



ITALIAN MOUNTAIN LAB

“A cross-sector and participatory platform for research and development in Italian mountain areas in a European context”

12th December, 2017 | Main Hall - University of Milan

Introduction

The *Italian Mountain Lab* project, a FISR - Special Integrative Fund for Research - project of the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research was officially presented on Tuesday, 12th December, at CIME IN MILAN. The event saw the participation of numerous researchers, entrepreneurs, administrators and representatives of the third sector active at a local, national and international level in the study and enhancement of mountain areas. The meeting was an opportunity to take the first steps towards the activation of a new coordination and collaboration platform aimed at facilitating interaction and contact with existing networks working towards the development of mountain areas, and providing the bases for new functional alliances with a greater impact at a local, national and European level.

The event

The event was moderated by **Anna Giorgi**, Coordinator and scientific manager of the *Italian Mountain Lab* project for the DISAA - UNIMONT - University of Milan, who opened the day's work by presenting the objectives and new opportunities for the Italian Mountains also thanks to the tools that the project will provide. *Italian Mountain Lab* aims to promote the establishment of a high level advanced training and research laboratory to safeguard the Italian mountains, based on capitalizing and strengthening existing experiences, as well as on promoting national and international collaboration for the expansion of research and experimentation activities, technology transfer, training and support to local institutions for the development and enhancement of mountain areas. *Italian Mountain Lab* is led by the Mountain University (UNIMONT) - Center of Excellence at the University of Milan's Edolo Campus, operating in collaboration with the University of Eastern Piedmont and the University of Tuscia. The project is funded and sponsored by the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research which is actively involved.

Cesare Emanuel, Rector of the University of Eastern Piedmont, in the role of Scientific Manager of *Italian Mountain Lab* for UNIUPO, confirmed the objectives of the *Italian Mountain Lab* presented by Professoressa Anna Giorgi: promoting the sharing of scientific knowledge, planning training courses, giving joint and coordinated answers to common practices, identifying and experimenting with new models of development not only at an environmental level, but by affirming an integrated dimension of the different internal and mountain areas. Emanuel highlighted four types of operators that interact within a network: (1) specialists who with their practical skills build production modules, living directly in the mountains; (2) system administrators - planners who work to integrate the various specialists; (3) connectors that disseminate information, generate new contacts and are part of the communication system (such as the Italian Alpine Club and other similar associations); (4) meta-organizers who act as a *trait d'union* between system administrators and specialists.

Gianluca Piovesan, Professor of the University of Tuscia and *Italian Mountain Lab* Scientific Manager for UNITUS, presented an example of networking on mountain themes related to European beech woods: a unique ecosystem that characterizes the European continent and which UNESCO has included in its World Heritage List.

Furthermore, Professor Piovesan presented the new project of the University of Tuscia with the main theme of a paleo-environmental reconstruction of the Reatino area, through the study of the evolution of the landscape according to the historical era. The changes in the landscape tend to be marked by environmental and forest degradation, a landscape that, instead, must be protected and valued.

Lorenzo Micheli, Mountain-Hack & Italian Mountain Lab Advisor, highlighted the importance of the role of the **Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research** in addition to the ability of the Ministry to reach the entire country through an event, a **mountain Hackathon** to which more than 50 schools responded. Lorenzo Micheli then announced the day's objective: to present the partners of the *Italian Mountain Lab* and the objectives of the Universities and other entities.

Micheli introduced the day's work to the participants of the following sessions, asking speakers to:

- present the key element of their network/organization/entity;
- describe the project or projects in which they are investing in terms of priorities, workforce and economic involvement;
- share their vision for the next few years, through a proposal for concrete action to be taken together.

Micheli stressed the importance of the Italian Mountain Lab project objective based on the identities and strengths of networks and territories because *"we can no longer afford to invest in generic and imprecise projects that do not allow us to build networks and coalitions"*.

New alliances for the Italian mountains

Osvaldo Failla, Director of the Department of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences - Production, Landscape, Agroenergy, University of Milan (DISAA)

Osvaldo Failla emphasized how the Department of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (DISAA) is one of the two departments that has inherited the educational and scientific tasks of the Faculty of Agriculture, where, 20 years ago, the idea of creating the educational and research centre in Edolo originated. The main objective of the Edolo Centre is to make a contribution to the maintenance of mountain agricultural systems, starting from the problem of depopulation in the second half of the 19th century. Failla highlighted how some populations have maintained these vital systems, and how nowadays they have become a privilege for all, providing typical products.

The Department of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences works to maintain and revitalize these specificities, also according to a logic based on multifunctionality, studying the uniqueness of these products, raw materials and processing methods. Failla stressed that there are non-substitutable products and methods in mountain areas, as well as craft activities. It is a fragile system that must be conserved. In conclusion, the project of the Edolo Centre has proved to be a winner for all those who have believed in it from the beginning, wishing to maintain interest in issues too often considered marginal.

Bartolomeo Schirone, President of the Degree Course in Mountain Sciences - University of Tuscia, Rieti Campus

Professor Bartolomeo Schirone presented his commitment within the *Italian Mountain Lab* in training activities also in order to continue with the research activities mentioned previously by his colleague Professor Piovesan.

The experience of the degree course in Mountain Sciences aims at training technicians capable of managing mountain territories in which "*an expert professional is often lacking*". The degree course in Mountain Sciences has been active for 2 years and has about 50 students enrolled. In 2016, due to the earthquake in central Italy, enrollments dropped by half (28 students), but in 2017 the number of students has risen to over 40.

Schirone says that in recent years important elements have developed that have given meaning and greater importance to the degree course, tackling fundamental issues: awareness of the fragility of mountain areas; the need for monitoring, understood as the conservation of resources; a focus on sustainable tourism (currently the theme that is most easily approachable both for organizational and economic reasons) and generally towards the development of entrepreneurial spirit. In particular, the President underlined how students are starting to show entrepreneurial abilities, a very important aspect for the mountains of the South.

Schirone shared two experiences: a conference organized with students on the topic of mountain fragility, in particular regarding fires in the Apennine area (Rieti and Pescara), and a project of tourism in the mountains, referring to the Apennine area and designed

for a tourist that seeks a natural and untouched environment, without forestry activities.

Matteo Montebelli, Head of Research and Publications for the Italian Touring Club Studies Centre

Montebelli introduced the Italian Touring Club (TCI), founded in 1894 and the leading Italian tourism association with about 280,000 members. The mountains have been the main theme of this association since it was founded, (the historical series of guides to mountain areas created in collaboration with the TCI and Italian Alpine Club is an example) along with anti-deforestation activities. Today, the TCI focuses on responsible and sustainable tourism, in the Alps and Apennines and in inland areas.

