



Skills for Mountains in Transitions

21 November 2023 | 14:30 – 18:00

Representation of the Lombardy Region,

Place du Champ de Mars 2, 1050 Brussels, Belgium

Mountain areas are facing multiple transitions affecting their economies and labour markets. Many are experiencing population decline and loss of attractiveness, leading to brain drain and labour shortages. Climate change is also affecting a significant part of the mountain economy, particularly agriculture and tourism, and poses challenges in terms of training and sectoral restructuring. In addition, the green transition, which is essential for the sustainability of mountain areas, is driving the emergence of new sectors in mountain areas, for which it will be necessary to find the appropriate skills.

In 2023, the European Year of Skills, Euromontana intends to focus on the challenges and possible solutions for employment and skills in mountain areas. The conference "Skills for Mountains in Transitions" will explore the difficulties and opportunities in specific economic sectors, as well as solutions for attracting talents to mountain areas.

During the conference, Euromontana will give the floor to representatives of the European Commission, researchers and practitioners who will discuss policy and practical solutions for attracting the talents needed in mountain areas in transitions.

Interpretation will be available in French and English.

PROGRAMME

*Moderation: **Guillaume Corradino**, Director of Euromontana*

14:00 Registration

14:30 Welcome speech by Juanan Gutierrez, President of Euromontana

14:45 - Overview of the challenges and opportunities for skills and employment in mountain areas

Setting the scene: challenges, opportunities and approaches for employment and skills for mountain in transitions | **Guillaume Corradino**, Director of Euromontana

Conceptualising rural transitions for policy making | **Francesco Mantino**, Council for Agricultural Research and Agricultural Economy Analysis & partner of the RUSTIK project

What skills for mountain value chains? | **Kirsty Blackstock**, James Hutton Institute & partner of the MOVING project

Questions and answers

15.45 - 16.15 Coffee break

16:15 - How can we attract, retain and create skills for mountains in transitions?

Bringing back the youth through rural internship programmes | **Mireia Font**, manager of the Local Action Group Alt Urgell – Cerdanya and manager of the Odisseu rural internship programme

Developing skills for the sustainable development of mountain areas | **Anna Giorgi**, Director of UNIMONT -University of Milan

Remote working: an opportunity for mountain areas? Speaker to be confirmed.

Questions and answers

17:15 - How can policies contribute to strengthening skills in mountain areas?

The EU Rural Vision and the Rural Pact's contribution to attracting and retaining skills | European Commission's Directorate General for Agriculture (name TBC)

Concluding remarks | **Juanan Gutierrez**, President of Euromontana