

# DEFENSE AND MANAGEMENT OF THE FRAGILE RURAL AREAS, LANDSCAPES, AND NATURAL RESOURCES IN MOUNTAINS

**Thematic seminar in  
Aix-les-Bains, France**

**5 and 6 December 2006**



Version of the 29 November 2006

Working languages: English/ French

Seminar organised within the framework of the  
Interreg III C project: [Euromountains.net](http://Euromountains.net)



PROJECT PART-FINANCED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

# INTRODUCTION

**Landscapes beyond comparison, abundant natural resources and exceptional habitats and species** are just some of the numerous riches that are found exclusively in the mountain areas of Europe. Despite the wild and natural 'feel' of these environments European studies show that controlled and sustainable human activity (mainly farming and forestry, but also tourism or area conservation) is essential to the maintenance, management and the promotion of these special places that of great value to all the populations of Europe.



At a European level, the potential of rural areas began to be realized in the late 1980s and was officially recognized in the Cork Declaration of 1996. Over the last 10 years, policies for the development of rural areas have evolved towards a more territorial approach as opposed to the traditional sectoral, more 'bottom-up' and participative management structures, more regional or even local measures and at last towards bringing more attention to public goods, essential for populations but also for the tourism activity of these fragile areas.

This change in how fragile areas are viewed and managed implies greater responsibility for regional authorities in the delivering of State and European policies, developing innovative local mechanism for governance, implementing the measures and monitoring an assessing performance of projects. With a view to improving their expertise and their competences in this field, a number of regional authorities assembled to conduct a cooperation project on this topic.

**The objective of the third working theme of the Interreg project 'Euromountains.net'** is to identify and analyze innovative experiences and good practice in the management of mountain environments and landscapes and the abundant natural resources in a sustainable way. Beyond exchange of experiences, the aim of the programme is to disseminate transferable success factors to be implemented by the partner authori-

ties in order to improve the range and quality of their interventions for sustainable development. The project must also provide recommendations for action at a European level.

**A detailed set of studies** performed by each of the 10 partners from 5 countries has been brought together in one final theme report. Each of the 10 projects has focused on a range of managed landscapes and their specific methods of management. The draft conclusions and proposals identify actions by stakeholders and local land actors along with

territorial authorities and public authorities in an attempt to focus on finding ways to transfer innovation and success through the use of specific models of activity.

**The objectives of this 2-days thematic seminar** are to introduce the results of the local studies, to illustrate them through case studies and a field trip, to highlight good practices and the mechanism of innovative management and ultimately to discuss the transferable success factors. Through discussions and workshops, these practices will be debated and the findings of the studies will be tested against the experience of participants. The results of these discussions will form the basis for moderating and adapting the draft final report findings so that the final report is fully representative of the partner experiences and individual project results.

The thematic seminar is of interest to elected representatives and administrative officers from local and regional authorities in Europe, as well as to project holders from mountainous landscape, natural resources and rural areas management.

**We look forward to your active cooperation in this thematic seminar!**

# AGENDA

## THEME 3: Defense and Management of the Fragile Rural Areas, Landscape and Natural Resources in Mountains

Monday 4 December 2006

Evening **Arrival of the participants**—welcoming from 4.30 to 7.00 pm at the 'Antenne' (see map page 9)

Tuesday 5 December 2006 ( at the 'Antenne', see map page 9)

***Objective: Presentation of the context and the activity of theme 3***

8:30 am **Registration of the participants**

9:00 am **Opening Session**

Official inauguration and welcome (10 min)

Bernadette Laclais, 2nd Vice-President, Regional Council of Rhône-Alpes, France

Mission and objective of Euromountains.net project (10 min)

Elena Di Bella, Head of mountain development Unit, Province of Turin, Lead partner, Italy

9:20 am **Theme 3 : aims and objectives**

Mission, objectives and organisation of the Theme 3 (10 min)

