

About us



ForAlps is an international group of researchers, academics, members of non-profit organizations and journalists who are active in the field of foreign immigration in the Alps. Network members come from Italy, Austria, Switzerland, France and Germany. The group is self-managed, following a non-hierarchical, multi and interdisciplinary approach that is open to all contributions from its members.

ForAlps

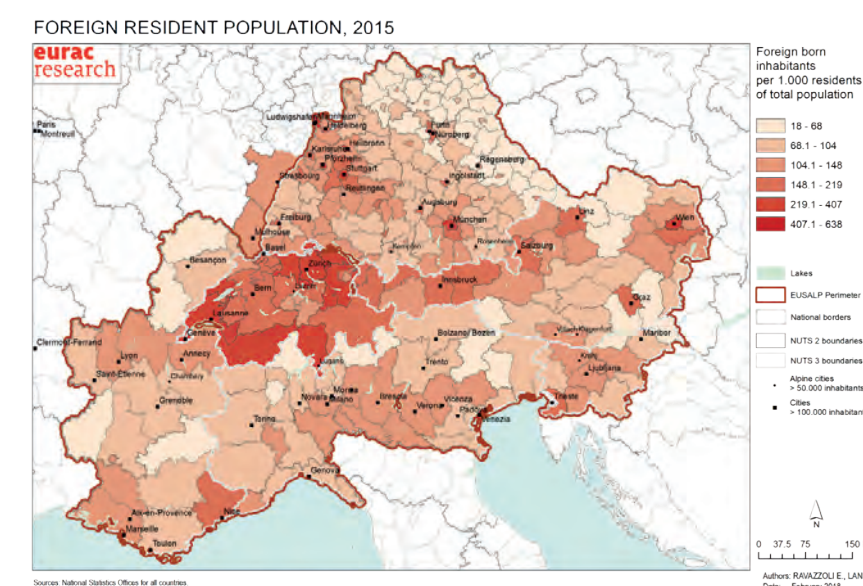
Foreign immigration in the Alps



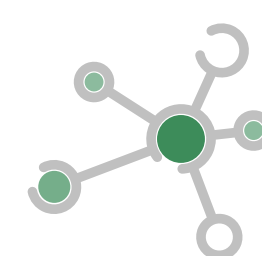
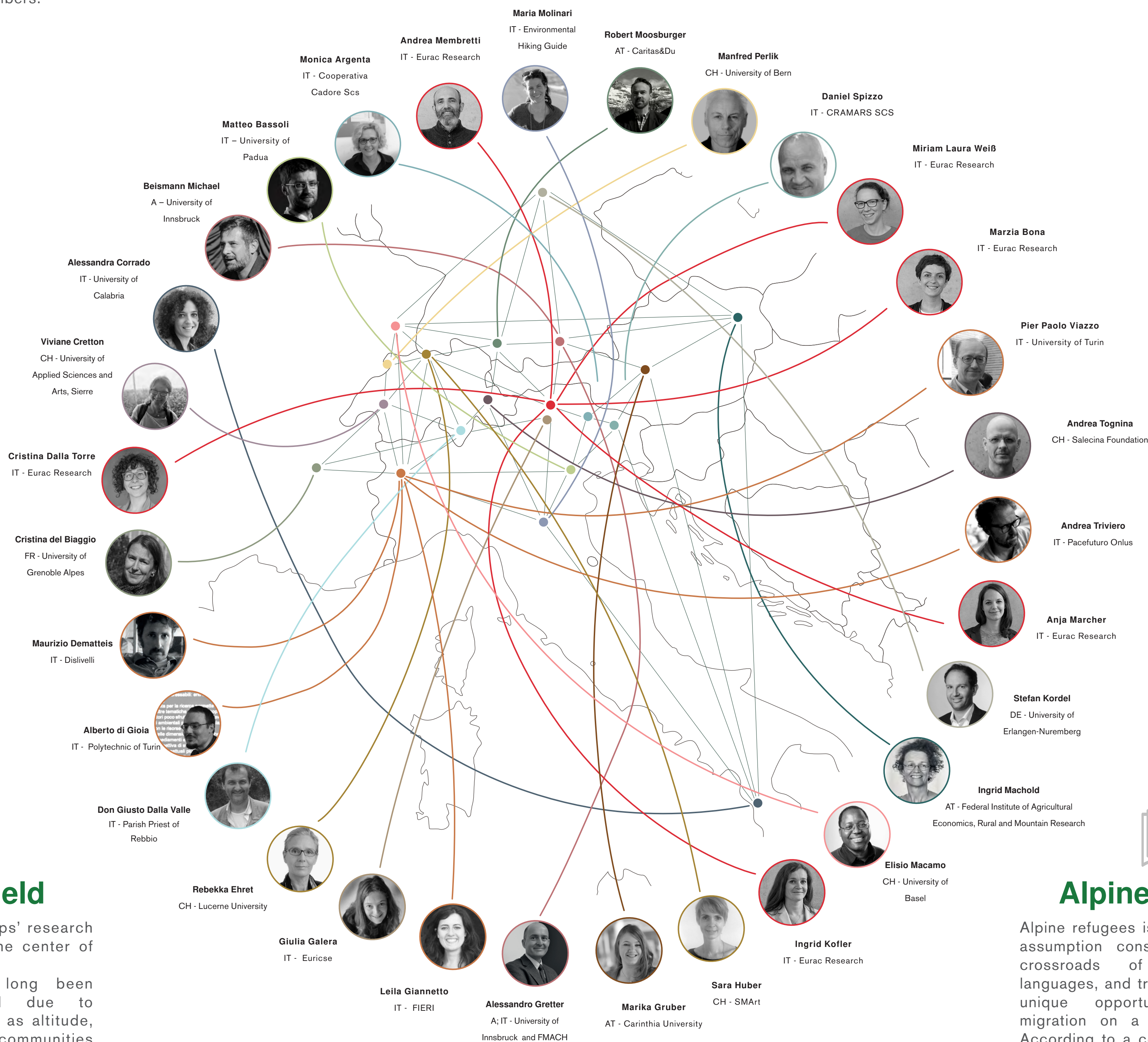
Immigration as opportunity for Alpine regions The mountains: an economic and human resource



