

Mountain Partnership Steering Committee

Major Group Organizations - Europe

2018 Report

Membership

The Electoral group Major Group Organizations – Europe is comprised of 89 members (as of January 2019) distributed by 25 countries:

Country	Number of members	Country	Number of members
Albania	4	Liechtenstein	1
Armenia	2	Norway	1
Austria	2	Poland	3
Azerbaijan	1	Portugal	4
Belgium	2	Romania	3
Bulgaria	2	Russian Federation	1
France	6	Spain	3
Georgia	1	Switzerland	12
Germany	1	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	2
Greece	3	Turkey	4
Hungary	1	Ukraine	1
Italy	22	United Kingdom	5
Kazakhstan	1	Multiple countries	1

Membership has grown slightly in number and geographic representation since 2017 (72 members from 24 countries). Members of Italy and Switzerland combined, represent 38% of the total membership in the Group. Azerbaijan, Georgia, Germany, Kazakhstan, Liechtenstein, Norway, Russian Federation and Ukraine are underrepresented. Mountain regions of Europe, such as the Balkans, have no members in the Group.

Reporting

Activity within Major Group Organizations - Europe was reported based on contributions from 9 organizations (UNESCO MAB-6 Mountain Group/Institute of Geography Russian Academy of Science, Centro de Investigação de Montanha (CIMO), Euromontana, Rede

Ibérica de Investigação de Montanha (RIIM), Rede Nacional de Investigação de Montanhas (RNIM), The University of the Mountains, Centre for Development and Environment (CDE), CrySanabria and Federal Institute of Agricultural Economics, Rural and Mountain Research) and on public information regarding major initiatives and projects that took place during 2018.

The activities reported here are not, therefore, comprehensive and refer only to part of the action of group members during 2018. The report follows a structure based on the four pillars of work adopted by the Mountain Partnership: 1) advocacy, 2) communications and knowledge management, 3) capacity development and 4) joint action.

Activity in 2018

1 – Advocacy

Several members of the electoral group have been involved in promoting mountains and mountain development and defending specific policy measures for mountains peoples to overcome limitations of these systems, in particular with the European Commission but also with regional and national policy makers, and sometimes in other regions of the world or at the global scale. The following are examples of individual and strategic activities in the Group.

- At the EU level, Euromontana and its members, participated actively in the debate and negotiations of the reform of the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP), namely on matters related to Rural Development, a pillar crucial for the sustainable development of mountains in Europe,
- Euromontana has strongly interacted with the European Commission and the European Parliament in several dossiers related to mountains, namely through the Civil Dialog groups on CAP, Rural development and Quality and Promotion of Agri-food Products, RUMRA (Rural, Mountains and Remote Areas) intergroup of the European Parliament, Group 174 of the European Parliament, ENRD steering group, Leader/CLLD and Innovation subgroups, on topics such as Smart Villages, climate change, demography, agriculture and forestry, tourism regional development, Cohesion Policy, energy and innovation, among many others,
- Toward Mountains 2020 is the Euromontana contribution to the European policy framework for the 2014-2020 period,
- MAB 6 promoted an initiative to prepare a model law on mountain territories for the CIS member countries that have mountain territories (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Russia). The CIS Parliamentary Assembly in St. Petersburg approved the preparation of this law,
- In Portugal, the national mountain research network (Rede Nacional de Investigação de Montanhas - RNIM), established in 2017 under the Foundation for Science and Technology, contributed during 2018 to keep mountains in the political agenda,

- The Iberian mountain research network (Rede de Investigação de Montanha – RIIM) has been acknowledged in the Iberian Summit in 2018 between governments of Portugal and Spain and a mention to mountain research as a way of linking these two countries has been included in the conclusion of the Summit,
- NEMOR (Network of European Mountain Research) and national members of the network were involved, through national representatives in the European Commission, in the definition of the topics of calls for European research projects, namely in the Horizon 2020 program (RUR-01-2018-2019 Building modern rural policies on long-term visions and societal engagement: A. [2018] Rural society-science-policy hub; B. [2018] Renewing rural generations, jobs and farms; C. [2019] Building resilient mountain value chains delivering private and public goods,
- Implementation of the Optional Quality Term “Mountain Product” across Europe has been supported by Euromontana and its members at the national level,
- At the global scale, CDE and other group members participated in the implementation of the Programme Sustainable Mountain Development for Global Change (SMD4GC), funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). CDE in collaboration with the Mountain Research Initiative, CONDESAN, ARCOS, FDDM, ICIMOD, UCA/MSRI, and University of Fribourg developed and launched the Issue Brief Sustainable Mountain Development on “Leaving no one in mountains behind: Localizing the SDGs for resilience of mountain people and ecosystems” (in English and Spanish). The Issue Brief was co-financed by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA).
- CIMO, Mountain Partnership, MRI, RNIM, RIIM, the Centre for Mountain Studies (CMS)-UIH, co-organized with organizations in South America, the Mountains 2018 event in Nova Friburgo, Brazil, which had a strong impact at the State and Federal levels in Brazil. Recognition of mountains by the scientific and political communities as relevant ecological, social and economic systems in the country was one of the major achievements of the event (Carta de Nova Friburgo). A mountain research network in Latin America was also agreed on during the event.

