



Local Government and the Changing Urban-Rural Interplay¹.

H2020-MSCA-RISE-2018. Grant Agreement no. 823961

V Congress of esMountains-Spanish Association of Mountain Municipalities

Aínsa-Huesca

esMountains-Spanish Association of Mountain Municipalities was established in 2013 at the initiative of a group of mayors of mountain areas and senators to unite the mountain municipalities of Spain, claim their needs, and promote legislative improvements and actions that contribute to improving the lives of its inhabitants, stop the depopulation of these territories and generate economic and social development in these municipalities.

esMountains brings together all the political sensitivities present in the mountain municipalities of Spain to carry out strategies for promoting and cohesion between these mountain areas. Thus, esMountains aims to be an instrument at the service of mountain municipalities, which values these areas, defends their claims, and turns them into a social and economic benchmark. Currently, esMountains has 274 municipalities and 4 associated county councils.

On September 23, 24, and 25 in Aínsa, Huesca, the V Congress of esMountains took place. Under the title: "Mountain territories: the challenge of cohesion". This was a unique opportunity in which the main private, public and social agents of the mountain population of Spain were brought together and in which the current and future situation was debated and studied through real success stories.

During this congress, the need for a Mountain Law, definitive for this type of territory, was vindicated to help alleviate their problems and face their challenges. A law that allows to recognize the peculiarities and develop the potential of these territories and thereby contribute to a more balanced and cohesive nation. In addition, the aim has been to highlight the importance of the rural world in the face of changes in the society. Issues such as renewable energy or climate change are intrinsic in these territories, and these peoples are the levers that will achieve this transformation of society. In addition, there was a debate on how to face the challenges due to the depopulation of rural areas and how to revitalize abandoned Spain.

During the V Annual Congress of the Spanish Association of Mountain Municipalities (esMountain), political representatives such as Teresa Ribero, Vice President of the

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Government (Video Intervention) Enrique Puyo, Mayor of Aínsa-Sobrarbe, Francesc Boya, Secretary-General for the Demographic Challenge also participated.

In this congress, among other academics and experts in the field, Professor Francisco Velasco Caballero, Professor of Administrative Law at UAM, IP of the European Project “Local Government and the Changing Urban-Rural Interplay” G.A. 823961-LoGov-H2020-MSCA-RISE-2018 and IP of the National Research Project "Policies and Public Services Against Depopulation" PID2019-105799RB, also did participate and intervened.

During the presentation he made, he presented on the financing of small municipalities in Spain through which he analyzed the causes of depopulation, the structures of income sources (LHL), especially everything related to own resources or transfers to these municipalities, making a special focus on the case of Valladolid.

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