

D.1.3.1 TRAINING MATERIALS

Joint curriculum of peer-learning training modules



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CIPRA International Lab GmbH

European Association for Local Democracy

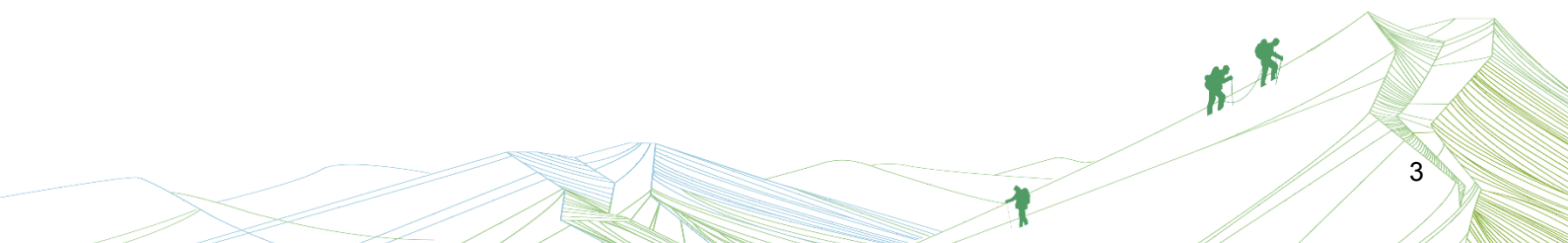
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D.1.3.1 TRAINING MATERIALS

INTRODUCTION

The present document constitutes Deliverable D.1.3.1 “Training materials – Joint curriculum of peer-learning training modules” developed within the framework of the OUT4INGOV project, co-financed by the Interreg Alpine Space Programme 2021–2027.

OUT4INGOV – *Enhancing multi-level governance to mitigate youth outmigration and safeguard prosperity in Alpine regions* – addresses one of the most pressing structural challenges affecting the Alpine Space: the persistent outmigration of young people and the resulting risks of demographic imbalance, labour shortages, and loss of human capital. Youth mobility within and beyond Alpine territories represents both an opportunity and a challenge. While international experiences can enhance skills and networks, sustained and selective outmigration may weaken regional resilience and long-term prosperity.

The project seeks to strengthen governance mechanisms that can better understand, anticipate and respond to youth mobility dynamics. In this perspective, capacity building and peer learning among partners constitute a fundamental component of Work Package 1 (WP1), aimed at developing shared knowledge, analytical tools and communication strategies.

The Training of Trainers (ToT) cycle presented in this deliverable forms part of this capacity-building effort. It brings together academic expertise, practical tools, regional case studies and governance-oriented reflections to support partners in addressing youth participation, mobility and migration, and their interrelations with territorial development in Alpine and cross-border contexts.

METHODOLOGY

The joint curriculum was developed through a Training of Trainers (ToT) methodology designed to foster peer learning, cross-regional exchange and practical application within partners’ pilot territories.

The model is based on three core principles:

1. **Knowledge transfer from experts to practitioners**
Each session involved members of the project’s Scientific Committee or specialised practitioners who provided research-based evidence, methodological frameworks and comparative case studies.
2. **Peer-learning and exchange among partners**
Trainings were conceived not as one-directional lectures, but as interactive spaces encouraging reflection, discussion and mutual learning between Alpine regions facing similar demographic and governance challenges.
3. **Applicability to pilot actions**
Each module was structured to ensure direct relevance to the partners’ co-creation

processes and pilot actions. Tools, concepts and case studies were selected to support concrete implementation at local and regional levels.

The methodology thus integrates academic research, policy analysis and practical experimentation, ensuring that training outcomes can feed directly into the project's governance innovation processes.

The curriculum combines:

- ▲ Theoretical frameworks (e.g., participation ladder, brain drain vs. brain circulation);
- ▲ Quantitative and qualitative research methodologies (cross-referenced migration statistics, interviews, surveys);
- ▲ Territorial case studies (Italian regions and the Franco-Swiss Arc jurassien);
- ▲ Governance and communication perspectives tailored to Alpine and inner territories.

