

Food chains and society in mountain areas – From depopulation to new inclusive communities based (also) on food production

Looking at the role that food value chains (VCs) can play for a sustainable and resilient future of local communities in mountain areas requires a focus on social and demographic features that characterize those spaces, and on how they are – or can be – influenced by food networks.

For example, the young generations often tend to leave mountain areas, whereas these areas can be attractive for people pursuing a new way of life (economic migrants, former urban dwellers, retired people etc.).

In this context, the presence of mountain VCs, based on the local resource systems but also connected to other regions, represent an opportunity for employment, and also can contribute to the deepening and widening of the social fabric - both internally and externally to the region - in areas that are often sparsely populated. This is even truer when we look at the VCs as assemblages of individual and collective actors that evolve over time, engaging new people, employing new resources and creating personal and professional linkages.

Studying selected VCs across regions marked by different socio-economic characteristics can provide insights into the following issues:

- To which extent mountain VCs contribute to create employment opportunities in their area? Which is the quality of those jobs?
- How do the VCs strengthen the local networks and the social wellbeing at the local/regional level?
- Under which conditions these employment opportunities and/or these social benefits are provided?
- How do the selected VCs influence the condition of youngsters and women, and of the other specific social groups / communities, in the identified areas?

Findings will be available in November 2023.

Cluster S – Social and demographic aspects

Authors

Michele Moretti and Stefano Grandò
(University of Pisa)

Anticipated users of PA

- Actors participating on MOVING's CoPs
- Local administrators
- Local civil society

More info

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