Dave Roberts, Planning and development service, The Highland Council, Scotland

Objectives of the seminar (10 min)

Cécile Levret, Euromontana

9:40 am **Plenary session 1 : Common environment and unique activities**

Comparing our common environment heritage (10 min)

Becky Shaw, Scottish Crofter Foundation, Scotland

Three models in economic activity on the land (North, West and Central) (20 min)

Hilde Ballière, Senior Adviser, County of Buskerud, Norway

José-Luis Gerales, Project manager, ADRAT, Portugal

Philippe Fleury, SUACI GIS, Alpes du Nord, France

Public/Private Partnership, an opportunity for the management of rural and natural spaces of mountains in Europe: Example of the Massif of Pyrenees

Thierry Percie du Sert, Deputy Director, ARPE Midi-Pyrénées, Board member of Euromontana, France

Questions

10:30 am **Coffee break**

10:50 am **Plenary session 2 : Description of some of the projects studied**

Presentation of the common study guide and the methodology (15 min)

Dave Roberts, Planning and development service, The Highland Council, Scotland

1/ Example 1 (20min): **Deputation de Palencia** (Spain) - Management of alternatives in the development of a sustainable tourism in Palencia: "Cueva de Los Franceses" and its surroundings.

Sandra Manzanal, R&D Unit, ITAGRA. CT, for the Diputacion of Palencia, Spain

*A study case showing the conflict between economic activity and the protection of the environment*

2/ Example 2 (20min): **Val d'Aosta Region** (Italy) 'And human being... set up summer alpine pastures'

*Sustainable use of land where economic activities with low impact risk of disappearing*

Giuseppe Gnemaz, Assessorat à l'agriculture et risques naturels, Vallée d'Aoste, Italie

3/ Example 3 (20min): **Province of Torino** (Italy) - Ordinary land maintenance plans.

*Production of services Land Actors, to manage environment at risk of abandonment or natural disasters.*

Elena Di Bella, Head of mountain development Unit, Province of Turin, Lead partner, Italy

Margherita Qualia, Forestry Engineer , Co.R.In.Te.A. soc. coop., Italy

Questions

12:15 pm **Presentation of the Visit Tour in the Regional Natural Park of the Bauges** (15min)

Rhône-Alpes Region

- 12:30 pm Lunch**
- 2:00 pm Departure for the study tour in the Regional Natural Park of the Bauges** (see description page 6)
- 7:00 pm Return from the visit**
- 8:00 pm Dinner—** Cruise lunch on the Lake of the Bourget

**Wednesday 6 December 2006** (Centre of Congress, see map page 9)

***Objective: presentation and discussion of the findings of Theme 3 with and emphasis on broadening the findings through active consultation***

- 9:00 am Day 2 programme and welcome**  
Rhône-Alpes Region
- 9:10 am Presentation of the draft findings and report of the study projects**  
Methodology used for collection and comparison of data (10 min)  
Russel Smith, the Scottish Crofter Foundation, Scotland  
Summary and brief explanation of the process of analysis and evaluation (10 min)  
Russel Smith, the Scottish Crofter Foundation, Scotland  
The results of the studies: What we have discovered and the summary of findings (10 min)  
Becky Shaw, the Scottish Crofter Foundation, Scotland  
The draft conclusions of the study and opportunities for transferability: Are there policy suggestions that will give value to the actions of Land Actors which have a positive impact on Landscape management and not just punish negative activity? (20 min)  
Becky Shaw, the Scottish Crofter Foundation, Scotland  
Questions
- 10:10 am Introducing the workshops (5 min)**  
Cécile Levret, Euromontana
- 10:15 am Coffee Break**
- 10:45 am Workshop session 1 : From innovative activities and policies through good practice**  
Workshop 1 (EN, FR): Economic activity as the prime driver for land actors  
Moderator: ADRAT (Portugal)  
*Achieving the balance between designation and sustainable development to maintain and protect both the wild and special habitats and the living cultural landscape. Focusing on economic activity as the prime driver to management.*
- Workshop 2 (EN, FR): Environmental protection as a prime driver for land actors  
Moderator: County of Sogn og Fjordane (Norway)  
*Achieving the balance between designation and sustainable development to maintain and protect both the wild and special habitats and the living cultural landscape. Focusing on protection of the environment as the prime driver to management*



Workshop 3 (EN, FR): Are policies and regulation leading or following best practice in managing our mountain landscapes?