Montebelli presented and proposed to make current TCI networks available: the Orange Flags project, which has been certifying small municipalities for almost 20 years, (224 municipalities currently adhere to the Italian Touring Club network); over 2100 trained volunteers who allow cultural sites otherwise closed to the public to be kept open; 40 active clubs and 200 consuls (local TCI representatives) who manage a part of Italy called "lesser Italy" but rich in resources and important to discover.

The main objective of the Italian Touring Club is sustainable and responsible tourism, which enhances identity. For the TCI, 2016 was the year of walks, 2017 the year of villages, 2018 will be the year of food and 2019 will be the year dedicated to slow tourism. For the TCI *"the real value is to build a network and then, in line with the university activities, training must be imported to internal areas to ensure that experiences are brought to the territory for the benefit of young people"*.

Alessandra Pesce, Technical Secretary of the Deputy Minister - Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies (MIPAAF)

Alessandra Pesce was present in the double role of Technical Secretary of the Deputy Minister (MIPAAF) and CREA researcher and began her speech with an informal thank-you to the organizers for their commitment and enthusiasm, so difficult to find at such events.

She emphasized how mountains represent an opportunity *tout court*, useful to ensure a new welfare system and therefore services that are also available to encourage the presence of young people.

The value of mountain products must be recognized by the consumer: mountain products have higher production costs and smaller quantities and cannot compete with those of large scale retail distribution: for this reason, the decree regarding the optional indication "Mountain Products" which was issued this summer is very important for producers in mountain areas.

The third point she addressed concerns the EU Common Agricultural Policy reform. The current programme provided for resources for greening, not always fully coherent with sustainability objectives; greater awareness of the sustainability of environmental measures is needed. She believes that *"the Italian Mountain Lab must be an instrument*

to communicate the greatness of mountains from a physical, economic and ethical viewpoint".

Carlo Personeni, President of the National Federation of the Consortia of Bacino Imbrifero Montano (FEDERBIM)

FEDERBIM, which brings together 63 Italian BIM consortia over 15 regions and involving 2200 municipalities, was created as a result of the law 959/53, called "law on the mountain economy". The same law also created the "*sovracanone*" or additional fee - an indemnity that must be paid by all those who divert water to produce hydroelectric energy. The BIM consortia finance different projects with the aim of allowing young people to remain in, or return to, the mountains and therefore to maintain services, but also to create new jobs.

Currently FEDERBIM is (1) financing small companies which often have tax problems, (2) supporting tourism involving people who are motivated to offer quality tourism, (3) supporting the agricultural sector with a study of the territory in order to identify which crops can be grown in certain areas and, as a result, helping young people to settle in the mountains with an income that allows them to stay.

Personeni states that further professional training is needed, such as that provided by UNIMONT.

Marco Bussone, Vice President of the National Union of Municipalities, Communities and Local Authorities in Mountain Areas (UNCCEM)

Bussone emphasized the need to train a political and managerial class that is often not adequately educated to deal with numerous issues, stressing that "*the link between the network of those who provide education and training and a political system sensitive to training is lacking.*" Therefore, the UNCCEM Vice President believes that a link between universities and local technicians is crucial and would be willing to create a network of contacts and collaboration.

Bussone also believes that it is necessary to lobby the next government, in order to reach still distant results on issues concerning mountain territories. The mountains must not be put to one side: an objective reachable through political figures that do not come from the cities, but from mountain territories and that in any case have been trained to deal with such issues.

As far as Europe is concerned, Bussone emphasizes the importance of defining the new CAP and the new programs, highlighting how, at this stage, it is necessary to be present and suggest clear ideas, both as regards the CAP and the new planning, through the preparation of streamlined and clear documents, with objectives and numbers which are easy to read and quick to understand, so as to arrive in Brussels with people well-informed on mountain issues.

Francesca Campora, Director of the Garrone Foundation

Founded in 2014, the temporary business campus linked to the Apennines (ReStartApp)

and the Alps (ReStartAlp), also thanks to collaboration with the Cariplo Foundation, is a temporary incubator for new mountain businesses. Every year the Garrone Foundation launches a call in which about 70 young people participate: it is "*an effervescent environment*".

Campora says that it is now a fact that young people are interested in mountain areas. Over six editions, the Foundation has recorded a 20% increase in requests; some of the companies set up due to the campus are today active and expanding. The Director argues that access to credit remains a key element to address.

The Garrone Foundation has started collaborating with some important banks on the criteria to be adopted for the evaluation of a business project. Campora, in fact, emphasizes how young and small businesses that are part of difficult territorial situations must be assessed using different criteria from those of other more common contexts when applying for credit. The main aspect of these companies, she continues, concerns the very important social impact and the value of recovering the social fabric, aspects not evaluated by an institution that grants credit, but which are part of a longer term view.

Campora emphasizes the importance of being part of a network and highlights how the first collaboration was essential for the Foundation because it offered the opportunity to see what happens in the territories where young entrepreneurs will have to operate. She goes on to say that the network is necessary both to communities and to the territory, because networks, if well managed, play a very strong social role thanks to the fact that they express a territorial identity.

She concludes by saying that collaboration is necessary at all institutional levels, of banks, of civil society and how it is necessary to have a structure at a central level that considers such issues fundamental. The message that Francesca Campora launches is to create synergy and make skills available for a mutual goal.

Giuliano Cervi, President of the Central Scientific Committee of the Italian Alpine Club (CAI)

Giuliano Cervi presents the CAI, an institution founded in 1863 with the specific task of studying the mountains. He emphasizes how the CAI is open to the concept of networking and to relationships of collaboration and shared action with the world of research and institutions operating in the Italian mountain context, be it Alpine or Appennine. Over recent years the CAI has set up important collaboration with research institutions and Italian universities. The University of Verona and the University of Bologna in the field of archaeological research (Rocca di Canossa, national museum) have also joined this network.

Generally speaking, the Central Scientific Committee of the CAI hopes that mountain issues can assume ever greater concreteness. Cervi stresses the importance of CAI volunteers who, thanks to their work, maintain and preserve a vast network of paths and a wide and complex network of refuges, "*the arterial fabric of our mountains*". Refuges can be seen as laboratories, they are real places in the field to develop research - one example is the Terre Alte Laboratories, also called "study and culture refuges". Furthermore, paths can be seen as places of growth and tools for the economic

promotion of "depressed" areas.

Together with the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, the CAI has activated an innovative campaign to identify cultural testimonies and highlight aspects of knowledge so far considered secondary.

