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MARGISTAR

Transforming marginalised mountainous areas towards their green, digital, and healthy futures.

Dear <<First Name>>,

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

MARGISTAR brings together scientists, stakeholders, and policymakers in a collaborative effort to address the sustainability and connectivity challenges that European marginalised mountainous regions face. We explore the intricate relationships within these regions, encompassing natural, environmental, social, and economic aspects, with the aim of collectively working towards practical solutions, or *post-marginalisation pathways*.

Each month, MARGISTAR discusses the marginalisation challenges and transformation pathways in a specific country represented by our consortium. Our newsletters feature blogs authored by MARGISTAR members and other local stakeholders, offering insights into the unique circumstances of each country. Today, our focus turns to Albania, the host country of our inaugural face-to-face meeting for Working Group 1.

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media channels - our profiles are linked at the bottom of this email.

All the best,
The MARGISTAR Team

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](#)

Eagles, in Latest Country Focus



Following stints in [Italy](#), [Portugal](#), [Finland](#), and [Türkiye](#), MARGISTAR continues its monthly Country Focus theme with Albania. MARGISTAR's Albanian consortium members acted both as hosts and writers this fall, with Dr Mirela Tase welcoming us in Tirana, Voskopojë, and Korçë for a first face-to-face Working Group 1 meeting, and Prof Klodiana Gorica sharing her insights into the marginalised mountain regions of Albania in the form of a blog.

[View Albanian Country Focus](#)

From Peaks to Policy: MARGISTAR's Working Group 1 Visits the Mountains of Albania



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Group 1 members met in Tirana, Voskopojë, and Korçë to discuss the next steps in MARGISTAR's collaboration and networking efforts. Read on for a short overview of our COST Action meeting, an introduction to the *FAIRWAY in Europe* online platform that is currently under development, and a glimpse of the Albanian peaks and valleys we were lucky to visit.

[Read Blog](#)

Exploring Mountainous Areas in the Land of Eagles: Opportunities for Rural Development in Albania



Albania is renowned for its varied landscapes, which collectively contribute to the country's natural beauty, biodiversity, and cultural heritage. The second blog of MARGISTAR's Country Focus on Albania, written by the University of Tirana's Prof Klodiana Gorica, presents a comprehensive overview of the country's marginalised mountain ranges and delves into the diverse set of social, economic, and ecological challenges they face. The article also introduces promising emerging solutions, ranging from sustainable tourism initiatives that bring about economic opportunities to infrastructure improvements and agricultural revitalisation initiatives that support niche agricultural products.

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MARGISTAR Moves

Supporting Biodiversity Through Local Engagement With Shepherds



Abruzzo, Italy boasts the highest percentage of protected areas in Europe, encompassing both natural environments and anthropic ecosystems, including pastures. The landscapes and biodiversity of the region are intricately intertwined with its traditional agropastoral activities, which, unfortunately, have gradually declined over the years.

Dr Laura Boffi is an interaction design researcher and practitioner with a background in product design. In her blog, Laura tells the story behind her participatory project focused on biodiversity conservation and local agropastoral traditions, which was inspired by her conversations with a local shepherd in Abruzzo.

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Carpathian Futures - Critical Transitions: MARGISTAR at the Forum Carpathicum 2023



The 7th [Forum Carpaticum](#), themed “Carpathian Futures – Critical Transitions,” took place in Krakow, Poland, this September. The forum provided a platform for scientists, practitioners, and stakeholders to discuss the multifaceted challenges faced in the Carpathian Mountain region.

MARGISTAR was represented on site by Dr Mariana Melnykovich, who delivered a presentation entitled “Multi-disciplinary Approach for Inclusive, Competitive, and Green Economies and Societies in Mountainous Areas: The Experience of EU COST Action MARGISTAR.” Read on for her insights into the significance of comprehensive approaches in ensuring inclusive and sustainable economic progress in mountain regions, and the balance between competitiveness and environmental preservation.

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