

SMART MOUNTAINS

XII European
Mountain
Convention

25 – 26 – 27
October 2022

How to make our territories attractive and
future-oriented?

Stefano Sala

Project Officer, UNIMONT – University of Milan

**Governance in mountain areas:
what has changed in the last years?**



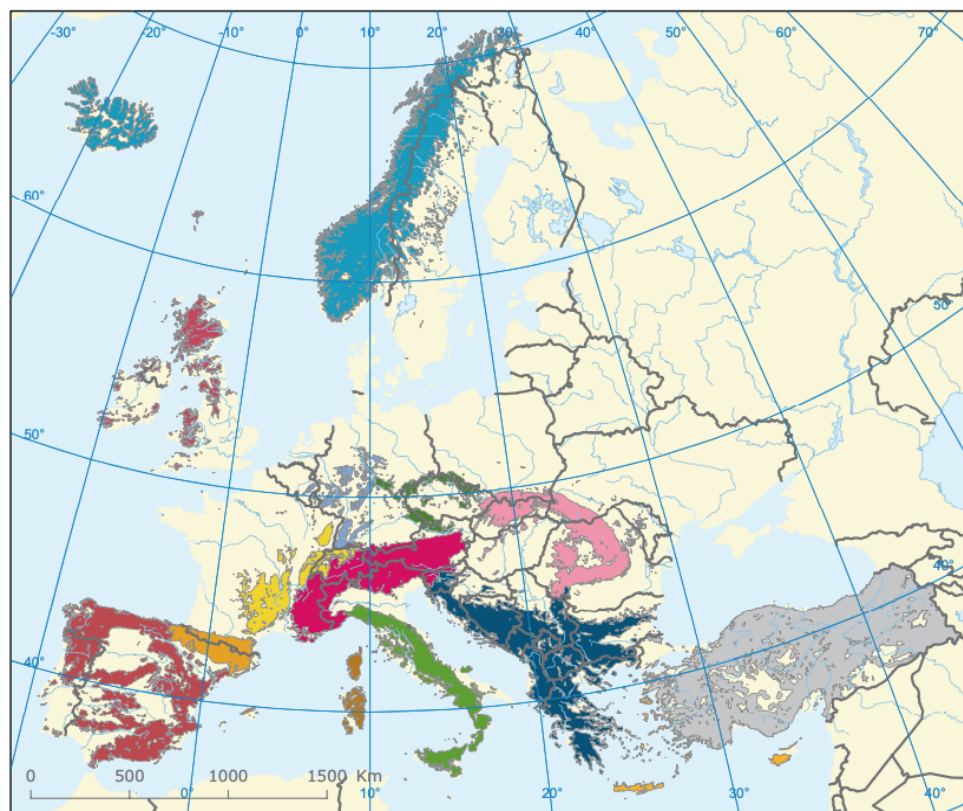
UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI MILANO

Email: stefano.sala1@unimi.it

Mountain Areas in Europe



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI MILANO



According to a study conducted by the European Environment Agency, mountain areas cover **almost 29% of the EU Member States** and are home to **13% of its population**.

These areas, often located in border areas, are Europe's water reservoir as well as the ecological backbone of the continent and provide an enormous reserve of natural resources.

The main challenge for Europe's mountain territories is to **find the right balance between the needs for socio-economic development and the protection of fragile environments rich in biodiversity and natural resources**.

Note: * = Belgium and Germany; ** = the Czech Republic, Austria and Germany.

