



# NEWSLETTER N°122 FEBRUARY 2019



**UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DI MILANO**

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## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS



### EUSALP Kick off meeting 2019: UNIMONT participates in the kick-off meeting of the Italian Presidency

28th February 2019 - Italy, with the coordination of the Lombardy Region and the support of the Piedmont Region and the Autonomous Province of Bolzano, will receive the 2019 presidency of EUSALP - the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region that involves seven countries and 48 regions. Also UNIMONT - the Mountain University - Centre of Excellence of the University of Milan, increasingly at the center of international dynamics for the promotion of mountain territories, is participating in the meeting.

The EUSALP Kick off meeting is an event aimed primarily at the Action Groups and other institutional actors involved to present the themes of the new Italian Presidency, namely the competitiveness of the regional macro system, with a particular focus on a green economy and young people.

UNIMONT, under the guidance of Prof. Anna Giorgi, Leader of Action Group 1 - Research and Innovation, has been involved in this important European process that sees the Alps at the center of a cross-border region with great potential since 2016. The capitalization of best practices, networking activities and a fruitful collaboration among the actors working in the field of research and innovation in the Alps, are key elements to promote the development of the mountain areas of the Alpine Region, as a precious resource in a European context.

### UNIMONT takes part in the table of the coordinators of the 11 working groups of the General Convention on Mountain Areas

The table of the coordinators of the work groups of the General Convention on Mountain Areas met on Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2019 to present the first contributions and the first ideas emerged from the 11 working groups to the Minister of

Regional Affairs and Autonomies, Sen. Erika Stefani.

**UNIMONT - Center of Excellence of the University of Milan, as coordinator of the "Mountain Culture and Science" Table and co-coordinator of the "Macro-regional EU strategies and new EU planning" Table participated in the Coordinators' table which included national representation of all the components of the triple helix model, namely: universities, public administration and business.**

To assess the first priorities and gather the first suggestions for the definition of a systematic strategy for Italian mountain areas, UNIMONT organized two discussions - on site and in the virtual classroom - between the members of each table it coordinates. **28 participants from nine Universities, five Regions, three Research Centers, two Trade Associations, two Local Development and Territorial Promotion Agencies, a supra-regional Governance Body and a business incubator participated in the "Mountain Culture and Science" Table whereas there were 18 participants from nine Regions, five Trade Associations, a supra-regional Governance Body and a University at the "EU macro-regional strategies and new community planning" table.**

These first meetings showed how **mountains can be a great laboratory for the challenges of modern society**. Thanks to their peculiarities and their resources, mountain areas must emerge from marginality and become the key protagonists of their own development. Therefore, **good coordination and a consolidated and stable network** are required in order to combine skills and knowledge, collaborate and share good practices, adopting **innovative technologies** and leveraging on **European macro strategies and new EU planning**, in order to implement concrete actions for the development of mountain areas at a national level.

### Mountain culture and science: UNIMONT coordinates the work table of the General Convention on Mountain Areas dedicated to training and research to relaunch mountain areas

Table 6 "Mountain culture and science" set up on October 16<sup>th</sup> during the General Convention on Mountain Areas and convened by the Minister of Regional Affairs and

*Autonomies, Sen. Erika Stefani was held on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February, at the University of Milan, with the aim of gathering contributions to define a strategy that sees Italian mountain areas as a place of potential generation of wealth able to promote growth and development.*

UNIMONT - Center of Excellence of the University of Milan, which hosts specific training activities and promotes and develops research activities, technology transfer and dissemination of scientific knowledge, coordinated the discussion, focusing on suggestions and ideas concerning training and scientific culture aimed at innovation in Italian mountain areas. The table was attended by **28 participants** represented by **nine Universities, five Regions, three Research Centers, two Trade Associations, two Local Development and Territorial Promotion Agencies, a supra-regional Governance Body and a business incubator.**

**Networking, promoting specific training, disseminating scientific knowledge, sharing good practices:** these are the strategic actions proposed to relaunch the future of Italian mountain areas. It is, therefore, necessary to create good coordination and a consolidated network formed by the university world, public administrations, businesses and the general public, which is able to bring together skills and knowledge, making use of innovative technologies that facilitate the dissemination and sharing of experience in order to implement concrete actions for the development of mountain areas, at a national level.

#### Add a new dimension to cell culture

*This year the Mountain University - UNIMONT, a center of excellence of the University of Milan, based in Edolo, hosted the International Training School organized by CellFit entitled "Add a new dimension to cell culture" with the participation of researchers from all over Europe. UNIMONT, increasingly at the center of international dynamics and trajectories which animate the world of research and innovation has been able to transform decentralization into opportunity, offering a well-equipped environment and on-site support to an important initiative for research and innovation.*

The second Training School organized by CellFit "Add a new dimension to cell culture" A practical full immersion course on 3D matrix was held at UNIMONT- Mountain University and in Ponte di Legno from 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> February 2019. During the four days of the course selected researchers were able to participate in theory lessons and practical workshops held by European teachers, experts in designing and printing 3D platforms to learn and apply cutting-edge techniques.

