



# Innovative and resilient value chains in mountain areas

**Moving Consortium**

**Session 3: Strengthening rural areas contribution to food systems  
and the Bioeconomy**

**High Level Policy Forum - Shaping the future of rural areas  
Siguenza, 27-29 September 2023**



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# MOVING : MOuntain Valorisation through INterconnectedness and Green growth

2020-2024, 23 partners, coord. Uni.Córdoba-Spain

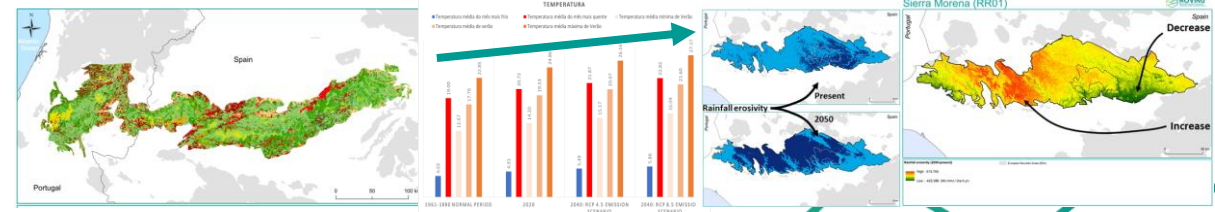
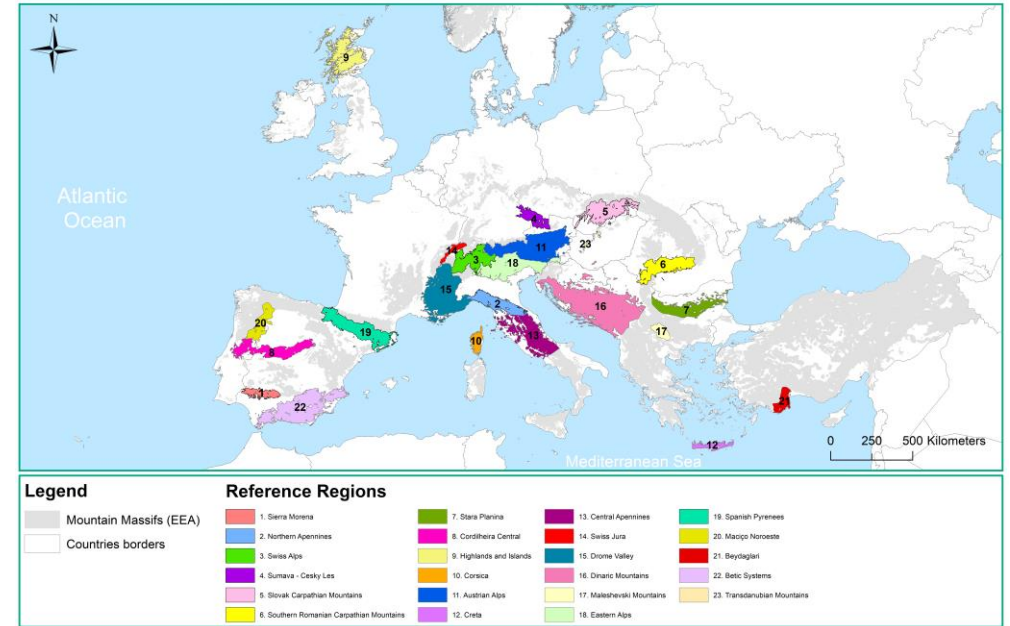
**Main objective** » build capacities and co-develop relevant **policy frameworks** for the establishment of **value chains** that contribute to the **resilience** and **sustainability** of mountain areas to global change.

spatial vulnerability analysis

value chain analysis

policy analysis and proposal

**MOVING Community of Practices (CoP)**

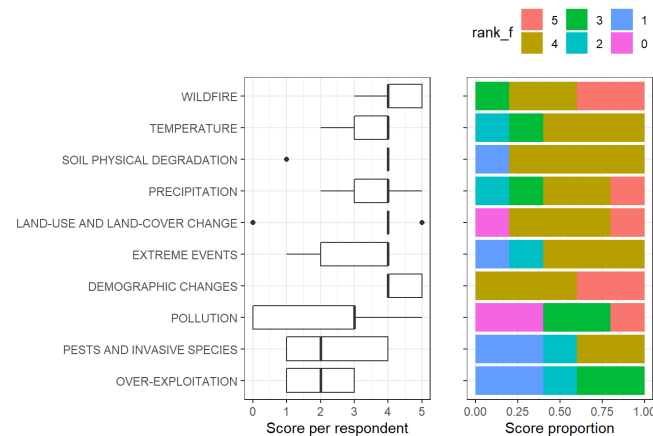


## EU mountains under stress » manifold challenges

- Climate change: higher temperatures, decrease of snow and rain, loss of glacier masses, drought, extreme events
- Remoteness, isolation » depopulation and demographic decay
- Over/under exploitation, family farms, limited market opportunities
- 'Free riding' big companies
- Pressure by tourism activities



