



NEWSLETTER N°103 MAY 2017



**UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI MILANO**

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NEWS HIGHLIGHTS



UNIMONT: presentation of Enrico Borghi's book "PICCOLE ITALIE Le aree interne e la questione territoriale"

Hon. Enrico Borghi – MP for the PD, Coordinator of the VII Environment and Territory Commission of the Chamber of deputies, UNCEM and Italian Mountain Foundation President, Councillor of Minister De Vincenti for the implementation of the National Strategy for Internal areas – will present his new book on **9th June at 5pm in the Main Hall of the Mountain University**, Edolo Campus of the University of Milan. After the presentation, a debate will take place with the contributions of representatives of national, regional, provincial and local institutions, as well as students and other stakeholders.

*"The Mountain University, an open space for elaborating, researching and teaching about the specificities and resources of mountain areas, is focusing attention on territorial issues which are, as demonstrated by Enrico Borghi's book, a key topic for the future of Italy. We hope that our students and the whole "community" part of the UNIMONT network will take part, on-campus or online through the virtual classroom, in a meeting which – from a university campus that is constantly working in and for the Italian and, increasingly, European mountains on a daily basis – will prompt thought and discussion on how to make these territories a "resource" in a scenario which is complex, diversified and in many ways critical, and in which it is essential to focus attention on promising strategic assets for the future" says **Anna Giorgi of the Mountain University.***

*"This book - says **Hon. Enrico Borghi** - is the result of thought on territorial policy and in particular on what our mountainous and marginal territories can represent within the challenge of Italian modernization. Bottom-up innovation, new agriculture, ideas for the revitalization of the Alps and the Apennines, starting from local communities as guardians of the territory in a national perspective. This is the context for the book, after a brief historical excursus about the end of state intervention and the crisis of regionalism. The message provided by the pages of "Piccole Italie" is positive: the identity and the sense of*

community of an extraordinary and fragile country like Italy can be re-built starting from its internal and mountainous areas.

UNIMONT at Mountain General Assembly

The Mountain General Assembly will take place between 20th May and 1st July, organized by the Province of Bergamo, with 5 mountain communities, the Italian Alpine Club and the Municipality of Bergamo. Professor Anna Giorgi of the Mountain University is a speaker for a round table on 10th June.

The **Mountain General Assembly** is a program of events such as conferences, workshops, round tables and promotion activities. **Dott. Alberto Mazzoleni – President of Valle Brembana Mountain Community** – said that *"the purpose of this event is to build up a strategic agenda and development lines for mountain areas, with the ambition to realize them; the roundtables are useful to give concreteness and outline priorities and actions required, such as tax advantages"*.

On **10th June at the Green House in Zogno** a conference entitled **"GOVERNANCE AND SPECIFIC POLICIES FOR MOUNTAIN AREAS"**. Enrico Borghi - National Internal Areas Strategy Coordinator for the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and National Uncem President and **Anna Giorgi - Director of the Mountain University, the Edolo Campus of the University of Milan**, will take part in the roundtable.

Professor Anna Giorgi will focus on **"YOUNG STARTUPS, GREEN ECONOMY, RESILIENCE, FROM A LOCAL TO AN ALPINE MACRO-REGIONAL LEVEL"**. *"Mountain Areas are an opportunity for young people, as shown by the enterprises managed by graduated students from Mountain University. The real investment for promoting and relaunching sustainable development in mountain areas is to focus on people, spreading innovative knowledge and skills" said Anna Giorgi.*

UNIMONT at the HERE Study Visit

On 30th and 31st May, a Study Visit concerning Research based teaching: Universities, Entrepreneurship and the Knowledge Triangle take place at the University of Milan. Anna Giorgi has been invited as speaker during the plenary session "How do institutions develop strategies to link/inform teaching with research?"