Figure 1. Mountain Ranges in Europe (EEA 2010)

Mountain Areas in Europe



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI MILANO

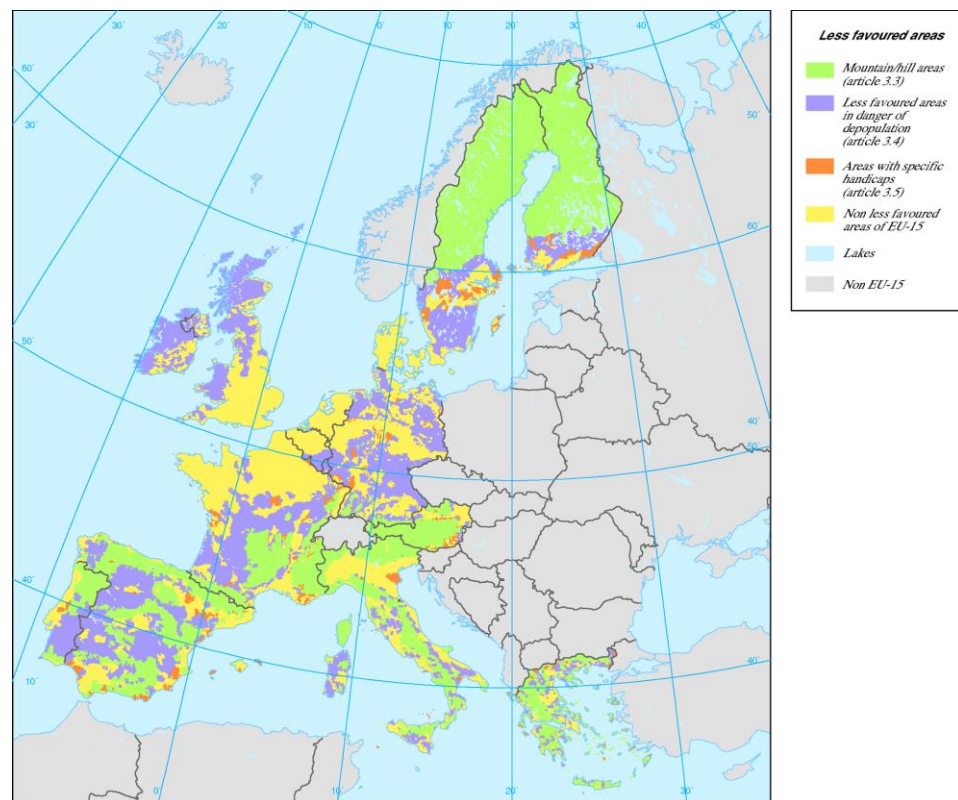


Figure 2. Map of Less Favoured Areas (EEA 2020)

The European Commission has been focusing on these areas since the 1970s, highlighting **the role of agriculture** in protecting the land and as the main economic activity in mountain areas (Council Directive 75/268/EEC).

Subsequently, at European level, the so-called "**Disadvantaged Areas**" were defined within the framework of the **Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)**.

The "**Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion**" drawn up following a consultation by the European Commission in 2008 highlighted the fact that, to date, **there are no integrated measures capable of improving the attractiveness and competitiveness of mountain regions.**

Mountain Areas in Europe



THE VALORISATION OF MOUNTAIN TERRITORIES
ANALYSIS OF POLICIES, STRATEGIES AND GOOD PRACTICES AT REGIONAL, NATIONAL, EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

