



# NEWSLETTER N°125 MAY 2019



**UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DI MILANO**

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## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS



### MOUNTAIN-HACK 2019: THE HACKATHON SEQUENCE STARTS READY FOR THE INTERNATIONAL APPOINTMENT OF THE EUSALP ANNUAL FORUM

Mountain-Hack is the first Hackathon of Italian schools entirely dedicated to the development of mountain territories, and part of the Italian Mountain Lab project - FISR project, special supplementary fund for research of the Ministry of Education, University and Research, led by UNIMONT - centre of Excellence at the Edolo campus of the University of Milan, and promoted by the Ministry of Education, University and Research.

After the results achieved through the School-University-Research alliance of the Italian Mountain Lab project, which saw the creation of the first hackathon for Italian mountains in 2017, now, in the year of the Italian Presidency of EUSALP - European Strategy for the Alpine Region young people are being involved from all over Italy in a process that enhances **technological and digital innovation** to face challenges regarding the development and **competitiveness of the Macroregion** as a whole.

After the first stop in Courgné in Piedmont, the Mountain-Hack project marathon has moved to the Lombardy Mountains with the Bormio hackathon at the end of May, and will reach Desio in September. Finally, with MOUNTAIN-HACK #EUSALP\_2019, which will take place within the EUSALP Annual Forum, young people of the other 6 Alpine States will also be involved.

The process will therefore be completed with an international co-design marathon based on the hackathon approach and methodology and focused on the **opportunities offered by the Green Economy in the Alpine area.**

### UNIMONT AT THE SESSION OF THE SPECIAL "MONTAGNA" COMMISSION

*On Thursday 30th May, the UNIMONT Centre of Excellence - Mountain University, Edolo campus of the University of Milan was invited to the session of the special "Montagna" Commission, chaired by Dr. Spelzini - at the headquarters of the Regional Council - in order to illustrate the theme "Youth and business for the relaunch of mountain areas - the results of a study on Lombardy mountain areas".*

After a presentation, sharing the objectives and activities of UNIMONT, a university center dedicated to the mountains, as well as a strategic observatory for the mountain areas, Prof. Anna Giorgi, Dr. Danilo Bertoni and Dr. Matteo Carrer from UNIMONT presented the results of a survey conducted on the topic of young mountain entrepreneurs.

UNIMONT research has investigated the state of the art of youth-run businesses in the mountain areas of the Lombardy Region to outline the profile of entrepreneurs (motivation, choices, objectives, needs, proposals) and the business model proposed by their companies, also in order to understand what it means to "innovate" in the mountains and the extent of the economic and space potential for work in such areas.

### UNIMONT JOINS THE PA FORUM: TERRITORIAL GOVERNANCE AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

*The UNIMONT Center of Excellence - the Mountain University, Edolo Campus of the University of Milan, made a contribution at the FORUM PA 2019 on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2019 focusing on the topic of territorial governance and local development.*

The PA FORUM is the most important national event dedicated to the theme of **Public Administration modernization**: an annual event that aims to foster collaboration between the world of Public Administration, Research, Entrepreneurship and civil society.

**"Creating Public Value"** is the focus of the 2019 edition: the public sector is the protagonist that, with collaborative governance, can facilitate sustainable development in Italy and improve the quality of life.

**UNIMONT** carries out important actions in promoting the development of mountain areas, working in the territory, promoting networking and national and international research and development projects, coordinating numerous working groups within the **National Internal Areas Strategy, EUSALP - European Strategy for the Alpine Region** and, since the launch of the National convention on the Mountains as part of the **ITALIE project of the DARA - Department for Regional Affairs and Autonomy of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers**, the two tables "Culture and science of the Mountains" and "EU macro-regional strategies and new EU planning".

An important experience that was presented by **Prof. Anna Giorgi of UNIMONT** who was invited to participate in the workshop "**ITALIAE: aggregate, cooperate, associate. Local government development strategies**".

In fact, UNIMONT shows how mountain issues must be dealt with by **working directly from mountain areas, creating relationships and connections with national and international centers of competence**, and how the local development of a specific territory is possible thanks to **effective collaboration between the actors involved in the system**. Furthermore, it highlights how **technological innovation regarding methods and instruments** can also generate greater cooperation and promote the sustainable development of mountain areas.

