



Euromountains.net Project – theme 3 *INTERREG III C*

Defense and Management of the Fragile Rural Areas, Landscape and Natural Resources in Mountains

*Study project outline for the completion of the field
case studies*

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Final document



PROJECT PART FINANCED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

General points

1. The type of activity being undertaken by the case study is relatively unimportant except that it would be easier if it were common across the theme. However it is important to ensure that newer economies and their support sectors, that have such an impact and influence in the 21st century mountain environment, are not neglected. The primary focus of any study should be the attempt that each case study makes to achieve sustainable management of the environment around them using all the policies, partners, funds and innovation at their disposal.

With this in mind I would suggest that each partner provide two case study reports and that the focus of these should be restricted to:

1. Economic activity that is directly related to the use of natural resources either as:
 - i. a part of a production/growing process (farming, forestry, mineral extraction)
or
 - ii. as part of a service (Tourism, leisure/sporting activity)
2. Specific innovative activity aimed solely at the protection of environments or habitats such as National, Regional or local parks, specialist parks and specifically designated areas as a local solution (not a national or international level). This could also include activities that have attempted to manage the cultural landscape or landscape character of a mountain area. When studying activity, often that have failed are more valuable than those that have succeeded as they can show very easily things to be avoided. For this reason, projects that have not succeeded in their objective will also be considered as study project.
3. The partners agreed to exclude energy production as a primary source of case studies.
4. In order to simplify the vocabulary used within this theme 3, the term of resource is used to identify the mountain natural resources but also the mountain countryside (sort of cultural resource)

1- Area description form

Location map

(map)

1/ Geographical environment

- Mountainous massif (Name)
- max/min altitude
- surface of the area
- Is all this territory located in the mountain area?
- Climate

2/ Socio-economics dynamisms

- population
- density (inhab. / km²)
- demographical changes (general trends): 2 lines of comments (if possible: figures)
- share of the active population per sector of activity :

- Description of the socio-economic dynamics of the territory (agriculture of the area, tourist activities, urban poles, etc...) (5-10 lines)

- Description of the main economic activities that are managing or having a negative affect on the land and resources (forestry, farming, tourism activities....)

3/ Description of the specific features of the area in terms of landscape and natural resources

- Description of the specific features in terms of landscape and natural resources (e.g. farming landscape, water springs, specific species of flora, fauna, etc.)

- Description of existing local challenges (pressure of urbanisation, climate changes, reduction of farming activities, pressure of mass tourism...)

4/ Description of policy organisation and zoning

Territorial organisation of the area:

- NUTS 2 / NUTS3 / NUTS 4 ... (What are the different local authorities existing on the studied area, and their Nuts level ? For example : region, county, municipality)
- European zoning: objective 2, objective 1...
- Other zoning : In addition to local authorities and European zoning ; are there any other zoning that define a specific action area?. (e.g. regional natural parks; national parks, Leader+ programs...)

2 – Resource description form

Presentation of the resource concerned by the project

Description of the resource(s)

- ✘ Type of resource and its description ; brief history of the resource and management prior to the start of the case study project
- ✘ Main quality features of the resource
- ✘ Specificity, link to the territory:
 - Area of observation/ development
 - Can we find it elsewhere? (How unique, rare, specific?),
- ✘ Is the resource protected by UE (natura 2000...) or international law (world patrimony of UNESCO...), belong to any specific lists, or does it benefit from a private brand?
- ✘ Ownership of the resource

Connections of the resource(s) with the local territory

Here, the aim is to identify the reasons why this resource must be locally preserved and managed. These reasons can be shared between 4 components (economic, social, environmental and cultural):

- ✘ Economics component: (related to tourism, to sport activities, to industry...). Please describe and provide figures as far as possible
- ✘ Social component: (indirect impact on employment, diversification of activities for the local population, improvement of the quality of life of the local population...).
- ✘ Environmental component (constitutes habitat for some species, prevent from natural risks, ...).
- ✘ Cultural component: (belong to the collective imaginary, essential for the maintaining of the local identify of the population).