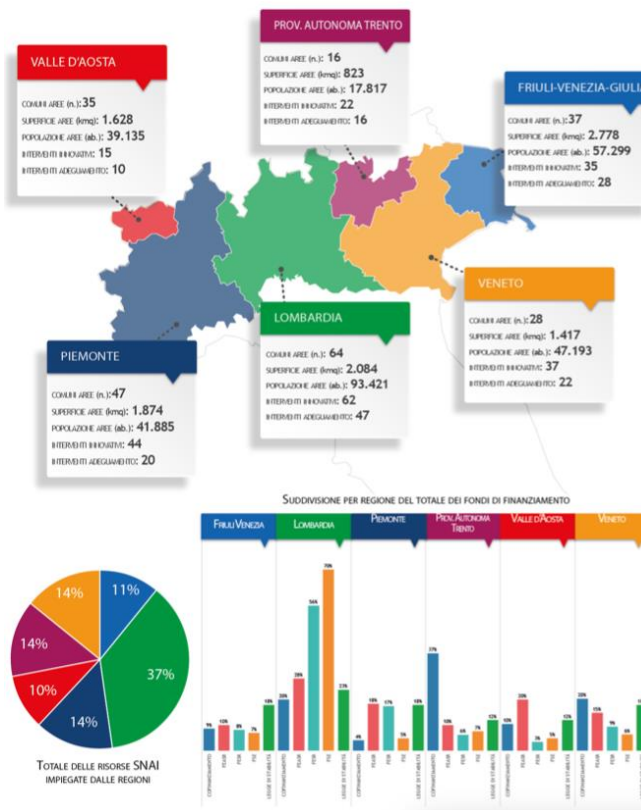
June 2021



Implementation agreement between C'G Ge.S. Di.Mont. - Research Centre for the Development of Mountain Areas - Unimont Edolo Centre of the University of Milan and the Lombardy Region "Valorisation of Mountain"

Regione Lombardia Accordo attuativo tra C'G Ge.S. Di.Mont. - Centro di Ricerca per lo Sviluppo delle Montagne - Unimont polo di Edolo dell'Università degli Studi di Milano e Regione Lombardia "La Valorizzazione dei Territori Montani"

ANALISI STRATEGIA NAZIONALE AREE INTERNE



UNIMONT - University of Milan carried out a study with the supervision of Prof. Anna Giorgi in collaboration with Lombardy Region completed in June 2021:

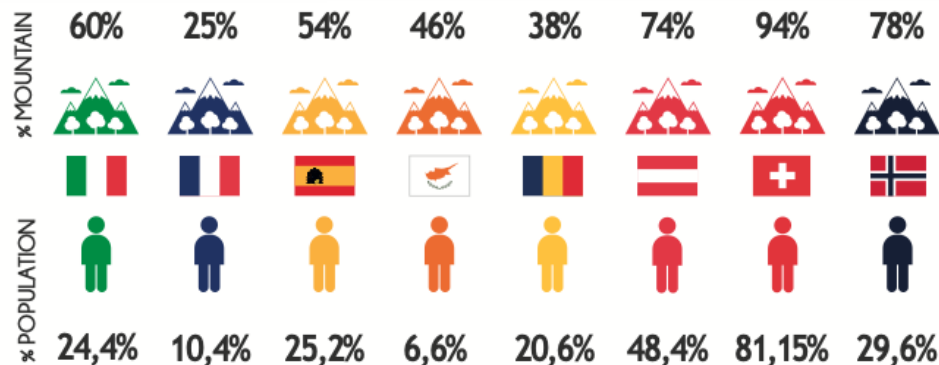
“The valorisation of mountain territories: Analysis of policies, strategies and good practices at regional, national, European and international levels: challenges and opportunities”

This analysis was carried out in order to make a useful contribution to encourage efficient and effective discussion on issues of territorial development, with particular reference to mountain areas.

Definition of Mountain Territory... National level



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI MILANO



* This definition is in addition to the one that implements Article 174 TFEU for the distribution of EAFRD funds (Regulation 1305/2013).

SPAIN 1 DEFINITION MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE a) altitude > 1,000 meters above sea level; b) slope > 20% or difference in altitude 400m for lower altitudes.	CYPRUS 0 DEFINITIONS No official definition. Definition being developed in the integrated strategy for mountain areas (University of Thessaly, 2019).	SWITZERLAND 1 DEFINITION FEDERAL STATISTICS OFFICE a) average altitude > 800 meters a.s.l.; b) differential per hectare > 225 m for lower altitudes.
FRANCE 1 DEFINITION LOI MONTAGNE L. 85-30/1985 a) limited usability of the soil; b) altitude > 700 meters a.s.l. (general), 600 meters a.s.l. (Volsig chain) 800 meters a.s.l. (Mediterranean), slope > 20% on 80% of the surface area; c) a + b.	ROMANIA 1 DEFINITION L. 197/2018 a) altitude > 600 meters a.s.l.; b) slope > 20% for lower altitudes; c) a + b.	NORWAY 0 DEFINITION No official definition. Rural development policies include actions in favor of mountain areas.
ITALY 3 DEFINITIONS L. 991/1952 (FINANCIAL SUPPORT ACTIONS) L. 1102/1971 (MOUNTAIN COMMUNITIES) L.R. 19/2008 (MOUNTAIN COMMUNITIES OF THE LOMBARDY REGION) Consolidated definition L. 991/1952: a) 880% surface > 600 meters a.s.l. b) differential > 600m and cadastral income < 2.400 lire	AUSTRIA 0 DEFINITIONS No official definition. Actions in favor of mountain areas adopt the definition adapted from EU Regulation 1305/2013.	BHUTAN 0 DEFINITIONS No official definition. 95% of the territory is located at an altitude of > 600 meters a.s.l..

