

## STRATEGY

EURAC is an interdisciplinary research centre located in Bolzano, Italy, in the heart of the Alps. At EURAC's Research Area "Mountains" we focus on monitoring and assessing the interaction of environment and society in mountain regions, and we work on strategies of sustainability in the Alps and other mountain areas.

## OUR WORK

- is inter- and trans-disciplinary, covering environmental and social science
- ranges from basic and applied research to applications and services for mountain users
- includes all relevant scales, from plots to full mountain ranges and from the past to the future

EURAC hosts the branch office of the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention and supports the Italian Ministry of the Environment, Land and Sea in the Convention's implementation. In addition, we cooperate closely with the UNEP Vienna Office, acting also as Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, supporting initiatives in the Carpathians and in other mountain areas in the world. We are a member of the Mountain Research Initiative and the Mountain Partnership. Eurac mountains is also strongly cooperating with the Forschungsschwerpunkt „Alpiner Raum – Mensch und Umwelt“.

## TOPICS

### Global Change and Ecosystem Services

Mountain areas provide important ecosystem services for lowlands. At EURAC we study the effects of global changes on ecological processes at ecosystem and landscape levels and across spatial and temporal scales and then use this data to evaluate and model impacts on biodiversity, ecosystem and landscape functions and services.

### Climate, Water, Snow

Mountains are known as the water towers of the world. At EURAC we study mountain climatology, model the hydrology of mountain catchments, monitor snow cover with satellite data and simulate the impact of global change on the water balance through experimental analyses and eco-hydrological modelling.

### Assessment

Natural hazards such as flash floods or landmass movements as well as climatic change threaten the environment, supply networks, transportation and population of mountain regions. At EURAC we monitor slow surface movements with ground truth measurements and radar satellites, assess the risk of natural hazards and model the impact of climatic change. As a result, we can offer evaluations of sectoral and regional vulnerability as well as recommendations for adaptation strategies.

### Agriculture and Agronomy

The multifunctionality of agriculture - land use, cultural landscapes, food production, decentralised settlements - has a significant ecological and socioeconomic impact on the vitality of rural areas. EURAC studies the relationship between agriculture, the environment and the socio-economic life in mountain regions. We assess strategies that promote future policy changes and evaluate their potential consequences. To enhance regional value chains, we study the valorisation of regional products. Finally, we observe changes in land use and farm structure in the Alpine and Carpathian mountain regions, and analyse their drivers.

### Regional Development

We provide applied research and give professional advice on sustainable regional development that helps local and regional actors deal with a variety of socio-economic issues. Our applied and interdisciplinary research in regional development concentrates on economic geography and economic research. The impact of human activity on the economy and quality of life in mountain regions is a key research element. We focus on local conditions, spatial impacts of human activity, and sustainability issues at the intersection of tourism/location development, agriculture, urban-rural relationships and transport/mobility.

For more information: [www.eurac.edu](http://www.eurac.edu)