3 – Project description form

Context (in brief): organisation of the Stake Holders, Partners and the environment of the project

- ✘ Please supply a scheme or diagram showing the management and control of the project
- ✘ Description of the **Project**:
 - Description of the activity/ service:
 - Scope of the project (in terms of area and topic):
 - Description of the method used and reasons for its selection by the land actors:
- ✘ Describe the project 'key actors':
 - Name of the organisation
 - Who are the Stake Holders and Partners (farmers, land owners, associations, public bodies, other...)
 - Constitution of the organisation (association, company...). Is it a commercial or a non-commercial organisation?
 - Date of creation
 - Purpose (mission, objectives of the organisation itself)
 - General annual budget of the organisation
 - Number of staff (inc. volunteers).
- ✘ Operational and strategic **history** of the project development:
 - Factors at the origin of the project:
 - Key milestones in the progress of the project
 - Any re-positioning or changes taken and the reason behind these
 - Has any enlargement or the inclusion of other land actors or communities taken place. How was this managed?
- ✘ **Which difficulties, linked to the context, are met by the holders?**
 - Conflict of interest with other beneficiaries
 - Lack of finances
 - Lack of common involvement of the local stakeholders (population, SMEs, tourism business....)
 - External pressure from businesses or public sector
 - Other

Are some of these difficulties linked to the mountainous location?

- ✘ **Assets met linked to the context**
 - Project (management of the resource) supported by the local population
 - Quality / specificity / originality of the resource
 - Specificity of defence and management methods
 - Fame / image of the area
 - Presence of a local market linked to tourist activity or urbanization
 - Other

Are some of these assets linked to mountainous location ?

Content of the project :

✘ General objectives :

Are the objectives of the project clearly defined by the Stake Holders ?

✘ Operational objectives : means implemented concerning:

What are the concrete actions that the project holders have decided to implement? (in relation to the needs to make a success of their project) ?

- Structuring and mobilisation of actors
- Development of a multisectoral approach (integration of actors from many fields)
- Quality management or quality improvement of the resource
- Means implemented for know-how support (relations with research centres, participation in projects/ networks, participation in training...)
- Legal protection
- Communication, marketing improvement (including conscious awareness to tourists, local population...)
- Other

4 – Policy background and public intervention

4.1 – Policy frameworks that affect the project

The main policy areas to be studied are land use and management, environmental protection and economic activity/development in mountain areas, but it would be helpful to incorporate any relevant policies that have an impact on the project (e.g. transport, employment, taxation issues...). Special mention to be made when referring to support to mountainous activity/resource. The list cannot be exhaustive, only the major and more relevant policies will have to be stressed.

- ✘ **European Union level:**
 - 1/ Name/ number of the regulation/ standard and the measures that affect the project

- ✘ **National and state level:**
 - 1/ Name/ number of the regulation/ standard and the measures that affect the project
 - 2/ Describe any pilot initiatives that the area has taken part in

- ✘ **Regional and local level:**
 - 1/ Name/ number of the regulation/ standard and the measures that affect the project
 - 2/ Describe any pilot initiatives that the area has taken part in

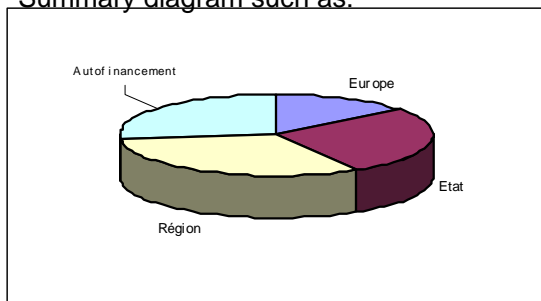
- ✘ **Other, policies, regulations or conditions (more connected to soft law)**
 - Local community
 - Land owning bodies applying conditions
 - Traditions or covenants affecting the project:

4.2 – Financial information

Share of grants and self-financing (figures concerning several years as far as possible).