The network of Higher Education Reform Experts (HEREs) in collaboration with the University of Milan wants to talk about the university teaching based on research. The

Study Visit - which has the University of Barcelona (Coordinator) and the European University Association (EUA) currently comprise the consortium 'SPHERE' (**Support and Promotion for Higher Education Reform Experts**), and the Executive Agency for Education, Audiovisual and Culture as protagonists - aims to spread best practices about how research can inform teaching and learning and moreover to obtain a better understanding of entrepreneurship and how it can be integrated into the teaching. So this Study Visit focus on the knowledge triangle.

As crucial example of this background, The University of Milan has invited Professor Anna Giorgi of the Mountain University, the Edolo Campus of the University of Milan, to talk about the Mountain University: a cultural hub for mountain communities. Mountain University as a place where research activities, results and derived innovative tools are transferred into educational activities.

UNIMONT at the Regional Forum on Social and Territorial Knowledge in the Marche region

The forum regards the relationship between social and territorial knowledge and post-earthquake reconstruction and will take place in Macerata on 26th May, 2017. Anna Giorgi, Professor of the Mountain University, Edolo campus of the University of Milan has been invited to make a contribution to the Forum.

The Regional Forum on Social and Territorial Knowledge in Macerata, promoted by the Marche Region with the scientific collaboration of AASTER, Local Development Agents and with the support of Consorzio Marche Spettacolo (CSM), is the first stage of a territorial laboratory that will be developed over subsequent events in Treia as part of the Summer Seminar organized by the Fondazione Symbola and at ISTAO in Ancona in the autumn.

The forum will be divided into three parts and **Anna Giorgi of the Mountain University, Edolo Campus of the University of Milan**, thanks to the experience gained on issues concerning the development of mountain areas at a national and European level, will intervene in the second part of the work. The working table will be considering the territory as a dynamic asset in constant transition, with particular attention to the metamorphosis following the earthquake.

UNIMONT at the first Italian Festival of Sustainable Development

The Mountain University, the Edolo Campus of the University of Milan has organized three conferences as part

of the Sustainable Development Festival 2017, which will take place from 22nd May to 7th June.

Among the **over 200 events** planned throughout Italy, promoted by more than 160 organizations part of the Alliance, the Network of Universities for Sustainable Development and others, the Mountain University - Edolo Campus of the University of Milan - has decided to take part organizing three events:

- 23RD MAY: Conference "SUSTAINABLE TOURISM IN METHODS, NOT only IN CONTENTS"
- 24TH MAY: Conference "HERBAL ROUTES FROM PLANT TO PHYTODERIVATIVE"
- 25TH MAY: Conference "REFUGES 4.0"

A large and inclusive event with over one thousand speakers, dozens of universities and 200 schools involved as well as innovative cultural activities and formats. The system in which we currently live is no longer sustainable, and needs to be completely rethought not only at an economic, but also at an environmental, social and cultural level. In order to raise awareness on these topics, the Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development (ASviS) has organized a Festival that will last 17 days, one for each of its objectives.

The Mountain University at the first edition of OLTRECHEESE

On Sunday 14th May, Professor Anna Giorgi of the Mountain University, the Edolo Campus of the University of Milan, took part in the conference OLTRECHEESE.

OLTRECHEESE is an event in collaboration with Slow Food Oltrepò Pavese, Lombardy Slow Food and the Municipality of Casteggio **to safeguard agricultural activities in hilly and mountainous areas**. The event held at Certosa Cantù in Casoggio was open to the general public, free of charge and offered the opportunity to taste and buy **Slow Food market** cheese and the products.

The day started with the conference **Breeding, hilly landscape and economy - "The role of cheese"** with **Anna Giorgi of the Mountain University**, invited to talk about the **valorization of the resources of mountain areas, through training and research on territorial specificities**.