2 – Communications and knowledge management

Many organizations in Europe come from the fields of research and education and most are involved in knowledge management and communication through a large diversity of initiatives. A few cases are presented next.

A. UNESCO Chairs

- UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Mountain Development, held by Martin Price, Director of the Centre for Mountain Studies at the University of

Highlands and Islands, Scotland, UK, since 2009. The Chair supports the MSc Programme on Sustainable Mountain Development,

- UNESCO Chair on Natural and Cultural Heritage for Sustainable Mountain Development. Since mid-2016, Stephan Rist (CDE and Institute of Geography, University of Bern, Switzerland) and Boniface Kiteme (CETRAD, Kenya) have jointly held the UNESCO Chair on Natural and Cultural Heritage for Sustainable Mountain Development. The Chair is hosted by World Nature Forum in Naters, Switzerland. The Chair promoted the implementation of the first 100% energy self-sufficient nature reserve in Coyhaique, southern Chile and supports curriculum development of a Master course in Sustainable Mountains Resources Management of the Karatina University, Kenya and conduct of field excursions/on sustainable management and governance of mountain ecosystems.

B. Collaborative research

- A collaborative laboratory dedicated to mountain research (Mountains of Research - MORE) started operating in 2018 in Portugal integrating scientific and technological research institution and enterprises in a model to promote knowledge and technology co-creation and transfer in mountain areas based on innovation and valorization of unique components of mountain biodiversity with the goal of promoting development based of sustainable and integrated use and sustainable transformation and production,
- Università della Montagna (University of Milan) promoted throughout the year knowledge creation and transfer initiatives in agriculture, mountain products, biodiversity, mountain heritage, energy, sustainability and other topics.

C. Organization of major conferences

- Practical Geography and XXI Century Challenges. International Geographical Union of the Russian Conference of Geography of the Russian Academy of Sciences. 4-6 June 2018. Moscow,
- XI European Mountain Convention in Vatra Dornei, romania, 25-27 September, "Cultural Heritage as an Engine for Creativity, Innovation and Socioeconomic Development of Mountain areas",
- 1st World Congress on Agritourism, 7-9 November 2018, Bolzano, Italy

D. Organization of round tables, debates and other initiatives

- Round table in Institute of Geography RAS (June 4) "Mountain Agenda of Russia 2030" with the statement of participants,

- Presentation of the book "Life in the Mountains: Environmental and Cultural Diversity – Diversity of Development Models" by Yuri Badenkov. Moscow, GEOS, 2017. Russian Geographical Society (founded 1845) and University of Central Asia) in 2018 in Russia (Nalchik, Vladivostok, Barnaul, Gorno-Altai, Moscow, St. Petersburg) and in Tajikistan (Ismaili Center, Dushanbe) and Georgia (Academy of Sciences of Georgia),
- North Caucasus Scientific Cooperation thematic meetings,
- Reading Mountains 2018 (Alpine Convention), 11 December, Carinthia, Austria.

E. Publications

- "Life in the Mountains: Environmental and Cultural Diversity – Diversity of Development Models" by Yuri Badenkov. Moscow, GEOS, 2017. Russian Geographical Society (founded 1845) and University of Central Asia
- Il Patrimonio Culturale, ERSAF, Lombardia, Italy
- Climate Change in the Pyrenees: Impacts, vulnerability and adaptation, IPCC, CTP
- CDE and WOCAT [World Overview on Conservation Approaches and Technologies] contributed to the Mountain Futures book and conference by highlighting successful and effective land management approaches in mountains.
- Scientific journals dedicated to mountains:
 - Mountain Research and Development (MRD): a) MRD is widely used worldwide with more than 10,000 downloads of papers per month, contributing to enhance knowledge on sustainable mountain development and influences the debate on SMD. The impact factor of MRD has increased in 2018.
 - Eco.mont

F. International Day of Mountains

- Organization of a seminar devoted to the International Day of Mountains in the Russian Geographical Society (Moscow) on the subject "Mountains matter: Mountaineering and recreation - for the benefit of tourists and in support of mountains and mountain communities",
- Mountain walk in Sanabria, Cryosanabria,
- Several other initiatives by group members.

G. Expeditions

- Organization and carrying out of the fifth North Caucasian integrated expedition, which in the summer of 2018 studied mountain landscapes in Karachay-Cherkessia.

