

**European CAP Network  
Focus Group ‘Competitive and  
resilient mountain areas’**

**AGENDA**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting**

**06-07 March 2024**

Venue: Grand Hotel Italia

Strada Trifoiului 2, Cluj-Napoca (Romania)



This Focus Group will explore which innovations related to agriculture, food processing and value chains, forests and more widely the bioeconomy, can help strengthen the competitiveness and resilience of mountain areas. The Focus Group will also look into access to the knowledge and skills, necessary to respond to the challenges they face. The Focus Group will take into account the diversity of the mountain areas across Europe.

The overarching question of the Focus Group is: **Which innovative approaches and innovations linked to agriculture, forestry and bio- economy can foster the competitiveness and the socio-economic and environmental resilience of mountain areas and their communities?**

The objectives of the second meeting will be:

- › To present the 4 mini-papers, go deeper and discuss in order to
  - Identify the needs to support innovation in mountain areas.
  - Propose ideas for potential Operational Groups and other innovative projects.
  - Identify research needs coming from practice and possible gaps in knowledge.
- › To be inspired by concrete examples in the field.

The meeting includes a fieldtrip to the Apuseni Natural Park that will consist of 3 visits:

- › The small farm of Dan Neag at Dealu Bottii, within the territory of the natural park. Dan, traditional cattle breeder, will share his firsthand experience as farmer within a protected area, including challenges, opportunities and innovative approaches he's applying.
- › Next the group will dive into the [Apuseni Natural Park to learn more about](#) the traditional landscape, structure and functions of the park, and specifically the area embraced by the initiative of the Eco-museum. The Administration of the Apuseni Natural Park will guide the group through the area and will explain how natural capital and ecosystem services can support the local and regional economy. The group will pass by the [Dealu Botii panorama point](#), with an excellent 360° view of a vast area of the park and the territory of the Eco-museum. This is a recent initiative that pursues combining nature conservation and the management of natural capital with the activities of the local communities living in the area (farming, forestry, tourism, handcrafts, etc.). It works as a meeting point, reuniting people under the same shared vision, aligning economic, societal and environmental aims within the territory of the park.
- › The trip will end at [La Nino Guesthouse](#). In addition to meet this local business, entrepreneurs and producers will come to the place and present their activities and products (medicinal plants, forest berries, mushrooms). After this, a round table will take place with local stakeholders, business and the Administration of Apuseni Natural Park.

For further info:

- › Article [Apuseni Nature Park, a park for nature and people](#)
- › Video [Apuseni Natural Park](#)



Timing	Wednesday 6 March 2024
8:30 – 9:00	Registration
9:00 – 09:10	<p><b>Welcome &amp; introduction to the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Welcome and purpose of the meeting – <i>Klavdija Ramsak-Noemi (DG AGRI, Unit D.1 Rural areas and networks)</i></li> <li>➤ Agenda of the meeting – <i>Beatriz Guimarey Fernández (Task Manager EIP-AGRI Support Facility)</i></li> </ul>
9:10 – 09:20	<p><b>Summary of findings from the 1st meeting</b></p> <p><i>Stefan Kirchweger (Coordinating Expert of the Focus Group)</i></p>
9:20 – 10:00	<p><b>Presentation of Mini Papers by the coordinators</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ MP1: Good governance for managing sustainability and resilience in mountain areas – <i>Felix Arion</i></li> <li>➤ MP2: Social resilience in mountain areas – <i>Julika Jarosch</i></li> <li>➤ MP3: Viewing how the bioeconomy contributes to local EU mountain region economies through five EU cases – <i>Colm O'Driscoll</i></li> <li>➤ MP4: Value chain innovations for competitive and resilient mountain Areas – <i>Mugurel Jitea</i></li> </ul>
10:00 – 10:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
10:30 – 12:00	<b>Working on Mini Papers in small groups</b>
12:00 – 13:00	<i>Lunch</i>
13:00 – 19:30	<b>Field visit to Apuseni Natural Park</b>
19:30 – 21:00	<p><b>Networking dinner</b></p> <p>Guesthouse and Restaurant Beliș “<a href="#">La Nino</a>”</p>
21: 00 – 22:30	<i>Return to the hotel</i>



Timing	Thursday 7 March 2024
08 :15 – 08:30	Registration
08 :30 – 8 :40	Short recap from the first day and introduction to the second day <i>Beatriz Guimarey Fernández – (Task Manager EIP-AGRI Support Facility)</i>
8:40 – 9:15	<b>Opportunities for Research and Innovation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Research and Innovation for competitive and resilient mountain areas - EU framework and priorities – <i>Antonella Zona (DG AGRI, Unit F2 Research and innovation).</i></li> <li>➤ Introduction to <a href="#">EIP-AGRI Operational Groups (OG)</a> – <i>Céline Karasinski (co-Task Manager EIP-AGRI Support Facility) and Klavdija Ramsak-Noemi (DG AGRI, Unit D.1 Rural areas and networks)</i></li> <li>➤ <a href="#">OG Added value of mountain farming</a> – <i>Stefan Kirchweger (Coordinating Expert of the Focus Group, Scientific Head Studia Austria)</i></li> </ul>
09 :15 – 10:00	<b>Interactive sessions: Innovative ideas for Operational Groups</b>
10:00 – 10:10	Innovative ideas for OGs: Reporting back in plenary
10:10 – 10:40	<i>Coffee break</i>
10:40 – 11:20	<b>Interactive sessions: Research needs from practice</b>
11:20 – 11:30	Reporting back in plenary
11:30 – 12 :00	<b>Next steps and closing</b> – <i>Klavdija Ramsak-Noemi (DG AGRI) and Beatriz Guimarey (EIP-AGRI Support Facility).</i>
12:00 – 13:00	<i>Light lunch and goodbye</i>

