



## Special Session Proposal

### Special Session Title

#### **ICT tools and policies for the revival of mountainous areas**

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#### **Abstract**

In the context of European cohesion and enlargement, mountainous regions are considered as having permanent natural handicaps, due to topographic and climatic restrictions on economic activity and peripherality. The recent COVID pandemic crisis has reduced the demand for agricultural products and the seasonal labor, the development of tourism, and increased the social isolation and vulnerability due to the lack of services. At the same time remote working habits, new forms of mobility and new consumption and production patterns, and the relocation of production chains, can be the new opportunities for mountainous areas revival. Towards this field the role of new technologies can be decisive for the resilient development of isolated mountainous European areas.

The current session's aim is to collect ideas and proposals based on Information and communication technologies for mountainous areas revival which will highlight their diversity and support resilient communities.

It encourages proposals that promote the use of new technologies in mountainous areas (digital and innovation hubs):

- in working training, education and reskilling opportunities, mobile fab labs and community centres and health services.
- In women's involvement in local action groups and rural development networks.
- In the fields of energy production and carbon storage sectors, tourism and local ecosystems.
- In place-based strategies for innovative governance.
- In innovative transport systems to allow access in isolated area
- In inter-municipal cooperation, called "city-countryside reciprocity contracts".
- In the development of Smart Villages.