**TRADITION, RENOVATION AND INNOVATION OF LAND USES IN MEDITERRANEAN MOUNTAIN AREAS**

Prof. Cristina Montiel Molina
University Complutense of Madrid. Forest Policy and Socioeconomics Research Group (UCM-930329). Department of Regional Geographic Analysis and Physical Geography. Faculty of Geography and History. Ciudad Universitaria, s/n. E-28040 Madrid. Spain. crismont@ghis.ucm.es

---

**THE MOUNTAIN AS A HERITAGE AND A RESOURCE**

- Mediterranean mountains confine a unique natural and cultural heritage with an important historical component. Their significance and economical valuation have evolved at the same time as society.
- The strong rural exodus and farmland abandonment in the middle of the twentieth century caused the territorial uprooting and the patrimonial disaffection in the mountain zones. However, mountains continue having great resources. Its economic value has not disappeared, but has changed in character. Facing the traditional production, local in nature and material, the current benefits are indirect and delocalised.

---

**SPATIAL DYNAMICS IN MOUNTAIN RURAL AREAS**

**TRADITIONAL SOCIO-SPATIAL STRUCTURE**
- Subsistence polyculture
- Breaking up of new grounds
- Extensive grazing
- Seasonal migration of livestock
- Common pastures
- Socio-economic valuation of forest lands
- Dense population
- Social structure
- Ecosystem equilibrium

**CRISIS IN TRADITIONAL ACTIVITIES AND RURAL EXODUS**
- Abandonment of marginal lands
- Commercial production
- Livestock downfall
- Fading of paths, grasslands and pastures
- Under-exploitation of forest resources
- Deforestation
- Depopulation
- Social desestructuration
- Risk increase

**TRANSITION: STATE ACTIONS, NEW URBAN DEMANDS**
- Farmland stepback
- Intensive use of productive lands
- Specialization and intensive use of grazing
- Forestland’s regeneration
- Forest infra-management
- Ageing of society
- Landscape “closure”

**TERTIARY PROCESSES AND STRATEGIES FOR ENDOGENOUS DEVELOPMENT**
- Monoculture
- Traditional practices renewal
- Extensive grazing recovery
- Cultural heritage comeback
- Tertiary uses and functions
- Resource valuation
- Provision of infrastructures and services
- Seasonal population
- Landscape “chaos”

---

**OPEN QUESTIONS**

- Are the new territorial models of the rural mountain areas sustainable?
- Is it appearing a new kind of dependency in the mountain zones respect of public policies and dynamics and urban demands?
- Is it being adequately integrated the conservation policy of natural areas in the strategies for endogenous development?
- Is it evolving from the primary option of tourism as an activity of takeoff towards a more diverse and qualified options which backed into training and innovation?
- How to ensure the multifunctional character of mountain forests by integrating in the same management natural risks prevention, environment and biodiversity protection, leisure, local development and economic activities?

---

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN MOUNTAIN AREAS**

“An explicit territorial order, discussed and agreed, where the possible ways towards a true development without degradation were weighted and the values of the environmental assets inherent of the mountain were estimated as a good in itself”  
(E. Martínez de Pisón, 2000)

---

COST Strategic Workshop on “Global Change and Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions”. Innsbruck (Austria), 7-9 April 2008.