Cervi concludes hoping for further opportunities for discussion also in the light of the numerous conventions in progress (for example with the Carabinieri, or with UNCEM), in order to create new joint projects.

Networking session I National networks for the mountains

Manuela Grecchi, Vice-Rector for the Lecco Campus of the Polytechnic University of Milan

The Vice-Rector of the Lecco Campus focuses on the word "territorial". In fact, the Lecco Campus bet on some territories 30 years ago, and Lecco was named Alpine city in 2013.

Campus competences mainly centre on engineering and architecture, risk mitigation, safety and civil protection in areas with significant fragility (hydrogeology and not only). The Pole provides targeted training on issues of construction and recovery (in particular energy even in extreme climates) and environmental sustainability; all with an awareness of new technologies that provide targeted answers in critical situations.

An important project currently underway for the Campus is Rete Montagna, set up with the Province of Lecco and other participants who collaborate and believe in the activities of the territorial Campus. The project focuses on issues such as abandonment, the recovery of small villages, or studies related to energy recovery. Moreover, in the Lecco Campus, students are also trained to develop a greater sensitivity towards the mountain environment, for example to go to the mountains in a safe way, not only as regards high altitude sports.

Roberto Tognetti, Professor of the Research Centre for Internal Areas and the Apennines (ARIA) - University of Molise

The Research Centre for Internal Areas and the Apennines (ARIA) was established in the spring of 2017 in the presence of President Mattarella, with the aim of reducing the gap between the internal and the more developed areas of Italy. In particular, the centre collaborates with the University of Molise which provides a wide range of professions, at a social, economic and agro-environmental level.

The ARIA Centre, in its first year, offers technical support to the SNAI (National Strategy for Internal Areas) in the Molise area: a very clear example of the typical problems of internal areas, and in general of Italy, as regards depopulation and land management.

The ARIA Centre also operates in an international network, in the [COST "CLIMO"](#) action, launched in October 2016, which summarizes different activities in forest and mountain areas, with the aim of increasing the resilience of forest and mountain systems. The project includes a series of activities related to young people such as the possibility of interacting through short term courses and international training schools.

Roberto Dini, Deputy Director of the Institute of Mountain Architecture (IAM) - Polytechnic University of Turin

Roberto Dini presented the Institute of Mountain Architecture (IAM), a specific and unique research centre within the University, dealing with issues related to "*building in the mountains*". "*We are architects that are a bit different,*" says Roberto Dini, because for years the Institute of Mountain Architecture has been creating networks with local

authorities, especially in Valle d'Aosta and Piedmont. Training started from Valle d'Aosta and Piedmont, but the network is now expanding: for example, a PhD student is training in Innsbruck and another in Cadore.

The current projects of the Institute of Mountain Architecture are *ArchAlp* magazine and a platform of the project disciplines with all the other actors who build and contribute to the construction of the territory. The principle is that of creating a scientific platform that connects all the elements that make up the mountain territory, including the social and economic actors.

Dini highlights the importance of having trained personnel and concludes by saying that "*the architectural culture of the Alps is already an alternative model of building because we are also educating the future of the metropolises*".

Piermaria Corona, Director of the Centro Foreste e Legno - Council for agricultural research and analysis of the agricultural economy (CREA)

CREA is the third public research body at a national level in Italy with 12 research centres and over 40 sites, of which more than one third in the mountains - over 50 hectares of surface area of farms managed by CREA are in the mountains. The important theme for CREA is conservation and production through agricultural research activities.

The issues addressed are: water and soil as strategic resources in the mountains; *digital divide*, or digital agriculture as advanced cultivation that often faces physical obstacles; the possibility of combining biodiversity and biotechnologies with the protection of the agricultural sector.

The main objective presented by Corona is to focus on excellence, even in the mountains, precisely in line with the Italian agricultural model.

Dario Casati, Georgofili Academy - President of the North-West Section (Liguria, Lombardy, Piedmont, Valle d'Aosta)

The Georgofili Academy has vast competences and is one of the oldest in the agricultural field (the Academy was founded in 1753) - in Italy there are 787 georgophiles, 50 are in Brussels and there are 85 foreign academics worldwide.

The Academy has always accompanied scientific analysis with practical achievements. The Academy is distinguished by its multiplicity of fields of knowledge. Its most recent activity was the conference organized in February 2017 in Florence on the theme of the mountains, aimed at promoting the study of silviculture and the enhancement of the territory through the study of animal husbandry.

The message that the Georgofili Academy wants to convey is that the future of the mountains is in sustainability, not in utopian and reductive terms, but with interventions aimed at creating income and keeping people in mountain areas.

Casati concludes by stating that the Georgofili Academy is willing to collaborate as it has been doing for years.

Filippo Barbera, President of the Accademia delle Alte Terre

Filippo Barbera states that "*there needs to be strong interaction between technical and humanistic knowledge*". The main objective of the Accademia delle Terre Alte is to model, support and create access to goods and services to rehabilitate the mountains (home, credit, welfare, business and work). The Accademia delle Alte Terre collaborates with the University of Turin, the Polytechnic of Turin, CNR, the Piedmont Region, UNCEM, the City of Mondovì and the Collegio Carlo Alberto Foundation.

The initiatives promoted by the Academy concern the creation of applied technologies, specifically for the mountains and different from those developed so far; access to micro-credit (with Banca prossima, Banca Etica, etc.) in order to create subsidized finance for micro-enterprises and support welfare in mountain areas.

Currently, the Accademia delle Terre Alte is contributing to the definition of a regional agenda, focused on the use of resources and on the definition of strategies regarding microcredit and social innovation (from urban areas to internal/mountain areas in Piedmont), on the support of entrepreneurial initiatives with widespread social impact, on the management of local common goods, on the innovative creation of proximity services.

Barbera argues that the future goal of the Academy is therefore to meet the demand for the mountains (among the young or not so young) with supply. For this reason, "*the valleys must go to the city and present themselves as a pole of attraction*".

Valter Maggi, Italian Glaciological Committee Secretary

"*We have been the guardians of Italian glaciers for 120 years*", says Valter Maggi. The Italian Glaciological Committee has the task of understanding how glaciers evolve; it collects data, position, mass balance and studies individual glaciers: more than a thousand in the Alps. Maggi highlights how the Committee includes not only those from the academic world, but also those interested in glaciers. Data collection is concentrated in the glaciological campaigns, then conveyed to the World Glaciological Service. The Committee is also active within the United Nations network.

Glaciers can be attractive from a local point of view for tourism, but they are not always accessible (fortunately or unfortunately) because they are inconveniently situated. They are important for water supply and also for the creation of electricity. Glaciers are also ruthless archives of human actions in the last 200 to 300 years, in fact they have stored everything that man has done (contaminations and changes). The Italian Glaciological Committee has carried out precise monitoring of what has happened in the last 100 to 150 years.