CellFit is a European network of excellence (COST Action CA16119) led by the University of Milan, with expertise at all levels in biology, bioengineering and clinical research. The project consists in a **network of 34 European countries** - involving universities, research centers and small and medium-sized enterprises - committed to creating models of culture on 3D matrices and generating organoids for the development of new cell therapy technologies and innovative applications in regenerative medicine and tissue biology.

Chair of the Action is Tiziana Brevini, professor of Veterinary Anatomy and Embryology of Milan University and project proposer. CellFit has been selected from over a thousand proposals from all over Europe, as a new COST Action, European Cooperation in Science and Technology for the four-year period 2017-2021 and will be implementing cooperation, scientific research and technological innovation.

#### The Table "Agriculture and enhancement of agri-food products, forest management and wood supply chain" of the General Convention on Mountain Areas starts work: UNIMONT brings its expertise and practical experience

*Table 3 "Agriculture and enhancement of agri-food products, forest management and wood supply chain", set up on October 16th during the General Convention on Mountain Areas and convened by the Minister of Regional Affairs and Autonomies, Sen. Erika Stefani, was held on Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> January, at the UNCEM headquarters in Rome, with the aim of gathering contributions from Institutions, Universities, Research Institutes and Associations.*

UNIMONT - Center of Excellence of the University of Milan - with its research center Ge.S.Di. Mont. has been carrying out concrete actions in the mountains, to promote the development of mountain territories for years and made a practical contribution to the discussion, focusing on the role and the crucial importance of agriculture in mountain regions and the urgency for action to exploit this potential. Mountain agriculture is, in fact, essential for the management and for the economic enhancement of mountain areas, fundamental for the maintenance and safety of the territory, the conservation of the landscape and the real sustainability of tourism, commercial and craft activities.

Indeed, agriculture is a real cornerstone for the economy of mountain areas in difficulty for years due to a lack of specific policies designed to exploit its potential and to compensate for a lack of competitiveness due to the application of rules and practices developed for territorial systems and production models that can not be implemented in the mountains.

Urgent action is therefore required to generate real results, starting from a review and reformulation of regulations and functional interventions aimed at reducing bureaucracy, developing and offering useful services, also online, favoring the unification of land and the set-up of businesses, especially by young people who increasingly approach the mountains with specific training, creativity and enthusiasm. The commitment to promote research activities to identify innovative tools and strategies to enhance the unique and valuable resources of mountain areas, such as biodiversity of agronomic interest, local varieties and breeds of which the mountains are rich, which can really make mountain farming competitive, are equally important.

Promoting the development of mountain farming also means fostering a broad, inclusive educational and cultural process which, while on the one hand must promote ongoing training - indispensable even in the mountains in an increasingly complex society - on the other must make the whole of society aware of the role and economic value of the service rendered to the community by the mountains and by those who choose to live in such areas and work to manage and look after them.

## CALLS, INTERNSHIPS AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES



### BIOFERTILIZER EXPERIMENTS IN THE CULTIVATION OF SAFFRON

*(Reserved for students enrolled in the degree course in Conservation and Sustainable Development of Mountain Areas)*

The internship deals with field tests to evaluate the effects of biofertilizers based on arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi (AMF) and bacteria promoting plant growth (PGPB) for the production of saffron. This will include field analysis in Val Brembana (BG) and laboratory analysis at the Ge.S.Di.Mont Center.

### CULTIVATION OF GENEPI AND ARNICA MONTANA

*(Reserved for students enrolled in the degree course in Conservation and Sustainable Development of Mountain Areas)*

The internship will be carried out in collaboration with the Shanty Maè farm and will deal with germination tests on autochthonous medicinal plants of Valsaviore (Genepi and Arnica) as well as a study of the farm's characteristics.

### VALORISATION OF THE PLANT AGRO-BIODIVERSITY OF ITALIAN MOUNTAIN TERRITORIES

*(Reserved for students enrolled in the degree course in Conservation and Sustainable Development of Mountain Areas)*

The internship deals with the integration of knowledge on the local traditional cultivars of mountain areas. The activity will include the mapping of Italian producers of traditional plant varieties and the possibility of carrying out some agronomic tests in the field and laboratory analysis at the Ge.S.Di.Mont Center.