LOMBARDY
An exemplary case

MOUNTAIN CLASSIFICATION	Population	Area (km ²)
By degree of mountaininess	1.539.362	10.449
By altitude range	1.041.890	9.650
Based on the Municipalities included in the Mountain Communities	1.254.276	10.163

Mountains in Italy have variable borders.
The table shows the data (n. Municipalities, resident population and area) related to mountain areas in the Lombardy region according to the classification of municipalities by "degree of mountaininess", "altitude range" and belonging to the "Mountain Communities".

National Strategies for the Development of Mountain Territories



STRATEGIES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF MOUNTAIN TERRITORIES

The comparative analysis shows that only **few countries have integrated strategies dedicated to the development of mountain territories.**

At EU Level two studies produced a comprehensive map of European Mountain territories:

- **Nordregio – 2004:** study commissioned by the DG Regio to evaluate the impact of European Policies on the mountains.
- **European Environment Agency – 2010:** the study aims to understand and measure the ecological importance of mountain areas in Europe.



No specific strategy. The only national program involving the mountains: National Strategy for Inner Areas (2015).	National Strategy for the Development of the Mountain Community (2019).	Strategy for the Development of Rural and Mountain Areas (P-LPRB) (2015).
Mountain Law II (2016).	Law 197/2018 for the development of mountain areas.	Mountain policies at the level of the Autonomous Communities. Strategy for business development in mountain areas to be defined (2021).
No specific strategy. The mountains are part of various strategies of policies for the development of rural areas.	No specific strategy. Coordination of European funds to promote development initiatives at a regional level.	All the country's strategies and policies necessarily include mountain areas, but no policy specifically mentions the mountains.

National Strategies for the Development of Mountain Territories

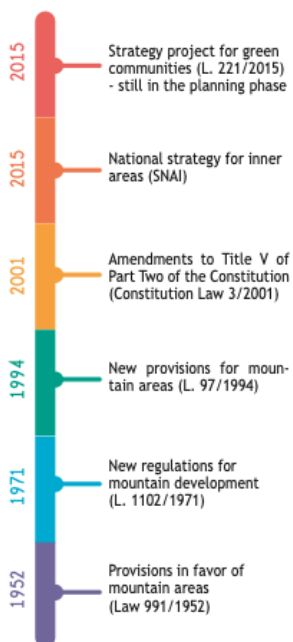


THEMES	ITALY	FRANCE	SPAIN	CYPRUS	ROMANIA	AUSTRIA	SWITZERLAND	NORVEGIA	BHUTAN
Environment	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Agriculture	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Services	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tourism	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tax exemption		✓			✓		✓	✓	✓
Economic progress	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Training		✓		✓	✓			✓	✓
Digitization		✓	✓				✓	✓	✓
R&I		✓			✓		✓	✓	
Community led projects	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
APPROACH									
Top Down ↓	↕	↓	↕	↕	↕	↑	↕	↓	↓
Bottom Up ↑									

National Strategies for the Development of Mountain Territories



LAWS AND STRATEGIES RELEVANT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MOUNTAIN TERRITORY



Art. 44, co. 2 ° of the Constitution of the Italian Republic states: "the law provides for provisions in favour of mountain areas". These measures first materialized with Law 991/1952 which identifies mountain areas with municipalities that had certain combined characteristics of altitude (greater than 600 meters above sea level for 80% of the territory) or height difference (differential of 600 m between minimum and maximum altitude of the Municipality) and low catastral income.

