European Agenda for Mountains

European Commission

Arianna Pasa
DG Agriculture and rural development,
Unit F2 Research and Innovation

Is there a EU agenda for mountains?

No, but…

Article 174 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU)
(ex Article 158 TEC)

In order to promote its overall **harmonious development**, the Union shall develop and pursue its actions leading to the **strengthening of its economic, social and territorial cohesion.**

In particular, the Union shall aim at reducing disparities between the levels of development of the various regions and the backwardness of the least favoured regions.

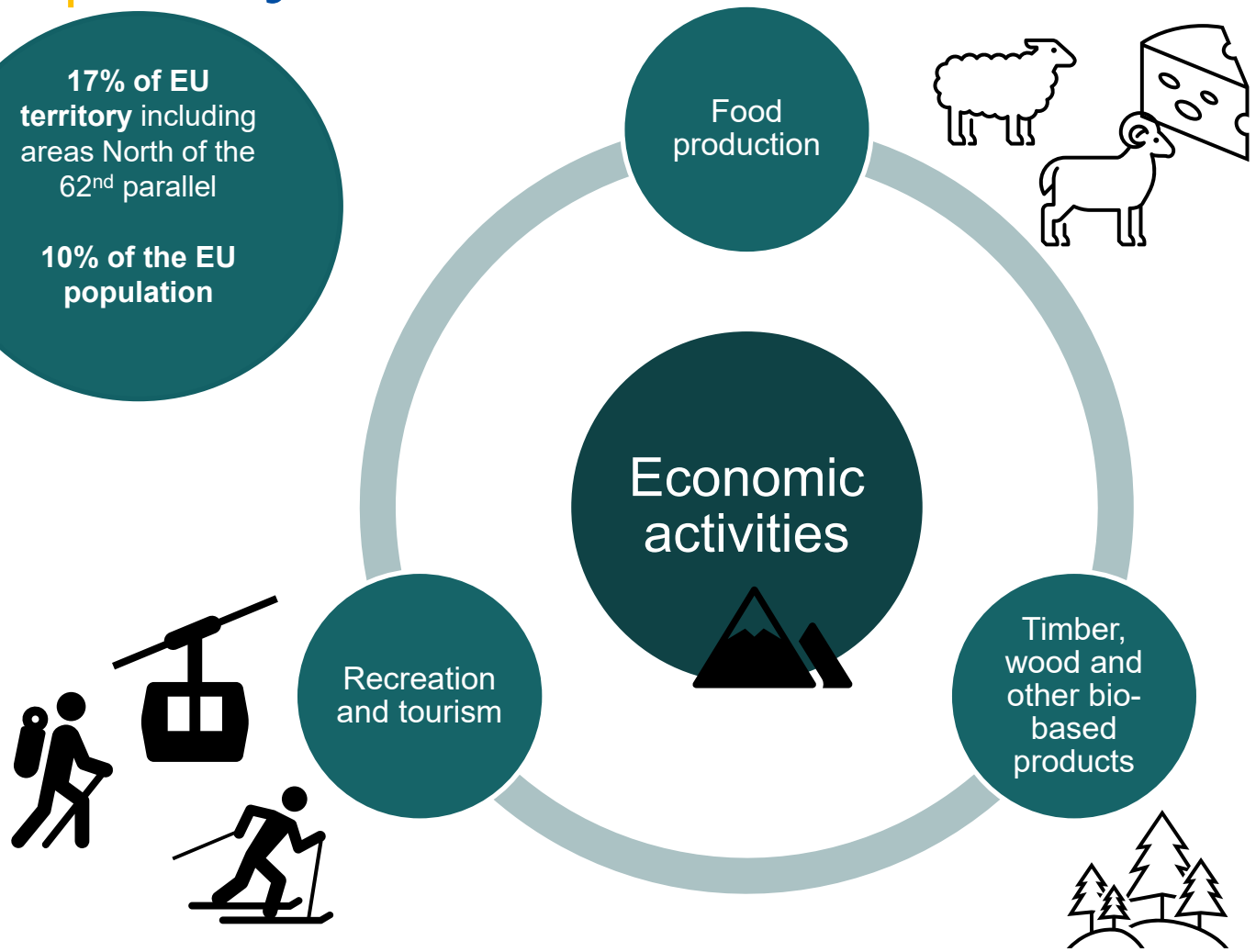
Among the regions concerned, **particular attention shall be paid to rural areas, areas affected by industrial transition, and regions which suffer from severe and permanent natural or demographic handicaps such as the northernmost regions with very low population density and island, cross-border and mountain regions.**