- Shrub encroachment, biodiversity loss, landscape simplification, forest fires & soil erosion
- Land abandonment, loss of traditional knowledge
- Environmental degradation + costs of maintaining infrastructures
- Reduced added value, limited skills, difficulties to upscale VCs or innovate
- Loss of 'identity' » traditional varieties vs genomic editing, digitalisation
- 'Grabbing' the mountain label » abusive use



# Can value chains (VCs) help recovery?



## Our mountain VCs

- are **diverse** (covering meat, cheese, crop, alcohol, tourism and public goods)
- are **tele-coupled** – sometimes as sending systems with processing, marketing and consumption taking place in lowland areas or in other countries.
- have positive economic impacts, some positive social impacts but **fragile environmental sustainability**.

## VCs actors have up-grading strategies

- Changing their products or markets, or processes
- Changing functions of different actors or institutions
- Assemble with other mountain VCs
- Improving 'vertical' coordination with non-mountain actors

## But there are vulnerability issues to be faced:

Major threats of the Mountain Landscapes » *drought, demographic changes and subsidy changes*

Presence of threat implies high vulnerability if system cannot adapt to changes

Resilience in *environmental* area seems higher than in **socio-economic and institutional area**

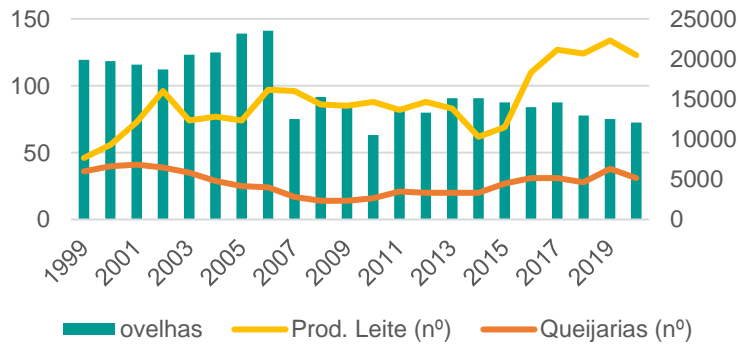
# The VCs connection with the mountain landscape may be less obvious then it seems