Law 1102/1971 established Mountain Communities - bodies governed by public law specifically aimed at the government of mountain areas, placed at an intermediate level between Municipalities and Provinces. These bodies were then devolved to the legislative competence of the Regions, which abolished them or transformed them into unions of Municipalities.

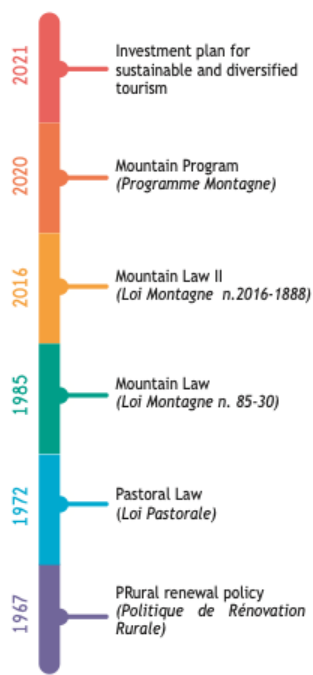
National intervention was established with Law 56/2014, which, in reorganizing the local authorities of a large area, established the mountain border provinces (Verbano-Cusio-Ossola, Sondrio, Belluno), with a law on small municipalities (Law 158/2017) and through the **National Strategy for Inner Areas (SNAI)**.

Italian mountains also play a role in the National Recovery and Resilience Plan with the **Green Communities Strategy** (L. 221/2015). A project that from North to South involves 30 mountain communities, coordinated by the Department for Regional Affairs.

National Strategies for the Development of Mountain Territories



LAWS AND STRATEGIES RELEVANT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF MOUNTAIN TERRITORY



The 1985 Loi Montagne is the **first legislative act in Europe that recognizes mountain areas as "objectives of national interest" due to their economic, social, environmental, landscape, health and cultural role**, and therefore proposes a holistic and multi-sectoral management.

This law legitimizes the **decentralization of mountain policies based on the fact that mountains constitute separate territorial units**, not only due to their specific needs but also because of their unique geographical and socio-economic characteristics. It introduces some essential rights for the mountains: **expression, solidarity and differentiation**.

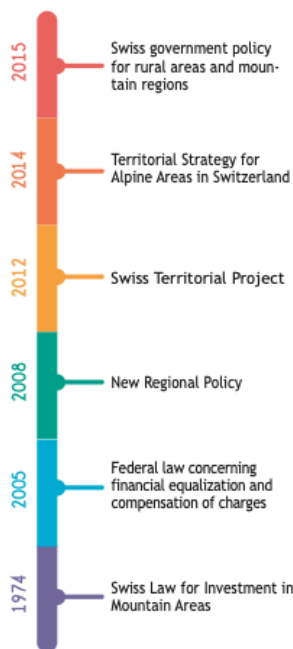
Thirty years later, the need to renew the "Pact between nation and mountains" to keep pace with social, technological and legislative changes, and to set up a development model, led to the formulation of **Loi Montagne II**.

The new law aims to: a) **modernize the mechanisms and institutions underlying mountain governance**, b) **adapt the way in which public policies integrate the mountains** and c) **respond to the needs of mountain inhabitants, enterprises and users**.

National Strategies for the Development of Mountain Territories



LAWS AND STRATEGIES RELEVANT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MOUNTAIN TERRITORY



Together with Austria, Switzerland was one of the first countries to pay specific attention to mountain areas through the **Swiss Law for Investment in Mountain Areas issued by the Swiss Federal Council in 1974**. It has also coined a general definition of a Mountain Region used for statistical purposes.