The **Mountain University**, with the **working group coordinated by Professoressa Giorgi**, has been working in the territory of Oltrepò Pavese as part of the **National Internal Areas Strategy** for some time, supporting local authorities in defining a development strategy which

focuses on the resources of this specific area, used sustainably, and therefore the environment, agriculture and tourism as drivers towards a really **Green Community**.

Open Day UNIMONT: participants from all over Italy

The Main Hall of the Mountain University welcomed about ninety young students interested in finding out about the Undergraduate programme in Conservation and Sustainable Development of Mountain Areas.

The **Course coordinator Giambattista Bischetti, Professor Alberto Tamburini and Professoressa Anna Giorgi** introduced and presented the university campus with its three-year degree programme, the research activities at GeSDiMont, the advanced training courses and conferences, as well as the European context with which the University interacts.

Speakers included the **Mayor of Edolo - Luca Masneri** - and some UNIMONT graduates who talked about their university experience.

This year the success of the Mountain University has continued with **young students from all over Italy and beyond enrolling for the Open Day!**

The Mountain University hosts the man who will cross the Alpine Region

On Monday 8th May 2017, Marcello Duranti presented his project and announced the 2nd stage that will lead him to complete the crossing of the Alpine Region, at the Mountain University, the Edolo campus of the University of Milan.

The workshop **"Walk along the Alpine road from Trieste to Monte Carlo (passing through Edolo): the ALVINA project"** wants to emphasize a **unique region** in the world: the Alps. The Alpine Region is an area with both nature and metropolitan cities; it is a rich region made up of areas which evolve differently; it is a region full of opportunities that require innovative and traditional approaches.

During the workshop **Professor Marcello Duranti** presented his 1500 km trek, through the Alps: from Opicina to Edolo in 2016 and from Edolo to Montecarlo in 2017, leaving on 21st of June. **The Mountain University and Edolo have an important role for this long trek**, not only due to their strategic position, but also because they demonstrate how culture and science can contribute to enhancing this region of the world.

NEXT EVENTS



The future of regions with strong tourist development - more than just a business model

From 23rd to 24th June 2017 at Pontresina, at the Rondo Convention and Culture Center, there will be a National Conference of the Interacademic Commission for Alpine Research (ICAS) with the Istituto per la ricerca sulla cultura grigione and Avegnir Engiadin'Ota on the future of regions with strong tourism development.

The meeting of 23rd - 24th June in Pontresina analyzes the current situation of alpine tourism and discusses some possible solutions: in the light of current trends and a changing context, the Interacademic Commission of Alpine Research (ICAS) conference intends to examine the future prospects of highly developed tourist destinations and regions which strongly depend on tourism.

Those involved in politics, research, administration and those working in the sector will discuss issues related to developing tourism in the Alps, preparing for future tourism, holiday homes and how to manage the future. In fact, the conference is aimed at experts from various sectors: tourism, economics, culture, politics, regional development and research, but also at ordinary people and owners of second homes in the region.

Following the conference, on Sunday morning there will be three excursions and guided tours:

- Morteratsch - A walk to visit the area around where the glacier finishes with the question of whether it is possible to stop the retreat of glaciers.
- "St. Moritz – A city in the village" - A tour of yesterday's and tomorrow's architecture with Cordula Seger, cultural scientist (free excursion).
- Museum Engiadinais - Life in the Engadine area in the past.

"Mountain farming in South Tyrol" - study day

There will be a study day dedicated to "Mountain Agriculture in South Tyrol" on Friday 7th July 2017 at the Teodone / Brunico Agricultural School (BZ).

The event is organized by the Laimburg Experimentation Center and the Libera Università di Bozen-Bolzano, with the support of MILA Latte Montagna Alto Adige, Teodone Agricultural School, BRING, Südtiroler Bauernbund, Federation Raiffeisen.

The study day aims to investigate and promote the South Tyrolean mountain farming model, examining the evolution of the local agricultural system through the main crop systems and related chains, strengths and challenges to be face.