OVERALL OBJECTIVE

The overall objective of the joint peer-learning training curriculum is to strengthen the capacity of project partners and local stakeholders to **understand, manage and communicate youth mobility and migration dynamics** in order to safeguard regional prosperity in Alpine territories.

More specifically, the training aims to:

- ▲ Develop a shared conceptual framework on youth participation, migration and regional development;
- ▲ Improve partners' ability to analyse demographic and mobility data at local and regional level;
- ▲ Foster a nuanced understanding of brain drain, brain circulation and diaspora engagement;
- ▲ Strengthen governance approaches that connect youth empowerment with territorial resilience;
- ▲ Enhance communication strategies addressing complex interrelations between mobility and prosperity.

By combining youth participation methodologies, migration research and territorial case studies, the curriculum supports OUT4INGOV's broader ambition: to contribute to more effective, multi-level governance models capable of mitigating the negative effects of youth outmigration while leveraging mobility as a potential driver of innovation, connection and sustainable regional development.

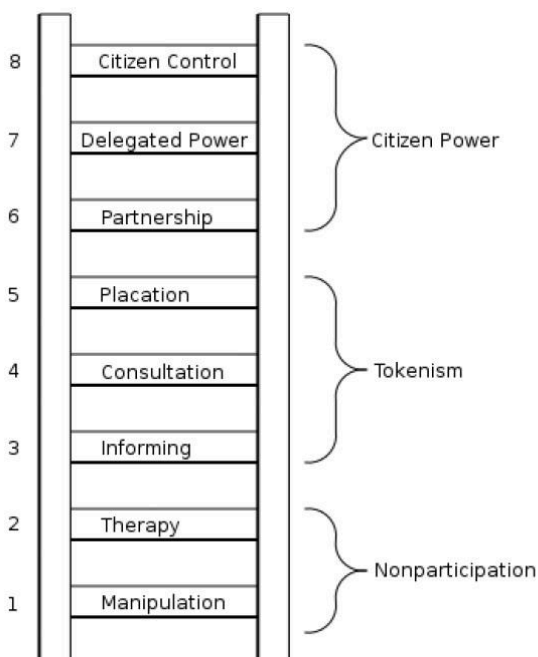
TRAINING CURRICULUM

1st training: “How to Engage with Youth: Meaningful Participation at the Local Level”

On 2 December 2025, ALDA delivered the first Training of Trainers (ToT) webinar to the partners of the OUT4INGOV project. The session was led by the ALDA Youth Hub and structured in two parts: the first part focused on the Youth Hub’s mandate, activities and approach to youth participation, while the second part focused on the experience of the SPEAK UP project (Erasmus+), providing best practices, ready-to-use tools and practical experience on how to use debate as a tool to engage young people.

The first part of the webinar introduced the ALDA Youth Hub, presenting its ongoing projects, key activities and strategic priorities. Indeed, the Youth Hub works along three main priorities: **creating a community of practice and influence among local democratic actors; representing the voice of local youth actors towards national and European institutions and reporting back on European youth policy developments; and encouraging local democratic actors to adopt youth participatory practices, starting with a reflection on the role of youth workers.**

The second thematic block of the first part focused on youth participation, starting with the presentation of the **participation ladder** concept. The ladder illustrates that the higher we move up the ladder, the wider is the involvement of young people in decision making.



At the **lower levels**, participation is non-genuine:

1. **Manipulation:** Young people are invited to participate, but their involvement is used for other goals, such as boosting the reputation of the project, winning local elections, or securing funding, with no real impact on decisions or outcomes.
2. **Decoration:** Young people are included simply to represent youth as a group. Their role is purely visual and they have no meaningful contribution beyond being present.

3. Informing: Young people are given roles within projects, but they have no real influence over decisions. Their participation is merely symbolic, giving the illusion of involvement.

At intermediate levels:

4. Consultation: Adults lead the projects, but young people are assigned specific roles or tasks and understand the extent of their influence.
5. Placation: Projects are led by adults, but young people are consulted for advice and input. They are informed about how their suggestions influence the final outcomes.

