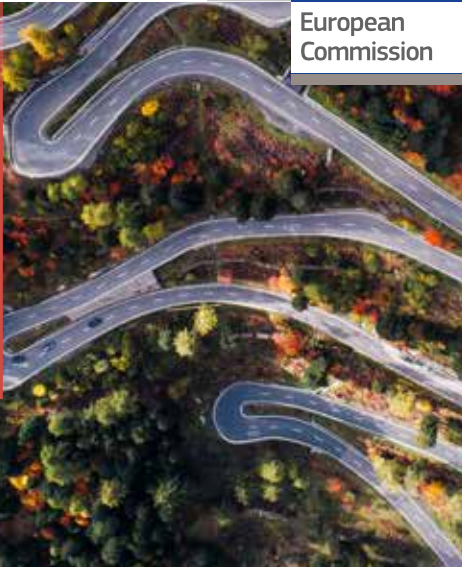




European
Commission



HOW THE EU HELPS MOUNTAIN AREAS

Europe's mountain communities can be remote and difficult to reach, creating challenges such as limited access to resources, services and markets. Balancing tourism and environmental protection can also be difficult. EU support can help turn these hurdles into opportunities to create jobs, boost local economies and improve lives. The EU-funded Pediatric pole of Cerdanya project is one such example.

Improving care for young patients in the Pyrenees

An EU-funded project has improved access to healthcare for children living in the eastern Pyrenees, helping to ensure that the youngest patients get the best treatment possible in this largely mountainous, remote and rural cross-border region between France and Spain.

Cerdanya – also known as ‘Cerdagne’ and ‘La Cerdanya’ – is a region of the eastern Pyrenees mountain range that straddles the French and Spanish borders. While rich in natural beauty and an ideal destination for enjoying the outdoors, the area is largely rural and home to local communities in need of better access to public services.

The EU-funded **Pediatric pole of Cerdanya** project tackled this problem by finding ways to bolster medical care for children in line with public health targets identified by both French and Spanish authorities.

It did so by rethinking the previous model of care and tasking a team of professionals from both France and northern Spain's Catalonia region to develop strategies aimed at providing both optimal inpatient and outpatient care throughout the area.

Among the goals of the project were merging resources and experiences among the region's health professionals, as well as setting up partnerships to streamline costs.



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'The Pediatric pole of Cerdanya project's cornerstone are several area facilities focused on much-needed rehab and aftercare for youngsters suffering from obesity, respiratory ailments, diabetes and attention deficit disorders, as well as some rare diseases.'

Child-focused facilities

The Pediatric pole of Cerdanya project's cornerstones are several area facilities focused on much-needed rehab and aftercare for youngsters suffering from obesity, respiratory ailments, diabetes and attention deficit disorders, as well as some rare diseases. These include Prader-Willi syndrome, a genetic disorder affecting growth, metabolism and intellectual ability.

The centres are run as non-profit units and are open to all children and adolescents aged 0 to 17. They offer individual treatment plans and 24/7 medical care. In addition, teams of experts – including doctors, dieticians and a variety of therapists – help both the young people and their parents learn to adapt and live well with the diagnosis at hand.

The newest facility is situated in the French commune of Osséja. Sun-drenched and friendly, it is specifically geared towards children and adolescents aged 10-17.

Stays there can last from less than a month to more than three months if doctors deem it necessary. Schooling is offered to accommodate such long-term patients, with recreational activities such as cooking classes, time outdoors or in the gym also part of some programmes.



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Project full name: Pediatric pole of Cerdanya

Sectors: Access to public services

Project website: <http://pediatrie-occitanie.alefpa.asso.fr/>

Total cost: EUR 2 769 000

EU CONTRIBUTION: EUR 1 200 000

Fund: European Regional Development Fund

PROGRAMME: Interreg V-A _ Spain-France-Andorra (POCTEFA)

Project start/end: 2015 to 2017