Glaciers also return what was taken to the highlands during the world wars - structures, soldiers, remains of weapons: a project is currently underway, in collaboration with the province of Trento and the Superintendency, involving an Austrian post which has

emerged from the glacier near Monte Vioz over the last ten years and has been transformed into a museum. Maggi concludes that the Committee can bring great value to the mountain network through its projects and studies on glaciers.

Antonio Ciaschi, Libera Università Maria Santissima Assunta (LUMSA)

The key message brought by Ciaschi is that *“the Apennines, hitherto defenceless spectators of the race towards growth centred on fast systems of communication that cut the Italian Peninsula lengthwise, can rise to a new role in the Italian socio-economic landscape”*.

The LEM project - the Euro-Mediterranean Laboratory of the Mountains aims to eliminate the isolation and marginality of internal areas making them a junction and bridge between East and West. Ciaschi believes that the geographical location of LUMSA, and LEM in particular, can provide a different and more central point of reference in the Mediterranean, *“in the knowledge that the Mediterranean is the storehouse of the efforts for human development that have been slowed down by world conflicts”*. Ciaschi announces *“We want to be a link between east and west, between the Adriatic and the Mediterranean, as communities developed hundreds of years ago”*.

The thematic area is geographic, historical-cultural, socio-economic. The geographical area in which the network is established is that of Central and Southern Italy, the islands and the Mediterranean countries. The main objective is to contribute to the construction of a great national project that sees the Apennines as the first interpreter of an eco-sustainable economy that runs horizontally, has its roots in tradition, but is able to guarantee a new flow of energy, ideas and creativity.

Current collaboration is with: University of Rome LUMSA, University of Tuscia, University of Perugia, Observatory of the Southern Apennines of the University of Salerno, University of Roma Tre, University of Florence, IUAV University of Venice (formerly the University of Architecture of Venice), the European Academy of Bolzano-EURAC, the National Research Council, the Italian Geographic Society (SGI), the Association of Italian Geographers (AGEI), the Italian Centre of Historical-Geographic Studies of the Apennines.

The most important project underway is *Sustainable Mobility and Rural Tourism in the Mediterranean Mountain (SMART MEMO)*. Another challenge for LUMSA is the opening of a new centre in Gubbio.

Future challenges are to design a new role for these highlands - especially after the 2016 earthquake - not only in order to build new homes, but aiming to create new leaders able to manage mountain areas. Therefore, technological innovation and tradition are both essential as levers for the development of highlands, through the provision of enabling skills for the management of land resources.

Luca Cetara - Alpine Convention, EURAC

The aim is to translate initiatives that originate in the Alps, which can also be experimented in the Apennines. Some themes were established as priority level in Italy.

Climate change in mountainous areas is more intense than in other areas and therefore requires urgent action also in consideration of temperature variations. Cetara notes that guidelines exist locally, because this is the level at which such changes must be managed, but unfortunately technical preparation is often lacking. A good example is the Budoia paper, drawn up specifically to deal with this lack of expertise at a local level and in order to provide answers to the problem of climate change. The paper - taking into account the strategies adopted at a European and Alpine level - indicates how to implement local climate change adaptation measures in land planning.

Cetara emphasizes the work of the Alpine Convention on the theme of the *Green Economy* in the Alpine context: in 2016 the first report on the Alpine region as a green economy was drawn up and workshops in collaboration with CIPRA dealt with *Green Finance* in Gorizia, and the *Circular Economy* in Edolo.

Another important focus for the Convention are protected areas: in Italy the creation of a network of Alpine protected areas covering three issues was facilitated: governance of protected areas; sustainable financial management and changes in ecosystem services; harmonization of map data.

The challenge is to be able to develop new contacts on these issues.

Alessandro Gretter, Edmund Mach Foundation (FEM) - Research and Innovation Centre

The Edmund Mach Foundation, founded in 1864, is "*trying to be traditionally innovative*". Founded primarily as a response to the need to revive the economy of the historical Tyrol area, eight generations of farmers from Trentino trained with the Foundation. The specificity is to bring together under one roof vocational training and higher education, thanks to an agreement with the University of Trento.

The Foundation provides assistance to farms in Trentino and beyond - 8000 orchards and vineyards also in marginal regions. The Foundation collaborates, directly or indirectly with numerous organizations such as DSHS, UNIMONT, and contributes to the EUSALP Alpine Macro-regional strategy (AG6 and AG7).

EUREGIO-FH (*Food and Health*) with the Land of Tyrol, South Tyrol and Trentino and hospitals was officially launched on 11th November 2017, in order to demonstrate that the excellence of agricultural production leads locally to good health and well-being. Gretter concluded her speech with a quote from E. Mach "*Let us seek the ties that unite us and not the barriers that divide us*".

Roberto Ruffier, Courmayeur Mont Blanc Foundation - "Laurent Ferretti" Observatory on the Mountain System

The key message proposed by Ruffier is taken from *Docufilm Vignerons Grimpants*: "*Being a wine-producer for me means trying to conserve as best I can the territory that was entrusted to me.*" Laurent Théodule, 23, Chambave (Aosta).

The Foundation was established in 1991 following a meeting between local authorities: Val d'Aosta Region, the municipality of Courmayeur, the Censis of Rome and the centres of social prevention and protection in Milan. In 1994 the "Laurent Ferretti" Observatory on the Mountain System was founded. The main objective is to encourage the exchange of ideas and discussion. The foundation is based in Courmayeur, but the reference area is the Alpine range with a cross-border approach.

Institutional sectors are: law, society and economy. Activities can be divided into the following sectors of intervention:

- Modern Alpine Architecture (since 1999, multi-year project *Living the Alps* 2013-2015; series *Alps in the making* 2016 - 2018);
- Mountain, Risk and Responsibility (since 1993, *Mountain codes* 2001-2008);
- Mountain farming (since 1996, the Mountain Winegrowers project 2016-2017);
- Accessible Mountain Tourism (since 2008) the Foundation organizes meetings to make sure that the mountain is accessible to all. *Mountains in the making*

A recently completed project refers to young talents, the search for young winemakers, concluded in Aosta with the presentation of a Docufilm during a meeting-debate on the same subject. The next meeting, always regarding young talent, is scheduled for March 2018 with the theme of generational transfer.