At higher levels of participation:

6. Partnership (adult-initiated, shared decisions with young people): Adults initiate projects, but young people share decision-making power and responsibilities equally with them.
7. Delegated power (young people led and initiated): Projects or ideas are driven and managed entirely by young people, with adults providing support if needed, but not directly involved in execution.
8. Citizen control (shared decision-making): Projects or ideas are initiated by young people, who invite adults to join the decision-making process as equal partners.

The session also addressed key issues and priorities related to the participation of young people:

Key issues and priorities

- ▲ Trust and confidence: Young people often lack trust in participative systems and in their own ability to influence decisions. Strengthening participation mechanisms and ensuring tangible outcomes are essential to building confidence.
- ▲ Clarity of roles and accessibility: Young people struggle to understand what responsibilities lie at each political level.
- ▲ Inclusiveness: Discrimination limits the participation of certain groups, especially those from disadvantaged or minority backgrounds.
- ▲ Mobility and exchange: Mobility projects and transnational experiences remain among the most effective ways to spark youth interest and engagement.

The session concluded with a set of recommendations to enhance youth participation:

Recommendations

- ▲ **Establish an “Open Door” policy:** Do not overlook informal groups. Maintain an open and inclusive approach, allowing people from diverse backgrounds, interests and willingness to participate to join the activity.
- ▲ **Empower young people:** Delegate responsibilities, resources, recognition and the capacity to influence and assess decision-making to the participants.

- ▲ **Educate and inform participants:** Ensure that all participants are informed about the topic being discussed, the consequences of their deliberation, and their place in the decision-making process.

The second part of the session built on this foundation by presenting the **SPEAK UP project** (Erasmus+) and offering concrete methodologies, tools and practical examples on how to use debate as an effective instrument to foster youth engagement and democratic participation.

This section highlighted why debate is particularly useful for youth engagement:

- ▲ **Structured thinking:** Debate helps young people develop logical reasoning and organize arguments clearly.
- ▲ **Reduced inequity:** It creates inclusive spaces where young people can express their views, including through non-formal education methods, strengthening confidence in voicing opinions.
- ▲ **Civic engagement:** Debate improves the ability to distinguish reliable sources of information, better understand democratic values and practices, and critically evaluate strengths and weaknesses of issues affecting local communities.

Finally, partners were engaged in breakout rooms, where they experienced a practical debate exercise on a selected motion. This activity allowed them to test the methodology, reflect on its applicability in their local contexts, and explore how debate can be adapted as a participatory tool within their own communities. Following the end of the workshop,

Specific Objectives

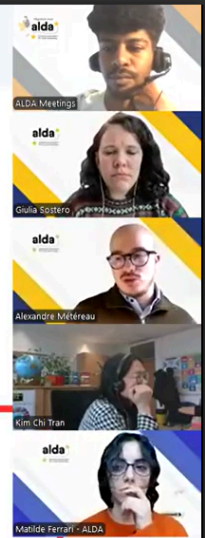
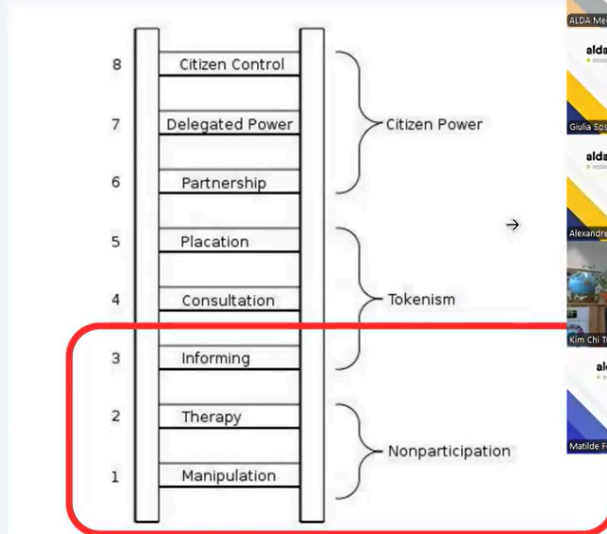
- ▲ Provide a **common framework** on youth participation (participation ladder) to assess and improve engagement practices.
- ▲ Address key challenges related to youth involvement, including **trust, inclusiveness, clarity of roles and mobility**.
- ▲ Transfer **practical tools and methodologies** from ALDA's projects (particularly, the experience of the SPEAK UP project) to support youth engagement in partners' local realities.
- ▲ Encourage **peer learning and exchange** among partners as part of the OUT4INGOV capacity building joint curriculum.

