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

20th September 2022 〇 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

This project has received funding from the European Union’s Directorate General Regional and Urban Policy under Grant Agreement No 2020CE16BAT209
11.45- 12.00 What is the uptake of Cohesion policy funds across EU regions?
Wallis Goelen Vandebrock, 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