SERVICES FOR MOUNTAIN AREAS



CALLS FOR MOUNTAIN AREAS

PSR 2014-2020 (FEASR): call for Operation 5.1.01 "Prevention of damage from natural disasters of biotic type"

Operation 5.1.01 finances investments aimed at the prevention of damage due to phytopathies that will be oriented towards the use of non-traditional systems, instruments and methods, both structural and agronomic. Any interventions to limit the populations of harmful organisms will be carried out in accordance with the provisions of Directive 2009/128/EC, Legislative Decree 150/2014 and the National Action Plan for Sustainable Use.

Green Infrastructures of ecological relevance and increased naturalness

The actions promoted, in favour of the community, regard agroforestry and increased naturalness, aimed at encouraging green infrastructure in Lombardy, and have the following objectives:

- improvement of the agroforestry system of connection of green systems limiting land consumption and urban sprawl;
- enhancement of rural areas and open spaces increasing naturalness also in relation to their usability and the quality of the landscape;
- improvement of the green infrastructure of the territory also in line with the recommendations of the Regional Development Plan and the Regional Landscape Plan;

- construction of the regional ecological network and its local variations;
- improvement of forest heritage.

Call measure 13, operation 13.1.01 "Compensatory allowance for disadvantaged mountain areas"

An annual contribution is available per hectare of managed surface, up to a maximum of 160 €/ha for grassland, 300 €/ha for permanent meadows, 120 €/ha for temporary grassland, 180 €/ha for vineyards and orchards and 450 €/ha for terraced vineyards.

Each participant can obtain an annual premium per hectare of managed surface; the amount depends on the type of crop and, in the case of grasslands and meadows, the altitude and/or the slope.

MOUNTAIN LEGISLATION

The Mountain University **constantly updates the section dedicated to mountain legislation**, where professionals, administrators and researchers can find analytical references and laws regarding mountain areas promulgated at provincial, regional, national and European levels.

CALLS, INTERNSHIPS AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES



Internship in a dairy cattle farm

An internship is available from June to December to study issues and variations in the intake of dry matter in dairy cattle during different seasons, and the monitoring of the productive and economic efficiency in a dairy farm located in the municipality of Zanica (BG). The student will make weekly visits to collect data, food samples, and complete rations to be analyzed for dry matter content. Further data on individual milk production, milk analysis, theoretical rations and their prices will be collected throughout the internship.

Students interested need to be resident near Bergamo and the surrounding area and will need a car.

Agronomic and biochemical analyzes of buckwheat varieties cultivated in Valtellina

The internship aims to compare different varieties of buckwheat (*Fagopyrum esculentum* and *Fagopyrum tataricum*) cultivated in Valtellina (Teglio, SO) on the Raethia Biodiversità Alpine farm. In addition to agronomic analyzes in the field, laboratory analyzes (at the Ge.S. DI.Mont. Centre) will be conducted to determine the rutin content of the different varieties of buckwheat.

Environmental, livestock and sustainability assessment of alpine pastures

An internship is available from June to September in the alpine pastures at Montespluga which deliver milk to the Latteria Carden for an environmental, livestock and sustainability assessment of alpine pastures. The aim of the research is to study the management characteristics of dairy cattle according to milk quality and cheese making in Bitto. Students will have to perform a relevé of pasture areas (it is necessary to have some knowledge of plant identification) and an assessment of livestock management (pasture use, milk production, nutrition and zoo-technical evaluation) and of cheese making in Bitto.

Search for bioactive compounds on tr(i)p receptors in mountain plants

The internships are part of a multidisciplinary research project that seeks to enhance the heritage of herbal and edible plants of both local and global origin through the search for compounds with specific biological activity evaluated quantitatively through advanced molecular essays and techniques.