#### UNIMONT AT SEEDS&CHIPS 2019

*"AGROBIODIVERSITY: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR RESEARCH, ENTERPRISE AND COMMUNITY IN MOUNTAIN AREAS": this was the topic dealt with by the UNIMONT Center of Excellence - Mountain University, Edolo Campus of the University of Milan, at Seeds & Chips - The Global Food Innovation Summit which took place on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at the Lombardy Region Stand at Milano Rho Fiera. The issues addressed were consistent with the global agenda of the initiative and in general with the SDGs of the United Nations.*

UNIMONT highlighted the **fundamental role of small farmers** in protecting the territory, ensuring food security and preventing the reduction of biodiversity. Furthermore, **innovation in tradition** with the rediscovery

of ancient varieties was emphasized since it can provide new excellence in order to facilitate short supply chains and circular economy solutions.

These processes are possible thanks to the **fundamental collaboration between local communities, local government bodies and research centers**, with the latter favoring the spread of good practices and also providing a scientific background for the enhancement of the unique and competitive food chains of the Italian mountains. The creation of a **network with civil society, in particular with young entrepreneurs**, is therefore an indispensable element to facilitate territorial innovation.

In conclusion, it emerged that **collective action is needed to protect and conserve mountain areas**, which occupy more than 40% of Lombardy and more than 35% of Italian. These territories are the **heart of biodiversity** and, therefore, they must be conserved considering their particular vulnerability to social evolution and climate change.

#### UNIMONT PARTICIPATES IN THE CONFERENCE SKI - SNOWBOARD TEACHERS AND SCHOOL DIRECTORS

*UNIMONT, Center of Excellence - Mountain University, Edolo Campus of the University of Milan took part in the Conference "Ski - snowboard teachers and School Directors of the Lombardy Region" which took place in Aprica (SO) on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May*

The Conference "Ski - snowboard teachers and School Directors of the Lombardy Region", organized by AMSI Lombardia in collaboration with the Collegio dei Maestri Sci della Lombardia, created a moment for meeting and comparing experiences between mountain actors to share good practices, exchange knowledge and create opportunities for the sustainable development of mountain areas.

The UNIMONT center, recognized by mountain stakeholders for its role in promoting sustainable development and capable of innovating in mountain areas, was called to make a contribution.

The speech by Prof. Anna Giorgi of UNIMONT focused on the topic "*Specific professions and human capital for sustainable develop-*

ment in mountain areas" and highlighted how the uniqueness of mountain areas can be interpreted and transformed into wealth only thanks to the work of trained and aware professionals.

### UNIMONT ON A FIELD TRIP: BUSY AND INTERESTING DAYS FOR OUR STUDENTS

The first forestry Olympics took place at Monte Amiata, in Tuscany on 15<sup>th</sup> May with the participation of 98 students from 10 Italian forestry universities.

The friendly competition between the teams was an excuse to get to know each other and share experiences and knowledge, during an interesting day dedicated to Austrian pine reforestation management. Representing UNIMONT, Center of Excellence - Mountain University, University of Milan situated in Edolo, 5 second-year students won a first and third place!

From 20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2019 at Paluzza in Udine, 63 UNIMONT students of the second and third years carried out multidisciplinary practical activities, tackling the issues of forest management, storm damage and increasing forest resilience, watershed management and hydrogeological safety, livestock breeding and cheese-making, concluding the days in the field with a visit to a biomass plant and a laminated wood production company.

These practical days, directly "in the field" and in the company of experts from the University of Udine are certainly a great way to learn!

### WORKSHOP DEDICATED TO HYDROGEOLOGICAL INSTABILITY OF THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL (CNR): THE FIRST RESULTS OF THE PROJECT TREE: HERO.

*The research group led by prof. Gian Battista Bischetti participated in the Workshop dedicated to Hydrogeological instability organized by the National Research Council (CNR) Area 1 of Milan, presenting the first results of the TREE: HERO project on Wednesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>.*

During the meeting the projects of numerous Italian Universities financed by the Cariplo Foundation were presented and themes concerned the study of the dynamics of instabil-

ity phenomena, the hydrogeological protection of the territory and the dissemination of knowledge and new technologies to the citizens. This event allowed Dott. Paolo Fogliata to illustrate the motivations, objectives and progress of the work of TREE: HERO.

The results are the outcome of the collection of data regarding the structures characteristic of woods, which is taking place in the field in collaboration both with colleagues from the University of Padua and the University of Applied Sciences of Berne and with local administrations of the Valle Camonica such as the Adamello Regional Park and Comunità Montana, and the processing of such data in order to evaluate the consequent protective function optimally. All this aims to quantify the role of forests in the prevention and mitigation of natural risks in order to support decisions in land and forestry management planning.