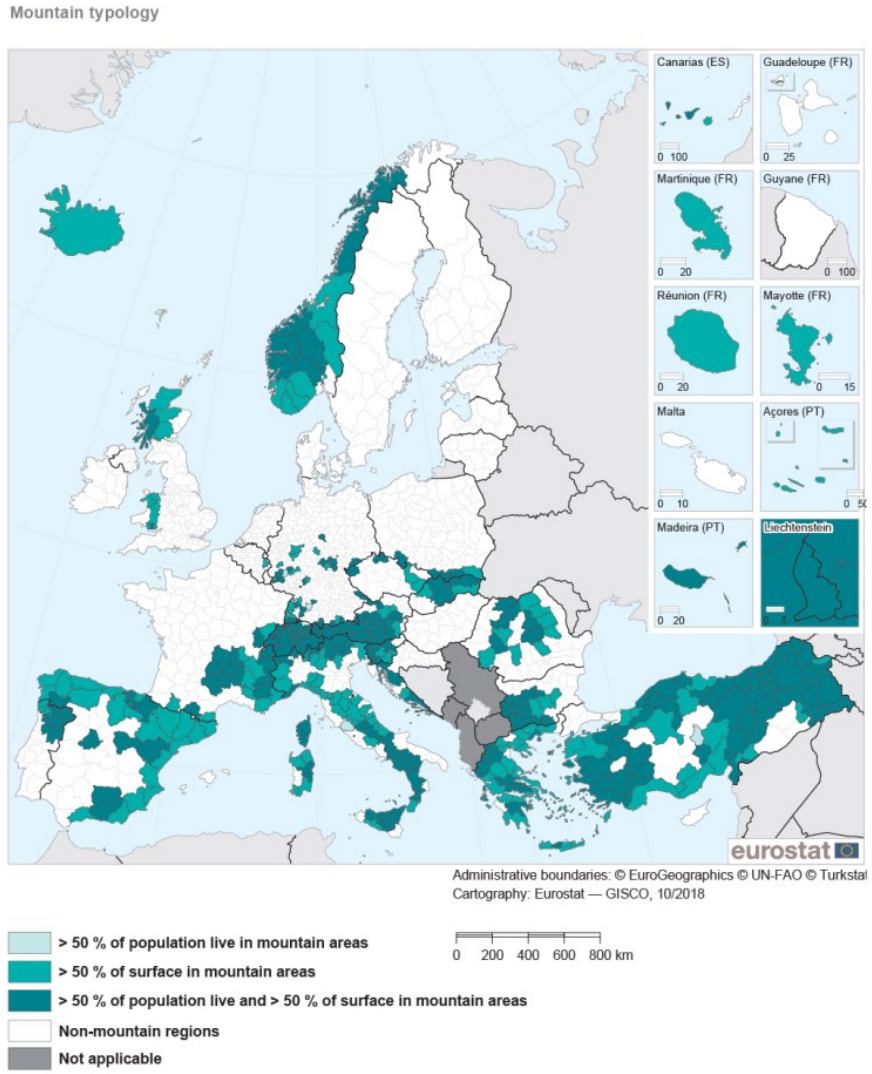
European Commission

Why? Mountain areas are important!

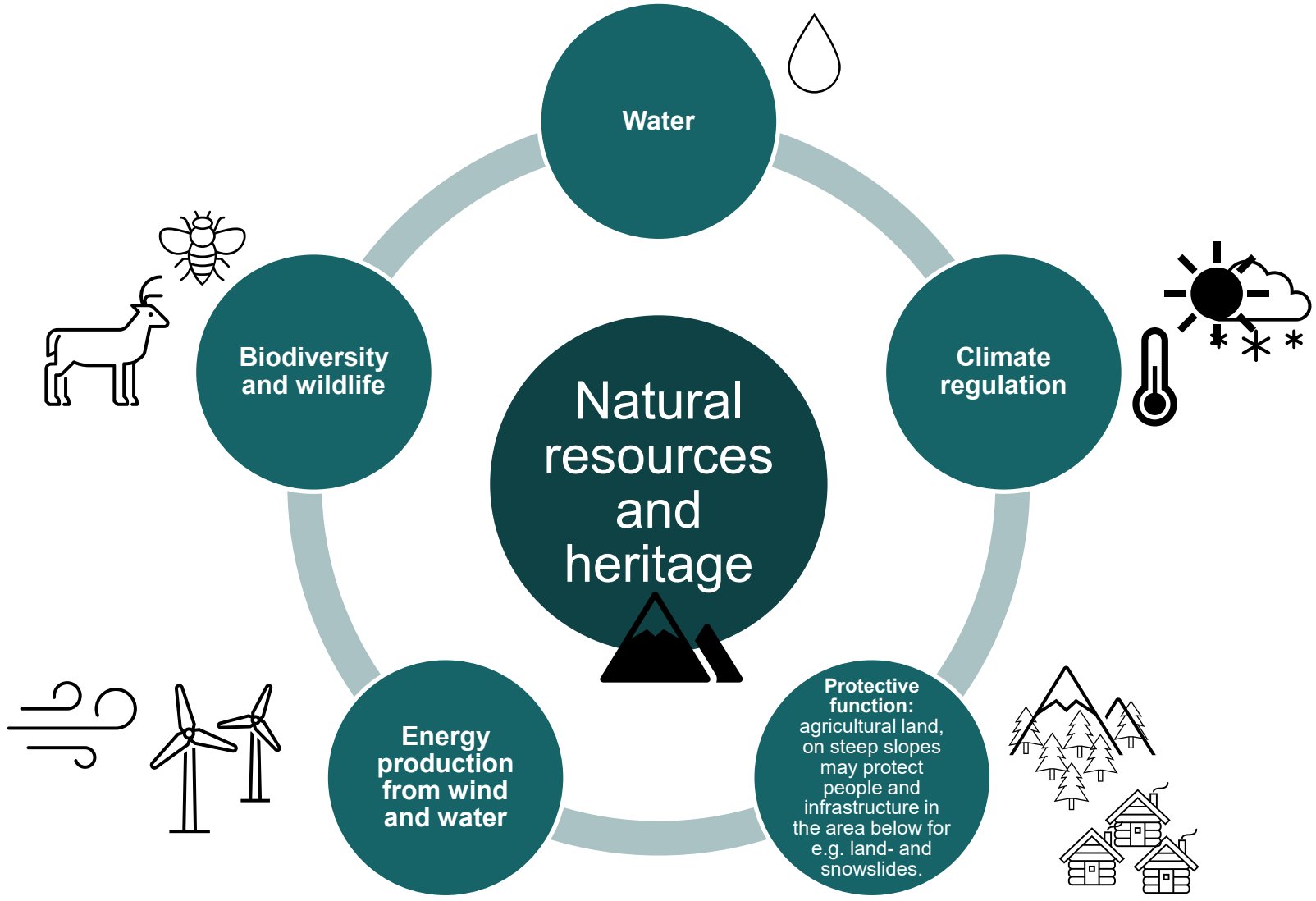
17% of EU territory including areas North of the 62nd parallel