The main challenge is to increase the value of the social capital that is present in mountain communities as a "*competitive advantage factor in these contexts, a pull factor*". The second challenge relates to young talent, in fact Ruffier concludes saying that "*young people desire to do business, but do not yet show the desire to innovate, which is why help is required from everyone.*"

Iva Berasi, Director of the Trentino Mountain Academy

The 2010 Provincial Law established the Trentino Mountain Academy with the following purposes: to provide advanced training for mountain professionals as well as for enablers; to promote the regional identity of young people; to encourage the return of young people to mountain areas. The Academy is divided into the areas Landscape School, Tourism School and Management School.

The message that the Academy wants to communicate is Accessible Mountains, Mountains to Discover, Mountains to enjoy.

ACCESSIBLE MOUNTAINS means mountains for everyone, ensuring that people with physical, intellectual, sensory disabilities have the opportunity to holiday in the mountains and respecting citizenship rights; MOUNTAINS TO DISCOVER refers to the rediscovery of Trentino traditions of dry stone wall building with the recognition of the "Dry stone wall expert builder" profession; finally MOUNTAINS TO ENJOY deals with research such as "Mountain Like: why young people go to the mountains", "Cognitive errors in avalanche risk", the contest "Young people in Refuges" - PFT: The Trentino photo Park - The Trentino Mountain Table for risk prevention. The Academy focuses on research, vocational training, tourism and education in the mountains.

The network is active in Trentino and the UNESCO Dolomites Area.
The main objectives of the network are:

- to promote knowledge and familiarity with the Mountains;
- to promote the local identity of Trentino Mountains starting from the younger generations;
- to retrieve local traditions: the Dry Stone Wall School
- to plan risk prevention campaigns: the Mountain Table
- to promote and carry out projects for Mountains for everybody through the application of OPEN brands.

The community of the Mountain Academy is an area of the Trentino School of Management, which includes:

- The Mountain Table formed by the Alpine Rescue Service, the College of Alpine Guides, Ski Instructors, the Mountain guides association; Sat and the Refuge Managers Association;
- the Trentino Dry Stone Wall School for the retrieval of the heritage of dry stone walls with municipal administrators and local technicians;
- the Accessible Mountains project involving all economic categories, the Trentino University world, Co-operatives, organizations and associations dealing with disability, schools, professional associations.

Some projects implemented by the Academy are: Accessible Mountains to make Trentino a tourist destination for everybody by training mountain professionals to accompany students with disabilities in order to make the mountains a place of social interaction; the training of technical engineers/surveyors/architects/planners to plan landscapes and structures according to the high accessibility standards; the involvement of all economic categories to create a tourist accessibility system that has economic and business impact.

The Dry Stone Wall School: reclaiming skills of the past to enhance the history and culture of the mountains and creating income.

Future challenges involve taking a new look at mountain areas, which must attract young people, extolling professionalism dedicated to environmental, social and economic aspects that can help give even city communities, social quality referred to relationships and a healthy lifestyle, recovering civic sense of working together and good relationships in the sharing of resources to enjoy and conserve.

To make mountains become places of social integration through outdoor activities, a gym for everyone where even people with disabilities can achieve self-esteem and self-perception which they can then transfer into everyday life.

Cristina Busin, Luciano Bolzoni, Founder members of Officina culturale Alpes

Cristina Busin asks: "What kind of creative culture can be brought to the Alps?" "The mountain is not an idyllic and crystallized place. The Alps are a laboratory open 360° (visual arts, culture, architecture)", she says. " We define ourselves as a Workshop because it represents similar creative personalities who are working and offering a new vision, going beyond tradition even in mountain festival events". Davide Micheli, Fratus are some of the writers who collaborate with the Officina. Luca Mercalli, Mau-

rizio Zanola (Manolo) have taken part in some events with Officina. With the University of Milan, at the event bookcity, different readings and interpretations of the mountains were provided.

The activities of Officina culturale Alpes include a cultural workshop in Cervinia, the organization of architectural, thematic and literature hiking. The experience with Mercalli allowed people to go onto the glaciers to see the changing situation first hand, while Manolo gave a reading of his experience in the mountains. The next step is to manage to bring art installations and painters who can create in the alpine environment.

Busin says that the Founder members of Officina culturale Alpes like to imagine the mountain in 10 years as a common place for personal enrichment, *because the mountains are places that lead to discussion*. Art, literature and creative writing are important resources, you have to look at the mountains with new eyes with the culture and awareness of modern times.

Anna Maria Bertolino, “Dislivelli” Association Member and representative of the International Commission for the Protection of the Alps (CIPRA Giovani)

Anna Maria Bertolino speaks both as a member of “Dislivelli” Association and as a representative of the International Commission for the Protection of the Alps (CIPRA Giovani).

The Dislivelli Association of Turin was founded in 2009 as a network of communication and research professionals. The primary objective of Dislivelli was to make topics addressed in the academic world and research accessible to a broad audience. Professionals of the “Dislivelli” Association can be found throughout the Italian Alps.

Dislivelli currently has two project partners: ALCOTRA (cross-border project with France) and ALPFOODWAYS (activated in the Alpine Space). The Association, in the past ten years, has partnered with the publisher Franco Angeli, to produce nine publications in a special series entitled Terre Alte, and also collaborates in producing the scientific magazine “Mountain dossier”.

Dislivelli launched a pioneering research project to investigate new inhabitants of mountain areas. In 2009, with the Association in its early days, this was a main theme developed with the analysis of quantitative data. Almost twenty years later, the new inhabitants of the mountains tell their experiences. This on-going phenomenon was highlighted thanks therefore to an interdisciplinary approach of geographers, anthropologists and land planners. Starting with this project, two more research steps followed: a survey of the Western Alps and the other referring to the whole of the Alps, leading to a video: “*Montanari 3.0*”.

Another important project launched in 2014 “*Sweet Mountains*” is a network created in the Western Alps (Liguria, Piedmont and Valle d’Aosta), made up of 300 professionals, which aims at a soft and responsible tourism, totally different from downhill skiing. An observatory - *TripMontagna* - was launched in 2016 in association with the project to analyze the numerical impact of the phenomenon of slow tourism in mountain areas.

The Association was the scientific advisor and communication consultant for the three-year program of Turin and the Alps of the Compagnia di San Paolo, a project which ended in 2016.

CIPRA, based in Liechtenstein and CIPRA Italy, as a national organization, are part of an international network active since the 1950's. CIPRA promoted the establishment of the Alpine Convention, and its main areas of interest are issues related to: landscape, biodiversity, climate, energy, traffic and mobility. CIPRA Italy is interested primarily in aspects related to the Italian Alps, but with an international view of critical issues.

CIPRA encourages the active participation of young people both in terms of research and communication, and in fact also has a youth section. CIPRA has a strong ecological basis, and is a nongovernmental organization that works with other organizations or associations with the same objectives.

