

# How to foster the effective uptake of Cohesion Policy funds in mountain areas?

20th September 2022 ○ 10:00 – 16:30

Rue Belliard 99/101, 1040  
Committee of the Regions, Brussels - Belgium  
Web-streaming

The European Union – via the Cohesion Policy - introduced dedicated measures to pay a **“particular attention to mountainous regions”** (Article 174 TFEU). These measures can be used to finance many initiatives that improve the quality of life of mountain citizens. However, as stated by the [8th Cohesion Report](#), the **“cohesion in the European Union has improved, but gaps remain”** especially in rural regions. Potential beneficiaries of these funds in mountain areas are too often **unaware of the opportunities** offered by the Cohesion Policy and face **a number of barriers** limiting the uptake of these funds in their regions. What are the barriers hindering the uptake of the Cohesion funds in mountain regions? How can Managing Authorities and other relevant actors **better inform** mountain actors on the opportunities of the 2021-2027 Cohesion Policy in their region? What **kind of support is needed to help** mountain stakeholders **make the most of these funds**?

Montana174 is a one-year communication campaign to inform and engage mountain citizens on the Cohesion Policy in five European mountain regions. Capitalizing on its findings and activities, Montana174's final conference will be an opportunity to share lessons learnt on the needs and challenges faced by mountain stakeholders as well as to discuss upon different **practices** to foster the **uptake of the Cohesion Policy funds** in mountain areas over the 2021-2027 period.

Simultaneous interpretation will be available in English and French.

**Moderation:** Maria Carla Lostrangio

## Opening

- 10:00 – 10:15 **Welcome**

**Władysław Ortyl**, Podcarpackie Region, Poland

- 10:15 – 10:30 **Territorial cohesion across European regions: where do we stand?**

Speaker to be confirmed

## How does the Cohesion Policy shape mountains?

- 10:30 – 10:45: **More than 10 years since the introduction of Article 174 of the TFEU: what have the Cohesion Policy achieved in mountains?**

Speaker to be confirmed

- 10:45 – 11:00 **Mountains in the new Cohesion Policy**

Speaker to be confirmed

- 11:00– 11:15: **Examples of projects financed in mountains**

**Barbara Cerdan Fortea**, Provincial Government of Teruel, Spain

11.15- 11.45 **Coffee break**



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- 11.45- 12.00 **What is the uptake of Cohesion policy funds across EU regions?**  
*Wallis Goelen Vandebroek, European Commission, DG REGIO*
- 12.00- 12.15 **Do funds go always to the centre? Analysis on the uptake of Cohesion Policy funds across Romanian regions**  
*Florian Marin, European Economic and Social Committee*
- 12.15 – 12.30 **Feedback from mountain actors: what barriers do they encounter?**  
*Amna Poto Potočnik, Regional Development Agency of Podravje – Maribor*
- 12.30-13.00 **Discussion with speakers and audience: “What are the main barriers and challenges to the uptake of Cohesion Policy funds in mountain areas?”**  
*Moderation: Guillaume Corradino*

13:00 - 14:00 **Lunch break**

### How to foster the uptake of the 2021-2027 Cohesion Policy by mountain actors?

- 14:00 – 14:15 **Dedicated financial chapters to support measures in mountains**  
*William Biajoux, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region, France*
- 14:15 – 14:30 **Capacity-building for mountain actors**  
*Marco Bussone, National Union of Mountain Communities, Italy*
- 14:30 – 14.45 **Creating targeted communication**  
*Daniela Masotti, Lombardy Regional Agency for Agricultural and Forestry Services, Italy*
- 14.45-15.00 **Questions & Answers**
- 15.00-15.30 **Round table - Towards replication and upscaling: what recommendations?**
- 15.30– 15:45 **Questions & Answers**
- 15.45– 16:00 **Closing remarks**  
*Guillaume Corradino, Director, Euromontana*
- 16.00– 16:30 **Networking drink**