10% of the EU population



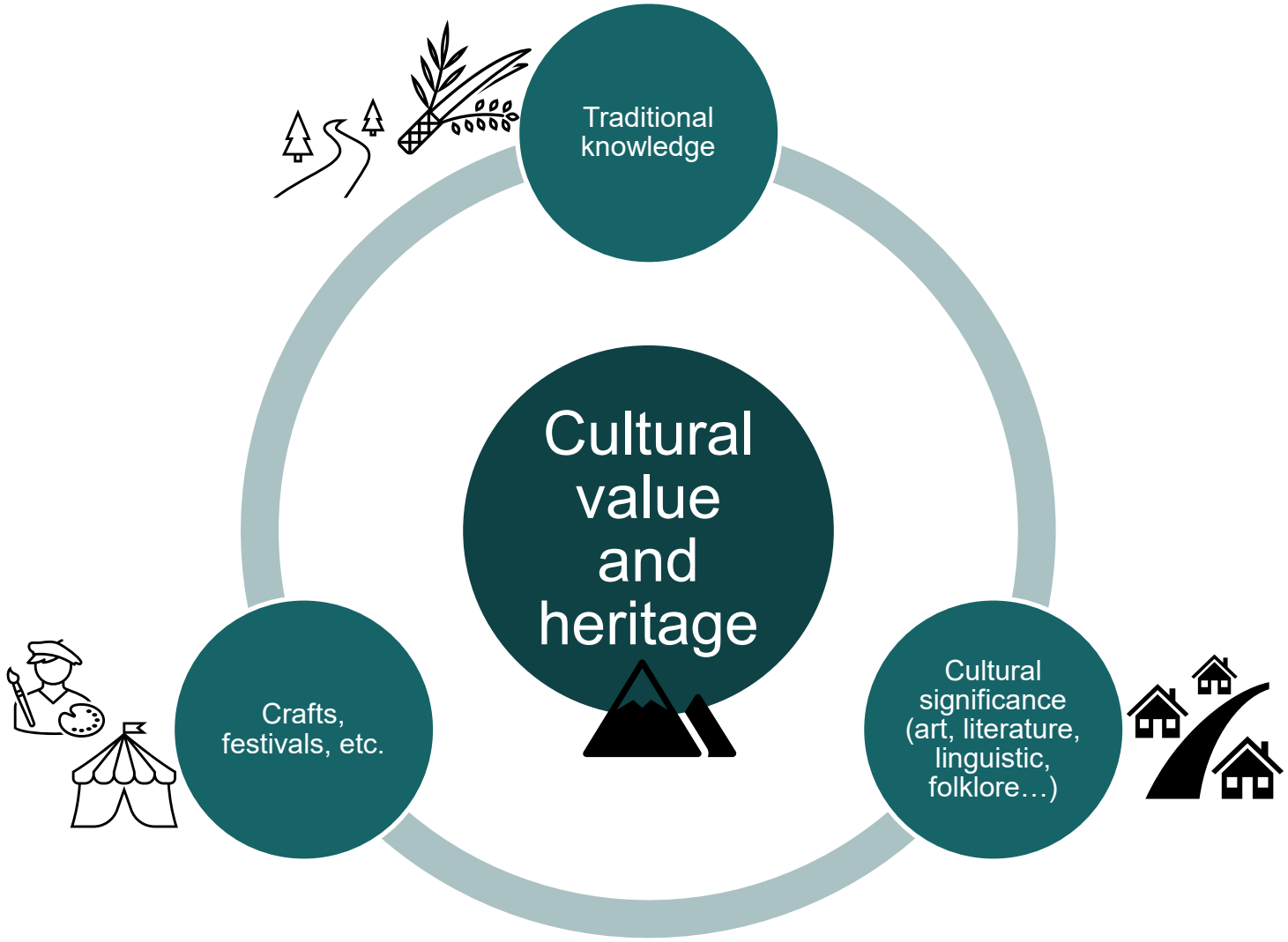


Why? Mountain areas are important!