Moreover, the meeting with the organizers of the event, the MOPRAM project team, and the other research groups was a real opportunity for growth and comparison in the scientific field, but with the aim of providing practical tools to counteract natural disasters, now commonplace.

### CALLS, INTERNSHIPS AND WORK OPPORTUNITIES



#### Fabio Favaretto Award- EDITION 2019

In memory of Fabio Favaretto, as a testimony to the value of his activity in the field of the Conservation of the Mountain Environment, CAI-Veneto, the TAM Central Commission and the Mestre Section of the Italian Alpine Club are promoting the third edition of the competition "FABIO FAVARETTO AWARD", in order to establish a competition for the awarding of two study prizes - with a total prize money of 2,500 euros - for master's, doctoral or research theses that intend to

address the issues of use and of conservation of the Alpine or Apennine mountain area.

### FLORISTIC AND ECOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF *CAMPANULA ELATINOIDES*

Thesis proposal for 2 undergraduates (Reserved for students enrolled in the degree course in Conservation and Sustainable Development of Mountain Areas)

The *Campanula dell'Insubria* (*Campanula elatinoides* Moretti) is an endemic plant of the Lombardy Prealps that grows on limestone cliffs (canyons) and for which few data are available concerning its autoecology and sinecology.

*The work will take place mainly during the 2019 summer season and includes both field and laboratory activities (CRC Ge.S.Di.Mont.)*

### A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY STUDY ON THE EVOLUTION OF RIPARIAN VEGETATION

Riparian vegetation is a fundamental element of the river ecosystem and carries out significant ecosystem functions (protective, naturalistic, productive and recreational) ranging from the conservation of ecosystems and biodiversity, from watercourse safety to the maintenance of ecological corridors.

The evaluation of these functions is a fundamental first step for the planning of ordinary maintenance (systematic, efficient and long-lasting) of watercourses and takes place through the monitoring of the evolution over time of the flora colonizing watercourse banks and margins.

The thesis will take place over a period of a minimum of 6-8 months and will require the undergraduate to improve his or her abilities in collecting data in the field (from a botanical, forestry and engineering point of view), in the organization of information and in the drawing up of a final summary.

In particular, relevés will focus on the recognition of pioneer species, on the measurement of the main characteristics of vegetation (size, age, mechanical characteristics such as trunk flexion and root reinforcement as appropriate), and in the estimation of the granulometry of deposits on watercourse margins. Subsequently, ecological indices and/or watercourse models will be applied

to estimate solid transport and flood risk in the area.

The study area will include the riparian areas of some Valle Camonica streams including the Grigna stream (Esine, BS), Dezzo (Darfo Boario Terme, BS), Ogliolo (Aprica, SO) and Oglione (Edoardo-Sonico, BS).

## ITALIAN MOUNTAIN LAB



*The Italian Mountain Lab project - FISIR project, special supplementary research MIUR fund, headed by UNIMONT-University of Milan in partnership with the University of Eastern Piedmont and the University of Tuscia, aims to establish a high level training and research laboratory for the Italian mountains.*

### THE SERIES OF TRAINING AND INFORMATION SEMINARS FOR MOUNTAIN AREAS HAS ENDED: ALL MEETING RECORDS ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST!

The partnership of the Italian Mountain Lab project, FISIR project - Special supplementary fund for MIUR research - led by the UNIMONT centre of excellence, and which sees the University of Milan, the University of Eastern Piedmont and the University of Tuscia working together for Italian mountain areas, proposed a series of training and information activities for the academic year 2018/2019.

Meetings took place in all three Universities, two in the Alpine area and one in the Apennines, and touched on issues of high impact for the socio-economic development of mountain areas, with particular attention to the experiences of youth self-employment in the mountains.

All activities were also transmitted in the virtual classroom and were recorded for use on request.

## NEXT EVENTS



### Advanced Training Course - TOURISM MANAGEMENT IN MOUNTAIN AREAS

As attentive observers and researchers working on mountain problems, we have long been aware of the lack of adequately trained professionals able to manage tourism in Alpine areas. This type of tourism has its own characteristics and peculiarities and above all it is going through a phase of important change, the signs of which are clearly felt but with future prospects which are not yet defined.