Moderator: County of Buskerud (Norway)

*The tensions between protecting the mountain environment and the need for economic development to sustain inhabitants, what part does policy play in creating or resolving these tensions.*

**12.15 pm Lunch**

**13:45 pm Workshop sessions 2: Moving forward and looking for new solutions/ propositions**

Report from Workshop Session 1 (15min)

Introducing the workshops (5 min)

Cécile Levret, Euromontana

**2.05 pm Workshop 1 (EN, FR): Living cultural landscapes and their contribution to mountain areas**

Moderator: Rhône-Alpes Region (France)

*Does the consideration and promotion of Cultural Landscapes contribute to the protection of our mountain areas? How can the Cultural Landscapes of mountain communities be used to best sustain life and the environment in our mountain areas?*

Workshop 2 (EN, FR): Local activity – relationships, decision making in the management of mountain environments

Moderator: Province of Trento (Italy)

*Relationships and structures that drive protection, development and management of natural resources in mountain environments*

Workshop 3 (EN, FR): The involvement of NGOs, third sector bodies and private landowners

Moderator: Highland Council (Scotland)

*Who is best positioned to control management of natural resources in mountain environments? What role do formal contract play as a means of delivering natural resources management?*

**3:35 pm Brief presentation from Workshop Session 2 (15 min)**

**3:50 pm Coffee and networking** (an area with displays of models and policies displayed)  
(This provides time to prepare the last session of the day)

**4:20 pm Summary of workshops and conclusions**

Scottish Crofter Foundation and Highland Council (Scotland)

- Key issues that effect the final report
- Suggested points to be included or amended in the proposed final report -how they will be dealt with
- Timescales for final report and distribution/availability

**4:45 pm End of Seminar**

*5:15 pm Bus to Lyon St-Exupery Airport*

*6:45 - 7:00 pm Arrival at the Airport*



## STUDY TOUR : The Regional Natural Park of the Massif des Bauges

Tuesday 5 December from 2.00 to 7.00 pm

**2.00-3.00 : Lescheraine with Eric Bolard\*:**  
*(Moderator of the forestry Charter of the territory of 'Massif des Bauges')*

Association for natural resource management and economic development based on working on the supply-chain of forest-wood energy : the Park is in charge of the management of the supply of energy-wood for the commune from the Massif de Bauges. Examination of the cooperation between the forestry operators and farmers, economic adding-value, forestry adding-value.



**3.30 - 4.30 : Ecole Commune with Simon Paillet\*:**  
*(Urban architect)*

Planning policies of communes on efficient management of land and resources. The park supports its communes in the implementation of their town planning projects and brings an expertise enabling the setting-up of sustainable projects : space efficiency, landscape integration, choices in energies, social mix... Exemple of a project involving a housing estate in the Commune of Ecole.

**Information on PNR (Regional Natural Park)**

*A PNR (from French "Regional Natural Park") is integrated into a rural territory with an outstanding cultural and natural heritage but which at the same time is fragile. This PNR is created by the initiative of the Region, and it is organised around a project that ensures the park protection, management and economic and social sustainable development.*

PNR missions:

*Heritage protection  
 Economic and social development  
 Welcoming visitors, education and information  
 Research and innovation*

*Different from the National Parks, which work in favour of the natural heritage protection by means of protection measures that could be restricting, the PNR's try to reconcile protection and development of activities within a territory. Their action is based on a Charter which is submitted to a public inquiry, after consultation with the dynamic forces of the territory. The Charter aims to promote the production and quality know-how (in agriculture, tourism, forestry, industry, environment education, cultural activities...), linked to protection efforts and heritage enhancement.*

