

Governance, Cooperation and Territoriality: comparing value chains and connections to tourism across six European mountain areas

The governance of mountain landscapes involves many actors and institutions, bringing challenges and opportunities for cooperation to achieve goals and ensure resilience. The priorities of different communities and markets may bring tensions between actors. Mountain areas often have special characteristics that attract tourism visitors, however, tourism-related pressures often occur in addition to benefits that arise from hosting visitors to mountain areas.

To support understanding of the ways tourism is situated in mountain areas, in terms of the people, places and value chains that interact within them and connect them to other regions, a cross-comparison of six case studies across Europe is being undertaken: Sumava (Czech Republic), Drome (France), Trento (Italy), Maleshevski (North Macedonia), Brasov (Romania), and Speyside (Scotland, UK). The aim is to identify key factors relating to governance, cooperation and territoriality that contribute towards sustainability and resilience of mountain areas that are often susceptible to socio-economic and environmental challenges.

This research will examine how different actors and institutions govern and co-operate to manage opportunities and tensions in (and connecting to) mountain areas, focusing on tourism. The investigation will consider: relationships between tourism value chains, and the area they are situated; the ways that value chains enhance qualities/values of the area; expertise (and skills development) in relation managing tensions arising from tourism; the role of collaboration; and ways that investment in tourism and related value chains supports tourism and local populations.

The findings will be available in November 2023.

Cluster G – Governance, territoriality and cooperation

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