A first response to this need is provided by the Advanced Training Course on "Tourism management in mountain areas" promoted by the University of Bergamo and UNIMONT - UNIMONT, Center of Excellence - Mountain University, University of Milan, in collaboration with ANEF - Associazione Nazionale Escercenti Funiviari and CAI - Italian Alpine Club.

The course aims to offer an opportunity for updating/training for those currently working in the field, with the aim of:

- favoring the identification of strategic prospects for tourist destinations;
- planning and effectively managing what the tourism destination offers, a factor which tends to diversify more and more in relation to new expectations and demand;
- interpreting the communication and promotion of the destination in the light of the potential that current technology offers and suggests;
- promoting management of winter tourism that is effective in terms of profitability and innovative in the introduction of new fruition proposals.

The course is divided into 3 intensive modules of 20 hours each with the following themes:

1. Introduction to Tourism. Communication and promotion of alpine tourism (resp. Franco Brevini)
2. Mountain tourist destinations: current conditions and prospects (resp. Andrea Macchiavelli)
3. Snow tourism and the role of cableways

### 15th June 2019 - SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF FORESTS IN VALLE CAMONICA: RESULTS AND FUTURE PROSPECTS

The forest certification of the state-owned woods of Valle Camonica is a process of sustainable management and enhancement of the same.

The meeting provides the opportunity for a comparison of experiences also with operators from other areas who have been involved in this process for some time. Afterwards, there will be a guided tour of forestry sites in Val Malga with a demonstration and display of products made with local timber.

### 19<sup>th</sup> June 2019 - RECOGNIZING WILD MOUNTAIN PLANTS

The meeting will include a field trip to the "Valli di S. Antonio" Nature Reserve, and will focus on the plant biodiversity that characterizes the Alps. In detail, topics related to plant identification will be discussed in the field together with their ecology and traditional uses (alimurgical plants).

## NEW PUBLICATIONS



Cislaghi A., Giupponi L., Tamburini A., Giorgi A., Bischetti G.B. (2019). [The effects of mountain grazing abandonment on plant community forage value and soil properties: observations and field measurements in an Alpine area](#). *Catena* 181: 104086 (online). DOI: 10.1016/j.catena.2019.104086

Kurti F., Giorgi A., Beretta G., Mustafa B, Gelmini F., Testa C., Angioletti S., Giupponi L., Zilio E., Pentimalli D., Hajdari A. (2019). [Chemical composition, antioxidant and antimicrobial activities of essential oils of different \*Pinus\* species from Kosovo](#). *Journal of Essential Oil Research* (online). DOI: 10.1080/10412905.2019.1584591

Giupponi L., Borgonovo G., Panseri S., Giorgi A. (2019). [Multidisciplinary study of a little known landrace of \*Fagopyrum tataricum\* Gaertn. of Valtellina \(Italian Alps\)](#). *Genetic Resources and Crop Evolution* (online). DOI: 10.1007/s10722-019-00755-z

## ABOUT US



[“La gestione del turismo nelle località montane”: iscrizioni aperte per il corso di alta formazione di Università della Montagna e Università di Bergamo\\_](#)

Cai Calabria - 24 May

[Grande successo all’Open day dell’Università di Edolo](#)

Montagne & Paesi - 18 May

[Edolo, più di 80 studenti all’open day di Unimont](#)

Gazzetta delle Valli - 18 May

[OPEN DAY Università della Montagna: 80 studenti alla scoperta di UNIMONT](#)

AltaReziaNews - 18 May

[UNIMONT partecipa al Forum PA](#)

Gazzetta delle Valli - 16 May 2019

[UniMont Edolo, Paolo Piacentini presenta “Appennino atto d’amore. La montagna a cui tutti apparteniamo”](#) Gazzetta delle Valli - 13 May 2019

[Gli schianti visti dal vivo](#)

Più Valli TV - 13 May 2019

[La montagna che verrà! Tra economia e cambiamento](#)

Radio24 - 12 May 2019

[Open day a Edolo per il corso di laurea sul territorio montano](#)

AltaReziaNews - 10 May 2019

[Il Gal Montagne Biellesi diventa una “Antenna” dell’Università della montagna Unimont](#) Newsbiella.it - 8 May 2019

[UniMont partecipa a Seed&Chips](#)

Gazzetta delle Valli - 7 May 2019

[Mountain-Hack, l’hackathon per lo sviluppo dei territori montani](#)

Green Planner - 1 May 2019