*Rhône-Alpes Region has 6 Regional Natural Parks. Each one is managed by an organisation that groups the local authorities that signed Charter and finance its activities, and each benefits from a technical multitask team to well manage their programme.*

**4.45-15.30 : in room in the Park with Pascale Vinit\*:**  
*(Manager of the relation cities/ Park)*

Measures to develop the links urban/ rural. With its 4 and shortly 6 "door" towns, the Park coordinated a programme of development that is based in particular on the implementation of concrete actions of the Park towards the towns and of the towns towards the Park: products promotion, pedestrian connections, insertion,...

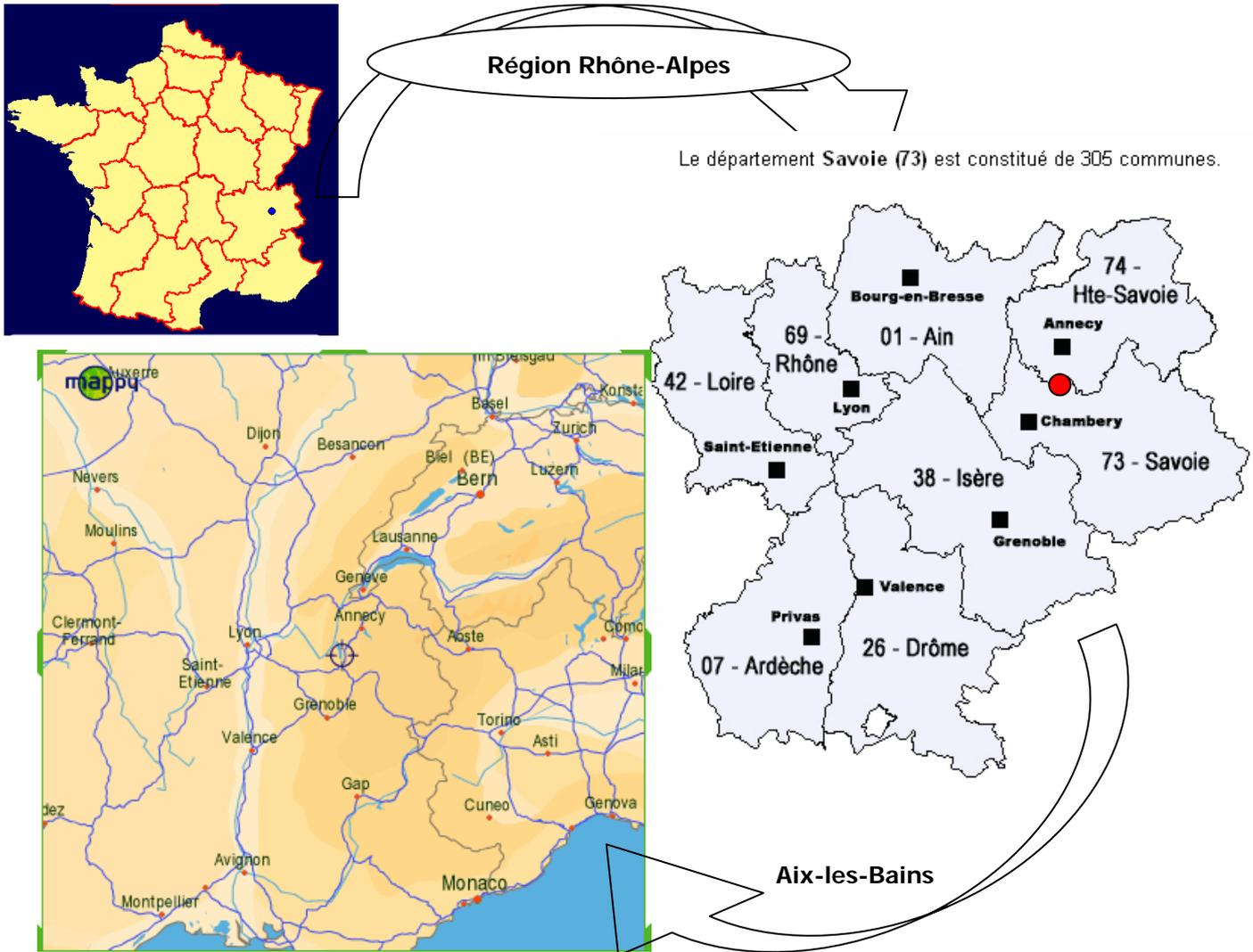
*\* the three speakers are members from the team of the PNR of Massif des Bauges*