Seminars

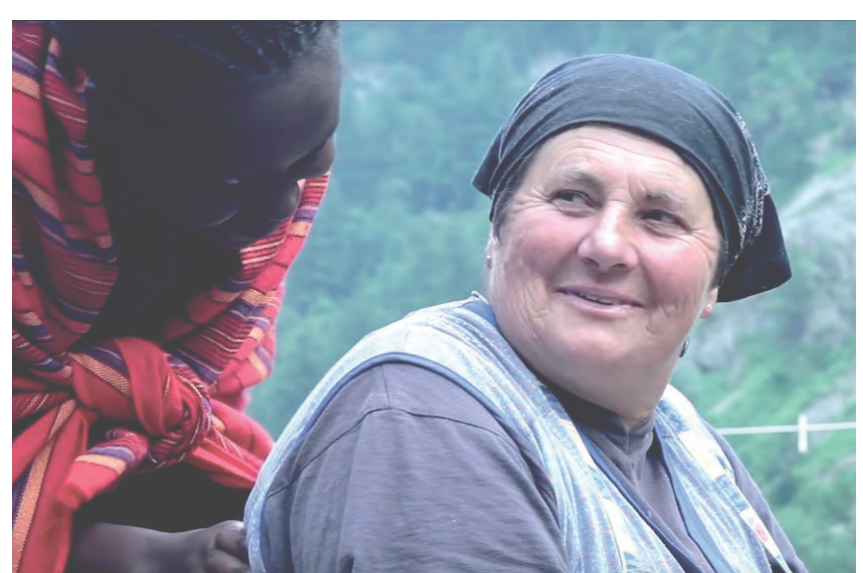


The group has organized several meetings since 2015 (Salecina, Pettingengo, Bolzano) aiming to enlarge the group's network, strengthen international co-operation and facilitate information exchange among participants. In addition, they provide a view to developing future joint research, project design, and public and decision-maker awareness initiatives.



Research field

The basic premise of ForAlps' research places the mountains at the center of Europe. The Alps, which have long been perceived as divisional due to territory-related traits such as altitude, isolated, settlements, local communities and distinct traditions, are reconsidered as "hinge areas" where interactions between locals and foreigners can form "element of positive transformation...local development and multicultural enrichment". The experts taking part in it work together to disseminate and increase the debate about welcoming culture and integration, with a focus on best practice related with the specific territory, like the mountain, important to relieve the migration topic from abstract arguments about national cohesion and identity!



*What can
immigrants do for
European
mountains and the
latter do for
immigrants?*



Alpine refugees

Alpine refugees is a book whose central assumption considers the Alps as a crossroads of different cultures, languages, and traditions that presents a unique opportunity to investigate migration on a relatively small scale. According to a comparative perspective, the specific analysis of Alpine migration processes enables a better understanding of the specific development patterns and challenges that lie ahead for other new immigration destinations. As illustrated by country-specific studies of Austria, Italy, and Switzerland, as well as brief excursion to Germany, the Alps can be regarded as a laboratory where the hostile reactions of local populations and examples of mismanagement go hand in hand with innovative reception initiatives whose use of effective policy tools and strategies have in several instances triggered local development dynamics.