European Commission

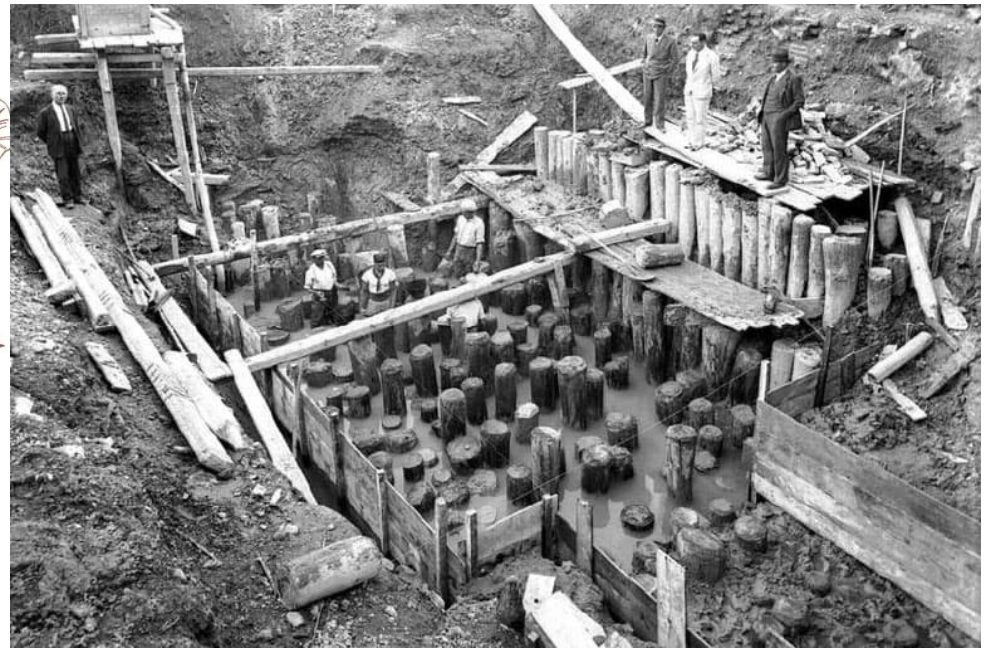
Why? Mountain areas are important!



European Commission

Territorial interdependence

Venice: surrounded by water, build on wood



European Commission

How?

Article 175
(ex Article 159 TEC)

Member States shall conduct their economic policies and shall coordinate them in such a way as, in addition, to attain the objectives set out in Article 174. The formulation and implementation of the Union's policies and actions and the implementation of the internal market shall take into account the objectives set out in Article 174 and shall contribute to their achievement. The Union shall also support the achievement of these objectives by the action it takes through the **Structural Funds (European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund, Guidance Section; European Social Fund; European Regional Development Fund), the European Investment Bank and the other existing Financial Instruments.**

[…]

European Commission

Thus…

The EU ensures overall **harmonious development through** different policies and funds

- **Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)** (+ Long-term vision for EU's rural areas)
- **Cohesion Policy** (+ Territorial Agenda 2030 – A future for all places; e.g. ERDF, Interreg Programmes for cross-border transnational, and interregional cooperation)
- **Environment policy** (e.g. LIFE Programme for the environment and climate action)
- **Research and Innovation** (Horizon Europe, H2020, and previous research and innovation framework programmes)

Under the Common Agricultural Policy - I

Mountains are part of **Areas facing natural and other specific constraints (ANC)**

Agriculture in all areas in EU – Prevention of land abandonment

- Concept of areas with natural constraints:
  - Delimitation
  - Payment per hectare

European Commission

ANC Categories

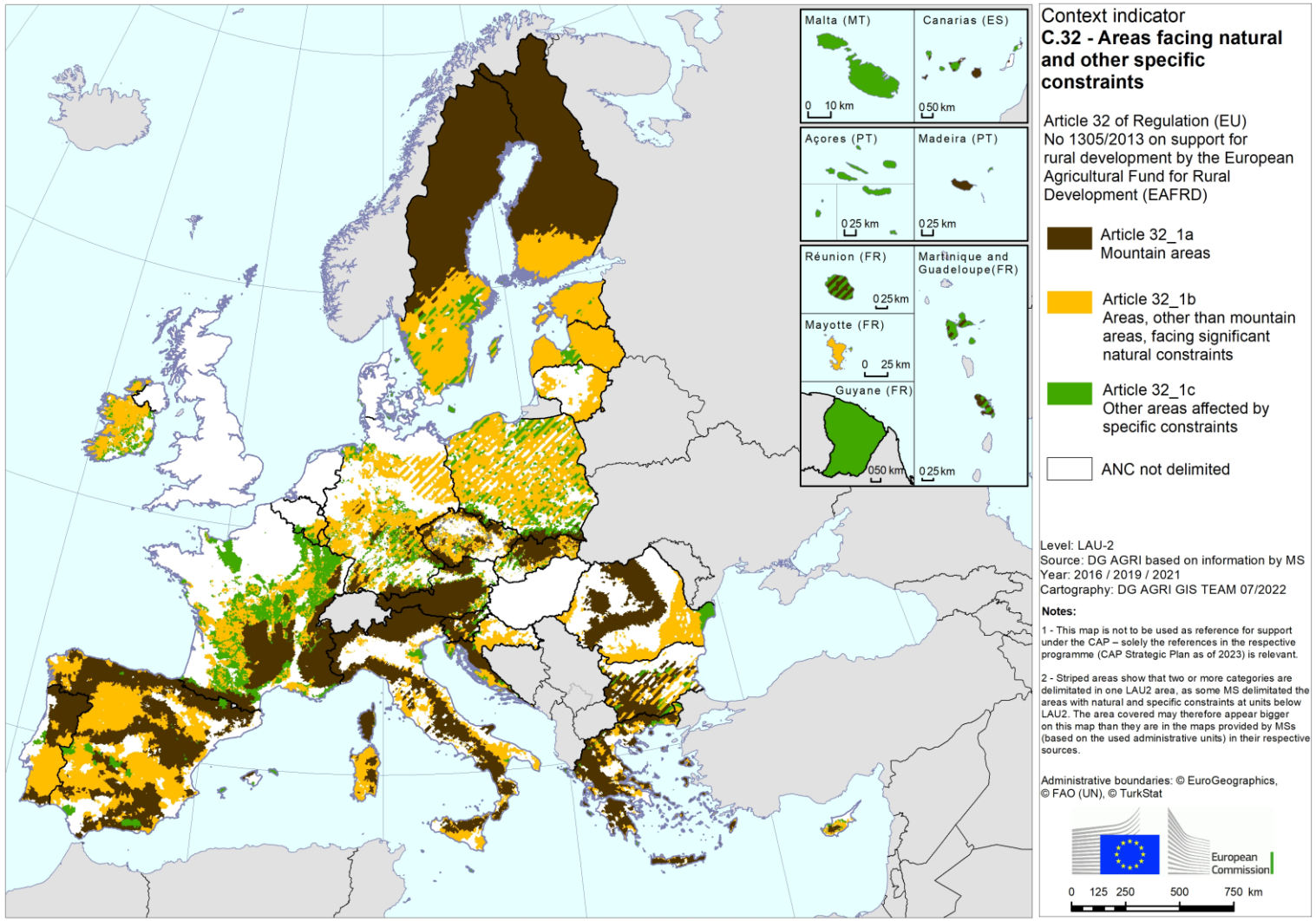
Mountain areas: existence of very difficult climatic conditions and/or steep slopes, areas north of the 62nd parallel.