Learning Outcomes

- ▲ Gained a clearer understanding of **levels of youth participation** and how to improve them.
- ▲ Identified **key barriers and enabling factors** for youth engagement.
- ▲ Explore **best practices** (such as motion-based debate) that can be used to raise awareness on local issues and youth participation, and test such methodology through practical activities, reflecting on local application.

The ladder of participation

- 1 Manipulation**
Young people are invited to participate, but their involvement is used for other goals, such as boosting the reputation of the project, winning local elections, or securing funding, with no real impact on decisions or outcomes.
- 2 Decoration**
Young people are included in the project simply to represent youth as a group. Their role is purely visual, and they have no meaningful contribution except being present.
- 3 Tokenism**
Young people are given roles within projects, but they have no real influence over decisions. Their participation is merely symbolic, giving the illusion of involvement.



2nd training: “Youth, Mobility and Migration”

On 12 December 2025, the second Training of Trainers (ToT) session of the OUT4INGOV project was delivered by Maddalena Tirabassi, Scientific Committee member and representative of the *Centro Altreitalie sulle Migrazioni Italiane (CAMI)*, in collaboration with *Globus et Locus* (Turin - IT).

The session focused on research and enquiries on **new Italian migration trajectories, with particular attention to youth mobility, regional migration dynamics, diaspora engagement, and policy instruments addressing brain drain and return migration**. The training built upon over fifteen years of research conducted by CAMI on contemporary Italian mobility.

Research framework and methodology

The session began with an overview of CAMI’s research model, particularly applied in the studies *La meglio Italia* and *Piemontesi nel mondo*. The methodological structure integrates:

- ▲ Migratory history of the territory
- ▲ National and regional statistical overviews
- ▲ Cross-referencing Italian and foreign administrative data
- ▲ In-depth interviews (30–50 interviews per study, approximately two hours each)
- ▲ Online questionnaires (over 1,100 respondents in *La meglio Italia*)
- ▲ Data processing and policy-oriented reporting

A key methodological innovation presented during the session concerns the estimation of **post-Schengen migration flows**. CAMI cross-referenced Italian registry cancellations with foreign administrative data (e.g., German Federal Statistical Office – DESTATIS; UK National Insurance registrations), revealing a systematic underestimation of Italian emigration in national statistics. Between 2008 and 2023, Italian citizens registered in Germany often exceeded — sometimes by double or triple — the number officially recorded in Italian registries.

Origin/destination country	Immigrants	Emigrants	Balance
Germany	3771	14440	-10669
United Kingdom	2398	13491	-11093
Switzerland	2530	10376	-7846
France	1920	8426	-6506
United States	2109	5181	-3072
Spain	1367	4090	-2723
Brasil	1969	3462	-1493
Belgium	636	2491	-1855
Australia	515	1770	-1255
Austria	315	1610	-1295
Netherlands	401	1397	-996
Argentina	816	1276	-460
United Arab Emirates	261	1166	-905
Canada	389	1145	-756
Ireland	253	1081	-828
other countries	9621	17457	-7836
Total	29271	88859	-59588

Source. ISTAT 2015

Figure: Italian citizens enrolled and cancelled, by countries of origin and destinations, 2014

This methodological approach is particularly relevant for the OUT4INGOV partners, as it highlights the **importance of multi-source data analysis when assessing youth migration at regional level.**

Youth mobility, employment and social mobility

The training addressed the relationship between international mobility and labour market outcomes. Reference was made to recent data showing that a study-abroad experience increases the probability of employment one year after graduation by 7.9%. However, access to mobility opportunities remains socially unequal, as young people from less advantaged socioeconomic backgrounds face structural financial barriers.

