

Innovation and Infrastructure for Resilient Mountain Value Chains

Innovation and infrastructure could play a crucial role in supporting sustainable and resilient value chains (VCs) in mountain regions. The remoteness and difficult terrain within these regions often result in high infrastructure costs, low investment interest and centralisation of services. The rate of innovation in mountain communities tends to be lower than in urban areas due to various factors, e. g. ageing population and the dominance of the primary sector. Furthermore, the availability and quality of infrastructure play an important role in the performance, innovation capacity and modernisation of VCs in these regions.

The cluster will focus on exploring how infrastructure, including roads, technology, processing plants and storage facilities, can form the backbone of a supportive environment for economic activities along food and tourism VCs. The structural characteristics of VCs in mountain regions are examined, to identify barriers to innovation, efficiency and investment. Finally, the cluster will explore how social innovations and new forms of collaboration, such as cooperatives and informal associations, can emerge and support the transition to a green and resilient economy in mountain regions.

Key research questions include:

- How do infrastructure quality, digitalization and innovation rates influence the VC performance?
- What are the structural barriers for innovation, efficiency, new technologies and investments in the VC?
- How do innovations and technologies support mountain VCs a shift towards a green and resilient economy?
- How can innovation and infrastructure best support the essential skills and tools for resilient VCs now and in the future?

Findings will be available in November 2023.

Cluster I – Innovation and infrastructure

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Anticipated users of PA

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

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