	Territorial authorities						Self-financing
	EU	Nuts 1 (State)	Nuts 2	Nuts 3...	Nuts 4	Nuts 5	
Amount (€)	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
Share (%)	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

Summary diagram such as:



➔ Share of public grants in the project: x%

4.3 – Type of support

- ✘ What are the concrete actions supported :
 - Structuring and mobilisation of actors
 - Development of a multisectoral approach (integration of actors from many fields)
 - Quality management or quality improvement of the resource
 - Means implemented for know-how support (relations with research centres, participation in projects/ networks, participation in training...)
 - Legal protection
 - Communication, marketing improvement (including conscious awareness to tourists, local population...)
 - Other

- ✘ What is the type of the intervention?
 - support for investment
 - support for coordination (management) of the project
 - support for running costs
 - Support for policy implementation or change and enactment
 - providing qualified workforce
 - Physical change or improvement – material investment
 - other

- ✘ Direct beneficiaries?
 - Stake Holders association / organisation
 - Individual enterprises such as farmers, forestry owners or other Stake Holders
 - Communities – local settlements, residents or larger communities
 - others

5 – Local/ Regional delivery Mechanism or Cooperation and Partnership Public/ Private

This section stresses the connections/ cooperation with actors not directly involved in the core organisation running the project.

5.1 – Description of the cooperation and the delivery agents

- ✘ Name the main delivery agents and land actors involved (voluntary and community sector)
 - Description of their organisation, composition, powers, history of formation, relationship with formal government structures, operational goals and where possible the 'culture and character' (no more than 10 lines per body)
- ✘ Skills and experiences brought in the delivery process and particular fields of competence gained or improved through working in cooperation
- ✘ Type of resource brought by them:
 - Financial
 - Staff resources
 - Advice
 - Subcontracting
 - Technical or sectoral expertise
 - Links with community and communication
 - Other
- ✘ Please provide an organisational diagram showing all the land actors and their relationships:

5.2 – Governance, decision making system

Describe the system of decision making with the various stakeholders of the project (in 5 to 15 lines), also mention consultation process and the sharing of information.

5.3 – Innovative aspects

Is there an innovative aspect in the design of this land management governance? If so please describe it and identify where it differs from other methods and activities and why this new innovation was possible.

6 – Evaluation of local results of activity

6.1 – Effectiveness of the project

✘ Have the forecasted objectives of the project been achieved ?

Objectives	Answer
Objective 1	1. fully/ partially/ not at all achieved 2. Details (material realisations...) :
Objective 2	
...	

Examples of objectives to be achieved:

- Preservation of the natural resource focused (number of animals, hectares...)
- Number of indirect tourism activities connected to the resource developed (increase in turn-over, in employment...)
- Number of indirect industries/ businesses connected to the resource developed (increase in turn-over, in employment, ...)
- Improvement and maintaining of the quality of the resource
- Number of natural risks avoided/ or that have had a limited effect on the area (or comparison of number of natural disaster between before and after the project was set-up)
- Setting-up of inter-business networks
- Structuring and mobilization of actors
- Stimulating infrastructure for know-how support
- Legal protection
- Improving the image/ communication of the territory
- Improvement of quality of life, preservation of a know-how....
- Other objective forecasted ...

✘ Are there any non forecasted objectives that have been achieved ?

✘ Environment of the project :

- Are there any environment factors that prevented the realization of the objectives?
- Are there any other policies or regulations (national policies...) that counteract with the development of the project?

Effectiveness : Good/Average/Insufficient – This will be a partly subjective assessment of effectiveness from the perspective of the Theme 3 partner reviewing the study project. It is both a factual statement meeting or exceeding the objectives and an overall ‘view’ of the effectiveness of the procedures, innovation, implementation, partnership and delivery of the activity undertaken

6.2 - Reasons for failure/ success

- ✘ Policy reasons, why and proposals for improvement:
 - Policy adapted/ not adapted (to the resource management, to the mountains situations, at which level?)
 - Grants sufficient/not sufficient
 - Type of support adapted/ not adapted
 - Type of intervention adapted/ not adapted

- ✘ Local governance reasons:
 - Organisation well adapted/ not adapted to local actors, politicians and dwellers expectations
 - Organisation too light/ too heavy for relevant and quick decision and strategy making process
 - Difficulties to manage the diverse interests
 - Sharing of the funds available between the various activities of the project is not relevant to the objectives of each one
 -
- ✘ Local implementation and delivery reasons
 - Stake Holders and Partners – right or wrong mix
 - Time frame suitable/not suitable
 - Scale of intervention/project – too large or small
 - Scope and range of activity – too wide/too focussed
 - Did the delivery do what it was intended
 - Other reasons ?