1. An internship is available regarding hedge mustard (*Sisymbrium officinale* L.), a wild-type plant known as "singer's grass" in Italian. The internship involves mapping and harvesting the plant and includes practical laboratory activities with the development of analytical methods for the quantification of bioactive compounds.
2. An internship is available regarding *Alliaria petiolata* L., a spontaneous plant in Val Camonica. The internship involves mapping and harvesting the plant and includes practical laboratory activities with the development of analytical methods for the quantification of bioactive compounds.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION



Activation of a dedicated portal space: Mountain Entrepreneurs

A dedicated space for young people in entrepreneurship has been developed as part of the Lombardy Region project implementation.

Specifically, the **Unimont portal** has a "**Mountain Entrepreneurs**" section which provides a complete view of mountain businesses by means of a geo-referenced map. In addition, this section aims to dedicate space to each entrepreneur, providing a description of the company and of its products and services, but also information on its performance and any difficulties encountered. The section aims to tell the stories and culture of entrepreneurs, encouraging direct contact in order to offer them the opportunity to compare ideas and interact with other entrepreneurs in the same sector in different areas of Italy.

SEMINARS & WEBINARS



Agro-ecology for the management of biodiversity: the case of Upper Valtellina

Mario Pierik Doctor of Research University of Milan

Permanent meadows represent a forage, natural and landscape resource of great importance for rural alpine areas. Their agronomic management is essential for the conservation of the biodiversity that characterizes such areas, as well as for forage production. Despite the profound agro-ecological knowledge gained over the decades, it is now necessary to discover more about the relationship between abiotic and biotic elements, thus the ecological and management factors that characterize high altitude meadows, increasingly at risk of abandonment on the one hand, and decline, on the other.

This conference will present the results of research conducted by Dr Pierik, which studied the meadows of Upper Valtellina in terms of floristic composition, biodiversity and quality of forage. The research showed how much the context, at high altitude, depends on the complex interaction dynamics between ecological factors and farm management factors.

RECENT ACTIVITIES



The contribution of Applied Botany to improve the evaluation of soil engineering works in mountain environments

Luca Giupponi University of the Mountain - University of Milan

Bio-engineering work aimed at soil stabilization in mountain areas is becoming increasingly common throughout the world. Nevertheless, appropriate tools to evaluate the degree of success of such works in minimizing the anthropogenic impact on the environment and on the landscape over time are lacking. The seminar presented results of research conducted by Dr. Giupponi at the Ge.S.Di.Mont center in Edolo, as part of his Research Doctorate in Environmental Sciences, which led to the creation of some floristic-vegetation indices useful for assessing the success of bioengineering work performed for the stabilization of slopes subject to landslide. Results of other botanical studies performed by Dr. Giupponi during his PhD were also presented.

Walk along the Alpine road from Trieste to Montecarlo (passing through Edolo): the ALVINA project

Prof. Marcello Duranti, University of Milan

The first phase of the route took place from 11th June to the 28th July 2016, leaving Trieste and arriving in Edolo. Marcello Duranti will be in Edolo to start his journey again, this time towards Montecarlo on Wednesday 21st June. A long trek which encloses the whole Alpine chain and the Mountain University and shows how culture and science can contribute to enhancing this region of the world.

Measuring sustainable tourism performances at destination level (EN)

Cinzia De Marzo, EU legal advisor & senior expert on sustainable tourism and indicators

How to manage the self-assessment/evaluation, in view of benchmarking activities at local, national, macro regional/trans national and international level

- UN 2030 Agenda for sustainable development Goals (SDGs)
- The European Tourism Indicator System (ETIS)
- How to implement ETIS toolkit (edition 2016)
- The start-up phase of ETIS implementation
- The forthcoming Network of ETIS destinations

Certification of tourist accommodation

Martina Demattio, CASA CLIMA

The Sustainability "ClimaHotel" symbol distinguishes accommodation that contributes to sustainable development of the company, both with the integration of innovative technologies, as well as with key measures in management. The protocol provides hoteliers with guidelines to address the design and management of their structure in a sustainable way, saving energy and resources. The seminar highlighted how sustainability can be applied in accommodation, made visible in the market and really experienced by guests.