# Practical guide for the Participant

In this "Practical Guide for Seminar Participant", you will find valuable information to organise your travel to Aix-les-Bains in the best conditions.

## *Aix-les-Bains ? Where is it?*

This thematic seminar is organised within the Rhône-Alpes Region, in the Department of Savoy in France.



## *Where will the seminar take place?*

**CAUTION** : the seminar will take place in two venues located in the city centre (see map page...)

**Tuesday 5 December: in the 'Antenne régionale d'Aix-les-Bains'**

Address: Immeuble "Le Magellan"  
603, boulevard du Président Wilson  
73100 Aix-les-Bains

**Wednesday 6 December: in the 'Palais des Congrès'**

Adresse: Centre des congrès  
Rue Jean Monard - BP 132  
73101 Aix-les-Bains Cedex

## How to go to Aix-les-Bains?

To go to Aix-les-Bains, you can fly to **Lyon Saint-Exupéry Airport** or arrive by train to the **station Lyon Part-Dieu**

<b>1/ Travels : Aix-les-Bains ⇔ Saint-Exupéry Airport</b>	
<b>With the Buses</b>	
GO: from the airport => Aix-les-Bains (direction Chambéry) at 9.00, 12.00, 16.00, 18.00 et 21.00.	
RETURN : from Aix-les-Bains train station => the airport at 15.35 or 17.35	
<b>Note: A bus will be put at disposal of the participants from Rhône-Alpes Region for free – Departure time : 5:15 pm - Arrival time: 6:45 to 7:00 pm</b>	
<i>Travel duration</i>	1h30
<i>Price</i>	One way ticket: 20 € - return ticket: 30 €
<i>To book</i>	Internet website for booking: <a href="http://www.altibus.com">www.altibus.com</a> Phone : 00 33 (0) 4 79 69 11 80
<b>With the trains</b>	
GO : from Saint-Exupéry TGV station => Aix-les-Bains Monday 4/12 (TGV n° 6947) (caution, there is just one train)	
<i>Departure</i>	18.58
<i>Arrival</i>	20.21
<i>Price (one way)</i>	22,60 € (caution : booking is compulsory)
RETURN : There is no direct return in train from the Saint-Exupéry TGV station	
<i>To book</i>	Internet Website : <a href="http://www.voyages.sncf.com">www.voyages.sncf.com</a>

<b>2/ Travels : Aix-les-Bains ⇔ Lyon Part-Dieu train Station</b>	
GO : from the Lyon Part-Dieu train Station => Aix-les-Bains TER : high frequency until 17.35 (every 10 min) then every hours from 17.35	
RETURN : Aix-les-Bains => Lyon Part-Dieu train station TER : 17.34 => 19.13 ; 18.08 => 19.25	
<i>Duration</i>	From 1h10 to 1h45
<i>Price (one way)</i>	17,10 €
<i>To book and see the time schedules</i>	Internet Website : <a href="http://www.voyages.sncf.com">www.voyages.sncf.com</a>

### Accommodation in the area?

The accommodation is managed by the office of Tourism from Aix-les-Bains. Please contact directly:

**Tatiana RIFLET**

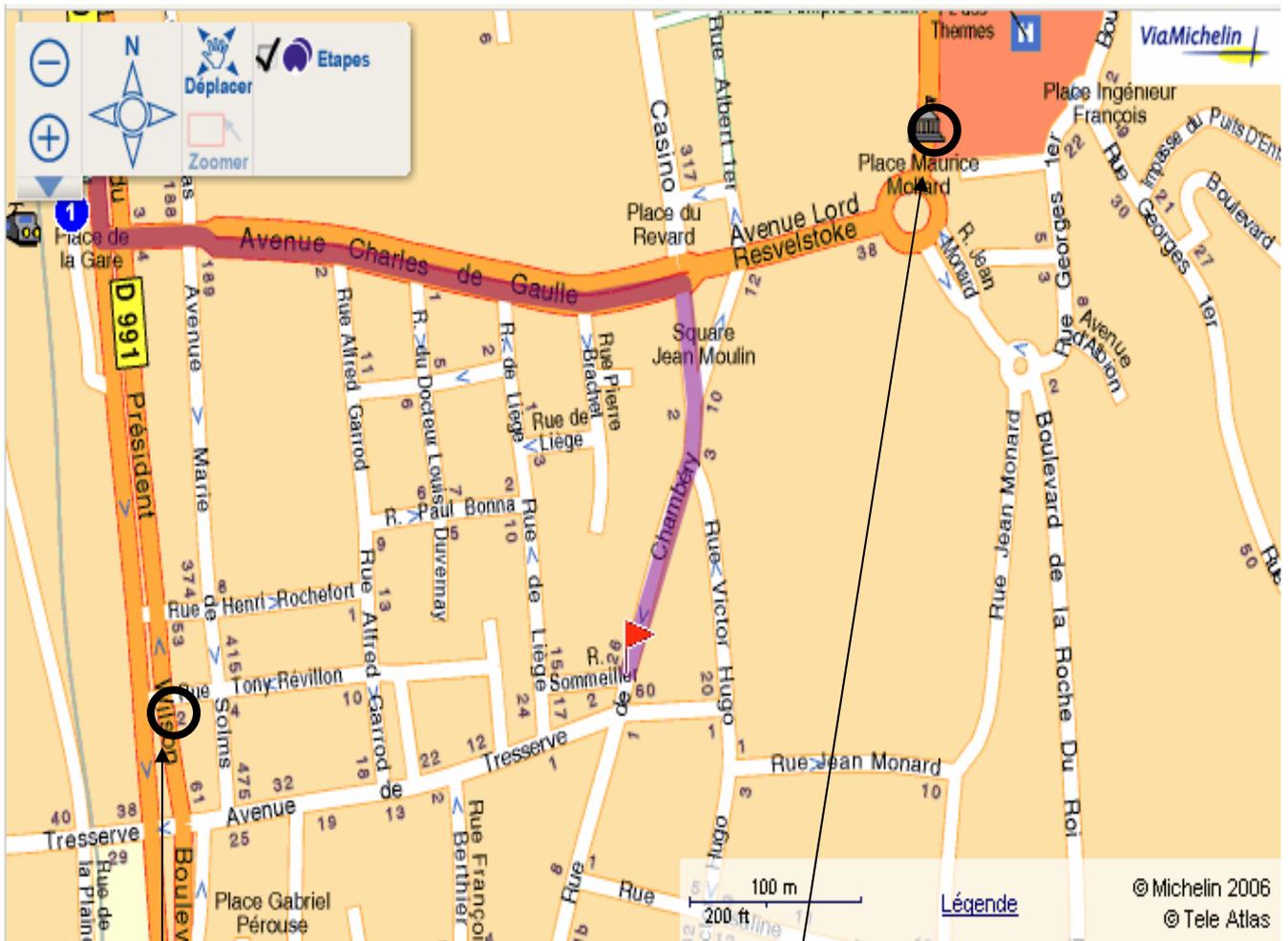
Tél. : 00 33 (0)4 79 88 68 05

Fax : 00 33 (0)4 79 88 68 11

Email : reservation.triflet@aixlesbains.com

She is available from 9.00 to 12.00 am and from 2.00 to 5.30 pm from Tuesday to Friday.

