

The Excellence Laboratory (LabEx) Innovation and Mountain Areas organizes an international conference at the University Grenoble-Alpes (France) from 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> January 2017

### Mountain as innovation territory

Structuring the research in human and social sciences about uplands in the Grenoble scientific community, this LabEx analyses innovation in uplands from a social, economic and cultural perspective. The international and multidisciplinary conference addresses the issues associated with this theme by combining different theoretical and empirical approaches in a variety of uplands.

The main question concerns the future of uplands severely affected by climate change and, more generally, by changes in the relations of societies with nature.

The diversity of aspirations (recreation, conservation, development...) and the crisis of resources open up new opportunities. Transition, alternatives, reproduction, normalization, marginalization: there are multiple trajectories beyond the logics of crisis and banalization. They invite observation how endogenous and exogenous processes of change and adaptation transform the uplands, their organizations, as well as their symbols and meanings. What is the role of local and regional scales in innovation, what meanings and visions of uplands intervene in current evolutions, what relationships to uplands do these mutations establish?

Given the diversity and richness of their scientific, environmental, political, social and economic stakes, uplands appear as a laboratory space. Comparing different cases, different upland areas, as well as upland and lowland areas allows better understanding of dynamics of changes and innovation.

Workshops and thematic sessions will be organized during the conference. Participants will also be offered field trips, convivial events and cultural activities.

Registrations will open on the website conference (<http://labex-item.insight-outside.fr/colloque-innovation-montagne/>) in late September 2016. Pre-registration is already open.



### Alpine Ecosystem Services – mapping, maintenance and management (AlpES)



Ecosystems and their services go beyond national borders and require a transnational approach for their dynamic protection, sustainable use and management. As a basis for joint action, public authorities, policy makers, NGOs, scholars and economic actors need a common understanding of ecosystem services, comparable information on their status, and support in using appropriate tools for integrating them in their fields of work. Within the Interreg Alpine Space Programme, the transdisciplinary research project AlpES aims at introducing ecosystem services as a regional/transnational environmental governance framework – and this is why it is of particular interest for managers of Alpine protected areas.

Different key actors from the Alpine Space – especially from protected areas – will be involved. In close collaboration with these stakeholders, AlpES will

- develop an Alpine ecosystem services concept,
- carry out mapping and assessment of ecosystem services for the Alpine Space area,
- make the results available on the internet for analytical purposes, and
- ensure a multi-level and cross-sectoral transfer of AlpES results to the stakeholders via innovative, tailored and transferable learning tools and targeted activities.

To accomplish these goals, AlpES is developing an interactive and web-based Geographic Information System, integrates the already existing wiki WIKIAlps – <http://www.wikialps.eu> – into the project and organizes workshops.

Ten partners from Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein and Slovenia participate in the AlpES project. These institutions are the European Academy of Bolzano (EURAC), the University of Innsbruck (Institute of Ecology), the Austrian Academy of Sciences (Institute for Interdisciplinary Mountain Research), the Centre for Studies and Expertise on Risks, Environment, Mobility, and Urban and Country Planning, the Safe Mountain Foundation, the Italian regions of Veneto and Piedmont, the Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation, the Principality of Liechtenstein (Office of Environment), and ifuplan (Institute for Environmental Planning and Spatial Development).

The AlpES project started in December 2015, runs for three years and is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund through the Interreg Alpine Space Programme.

<http://www.alpine-space.eu/projects/alpes>

### Mountains for Europe's Future

Mountain areas in Europe cover 36% of Europe's area and cross many national borders actively provide ecosystem services for all Europeans, even those living in distant lowland regions. During 2015 and 2016 a strategic research agenda for Europe's mountains has been developed, coordinated by the Swiss-Austrian Alliance (CH-AT). The research agenda outlines why mountains are important at the European scale and provides recommendations for activities on mountain topics within Horizon 2020. It presents six proposals structured according to the programme's Societal challenges: health, demographic change and wellbeing; food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry; secure, clean and efficient energy; smart, green and integrated transport; climate action, environment, resources efficiency and raw materials; and Europe in a changing world. There will be many opportunities for further discussion in the coming months, including the Forum Carpathicum in September (<http://carpathianscience.org/forum/forum-carpaticum-2016/>) and the Mountains 2016 events (<http://cimo.esa.ipb.pt/mountains2016/>) and Alpweek (<http://alpweek.org/2016/>) in October.

The pdf of the research agenda can be downloaded here:  
[http://www.chat-mountainalliance.eu/images/Mountains\\_for\\_Europes\\_Future\\_04\\_16\\_d.pdf](http://www.chat-mountainalliance.eu/images/Mountains_for_Europes_Future_04_16_d.pdf)



### AlpWeek: Alps & People. Living culture! October 11–15, 2016 in Grassau, Germany

Taking place every four years, the AlpWeek is an international event on sustainable development and related Alpine issues, organised jointly by key Alpine organisations. This event will bring main Alpine stakeholders together to meet and exchange views.

### Parks discussed in this issue

Abbreviations: BR – Biosphere Reserve; NP – National park; p. – page