## ITALIAN MOUNTAIN LAB



*The Italian Mountain Lab project - FISR 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*

### Coordination of Italian Networks for the Mountains - CO.R.I.MONT.

Thanks to its consolidated experience in the analysis and study of complex issues concerning the mountain territory, as well as in the promotion and provision of initiatives regarding research and training, knowledge dissemination and enhancement of these areas, **UNIMONT promotes networking and the activation of Coordination of Italian Networks for the Mountains - CO.R.I.MONT. - to promote interaction between networks already active in the development of mountain areas, laying the foundations for new future alliances.**

## SEMINARS AND WEBINARS



### 7th March, 2019 - RETURN TO THE THIRTY YEARS' WAR

#### **Results and perspectives of a research project**

Introduced and moderated by Simone Signaroli (il leggio s.c.s.)

Class V T of the "Meneghini" high school in Edolo - *An experience of collaboration between school, university and research: the tourist route on the sites of the Thirty Years' War in Edolo*

Andreas Flürschütz da Cruz (Universität Bamberg) - *Ferdinando Geizkofler aka «Baron*

*d'Aunshein»: a German nobleman at the service of the Serenissima between Valcamonica and Friuli*

Michele Pellegrini (Valle Camonica Historical and Anthropological Society) - *Areas of Passage, Frontiers and Borders in the Alps*

### 11 March 2019 - REFUGE DIGITALIZATION THE PORTAL MOUNTBNB.COM

It has now become an increasing necessity, even if people go to refuges precisely to disconnect from everything and everyone. But it is the refuge manager who has to know this world. If you want to be part of the game, you must know the rules of the Internet and use them well. All the more so, if you work in the world of hospitality, where everything starts online, from the idea of a trip, to sharing the experience after a stay (the famous reviews, which make many refuge managers lose sleep).

What can Mountbnb do about all this? We are constantly looking for the most exciting and innovative solutions, ideas and novelties to connect hikers with refuges.

We are experts in using the Google search engine to increase the visibility of a Refuge on the web, and then Facebook, Youtube, Instagram and more; over the years, we have learned how to move around on the web and we can show you how to use its power, for you and your Refuge.

### 14th March 2019 - ERGOT KERNELS IN ALPINE CEREALS: A DIVE INTO HISTORY, A MODERN FOOD RISK

Ergot kernels were a terrible scourge in the past, and now modern climate and environmental conditions, especially due to the influence of climate change, make it a threat even today. Training of farmers is a fundamental aspect in the fight against the disease and in the preservation of food security especially due to the discontinuous nature of this cereal pathology.

At the same time, the link with history and folklore gives important input for the storytelling of local products.

### racCONTA LA MONTAGNA: 20th March 2019 - LA VIA INCANTATA. NELLA NATURA, DOVE SI BASTA A SÉ STESSI | FERRARI MARCO ALBINO

Why do we flee from civilization to choose solitude, the simplicity of a life in the woods or in the mountains? This is the question that

Marco Albino Ferrari wants to answer, listening to his desire for the great natural spaces, for a silence that is very far from our times.

The adventure that he lives and recounts in these involving pages takes place a few steps from our cities, in Val Grande, between Piedmont and Lake Maggiore, an insidious, hostile place, populated by the ghosts of a pastoral society vanished among rocks and tree trunks. The author moves his steps and his narration on the Bove Path - the first high hiking path in Italy, dedicated to the explorer Giacomo Bove, - a demanding and almost forgotten excursion in a theater where the "power of nature recaptures everything". Like Bove during his explorations, stuck in the same arctic whiteness that had haunted Edgar Allan Poe, Ferrari seeks the unknown in wild nature, the fear of getting lost and the nostalgia of that fear once safety is regained. And reconstructing the story of Bove (who committed suicide at 35) the author encounters unexpected figures: Emilio Salgari, the commander Nordenskiöld, Edmondo De Amicis, the naturalist Mario Pavan.

Stories of isolation, of a captivity by the elements that makes us rediscover a more profound freedom, because "on the enchanted path one suffices for oneself".

### 21st March, 2019 - OLD AND NEW FAUNA EMERGENCIES IN MOUNTAIN AREAS

"Fauna emergencies in mountainous areas" indicate the changes and new presences of populations of wild animals that colonize mountain areas, in particular the Apennines.

Wolves, roe deer, rock partridges but also deer and grey partridges are dealt with in the seminar which describes the evolution of these populations in the Apennine area, analyzing all the environmental, social, forest factors that underlie these variations.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS



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 xx: xxxx (in print).

Giupponi L., Giorgi A. (2019). Contributions of the knowledge of *Linaria tonzigii* Lona, a steno-endemic species of the Orobic Bergamasche Regional Park (Italian Alps). Eco.mont 11(1): 16-24.

Giupponi L., Borgonovo G., Giorgi A., Bischetti G.B. (2019). How to renew soil bioengineering for slope stabilization: some proposals. Landscape and Ecological Engineering 15(1): 37-50. DOI: 10.1007/s11355-018-0359-9.

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