

## Engaging young people to make mountains more resilient: Findings from 23 cases across Europe

In many mountain areas of Europe, the exodus of young people and an ageing population threatens the demographic balance, impacting the social cohesion and economic vigour. Retaining young people is essential to secure the long-term sustainability of mountain communities across Europe. The MOVING project held participatory workshops during 2022 to explore young people's views.

Young people were quite pessimistic regarding the future of their mountain areas but offered numerous solutions to improve the situation. However, the solutions are context-specific to each country and case study, covering a range of governance issues. Solutions proposed by the young people included improving transport infrastructure (e.g. roads and rail) and frequency of public transport services; increasing access to social services, hospitals and child nurseries; enhancing capacity building through improving education and training courses; economic diversification away from agriculture and developing new supply chains for agricultural products; construction of new and affordable houses, as well as shops, offices and other facilities; improving internet access and speed. Of the numerous solutions offered, commonly cited solutions included the importance of improving education and capacity building opportunities, along with construction and upgrading of transport infrastructure. The above-mentioned solutions should be considered by relevant authorities and stakeholders within each of the case study countries.

These findings, along with the engagement activities with schools and school-aged groups planned for 2023 provides valuable future direction to keep young people within sustainable mountain communities across Europe.

### Youth engagement – findings from 23 cases

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#### Anticipated users of PA

Young people, researchers, policy-makers,  
VC stakeholders, advisors

#### More info

[https://bit.ly/Euromontana\\_Report](https://bit.ly/Euromontana_Report)  
<https://www.hutton.ac.uk/sites/default/files/files/research/ODT-presentationEngaging-young-people-in-mountains-andvalue-chains-Creaney-et-al.pdf>