Areas facing significant natural constraints: based on eight biophysical criteria covering climate, poor soil productivity and steep slopes.

Areas affected by specific constraints: where continued land management is necessary to conserve the environment and the countryside, or to protect the coastline.

European Commission

Spatial designation of areas facing natural and other specific constraints (ANC)



58% of utilised agricultural area (UAA) in the EU comprises ANC.

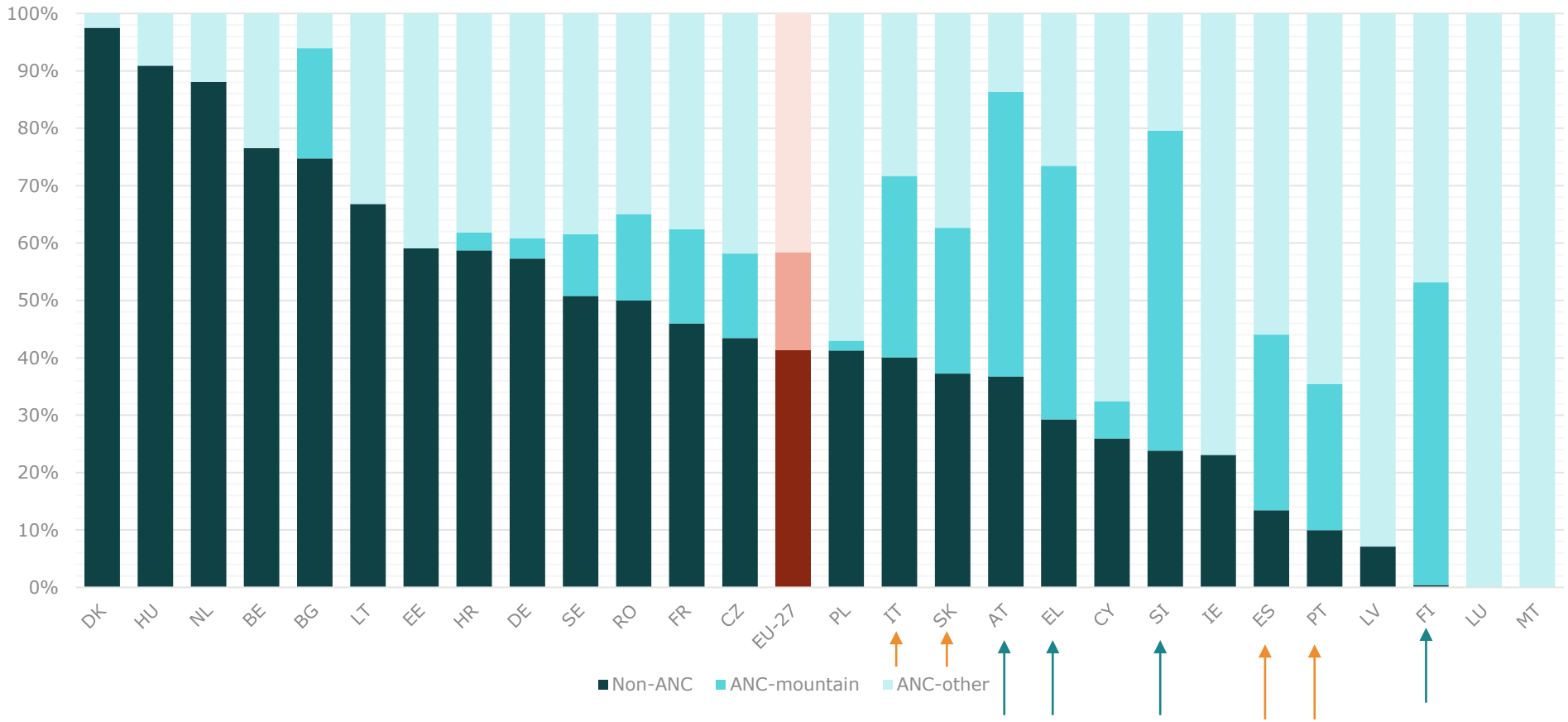
% of total UAA in the EU by ANC category:

