



PROJECT PART-FINANCED BY
THE EUROPEAN UNION



Introduction to the Euromountains.net project:

**Networking European mountain regions in
order to promote sustainable territorial
development**

Kristiina Urpalainen, Euromontana

Elena DiBella, Provincia di Torino



Context



- Geography and the fragility of the environment pose certain challenges to Europe's mountain areas, including elevated costs and extra difficulties in territorial development. However, mountain people have found ways to deal with these handicaps and to adapt their development efforts to the physical context through innovative solutions that turn problems into opportunities.

Origins of the project



- Originated within Euromontana, the European association of mountain areas
- Preparation as early as 2001
- Several preparatory meetings: Brussels, Lillehammer...
- A first presentation in 2002
- A second presentation in 2003

Partners

The image displays a central map of Europe with several regions highlighted in purple and blue. Surrounding the map are various logos and emblems of partner organizations and regions. At the top left, there are three shields: a yellow shield with a black hammer, a blue and white striped shield, and a green shield with a white floral emblem. To the right of these are a blue bear on a grey shield and a logo for EUROMONTANA featuring a green mountain range and a blue line. Below the map, there is a logo for IREALP with a green mountain range and a yellow sun. On the right side, there are logos for PROVINCIA AUTONOMA DI TRENTO (featuring a red shield with a black eagle), PROVINCIA DI TORINO (featuring a red shield with a white cross), and Regione Autonoma Valle d'Aosta / Région Autonome Vallée d'Aoste (featuring a black shield with a white lion). At the bottom left, there is a logo for EUROMOUNTAINS with a white mountain range on a blue background. Other logos include The Highland Council (a blue geometric shape), Rhône-Alpes (a green and white mountain range), ADRA (a colorful mountain range), and Diputación de Palencia (a colorful shield).

Territo and stakeholders: Creating
 s... .., Turin 8-9.3.2007

Organisation



- Interreg IIC SUD
- Lead Partner: Province of Turin
- Coordinator: Euromontana
- Budget: ~2,000,000

Three themes



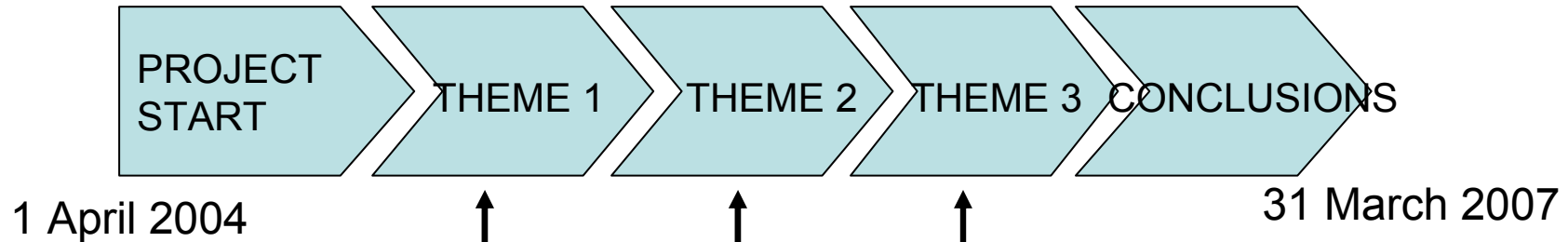
1. Improving the public and private services in mountains (infrastructure, culture and leisure time, health and social services, etc);
2. Developing and promoting mountain resources and quality products;
3. Managing the fragile mountain landscape, rural environment and natural resources.

Activities of the project



- Regional thematic studies
 - For each theme, using a common study guide, a group of partners conducted local studies to collect examples of projects, identify transferable features of their success and possibilities for improvement;
- Exchange and dissemination of results
 - through study tours between partners, elaboration of synthetic reports by area and theme, and thematic seminars involving all partners;
- Common strategies and proposals
 - based on the results of the seminars and the final conference;
- The project website (www.euromountains.net)
 - to promote exchanges between partners and facilitate the dissemination of results to a wider public;
- Further staff exchanges, subgroup meetings to prepare common operations, and more targeted information and dissemination actions.

Major milestones



Seminar in Palencia (Spain): 14-15 June 2005

Study tours to Province of Turin, Valle d'Aosta and Palencia

Seminar in Flaam (Norway): 10-11 May 2006

Study tours to Valle d'Aosta, Sogn og Fjordane and Telemark

Seminar in Aix-les-Bains, Rhône-Alpes (France): 5-6 December 2006

Study tour to Highlands

Theme 1



Sustainable territorial development and improvement of services in mountains

Public services “of general interest”:
infrastructure, culture and leisure time,
health and social services

Objectives of theme 1



To identify:

- qualitative and quantitative indicators that represent the state of the art of services of general economic interest in mountain areas
 - The optimum minimum level of such services
 - Transferable good practices and innovative models
 - Possible new services
-
- Need to find a “shared framework”/ a common language: quality, sustainability, mountain areas..
 - Study areas: “local territorial systems” (SLoT)..

Theme 2



The role of territorial authorities in developing and promoting high- quality mountain resources and products

Agro-food, craft, tourism

Objectives



- To analyse the intervention of territorial authorities:
how authorities assist with and support projects relating to mountain products and resource development? From what financial resources and mechanism? What were their outcomes?

A project-based approach

Theme 3



Defence and management of fragile rural areas, landscape and natural resources in mountains

Objectives

- Explore the way (and best and not best practices) in which landscape and natural resource management is implemented and supported across the partners regions and how potentially objectives of environmental protection and economic development are reconciled at various level of governance.
- 4 typologies of initiatives were found...