The **Swiss Government Policy for Rural Areas and Mountain Regions (P-LRB)** joins the Confederation's Agglomeration Policy 2016+ and therefore integrates the Territorial Strategy for Alpine Areas in Switzerland and the Swiss Territorial Project. The Swiss government's **P-LRB is based on identifying the main challenges that Swiss rural and mountain areas are facing**. The P-LRB is intended to be a **transversal and complementary policy to the agglomeration policy**. These coordination efforts must, to date, still be accompanied by ad-hoc funding. A first effort was made with the establishment of specific funds within the **New Regional Policies (NPR)**. A new motion (No. 19.3731) was adopted by the Federal Parliament in March 2021, asking the Federal Council to develop a realistic and cross-sectoral action plan for the implementation of the P-LRB.

Homogeneous territorial development is also promoted in Switzerland through other measures, not specific to mountain areas, such as: **the Federal Law concerning financial equalization and compensation of charges established in 2020**; and the **universal service** which ensures that basic public services are available throughout the territory with a guaranteed minimum quality level (DETEC, 2016).

It is necessary to promote skills acquisition to manage mountain territories



Due to this complex framework there is a need to promote education and up-skilling in order to implement coherent and integrated strategies in mountain territories



"Il corso fornirà un'analisi specifica delle aree montane dell'Unione Europea, a partire dalle loro caratteristiche e dai loro marchi di identificazione".

Prof. Massimo Condinanzi

It is necessary to promote skills acquisition to manage mountain territories

The NEW Master's Degree Course **VALORIZATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF MOUNTAIN AREAS** takes place entirely at the UNIMONT Campus of the University of Milan in Edolo (BS).

The Master's Degree is **taught in English** and aims to train professionals capable of promoting the enhancement, development and sustainable management of mountain territories, by applying **innovative approaches**.

>> Discover more: unimontagna.it/en <<

MULTIDISCIPLINARY

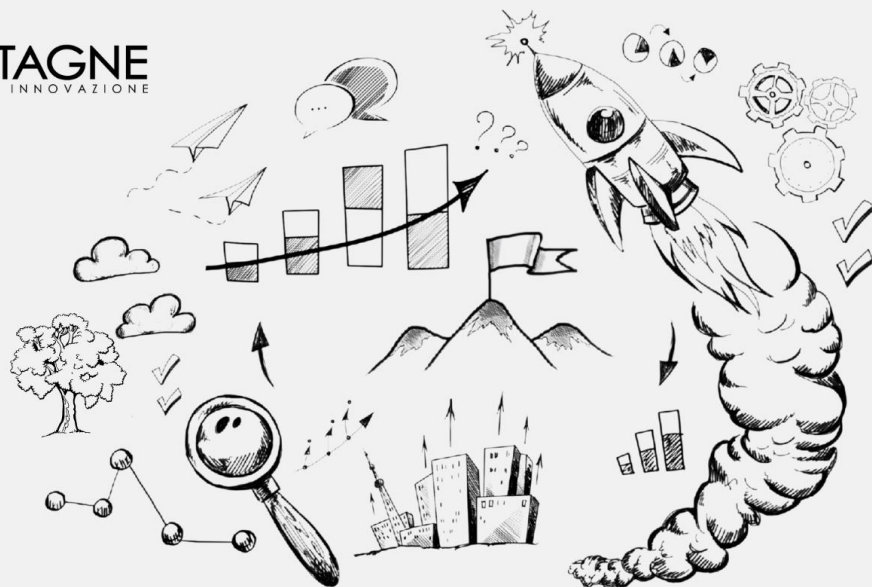
glocal
INTERNATIONAL

unique
innovative

Young Entrepreneurs in Mountain Areas



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI MILANO



Hai tra i 18 e i 40 anni e sei un
giovane imprenditore in
montagna?



Aiutaci a individuare quali sono i fattori socioeconomici, territoriali e culturali che agevolano il successo delle imprese giovanili che operano nei comuni montani.

Sei un giovane imprenditore in montagna?
RACCONTACI LA TUA STORIA!



Inquadra il **QR CODE** e compila il
questionario **GIM** - Giovani Imprenditori
in Montagna

THANK YOU / MERCI / GRAZIE!