### Location of the venues for the seminar



**L'Antenne**

Opposite the train station,  
On your left hand side when the station is behind you

**Le Centre des Congrès**

## Contacts and Registration



A registration form has to be completed and sent by fax or e-mail before the **25/11/2006** to Euromontana. This form is available on the following websites:

[www.euromountains.net](http://www.euromountains.net) or [www.euromontana.org](http://www.euromontana.org).

For any information concerning this thematic seminar or the registration, you can contact **Cécile LEVRET** at Euromontana.

Tel: + 32 2 280 42 83. Mobile (while in France): + 32 4 72 50 00 53

Fax: + 32 2 280 42 85

Email: [cecile.levret@euromontana.org](mailto:cecile.levret@euromontana.org)

*Other useful contacts during the conference:*

**François TRUSSON** (Rhône-Alpes Region): mobile: + 33 (0)6 85 01 85 73

## What is the weather in Aix-les-Bains in December?



Please do not forget that we will have a visit on the field the first afternoon of the seminar. Warm clothes and good shoes are recommended.

To know more about Aix-les-Bains and to see some photos: <http://www.aixlesbains.com/>

**Have a nice travel!**

## Euromountains.net: 14 Partners from 6 countries

This thematic seminar is organised within the framework of the **Interreg III C project Euromountains.net** and concerns "Networking European mountain regions in order to promote sustainable territorial development". The partnership is composed of 14 partners represented by 11 regional authorities in 5 member nations of the European Union (Scotland, Spain, France, Italy, Portugal) and Norway. It covers many mountain regions in Europe, allowing an exchange of particularly rich experiences in each of the three themes, thereby assuring the actually European character of the actions and results of the project.

Three themes are more particularly studied : sustainable public and private services in mountain areas, (the seminar took place in Palencia - Spain - June 2005) ; the role of local and regional authorities in the development and promotion of resources and mountain quality products (seminar in Flaam - Norway - May 2006) and finally the topic focused by this seminar. The final conference of Euromountains.net is planned in Torino - Italy, 8 - 9 March 2007.



For more information, go on the website:

[www.euromountains.net](http://www.euromountains.net)

<p><b>Euromontana</b> Association Européenne pour les zones de montagne European Association for mountain areas</p>	<p><b>Diputacion de Cordoba</b> Andalucia Spain</p>	<p><b>Rhône-Alpes</b> Conseil Regional Rhône Alpes Rhône Alpes France</p>	<p><b>Région Autonome Vallée d'Aoste</b> Assessorat de l'Agriculture, des Ressources naturelles et de la Protection civile Valle d'Aosta Italy</p>	<p><b>Istituto di ricerca per l'ecologia e l'economia applicate alle aree alpine</b> Lombardia Italy</p>	<p><b>Telemark Fylkeskommune</b> Telemark County Council Norway</p>	<p><b>Buskerud Fylkeskommune</b> County Council Buskerud County Council Norway</p>
<p><b>ADRAT</b> Associação de Desenvolvimento da Região do Alto Tâmega Alto Tâmega Portugal</p>	<p><b>Diputacion de Palencia</b> Castilla y León Spain</p>	<p><b>The Highland Council</b> Highlands UK</p>	<p><b>PROVINCIA DI TORINO</b> Provincia di Torino Assessorato all'Agricoltura e Montagna Piemonte Italy</p>	<p><b>Provincia Autonoma di Trento</b> Assessorato alla programmazione ricerca ed innovazione Trentino Italy</p>	<p><b>Oppland fylkeskommune</b> Oppland County Council Norway</p>	<p><b>Sogn og Fjordane fylkeskommune</b> Sogn og Fjordane County Council Norway</p>