- 17 % ANC ‘mountain’
- 33 % ANC ‘other than mountain’
- 8 % ANC ‘specific’

Source. Context Indicator 32 – Areas facing natural and other specific constraints (ANC)

European Commission

ANC categories by Member State (% of total UAA)



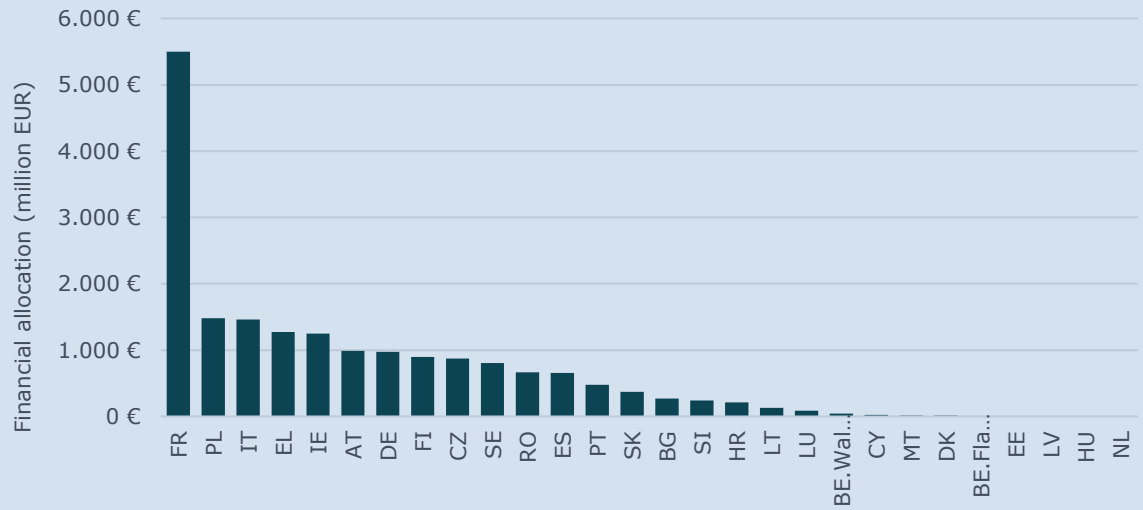
Source: Context Indicator 32 – Areas facing natural and other specific constraints (ANC)

European Commission

CAP Strategic Plans: ANC implementation

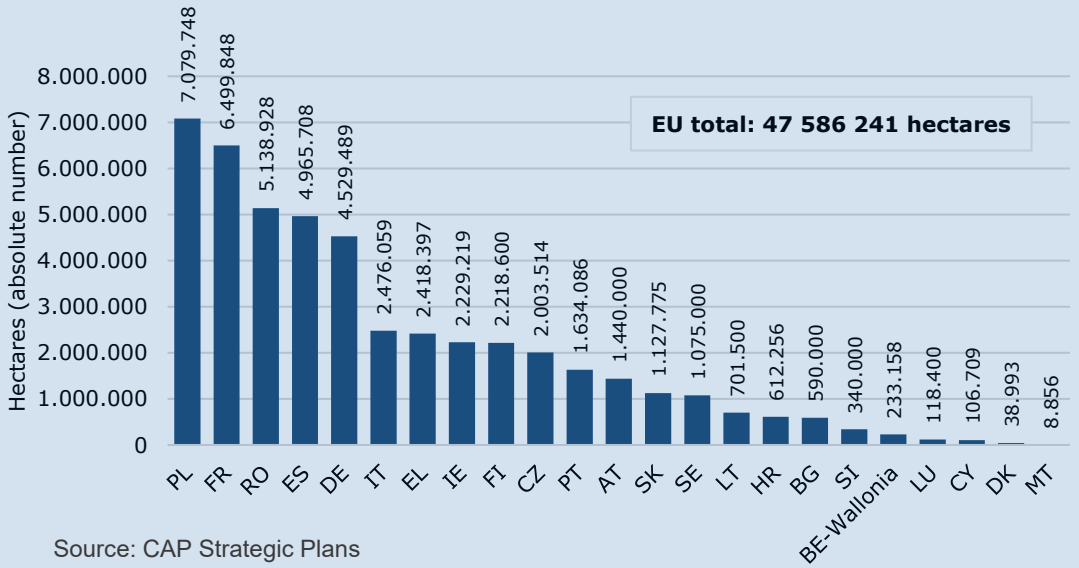
- Payments for ANC are planned in **23 CAP Strategic Plans**: AT, BE-WA, BG, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EL, ES, FI, FR, HR, IE, IT, LT, LU, MT, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK.
- Support for ANC represents around **17% of total public funding for rural development** and **6% of CAP total public funding**.
- To support an estimated **29% of EU agricultural land annually**.

Financial allocation to ANC by Member State (2023-2027)



Source: CAP Strategic Plans

Hectares benefiting from support for ANC by Member State (2023-2027)



Source: CAP Strategic Plans

Under the Common Agricultural Policy - II

The EU CAP Network launched in 2023 a Focus Group on **'Competitive and resilient mountain areas' with the guiding question:**

Which innovative approaches and innovations linked to agriculture, forestry and bioeconomy can foster the competitiveness and the socio-economic and environmental resilience of mountain areas and their communities?