The key project of CIPRA is the "Alpine Laboratory for Development" (2014-2016), carried out in the territory of the Val di Susa, which aimed to study new livability in the Valley. This laboratory led to a format which can be exported to all other alpine areas.

Elena Jachia, Area Director for the Environment, Cariplo Foundation

Cariplo Foundation deals with a wide range of issues over different sectors: biodiversity, entrepreneurship, sustainable tourism, mountain agriculture, human capital development, innovation and research, hydrogeological conservation, etc .

AttivAree "New Life for internal areas" is an intersectoral program for inland areas with two local projects:

- "Oltrepò(Bio)diverso": Leader Foundation for the Development of the Oltrepò Pavese and 19 partners
- Resilient valleys (Valle Sabbia and Valle Trompia): Leader Comunità Montana Valle Trompia and 11 partners (+ Support network: 25 municipalities, LAGs, tourism boards and museums, FIAB, schools ...).

Each project consists of many integrated actions. For "Oltrepò(Bio)diverso", the Open Innovation Centre is a research centre that will act as a scientific and environmental stimulus to local agricultural businesses. For "Valli Resilienti" the key is a supportive and cooperative approach, not only to improve the daily lives of residents with a network of neighbourhood shops, but also to create employment opportunities in accommodation facilities for tourism.

The important issues for the Foundation mainly concern: ecosystem services and their payment, other ideas and projects affecting natural capital; the database UBIGREEN (mapping and georeferencing); the Open Innovation Centre regarding issues related to agriculture in mountainous areas and the changes necessary in wine-producing in response to climate change.

A focal point in the short term regards the CAP related to research activity and lobbying in order to try to change the renewal of the CAP on issues regarding mountain farmers.

Regarding challenges related to young people, Elena Jachia announces a partnership with the Giffoni festival with the aim, within the program *AttivAree*, to set up an experiment involving young people creating videos related to their local area to discover more about their territories and their beauty.

Instead, long-term challenges aim to make mountains interesting places for young people especially from a cultural point of view and to create opportunities to experience life patterns unthinkable in cities.

Mauro Varotto, Head of the Group Terre Alte of the CAI, partner of the International Terraced Landscapes Alliance (ITL)

A *call for project* was launched in 2008 for CAI members. About 100 projects have been financed so far from the rebuilding of ancient stone wash troughs, paths etc (gruppoterrealte.it).

Terre Alte is a partner of the International Terraced Landscapes Alliance (ITL) with an Italian section, set up in China in 2010 and in Italy in 2016. From studies carried out on the territory it is estimated that more than 300,000 kilometers of dry stone walls are in need of maintenance and checks.

A project which has finished is the production of the book "Terraced landscapes in Italy", while the future challenge is to create an international dry stone wall school.

Silvia Passerini, Vice President Rete del Ritorno (the Return Network)

The "return" is mostly a conceptual task. The network was established in 2011 and has 8 promoters: Associazione Thara Rothas, Fondazione Nuto Revelli, Crissa, Centro studi sullo spopolamento calabrese, Doppiozero, Comunità provvisoria dell'Irpinia, Associazione Davide Lajolo, Terre di Mezzo street magazine, Re.Co.Sol, Rete Comuni Solidali.

The Return Network aggregates intellectuals and men and women of culture, scholars and researchers to disseminate new thinking. At the same time, through the work of the Scuola del Ritorno, it trains and supports young people who want to return to Internal Areas.

Passerini says that nowadays there must be an awareness of the magnitude of abandonment of Internal or Fragile Areas. The Return Network aims to spread information regarding abandonment issues, seen as a problem but also as a resource, in the sense of a return of young people to these inland areas.

The "returns" are also individual experiences with a high risk of failure, so the principle is that more marginality exists, more likelihood there is of positive feedback. The Return Network has set up a Scuola del Ritorno, which focuses on the subject in order to compare ideas with local communities, on "returning" but also "about being welcomed". The difficulties faced relate mainly to the cultural narrow-mindedness of small isolated villages, but also difficulties of local administrations where family members often work.

The Return Network operates nationally and its founders include: Antonella Tarpino, Sil-

via Passerini, Alberto Saibene, Bruno Zanardi, Vito Teti. There are also others in the network such as: Giorgio Vasta, Vanda Bonardo (Legambiente Piedmont Valle d'Aosta), Gianfranco Spitilli (Communitas e Associazione Bambun), URBE / Rigenerazione Urbana, PAV / Parco Arte Vivente.

Roberto Gaudio, President of the Centre for Research, Environmental Sustainability and Advancement of Mountain Viticulture (CERVIM)

Roberto Gaudio stresses the importance of heroic viticulture recognized for the first time at a regulatory level in the Italian "vine and wine framework legislation" (Law 238/2016 Article 7 - Conservation of heroic and historical vineyards). He continued his speech by saying that over the years the main interests of this centre have changed, looking at broader issues involving areas where viticulture has permanent problems such as land with more than 30% slopes or vineyards at altitudes above 500 m a.s.l..

The reference area goes from Western Europe (Canary Islands - Spain, the Azores and Madeira - Portugal), through all the countries which are the largest wine producers and others, to the east of Europe (Greece, Cyprus, Armenia, Georgia), as well as parts of Lebanon, Kazakhstan and other countries of North and South America.

CERVIM therefore, aims to create a movement for the conservation and development of mountain viticulture, better described as "heroic viticulture". Mountain viticulture represents 5-6% of European wine. The CERVIM network connects Public Bodies (regions and their functional institutions), Conservation Associations, Chambers of Commerce and Agriculture, Institutions for the development of viticulture, Research Institutes and Centres, Universities, wine-growing companies for a total of 80 members.

CERVIM has participated as a partner in several European projects including

- Eagle Wines to enhance autochthonous varieties;
- Route de vignoble alpine, a project that examines the difficulties of terraced areas (Haute Savoie, VDA and Turin) and the importance of landscapes, particularly terraced;
- brand enhancement "heroic viticulture - CERVIM";
- the establishment of an observatory of viticulture mountain-heroic landscapes at a European level;
- the recognition of the term "heroic" by European legislation.

Current projects involve an Erasmus + and WineLab .

Gaudio reminds us that viticulture is tradition, history, and has an important socio-economic value; it is a difficult job, but profitable. The challenge that CERVIM launches to the mountain world for the next 10 years is to ensure that consumers, tasting an "heroic" wine, can at the same time "drink" the landscape in which the wine is produced.

