



Vienna Programme Office – Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention



**Bridging the gender gap in rural mountainous regions - challenges: digitalization as one opportunity**

**Information Day under the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW67)**

**7<sup>th</sup> March 2023, 14:30-16:30 CET, 8:30-10:30 EST**

Mountain regions are often less populated with fragile ecological and economical systems with their communities having less access to education and health care than in the cities, in particular women and girls. Climate change and digital divide affect these regions and disproportionately more women and girls, widening existing gender inequalities and posing unique threats to their livelihoods, health, and safety. Despite the fact that often women have strong knowledge of their local environments and promote sustainable practices, both within their households and communities their voices are not always listened or given adequate weight in decision making.

This meeting sponsored by UNEP and organized by the NGO Committee on the Status of Women Vienna, the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development Vienna and the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, with the support of Eurac Research, aims at amplifying rural women's and girls voices and experiences from different rural mountainous regions.

This Orientation Day will investigate the challenges for women and girls from different mountain regions, the potential among other factors of digitalization to a more inclusive and just future for women and girls.

**Speakers:**

- **Sara Manuelli**, Advocacy and Outreach Officer, Mountain Partnership Secretariat, Forestry Division, FAO: **"Mountain Women of the world: Stories of resilience and collective power"**
- **Magdalena Kubal-Czerwińska**, Assistant Professor, Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Institute of Geography and Spatial Management, Department of Tourism and Health Resort Management, Poland: **"Gender perspective on the professional activity of women in tourism in the Carpathians"**
- **Theresia Oedl-Wieser**, Head of Department, Federal Institute of Agricultural Economics, Rural and Mountain Research, Rural Sociology and Library, Austria: **"Women's empowerment in the high mountain region of Mestia (Georgia) – outcomes of community led local development initiatives"**
- **Omer Aijazi**, Chair of the IUCN Mountain Ecosystems Group, IUCN: **"The Power of Stories: Women and Worldmaking in the Himalayas of Pakistan and Kashmir"**
- **Ilina Arsova**, mountaineer, environmental activist and artist (tbc)
- **Elene Galia**, LAG member of Svaneti and Entrepreneur (tbc)

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- Alpine speaker (tbc)

## Moderator:

Harald Egerer, Head, UNEP Vienna Office-Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention

## MEETING AIMS

- **Increase awareness** among stakeholders of the interconnections between gender, environmental issues and digital divide in rural mountain areas, and how women are shaping actions in mountain regions in Europe and beyond.
- **Promote dialogue** among experts, policy makers and other stakeholders on gender, environment, and digital divide to encourage joint solutions for addressing common challenges among mountain regions.
- **Sharing of good practices and lessons learned** among mountain regions.
- **Collect key messages** for future activities and initiatives.

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