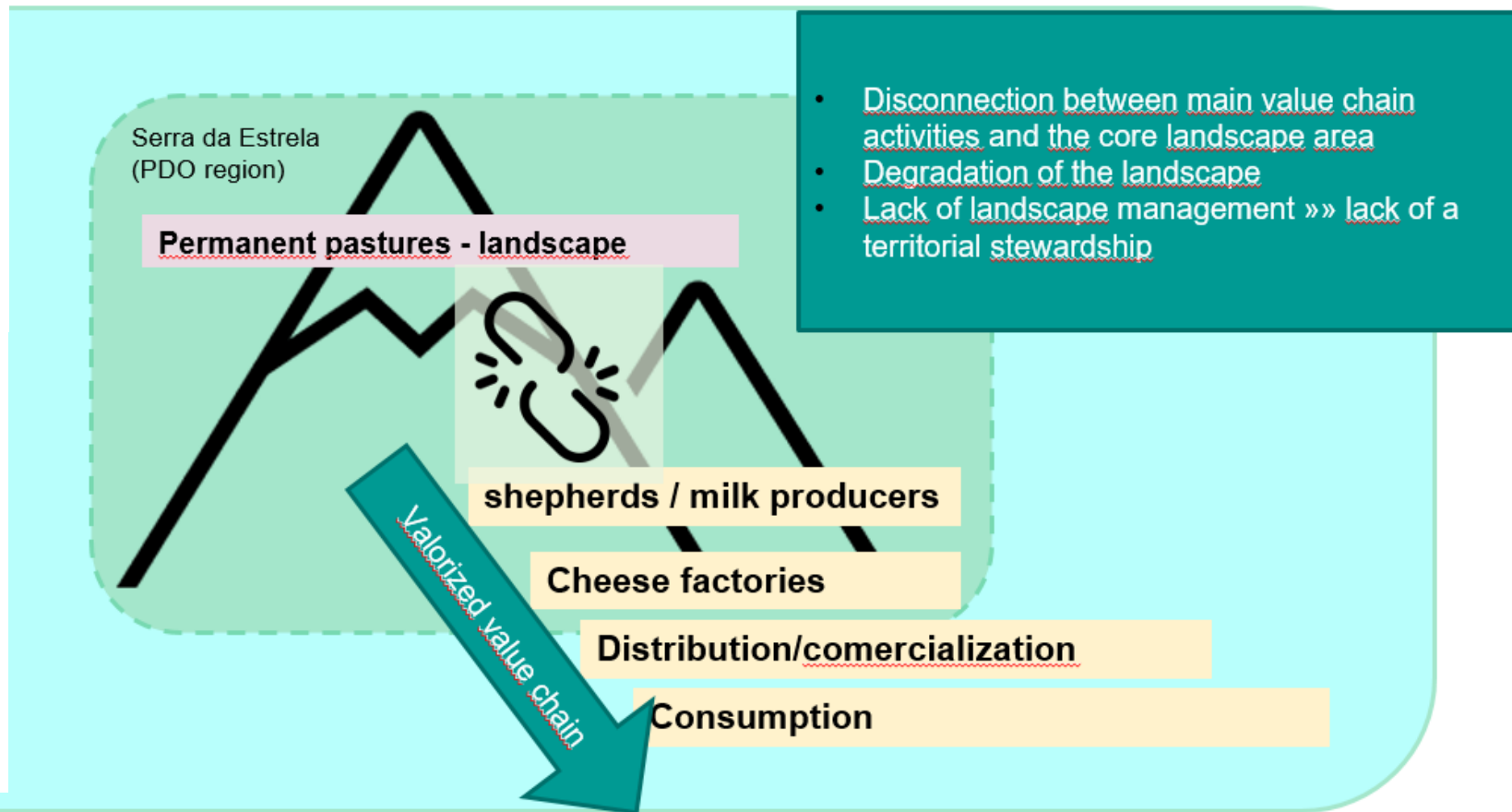
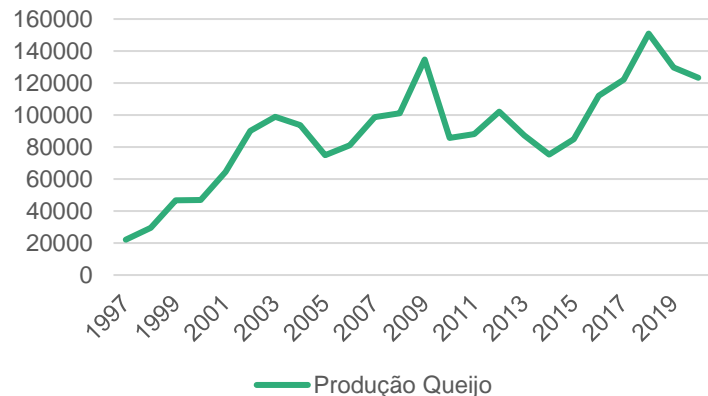
## Serra da Estrela, Portugal

» production of PDO cheese is increasing, but mountain pastures increasingly abandoned

Evolution of sheep, producers and cheesemakers (n°)



Evolution cheese production (kg)



**Territorial linkage missing**



# How can public policy target the resilience of EU mountains



Very diverse territories » Context-specific & territorialised approaches and solutions

A **new generation of multi-level governance mechanisms** is needed to effectively address the **increasing vulnerability** of mountain areas to **multiple drivers of change**.

- **Better disaggregated data** on mountain-related economic, social, environmental *and* meteorological issues for supporting **evidence-based policy- and strategy-making**
- **More targeted and integrated territorial development strategies** for mountain areas that a) more **precisely address the specificities** of local/regional context (*e.g. at the level of massifs*)  
b) facilitate **access to more diversified use** of EU and other funding opportunities

1. Rewards for Land Management;

2. Finance for Investments;

3. Entrepreneurship & Business Planning;

4. Advice & Fostering Innovation;

5. Skills Acquisition;

6. Partnership & Cooperation;

7. Market Access, and;

8. Quality and Added Value.



**MOVING**  
MOUNTAIN VALORISATION THROUGH  
INTERCONNECTEDNESS AND GREEN GROWTH

# Thanks



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