H. Research Networks

National

- Norwegian Mountain Research Network (MP member)
- Rede Nacional de Investigação de Montanhas (MP member)

International

- North Caucasus Scientific Cooperation
- Global Observation Research Initiative in Alpine Environments (GLORIA)
- Network of European Mountain Research (NEMOR)
- Rede Ibérica de Investigação de Montanha (RIIM)

I. Projects

- SIMRA-Social Innovation in Marginalized Rural Areas, Horizon 2020,
- PEGASUS-Public ecosystem services and goods from land management – Unlocking the synergies, Horizon 2020,
- CLIMO-Climate-Smart Forestry in Mountain Regions, COST Action,
- PROFECY “Inner Peripheries: national territories facing challenges of access to basic services of general interest”, ESPON 2020,
- Alps2050 “Common spatial perspectives for the Alpine area. Towards a common vision”, ESPON 2020,
- BRIDGES “Territories with Geographical Specificities”, ESPON 2020,
- Swiss Commons research project (SCALES): CDE has been involved in the interdisciplinary research project SCALES funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF). The project investigates the continuity and change in the management of common-pool resources such as pastures and forests in Switzerland with a focus on local institutions (rules and regulations) and forms of organizations (civic communities, corporations, unions),
- SILVER SMEs- Identification and Implementation of Regional Policies to take advantage of the SILVER economy derived opportunities to engage SMEs in growth and entrepreneurship spirit, Interreg Europe,

- Interreg Alpine Space: several projects running and recently approved,
- Interreg Sudoe: several projects running and recently approved.

3 – Capacity development

In addition to capacity development activities already mentioned in the previous sections, other initiatives regarding capacity development can be added.

Traditional knowledge initiatives

- In Spain (Asociación para el Estudio de la Montaña - Cryosanabria) and in Greece (University of the Mountains) many activities directed to the valorization of cultural heritage and traditional knowledge in agriculture, cheese making, handcrafting, animal husbandry, performing arts, religious and other festivals, local languages, have been organized throughout the year. These activities include workshops, exhibitions, summer schools, seminars, outdoors activities, publications, other,
- Environmental education, biodiversity conservation, awareness raising and gender balance initiatives for several target audiences in Spain (Asociación para el Estudio de la Montaña - Cryosanabria) and Greece (University of the Mountains),
- Health care has been provided to several communities in Greece by the University of the Mountains, Crete,
- Montanha Pico Festival 2018 (Azores, Portugal), promoted arts inspired in mountains.

International Conventions

- Alpine Convention
- Carpathians Convention

4 – Joint action

Several organizations and initiatives result from the involvement of multiple organizations that base their work in collaborations among members. Some of the joint action initiatives have already been mentioned in previous pillars since they involve collaboration of several members.

A. Associations/Networks (from global to local)

- International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation (UIAA),
- EUROMONTANA (European Association of Mountain Areas), 70 organizations, 20 countries,
- European Association of Elected Representatives from Mountain Areas (AEM),

- International Commission for the Protection of the Alps (CIPRA),
- National Organization of Mountain Municipalities, Communities and Bodies (UNCCEM) (Italy)
- Swiss Alps Jungfrau-Aletsch UNESCO World Heritage Site: CDE provided scientific support of the Swiss Alps Jungfrau-Aletsch UNESCO World Heritage Site management centre (monitoring, strategy)

B. International Conventions

- Alpine Convention
- Carpathians Convention

C. Organization of events and participation in events of other regions

- Mountains 2018: Nova Friburgo, Rio de Janeiro: MP, MRI, CIMO, RNIM, RIIM, Centre for Mountain Studies (CMS)-UIH
- World Mountain Forum 2018 | Mountains in a Changing World. Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan 23 - 26 October 2018

D. Networks

- North Caucasus Scientific Cooperation
- Network of European Mountain Research (NEMOR)
- Rede Ibérica de Investigação de Montanha (RIIM)
- WIKIApls

E. Scientific journals

- Mountain Research and Development. CDE hosts MRD's editorial office. MRD is published by the International Mountain Society (members are: ARCOS, ARU, CDE, CMS, CONDESAN, FoLAP, ICIMOD, IMHE, UCA,/MSRI) and is supported by ICIMOD, the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), and CDE.

Final remarks

As presented during the first meeting of the MP Steering Committee in 2018, Major Group Organizations in Europe show a strong vitality that has had an impact at social and political levels throughout Europe. The activity of members, isolated or in collaboration, has resulted in recent years in the following outcomes:

- Higher recognition of mountain communities as holders of unique resources / opportunities to support development,

- Higher recognition of mountains as socially and biophysically sensitive, vulnerable systems,
- Higher involvement of organizations, institutions and governments into awareness raising,
- More openness to address mountain issues at the European Commission and national levels,
- More and stronger networks among organizations within Europe and with other regions.

There are still, however, several issues that mountain organizations identify as priority targets for policy-making and for citizens initiatives, such as:

- Demographic change
 - Depopulation
 - Aging
- Land Use change
 - Vulnerability/Risks and Ecosystem Services
- Climate change
 - Farming, forestry
 - Tourism
- Attractiveness for young people, businesses, services
 - Quality of life in mountain areas

A final remark should be made to membership. An effort must be done to attract organizations from regions in Europe that are not represented in the MP or regions that are poorly represented. This should be part of the strategy of the group and of the MP.

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