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[Workshop 2] [Session 3]

### **Envisioning the future for young people in mountain areas: Pitching for sustainability and resilience**

2022 is the European Year of Youth, and as such our focus in T1.5 is of utmost importance. According to the recent [Euromontana](#) report, 'Europe's mountain areas are facing a constant threat to their attractiveness, especially among younger generations'. In some regions, the rural exodus of young mountain people and the ageing of the population endanger the demographic balance, social cohesion, and economic appeal of our mountains. Yet, the new generations are the future of our territories'. As such, it has been vital to include the viewpoints and engagement of young people in the MOVING project, so they can both shape and participate in the sustainable development of Europe's Mountain areas and industries. MOVING (Mountain Valorisation through Interconnectedness and Green growth) is a European funded project with 23 European partners across Europe. The project aims to establish new or upscaled value chains to contribute to the resilience and sustainability of mountain areas to climate change.

In 2021, Euromontana gathered the views of 1134 young people living in mountain areas across 20 European countries. The results identified that these young people want to remain living (and potentially) working in Europe's mountain areas. Such motivation to live in these mountain areas can only continue if development in these mountain areas continues to be sustainable and attractive to young people in terms of being able to appreciate the surrounding natural environment and have the potential to work and live in the area (either through commuting or working in the mountainous area). Furthermore, given the [Europarc Youth Manifesto](#) calls for the engagement of young people in connecting to their communities and developing sustainable futures, and the widely signed [UNIMONT manifesto](#) which highlights drawing attention to the specificities of mountain areas, MOVING is well placed to add to and further such engagement and discussions. Simultaneously, and perhaps most importantly, is the [current Long Term Vision for Rural Areas](#) which identifies areas of action towards stronger, connected, resilient and prosperous rural areas and communities.

The Scottish case study explores the Speyside Malt Whisky Value Chain and this paper reports on the associated participatory workshops held in Speyside, Scotland in summer 2022. In this workshop, we sought to target young people living in (or wishing to live in) Speyside. The workshop drew on the expertise of existing local stakeholders and young people, allowing the young participants to create their own long-term visions for their mountain rural areas. These visions, and how they may help to foster resilience and sustainability considering climate change issues are presented in this paper.

### **Bibliographic references**

Euromontana:

[https://www.euromontana.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/2022-01-24-Being-young-in-a-mountain-area\\_FinalReport\\_EN.pdf](https://www.euromontana.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/2022-01-24-Being-young-in-a-mountain-area_FinalReport_EN.pdf)

Long term vision for Rural Areas:  
[https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/new-push-european-democracy/long-term-vision-rural-areas\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/new-push-european-democracy/long-term-vision-rural-areas_en)

Europarc Youth Manifesto:  
<https://www.europarc.org/news/2019/07/the-beginning-of-something-new-the-europarc-youth-manifesto/#:~:text=The%20EUROPARC%20Youth%20Manifesto%20was%20created%20as%20an,Year%20of%20Young%20People%202018%20and%20will%20>

UNIMONT manifesto:  
<https://www.unimontagna.it/en/a-student-of-the-unimont-centre-of-the-university-of-milan-at-the-q>



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