

MOUNTAIN WALKS IN THE LOMBARDY REGION

In the Lombardy region, mountains cover more than 50% of the land area and are very diverse: from the high mountains of the Alps to the rolling hills of the Apennines. Overall, 33% of Lombardy inhabitants live in the mountains, mainly in small villages.

Ageing is a major issue: almost 1 in 3 inhabitants is over 45 years old, and in 2018 only 9% of all mountain businesses in the region were run by under-35s. Additionally, with only 15% of all regional businesses located in the mountains – mostly micro-businesses – the creation of new companies and provision of job opportunities is challenging.

In Lombardy, the Cohesion Policy has been focused on delivering the National Strategy of Inner Areas in 4 areas: Alta Valtellina, Valchiavenna, Alto Lario and Oltrepò Pavese. Notably, it has financed more than 11,400 interventions in 23 mountain communities to an approximate value of €103.4 million in order to sustain business competitiveness, promote attractiveness, improve education and fight depopulation.



This brochure is produced in the framework of the communication campaign
Montana174- How does the Cohesion Policy shape mountains?

This brochure illustrates how the Cohesion Policy has a tangible impact on the daily life of mountain citizens, using concrete examples from the Lombardy Region.

www.montana174.org



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SONIA - MOUNTAIN WALK

4 LANDSCAPE

The Upkeep the Alps project offers training courses on landscape maintenance for mountain professionals. **Sonia has learnt how to preserve the traditional landscapes of dry-stone walls and paths that were built by her ancestors, which attracts more tourists and students.**



3 HOSPITALITY

The E-Bike Project is developing a cycle path throughout the Alps that provides e-mobility services for all. **Thanks to the project, Sonia was able to install an e-bike charging station in her mountain pasture. This allows her to welcome tourists and show them her products when they stop by to recharge their batteries.**



2 NETWORK

The Alpfoodway project investigated the links between Alpine food production, traditions and cultural heritage. **As part of the project, Sonia was involved in “Intangible Search”, a cultural heritage archive for the Lombardy region, and went to Austria to present her products and traditions. While there, she met many other mountain producers, learnt about their traditions and made new contacts.**

1 TRADITION

An Alpine School was created to teach the value of the Alpine heritage through hands-on experience and learning by doing. **Sonia spent 3 days at the school sharing her story and family traditions with the students – an excellent way of transferring knowledge and skills to the next generation.**



NAME

Sonia

PROFILE

Young farmer

AMBITION

To successfully manage her farm by handing down ancient local knowledge and selling traditional products



ADELMO - MOUNTAIN WALK

4 SERVICES

A social support project was launched to help working parents look after their children. Thanks to this programme, **Adelmo's children attend educational workshops and play with their friends after school. In this way, Adelmo has more time to work on his own projects and his children do not have to travel far for their recreational activities.**



3 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

An ancient roman furnace was restored and turned into an educational hub for schools and families and a tourist centre. **Adelmo is actively involved in this project, as he thinks people will be more keen to visit the mountains if they can learn about the history of his local area.**



2 WORK

The Smart Oltrepo' co-working space was created in the mountains where the hut is located. **Adelmo can work in the co-working space near the hut and then go straight to the hut to continue with the renovation project.**



1 RESTORATION

The local Italian Alpine Club volunteers are renovating a local mountain hut that has been closed for many years. **Adelmo volunteers with them in his free time. Thanks to his contribution, many more people will be able to discover the beauty of mountains.**



NAME

Adelmo

PROFILE

Computer specialist

AMBITION

To continue living in the mountains and make his area more attractive and well-known



LIDIA - MOUNTAIN WALK



4 COLLABORATION

A new fundraising office was set up in the mountain community of Valchiavenna. **The office has told Lidia that they are happy to help her set up her project and find funding.**

3 TOURISM

Historical roads have been refurbished and connected to develop a route from Lake Como to the San Bernardino mountains, and to attract tourists and sports lovers. **Lidia contributed to drafting and planning the routes and was able to integrate her tourism project into the trekking guide.**



2 RENOVATION

An ancient church in Gordona is to be restored and transformed into a mountain hut. **The local municipality will manage the premises with a tender process, providing an excellent opportunity for Lidia to activate her tourism project.**

1 ATTRACTIVENESS

The Mezzola lakeshore was redeveloped, and a tourist info point built to attract new visitors. **The lakeshore has become a popular local tourist attraction. Lidia has lots of ideas for making the tourist info point more innovative and integrate it into her tourism offer.**



NAME

Lidia

PROFILE

University graduate in tourism

AMBITION

To become a tourist operator and design a new tourism offer based on active tourism

