontana, Romania

12:45 - 14:00 **Lunch break**

How to foster the uptake of the 2021-2027 Cohesion Policy by mountain actors?

- 14:00 – 14:15 **Dedicated financial chapters to support measures in mountains**

William Biajoux, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region, France

- 14:15 – 14:30 **Capacity-building for mountain actors**

Marco Bussone, National Union of Mountain Communities, Italy

- 14:30 – 14.45 **Creating targeted communication**

Daniela Masotti, Lombardy Regional Agency for Agricultural and Forestry Services, Italy

- 14:45 – 15:15 **Round table - Towards replication and upscaling: what recommendations?**

Moderation: Guillaume Corradino, Director at Euromontana

- 15:15– 15:30 **Questions & Answers**

- 15:30– 15:45 **Outlooks for targeting non-standard geography in Cohesion Policy**

Erik Gløersen, Spatial Foresight

- 15:45– 16:00 **Closing remarks**

Guillaume Corradino, Director at Euromontana

- 16:00– 16:30 **Networking drink**