As DRAFT topics experts will work on:

- **Governance** with a focus on conflict management
- **Social inclusion** of especially youth and vulnerable groups
- **Direct sales** in short-supply value chains
- **Bio-based** products and circular economy

European Commission

Under the Common Agricultural Policy - II

The EU CAP Network also funds EIP AGRI operational groups (innovative projects that aim to explore opportunities or find practical solutions to problems that European farmers, foresters and rural communities are facing)

English Title	Link	MS	Main geographical location
REINE LUNGAU EIP - Preservation of the competitiveness of mountain farms by means of innovation and transfer of knowledge for an efficient production,	https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/find-connect/projects/reine-lungau-eip-erhalt-der-wettbewerbsf%C3%A4higkeit.html	Austria	Lungau
Further development of the husbandry systems for a future-oriented dairy-farming in mountain areas	https://www.zukunftsraumland.at/projekte/2428	Austria	Tiroler Unterland
Value added mountain farming - valorization of ecosystem-services	https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/find-connect/projects/mehrwert-berglandwirtschaft-%C3%B6kosystemleistungen.html	Austria	Steyr-Kirchdorf
Organizational and technological modelling of agro-environmental management of mountain pastures based on participation. Pilot experience in Gorbeia	https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/find-connect/projects/mehrwert-berglandwirtschaft-%C3%B6kosystemleistungen.html	Spain	Vizcaya
Blackstairs farming Futures (BFF) Sustainable farming project in the Blackstairs Mountains	https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/find-connect/projects/blackstairs-farming-futures-bff-sustainable.html	Ireland	South-East

European Commission

English Title	Link	MS	Main geographical location
Improvement Of Forage Systems In Support Of The Production Of Pdo Parmigiano Reggiano Cheese "Product Of The Mountain" I/N The Valleys Of The Apennine	https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/find-connect/projects/miglioramento-dei-sistemi-foraggeri-sostegno-della.html	Italy	Reggio nell'Emilia
Competitiveness increase of high hill and mountain farms through cereal biodiversity valorization under organic farming	https://www.innovarurale.it/en/pei-agri/gruppi-operativi/bancadati-go-pei/aumento-della-competitivita-delle-aziende-agricole-di	Italy	Parma
Solutions to reduce soil erosion in hilly and mountain areas maintaining and enhancing agricultural activities	https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/find-connect/projects/soluzioni-ridurre-lerosione-terreni-collinari-e.html	Italy	Parma
Mountain dairy farm contribution in a carbon sequestration	https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/find-connect/projects/il-contributo-della-zootecnia-da-latte-di-montagna.html	Italy	Reggio nell'Emilia
AGRO ECOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS TO INCREASE THE RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY OF MOUNTAIN LIVESTOCK FARMS	https://www.innovarurale.it/it/pei-agri/gruppi-operativi/bancadati-go-pei/innovazioni-agroecologiche-la-sostenibilita-e-la	Italy	Trento
INNOVATIVE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AND PROMOTION STRATEGIES FOR DAIRY PRODUCTS OF MOUNTAIN SUMMER FARMS	https://www.innovarurale.it/it/pei-agri/gruppi-operativi/bancadati-go-pei/pratiche-gestionali-innovative-e-strategie-di-promozione/printable/pdf	Italy	Trento
C&A 2.0 – CLIMATE AND AGRICULTURE IN MOUNTAIN AREAS	https://www.innovarurale.it/it/file-download/download/public/1881	Italy	Trento
Wood Chipping Machine for mountain territories in Emilia Romagna	https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/find-connect/projects/cippatore-leggero-territori-montani-emilia-romagna.html	Italy	Parma
SOiLUTION SYSTEM_Innovative solutions for soil erosion risk mitigation and a better management of vineyards in hills and mountain landscapes.	https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/find-connect/projects/soilution-systemsoluzioni-innovative-di-sistema-la.html	Italy	Verona
RIFORM - Valorizing the dairy products from mountains through their peculiar chemical fingerprint and sensorial properties	https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/find-connect/projects/valorizzazione-dei-formaggi-di-montagna-profilo.html	Italy	Parma
STRUCTURING AND CREATING VALUE FOR THE SUPPLY CHAIN OF THE MOUNTAIN POTATO	https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/find-connect/projects/strutturazione-e-valorizzazione-della-filiera.html	Italy	Modena
Characterisation and exploitation of local fruit biodiversity and evaluation of innovative apple genotypes for agriculture in mountain areas	https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/find-connect/projects/caratterizzazione-e-valorizzazione-della.html	Italy	Piacenza
Enhancement of the Apple Limoncella and sustainable meliculture in the rural areas of the Dauni mountains	https://www.innovarurale.it/it/pei-agri/gruppi-operativi/bancadati-go-pei/valorizzazione-della-mela-limoncella-e-melicoltura	Italy	Foggia

Under the R&I framework programme

HORIZON 2020
PROJECT

MOVING Mountain Valorization through Interconnectedness and Green Growth

ID: 862739

From: 1 September 2020 to: 31 August 2024

Mountain covers 36% of Europe area and play an essential role in the provision of public and private goods. Despite their relevance in both ecological and socioeconomic terms, we lack updated and comparable knowledge of the impacts of climate change, demographic trends and...