Alfredo Ghiroldi, Communications Officer ASM Foundation

The ASM Foundation was established in Brescia in 1999 by ASM SpA, now A2A SpA, to encourage and increase, through new tools of communication, the constant and direct relationship that, since 1908, the Azienda Servizi Municipalizzati has had with Brescia. In 2005, following the incorporation of the Bergamo services company Bas within ASM SpA,

the ASM Foundation expanded its scope of action also to Bergamo and province.

In pursuit of its statutory aims, which are expressed in culture and in social solidarity, the Foundation supports projects (on average 200 per year) aimed at the overall growth of citizenship, distinguished by its precise identity and marked sensitivity in addressing social challenges, in the promotion of art and culture, in support for training and environmental protection. Particular attention is given to activities consistent with the development strategy of A2A.

The ASM Foundation is an active and dynamic partner of many projects, promoted in the various areas of interest, including associations and the voluntary sector, schools, universities, museums and institutions, as well as independent initiatives. There are four thematic areas: Environment, Social, School University Research, Culture.

RECENT INITIATIVES CO-DESIGNED AND/OR FUNDED RELATING TO CIME:

- Advanced course "Sustainable Tourism for mountain areas" (at UNIMONT)
- Advanced course "Project management for mountain areas " (at UNIMONT)
- Study Days "Landscapes - conservation and promotion of Italian heritage"
- Editorial series Symbiote
- Project "I love Mella"
- XX International Congress of rock art "On the shoulders of giants"

Alfredo Gattai, President of the Paths and Cartography Operative Structure of the CAI

Alfredo Gattai launches a key message for everyone: *"when knowledge is freely shared, it improves everyone's lives and positively affects every sector, be it cultural, economic or leisure"*. Currently in Italy there is no Italian cadastre database of the trails and shelters. The main objectives of the CAI Paths and Cartography Operative Structure in Italy are therefore to:

- achieve uniformity of the hiking signs throughout Italy;
- achieve uniformity of methodology to create hiking networks and register them with the Land Registry;
- achieve uniformity of the GIS data model;
- establish an effective interoperability between the various existing regional/national registers;
- set up the first national land registry of the trails and hiking paths in accordance with the protocol signed with MIBACT;
- make all data freely available.

The network activated by the CAI is mainly based on human capital, with more than 300,000 members of which several thousand, in turn, take care of maintenance of hiking trails.

In 2015 the CAI Paths and Cartography Operative Structure signed an agreement with MIBACT to create a national land registry of trails. The project made use of "Open Source" resources which Gattai defines as *"a very useful tool to map especially thanks to the help of volunteers who entered the data."*

Other objectives and projects currently under way in addition to creating and improving UNICOCAI (the central database with all the CAI resources and data), also include the establishment of INFOMONT, the web platform that allows such data to be displayed and used.

Alfredo Gattai concludes by asking for support in order to improve the land registry as much as possible. In addition, a short-term challenge is the classification of the Alps in digital terms. In the long term instead the CAI aims, starting from a base of consolidated data, to achieve uniformity of laws on environmental protection and use of the territory in order to enable all activities to co-exist harmoniously without causing further damage to the environment.

Networking Session II - International Networks for the mountains

Vlatko Andonovski, Vice President EUROMONTANA

Euromontana is a multi-sectoral association (1996), of which Italy is a founding member. The members states involved in the association are numerous, not only in the Alps, but also in Scandinavia and Eastern and Western Europe (75 members located in 25 countries).

The sectors in which Euromontana is active are: development associations and mountain cooperation in Europe, support for regional organizations, agriculture, research and institutions; exchange of information and knowledge regarding mountain areas; the promotion of the strong points of mountain areas, cooperation between mountain communities, enhancement of product quality, studies relating to energy, education, the environment and infrastructures.

The main objective of Euromontana is to promote "living mountains", the associations of regional development, agriculture, sharing of information. The work includes the development of European projects, as well as lobbying for an emphasis on European mountain issues. Euromontana also promotes activities in collaboration with European associations, intergovernmental organizations, including through the organization of events, publication of articles and reports, and promoting partnerships.

Current projects include the organization of seminars and lectures, participation in European initiatives, the representation of mountain communities in Europe, publishing reports, as well as participating in working groups that put mountains among the priorities within Agenda 2020 (Mountains 2020). Other projects are aimed at food quality, innovation in the energy sector, sustainable tourism, mobility and infrastructures. As part of the program H2020 two projects were started: "Simra" (*Social Innovation in Marginalised Rural Areas*) and "PEGASUS" (*Public Ecosystem Goods and Services from land management - Unlocking the Synergies*).

The future challenge for Euromontana is to ensure that Europe is dealing with quality mountain products.

Sophie Tocreau, Laboratoire Innovation et Territoires de Montagne (Labex)

Labex is a French academic network created thanks to the University of Grenoble and Savoy, in order to cope with global challenges. The areas of interest are different themes: research projects; economics, social issues, management and protection of national and natural parks; mobilization of researchers in mountain areas, hence trying to integrate multidisciplinary approaches, including to issues such as biodiversity, ecology, and innovation.

Labex also sets up labs and projects in addition to the research and training programs and cooperates actively with neighbouring countries, but also with Georgia, Brazil and Tunisia.

Current or recently completed projects include: research with regional and national parks and with institutions and research centres; the activation of laboratories - web platforms; Third Winter School set up in Ticino with ISCAR; activation in France of refuges as laboratories (20 refuges/15 scientists/20 refuge managers) in order to develop common methodologies and make refuges sentinels of the mountains.

Bernat Claramunt, Director NEMOR - Network for European Mountain Research

NEMOR is a network that is taking its first steps, with a logic very similar to *Italian Mountain Lab*, but at a European mountain research level. The challenge has been to integrate different scenarios and convince the participating nations of the opportunity to have an impact at a European level by working together.

The objectives are therefore to operate and impact at a European level; to build a strategic research agenda; to lobby to include the mountains in European agendas and priorities; to focus on research; to bring together national networks.

NEMOR, despite having the creation of European networks related to research in the mountains as its predominant objective, is also interested in connecting local networks on specific themes such as: tourism, economics, geography and social sciences. The successful outcome of these aims depends on how much people believe in NEMOR.

NEMOR is available to help national or regional networks to have a greater impact at a national policy level. The challenges ahead are intended to make sure that the mountains become a priority on the European agenda.

Vincenzo Torti, CAI President General and co-promoter Euma - European Union Mountaineering Association

Euma: European Union Mountain Association was formed in Monaco on 25th November 2017 - the 24 most important European alpine associations joined together in a European association. Euma was established in collaboration with all the mountaineering associations with the aim of dealing together with issues regarding the protection, education, enhancement of alpine environments and generally everything related to innovation and research in mountain areas. Euma, therefore, represents a key reference point to talk about mountain areas with a single voice at a European Union level.

