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# MARGISTAR

Transforming marginalised mountain regions  
towards their green, digital, and healthy futures.

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Dear <<First Name>>,

Welcome, and thank you for subscribing to the MARGISTAR newsletter!

MARGISTAR brings together scientists, stakeholders, and policymakers to address sustainability and connectivity challenges faced by marginalised mountainous regions. We reflect on the natural, environmental, social, and economic relationships and interactions within marginalised mountainous areas to collectively work towards real-world solutions.

Each month, MARGISTAR discusses the marginalisation challenges and transformation pathways of one country represented within our consortium through blogs written by MARGISTAR members and other local stakeholders from that country. In this newsletter, we present Country Focuses including Finland, Portugal, and, last but not least, Turkiye, the country that has acted as a bridge between Europe and Asia since 480 B.C.

into a second gathering that took place this week - our profiles are linked at the bottom of this email.

All the best,  
The MARGISTAR Team

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## Just Signed Up? Welcome To MARGISTAR!



The MARGISTAR project today involves 3 working groups, 144 working group members, and 54 management committee members. Over the course of the next three years, we will be organising annual meetings, training schools, and short-term scientific missions for researchers working with themes like periphery traps, social and socio-ecological innovation, and post-marginalisation visions as they relate to mountainous areas.

[Read the MARGISTAR MOU](#)

It's not too late to join MARGISTAR if you're still not a member of our consortium - just follow three easy steps below.

[Join MARGISTAR](#)

## MARGISTAR Highlights Portugal, Finland, and Türkiye in Latest Country Focuses



This summer, MARGISTAR continued its monthly Country Focus themes with members from Portugal, Finland, and Türkiye to bring awareness to the marginalised mountain regions represented within our consortium.

In July, MARGISTAR's Portuguese members shared with us their knowledge on the marginalised mountain regions in their areas. Obrigada, Dr António Monteiro (Universidade de Lisboa), Dr Fiona Bakas (Universidade Lusófona), Ana Margarida Silva (Centre for Intercultural Studies), Dr Maria Rivera Mendez (Universidade de Évora), and Dr José Muñoz-Rojas (Universidade de Évora) for your time and effort in shaping the MARGISTAR blog!

[View Portuguese Country Focus](#)



### **Exploring Marginalised Portuguese Mountainous Regions: A Multidisciplinary Perspective**

By Dr António T. Monteiro,  
Antonia Egli and Catherine Rae

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### **Exploring Carnivals and Their Social Impacts in Marginalised Mountainous Villages: Entrudo de Góis in the Aldeias do Xisto, Portugal**

By Dr Fiona Eva Bakas

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### **The Role of Creative Industries in the Empowerment of Marginalised Mountain Communities: A Case Study of Aldeias de Montanha, Portugal**



### **Serra da Estrela Cheese: A Pilar of Culture, Heritage, and the Economy in Portugal's Mountain Regions**

By Catarina Esgalhado, Dr José Muñoz-Rojas Portugal and Dr

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The August Country Focus on Finland was then continued by MARGISTAR's Science Communication team Prof Theo Lynn, Prof Colm O'Gorman, and Antonia Egli (Dublin City University). A second blog focused on entrepreneurship and innovation in Lapland and was written by Karoliina Majuri (University of Applied Science of Lapland) and MARGISTAR's WG2 Co-Lead Dr Simo Sarkki (University of Oulu).

[View Finland Country Focus](#)

## Hei! MARGISTAR meets Finland at First In-Person Meeting



In May 2023, MARGISTAR members travelled to Finland for their first in-person gathering (and, for some, their first polar summer) in the remote Lappish towns of Inari and Utsjoki. Read on for a short overview of this initial COST Action meeting, the experiences we had, and many of our members' first introductions to indigenous Sámi culture, politics, and current marginalisation challenges.

## These Legs Are Made For Walking: How Finnish Reindeer Leg Skins Entered The International Shoe Business



What do reindeer herders in Finnish Lapland and a shoe factory in Mongolia have in common? Karoliina Majuri, a reindeer herder from Ranua, Finland, in 2022 seized a window of opportunity and entered the reindeer leg skin business in partnership with Reindeer Boot, a Mongolian shoe factory. While challenges remain, the new business venture provides welcome additional income to herders that is also compatible with the traditional cultural practices of the reindeer herding livelihood.

Read Blog

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Last but certainly not least, in September, MARGISTAR turned its focus to Türkiye's marginalised mountain regions with Dr Murat Sargıncı (Düzce Üniversitesi) and Dr Tuğba Deniz (İstanbul University – Cerrahpaşa). Thank you, Murat and Tuğba, for your efforts in bringing Türkiye's mountains closer to the MARGISTAR community!

## Connecting Europe and Asia since 480 BC: MARGISTAR Explores the Republic of Türkiye

By Dr Murat Sargıncı (Düzce Üniversitesi)

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## Unearthing the Threat: Erosion's Toll on the Mountainous Areas of Türkiye

By Dr Tuğba Deniz (İstanbul University – Cerrahpaşa)

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## MARGISTAR Moves

MARGISTAR has been out and about since the project's launch in April 2023. Find out what's been keeping us busy 🏠 🔄



MARGISTAR's first Working Group 2 meeting took place in Düzce, Türkiye, this September. Working Group 2 is focuses on furthering co-creation and synthesis on three broad topics, namely (1) periphery traps, (2) visions of post-marginalised futures, and (3) transformation pathways that move from problems to visions.

Click [here](#) to learn more about what periphery traps mean in a MARGISTAR context or read on for a brief summary of this COST Action meeting and the experiences we had, including our field trip to Efteni Lake, Güzeldere Waterfall Nature Park, and the Kardüz Upland.

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### **MARGISTAR is registered a COST Action (MoU - 039/22)**

COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) is a funding agency for research and innovation networks. Actions help connect research initiatives across Europe and enable scientists to grow their ideas by sharing them with their peers. This boosts their research, career, and innovation.



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