Sustainable tourism in methods, not only in contents

Filippo Camerlenghi, AIGAE

Sustainability linked to work procedures: all can contribute to sustainable tourism with simple operations. How to lead a group in nature, how to equip your own B & B or hotel, how to manage transport and the whole chain. A.I.G.A.E (Associazione Italiana Guide Ambientali Escursionistiche), probably the largest group of hiking guides in Italy, with about 3,500 members, is a network of professionals working throughout Italy.

Herbal routes: from plant to phyto-derivative

Marco Angarano Agriculturist and phytopharmacist, contributor to Natural 1, monthly magazine of technical-scientific information on medicinal plants, phytotherapy, nutraceuticals and phytocosmetics.

Plants have always represented a fundamental resource for humanity not only for nutrition, but also to preserve health. The conference presented an overview of the peculiarities of medicinal plants, the active ingredients that make up the phytocomplex, the main methods of extracting them and the phyto-derivatives that can be obtained. The conference also dealt with the main features of some plants which are widespread and used for well-being.

Refuges 4.0

Massimo Minotti, CAI

Refuges, their vocation, the historical reasons for their construction, their original functions and those today, future scenarios. Information was provided on who visits

refuges and management and organizational issues and peculiarities were presented. Refuge managers will take part with interesting cases, also regarding the assistance and management of foreign customers. There was a short debate on issues regarding management, relationship between owners and managers.

NEW PUBLICATIONS



Giorgi A., Bassoli A., Borgonovo G., Panseri S., Manzo A., Pentimalli D., Moriello A.S., De Petrocellis L. (2017). [Extracts and compounds active on TRP ion channels from *Waldheimia glabra*, a ritual medicinal plant from Himalaya](#). *Phytomedicine* xx-xx-xx (online 01.05.2017)

Giupponi L., Bischetti G.B., Giorgi A. (2017). [“A proposal for assessing the success of soil bioengineering work by analysing the vegetation: results of two case studies in the Italian Alps. Landscape and Ecological Engineering”](#). *Landscape and Ecological Engineering*: 1-14.

Giupponi L., Pentimalli D., Manzo A., Panseri S., Giorgi A. (2017). [“Effectiveness of fine root fingerprinting as a tool to identify plants of the Alps: results of preliminary study”](#). *Plant Biosystems* xx:xxx-xxx (online 03.04.2017).

ABOUT US



[La prima tappa a piedi, del Progetto Alvina](#)
Propolis - 3 May 2017

[Da Edolo alla conquista delle Alpi: il viaggio di Marcello Duranti](#)
Corriere della Sera – 8 May 2017

[Trieste - Montecarlo a piedi. Tappa intermedia: Unimont di Edolo](#)
RadioVoceCamuna – 8 May 2017

[UniMont Edolo, il viaggio da Trieste a Montecarlo e la scoperta delle Alpi. Duranti: “Regione unica”](#)
Gazzetta delle Valli - 9 May 2017

[Edolo: Università della Montagna alla prima edizione di OLTRECHEESE](#)
Gazzetta delle Valli – 12 May 2017

[Edolo: affluenza da tutta Italia per l'Open Day dell'Università della Montagna](#)
Gazzetta delle Valli – 14 May 2017

[Stati Generali della Montagna, apre la Val Brembana Lo sviluppo turistico a S.Pellegrino](#)
Montagne & Paesi – 17 May 2017

[Edolo: UNIMONT al Forum Regionale dei saperi sociali e territoriali nelle Marche](#)
Gazzetta delle Valli – 25 May 2017

[Edolo, i rifugisti guardano al futuro. Il presidente del CAI Milano: “Sempre più vicini agli alpinisti”](#)
Gazzetta delle Valli – 27 May 2017