The analysis of registry cancellations (2007–2023) confirms a persistent negative migration balance for Italian citizens, with Germany, the United Kingdom, Switzerland and France among the main destinations.

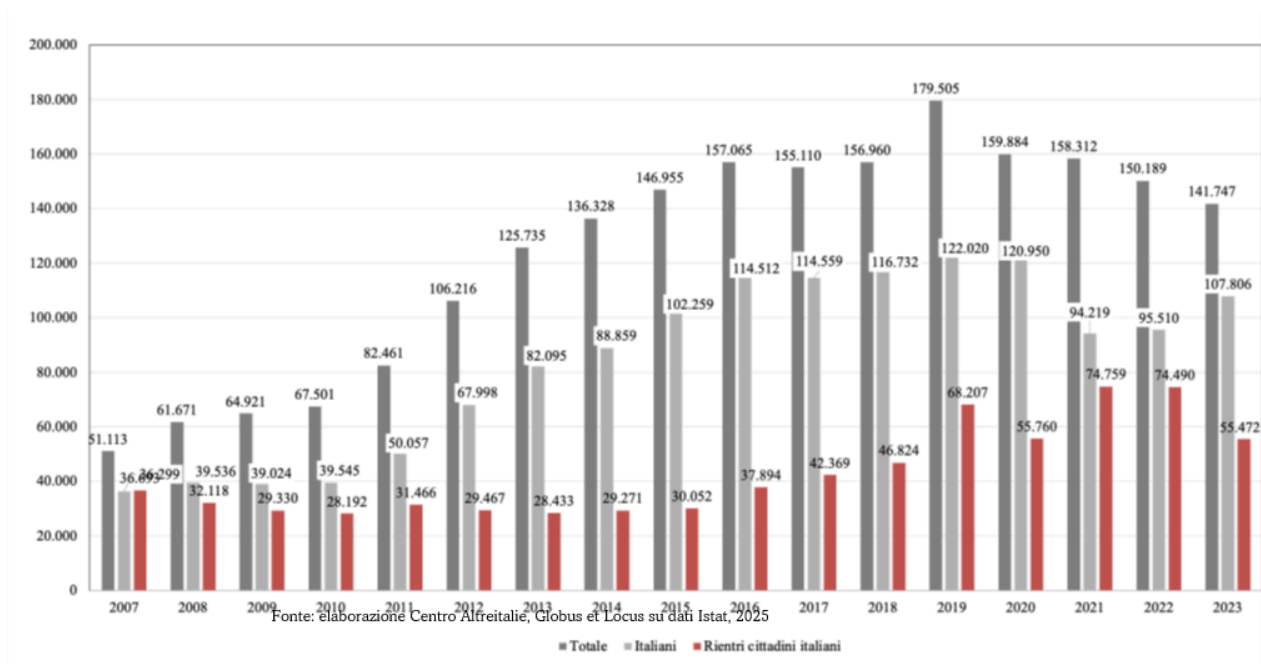


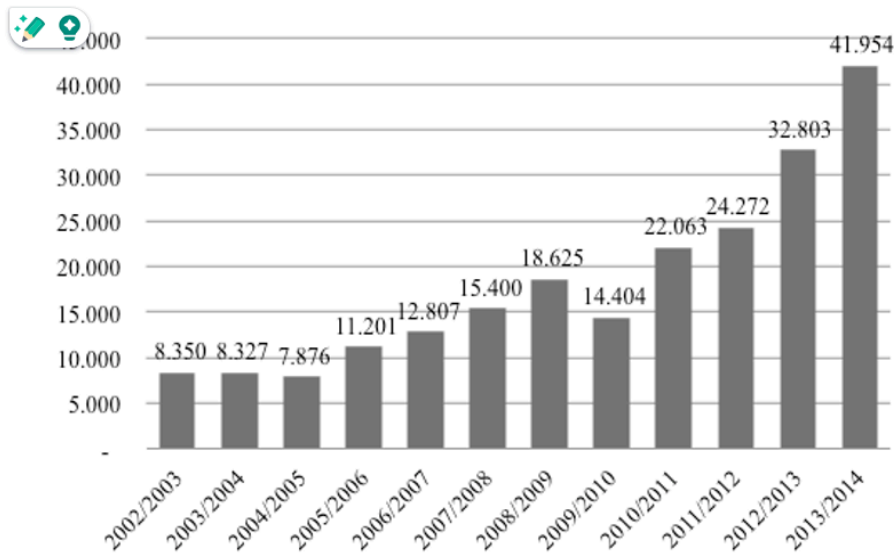
Figure: Registry removals and registrations abroad (2007–2023)