Torti believes that Euma is an ambitious bet, representing the desire to find a single European voice, and was set up in response to the need to find a common language. The first result was achieved right at the start since Euma was at first opposed by the UIAA, which saw it as a competitor, but in the end understood the need to operate at a European level in addition to the role performed internationally by UIAA itself. Euma does not deal with themes related to sports and competitive activities since it believes such issues are dealt with already by national sports associations. The environment, climate change, young people, are issues that will require the best efforts by European associations. Torti concludes noting that it is encouraging to see that the other organizations presented today have the same desire for dialogue.

Thomas Scheurer, Secretary General ISCAR - International Scientific Committee on Research in the Alps

ISCAR's sector of intervention concerns research in mountain areas, in particular in the Alps.

The main objective of ISCAR is closely linked to the Alpine Convention. The partners are all Alpine states that have signed the Convention. ISCAR aims to organize events in the Alps and do research in protected areas. A magazine on scientific research in the protected zones has been founded. In addition, ISCAR collaborates with scientists of the Alpine Convention and tries to predict the emergence of important issues - for example on water conflicts related to climate change (topic of the Forum Alpinum), it also aims to conserve traditional production technology.

Projects underway include:

- ISCARD Convention;
- protected areas research;
- creation of journal on research in protected areas - ICOMONT;
- collaboration with scientists in platforms;
- meeting on the future - conflicts over water, conserving the international agricultural system.

Aldo Audisio, Director of the Mountain Museum in Turin and promoter of the International Network of Mountain Museums

The National Mountain Museum is an institution that was originally planned by the CAI and is a point of reference at a national and international level despite the various events that have marked its life and development. In the late '70s the museum became the heart of a cultural network dedicated to mountains, and has clearly maintained its role as a museum in a world which today confuses such roles.

The Museum makes the historical heritage and documentation regarding mountains conserved through national and international networks (330,000 pieces in the museum) available for the future and for the public. The Museum needs to share this heritage also with institutions: to this end, 70 projects have been implemented in Italy, in Europe and worldwide over the last 40 years.

The network linking the Mountain Museums - IMA, set up on 12/11/2015, valorizes the heritage of the museums, and consists of 6 members in 4 countries and 2 continents. Audisio stresses that it is still a small network, but is developing over time.

IMA is currently involved in the first Interreg ALCOTRA project for the enhancement and conservation of heritage and promotion through exhibitions in which the museum is the leader. Other experiences are in cooperation with the International Alliance of Mountain Film and the Festival in Trento which saw the participation of 24 members from five continents and is well-known worldwide.

Audisio believes that documentation is the basis for the future. In addition to physical spaces such as libraries and film libraries, CLAVIS was set up in 2003, bringing together a

museum and 65 sectional libraries of the CAI in a single structure.

Ester Cason Angelini, G. Angelini Foundation Director - General Secretary Mountain Network

The Mountain Network was founded in 2000 by the Fondazione G. Angelini of Belluno. The University of Innsbruck, the University of Udine, the University of Grenoble and CAI are supporting members and founders. There are 17 members of the network, including universities, departments, associations, CAI, etc..

Mountain Network works in many interdisciplinary areas, including toponymy and history, agro-forestry, sociology, nature, mountain planning, engineering (soil conservation) etc.

The network is spread throughout the Alps as well as towards Europe, the Pyrenees and the Apennines. The purpose of the network is to collect, coordinate and disseminate knowledge about the cultural heritage of the various associative experiences through forms of confrontation and mutual updating of programs and activities; it tries to unify programs and initiatives in order to avoid overlapping and repetition, taking into account the results already achieved precisely in order not to waste time and resources and hence to advance research.

"The mountain after extreme events - management and methods for reconstruction" is the title of a project which has just ended. The next issue, more optimistic, is "the mountain that produces", to be held in Venice together with IUAV and Comelico from 21st to 23rd June 2018. The conference aims to capture the positive aspects, also in view of globalization, and to ensure that the mountains are a place where both tangible and intangible goods are produced. The purpose is to understand what the connections may be between these products and interactions with the surrounding territories.

Marco Paganoni, Contact Pro Patrimonio Montano - Mountain heritage conservation Network

The Network for the conservation of the heritage of the mountains is a network for the protection of biodiversity in the Alps, which was founded in Canton of St. Gallen in Switzerland.

The association is composed of three members of the Board and nine other members. Moreover, thirty keepers-breeders collaborate at this stage giving their important contribution to the preservation of the Ciuta Sheep and Black Pig in the Alps. The main objective of this network is the recovery and protection of these two species in the Alps.

The Valtellina and Valchiavenna Association is independent, but works in close synergy with the central organization and the other members of the network. The difficulties encountered thus far are mainly related to the coordination between the parties and to be able to form a network.

The challenge for the coming years is to repopulate Valtellina with the now extinct Ciuta Sheep and Alps with the Black Pig of the Alps, hence reactivating local economies

revalorizing and improving products and derivatives of these animals that due to their hardiness best lend themselves to use in marginal mountainous areas.

Marco Onida, Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

Marco Onida has worked at the European Commission - the European Union and Mountain Networks since 1991. The European Union does little for the mountains - a real European policy for the mountains is lacking; art. 174 on mountain areas currently has subsidiarity as its main theme and there is no real integrated European policy. Onida also notes that there is no General Directorate for the mountains, while there has been one for maritime issues for years. The Committee of the Regions requested an integrated service for the mountains in 2008, but no action followed.

In terms of sectoral policies, however, the European Union is interested in the mountain - in fact, cohesion policy and regional policy deal with mountain areas entrusting tasks to individual countries. Marco Onida also presents the Macroregional Alpine strategy, noting that even in this case there are limits, because the Strategy affects 80 million people living in a mixed area which also includes large cities. The most effective way to lobby for the mountains is to form networks. From the research point of view, some of the concrete policies which exist for tourism and transport are missing. However, there are significant opportunities with H2020 that supports research and the product on the market. Often the network tends to remain closed, but at a European level it is essential to aggregate and create a network of networks, aware that *"the problem is always the management of power within the network."*

Onida also highlights that globally there is the FAO-Mountain Partnership which, however, concentrates on development (issues related to hunger and lack of water). He concludes by recalling that in Europe there are not just the Alps, but also other mountain ranges with many experiences that need to be valorized (the Carpathians, the Balkans, the Pyrenees) and hopes that after this start, a concrete stage will follow in which these networks will be presented in Brussels to talk together of a European policy for mountain areas in 2018.