



Euromontana's VIIIth European Mountain Convention

“European Mountain Regions- A spirit of Innovation”

15th-17th September 2010, Lillehammer, Norway

Provisional agenda

1st day-study tour:

- Study visits from 8.30 AM to **4 PM for Euromontana members**
- Study visits from 8.30 AM to 6 PM for participants not attending the Euromontana General Assembly
- Euromontana General Assembly from 5 to 8 PM

2nd day:

Morning: Definition of the concepts

Objectives: defining the concept and promoting a broader definition of innovation with high profile representatives communicating their views and perspectives.

9.00 Welcome and opening

- President of Oppland County council
- President of Euromontana
- Mayor of Lillehammer

9.30 EU Commissioner for Innovation and Research Máire Geoghegan-Quinn: *Innovation in the center of European policies 2010-2015: what perspectives for mountain areas?*

9.50 Norwegian minister in charge of mountain development/innovation *Promising examples of innovative development in European Mountains*

10.10 Coffee break

10.40 Massachusetts Institute of Technology *“Taking world class innovation and making it real in mountain areas”*

11.25 The Director of the European Environmental Agency *“The role of the European research community in the innovation process”*

Launch of the book *“Integrated study of the European mountain areas”*

12.00 Lunch



Afternoon: Definition, theories and methods of innovation

Objectives: Creating a mutual understanding of innovation through the presentation of innovation theories and examples. What are the differences between innovation in the mountain regions and innovation in general? Are there special theories and methods we may use in mountain areas?

Introduction:

14.00 Håvard Teigen, University of Lillehammer *Competitive advantage in mountain and rural areas*

14.30 Parallel sessions: how to innovate in mountain areas?

- **Relations between businesses, research and universities in the development of new ideas**
 - In the innovation triple helix that puts together universities, businesses and public actors, we should try to link all partners around research. Which models do we have for doing research and development in mountain areas?
 - Funding innovation in small-scale economies and relation with universities: small businesses cannot always provide adequate research they need. Partnership with universities can be very fruitful: how to develop this in mountain areas?
 - Overcoming problems related to Intellectual Property Rights/Patenting: who owns the results of research and development carried out in common?

- **Education and training possibilities to stimulate development in mountain areas**
 - What are successful models of universities in mountain areas? On-site education? E-learning...? → University of Highlands and Islands model
 - Can universities/schools/training institutes exchange with the business sector in mountain areas? What constraints are to overcome?
 - Developing common and targeted training offers for the mountain population
 - How can mountain businesses better use education and training possibilities to develop new products?

- **Involving mountain actors in clusters: how to foster innovation in a bottom-up approach?**
 - Reducing distances between mountain inhabitants or between mountain dwellers and people from other areas. How to improve population potential – ICT solutions, accessibility by transport, places to meet
 - How to organize fruitful linkages between innovative communities/clusters in urban areas and in mountain areas? Which lessons to learn?
 - Which policy instruments can contribute to a successful innovative approach in mountain areas and at which level of governance should they be implemented?
 - LEADER approach and bottom-up cooperation

- **Developing innovation through multinational cooperation**
 - Developing links and communication between mountains and other areas in Europe



- Multi-national cooperation: Norwegian fund in support of new member states, Massachusetts Institute of Technology - Highlands and Islands Enterprise partnership
- Use of European tools: example of the competitiveness and innovation program (CIP)

16.00 Coffee break

16.30 Presentation of conclusions from the workshops:

- Report of each workshop commented by innovation experts (Michel Godet- National Conservatoire of Arts and Professions (CNAM), representatives of the innovation agency)

17h30 End of the second day of the conference

3rd day: Innovating in some key sectors in mountain areas

9.00 Parallel sessions:

- **Innovating the production of renewable energies to contribute to mitigation and adaptation to climate change**
- **Innovating the governance of rural protected areas and the relation with sustainable tourism**
- **Sustainable forestry management in mountain areas**
 - How can we innovate the use of wood?
 - What opportunities can deliver innovation for forest management?
- **Public sector of mountain areas**
 - What innovative backgrounds have mountain municipalities?
 - What are the benefits the innovation brings to mountain municipalities?

10.30 Coffee break

11.00 Presentation of conclusions from the workshops

11.30 Round table discussion: Building an action plan for the development of innovative initiatives in European mountain areas

Which improvements of the policy framework? Which action plan for cooperation and partnership in mountain areas?

Panelists: Representatives from mountain areas at political (European Parliament, national parliamentary, governments representatives) and economic level (business representatives), balancing geographic origin and profile.

General Director of the European Environmental Agency



13.00 Concluding remarks:

André Marcon, President of Euromontana
Norwegian mountain cooperation/Opland Council

13.20 Lunch

END OF THE CONFERENCE