Coordinated in: Spain

Programme: Empowerment of rural areas, support to policies and rural innovation, SOCIETAL CHALLENGES - Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine, maritime and inland water research, and the bioeconomy

Last update: 19 December 2023

Add to my booklet

HORIZON 2020
PROJECT

Phusicos PHUSICOS: 'According to nature' - solutions to reduce risk in mountain landscapes

ID: 776681

From: 1 May 2018 to: 30 April 2023

PHUSICOS, meaning 'According to nature' in Greek, demonstrates how nature-based solutions (NBSs) provide robust, sustainable and cost-effective measures for reducing the risk of extreme weather events in rural mountain landscapes. Although mountains amplify risks, and even...

Coordinated in: Norway

Programme: SOCIETAL CHALLENGES - Climate action, Environment, Resource Efficiency and Raw Materials, Assess impacts, vulnerabilities and develop innovative cost-effective adaptation and risk prevention and management measures, Protection of the environment, sustainable management of natural resources, water, biodiversity and ecosystems

Last update: 29 December 2023

Add to my booklet

HORIZON 2020
PROJECT

MATILDE Migration Impact Assessment to Enhance Integration and Local Development in European Rural and Mountain Areas

ID: 870831

From: 1 February 2020 to: 31 January 2023

MATILDE develops a transdisciplinary conceptual and methodological framework for a multi-dimensional assessment of economic and social impacts of TCNs at different scales (from EU-aggregate, to local level). It focuses on assessing the impacts of TCNs (incl. economic...

Coordinated in: Finland

Programme: The mechanisms to promote smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, SOCIETAL CHALLENGES - Europe In A Changing World - Inclusive, Innovative And Reflective Societies, Trusted organisations, practices, services and policies that are necessary to build resilient, inclusive, participatory, open and creative societies in Europe, in particular taking into account migration, integration and demographic change

Last update: 13 June 2023

Add to my booklet

PROJECT

MOLAR Measuring and Modelling the Dynamic Response of Remote Mountain Lake Ecosystems to Environmental Change

ID: IC20960021

From: 1 June 1996 to: 28 February 1999

Because of their sensitivity remote mountain lakes are not only vulnerable to environmental change they are also excellent sensors of change, and their high quality sediment records can be used to infer the speed, direction and biological impact of changing air quality and c...

Coordinated in: United Kingdom

Programme: Specific research, technological development and demonstration programme in the field of cooperation with third countries and international organizations, 1994-1998

Last update: 7 December 2001

Add to my booklet

PROJECT

Acidification of remote mountain lakes

ID: STEP0079

From: 1 April 1991 to: 31 March 1993

The objective is to compare the effects of air pollution in remote mountain lakes in the Alpine mountains with those of other susceptible mountain areas in Scandinavia, Scotland and the Pyrenees, in order to: identify critical sulphur and nitrogen loads; recommend target loads...

Coordinated in: United Kingdom

Programme: Two specific research and technological development programmes (EEC) in the field of the environment STEP/EPOCH - STEP -, 1989-1992

Last update: 4 December 1991

Add to my booklet

HORIZON EUROPE
PROJECT

MountResilience Accelerating transformative climate adaptation for higher resilience in European mountain regions

ID: 101112876

From: 1 September 2023 to: 29 February 2028

"Mountains cover 30% of the land area and are home to 17% of the EU´s population, meaning that every 6th EU citizen lives in mountainous areas. While we often associate mountains with breathtaking landscapes that offer perfect sites for relaxation, in truth, mountains are...

Coordinated in: Italy

Programme: Culture, creativity and inclusive society, Digital, Industry and Space, Civil Security for Society, Climate, Energy and Mobility, Food, Bioeconomy Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment

Last update: 25 July 2023

Add to my booklet

A long research and innovation history on a variety of topics relevant for mountain areas!

Do we need a EU agenda for mountains?

Maybe…

- European Parliament resolution of 10 May 2016 on cohesion policy in mountainous regions of the EU (2015/2279(INI))

Tuesday 10 May 2016

4. Calls on the Commission to work on an 'Agenda for EU Mountainous Regions', which should be a framework that contributes to transnational, cross-border and interregional policies; believes that the future agenda should identify the priorities for the development of these regions, so that sectoral policies may be adjusted in a better way and opportunities to finance them steered through EU funds, and so that long-term sustainable policies for inclusion may be achieved;

- […] while the **EU's mountain areas are too diverse for one integrated European strategy**, **a framework for development strategies in mountain areas could be developed**, and that this should particularly consider the challenges and importance of mountain farming, natural resources, biodiversity, and climate change. Such a framework could be used in cohesion policy, but more
- **flexible multilevel governance** arrangements are also needed.

(Gløersen E, Price M, Borec A, Dax T, Giordano B. 2016. *Cohesion in Mountainous Regions of the EU—Research for REGI Committee, European Parliament, Directorate-General for Internal Policies, Policies Department B: Structural and Cohesion Policies, Regional Development, IP/B/REGI/IC/2015_175*. Brussels, Belgium: European Parliament. http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2016/573420/IPOL_STU%282016%29573420_EN.pdf;)

Thank you

© European Union 2024

Unless otherwise noted the reuse of this presentation is authorised under the CC BY 4.0 license. For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the EU, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective right holders.

Photo credits: https://www.expedia.com/Misurina.dx6047111; https://arzana.org/arti-e-mestieri/zattieri/; https://viaggi.corriere.it/europa/italia/venezia/; https://piecesofvenice.com/venezia-circondata-dallacqua-costruita-sul-legno/; https://www.villnoess.com/en/book-holiday/dolomitimobil-card/

European Commission