Survey data from La meglio Italia (1,111 respondents living abroad since 2000) show that:

- ▲ The majority were aged 26–35.
- ▲ 63% held a university degree (well above national averages).
- ▲ 7.3% held a PhD and 3% a post-doctoral qualification.
- ▲ The primary motivation for migration was employment, followed by study and quality-of-life considerations.

While in the early 2000s migration was often described as a voluntary choice linked to personal development, after the 2008 economic crisis push factors became more prominent, including limited recognition of young people’s skills and difficulties accessing stable employment in Italy.

This shift from “*mobility as opportunity*” to “*mobility as necessity*” directly connects to the project’s reflection on brain drain and safeguarding regional prosperity.

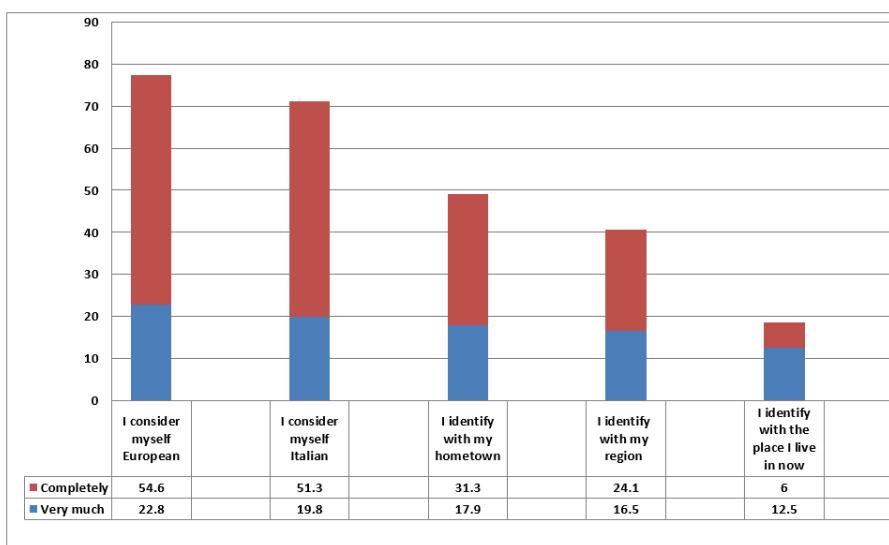


Source: Office for National Statistics 2015

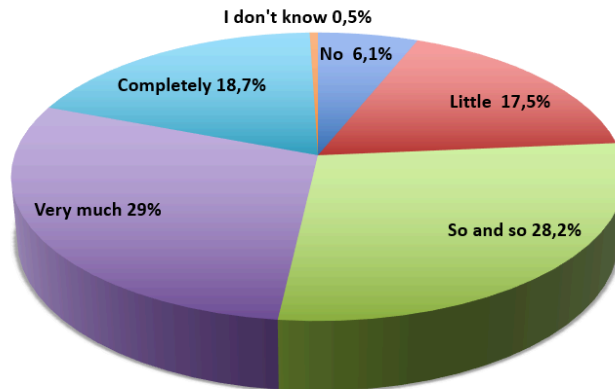
Figure: United Kingdom National Insurance Number allocations to Italian citizens (June 2003-June 2014)

Some figures from the survey:

Identity

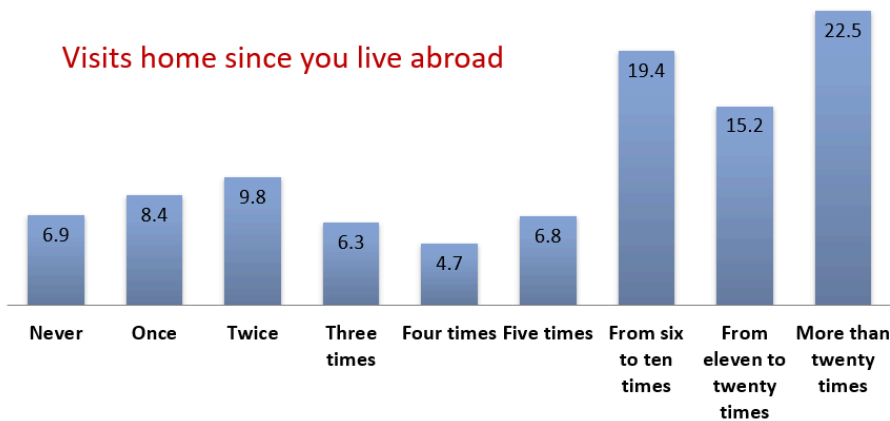


Do you feel socially integrated in the country you live in now?



Birds of passage? And visits home

Only 18.6% wish to return to Italy, 38.6% are rather uncertain, while 42.8% excludes it a priori.



Regional case study: Piedmont, Italy

The analysis of mobility in Piedmont places the region consistently among the top four Italian regions for departures abroad. In 2024 alone, 14,504 residents left the region, of which 11,252 were Italian citizens. The trend shows steady growth since 2008, a temporary decline during the Covid-19 pandemic, and renewed growth thereafter.

Destinations largely retrace traditional continental migration routes, with France remaining the principal destination, followed by the United Kingdom and Switzerland. However, among highly educated migrants, the United Kingdom emerges as the primary destination.

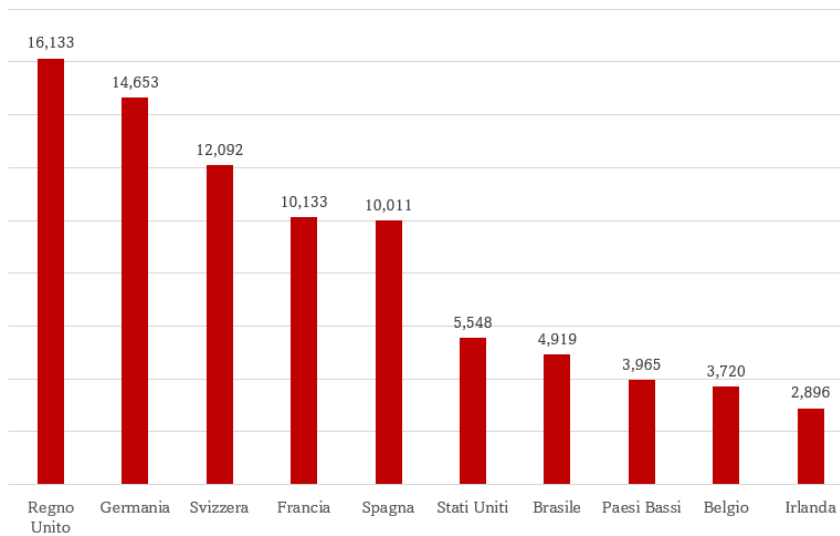


Figure: Top ten destinations of Piedmontese citizens abroad, 2008-2023 (absolute values and percentages)

Geographical proximity, historical ties and established labour corridors continue to shape mobility patterns. However, when focusing exclusively on migrants with tertiary education, the United Kingdom emerges as the primary destination, confirming the strong pull of Anglo-Saxon academic systems and labour markets for highly skilled profiles.

This differentiation between general and highly educated mobility flows highlights the selective nature of youth migration and its implications for regional human capital.

Educational selectivity and brain drain

A major structural transformation concerns the educational profile of emigrants. The proportion of university graduates among those leaving Piedmont increased significantly: 21% in 2008 and 32% in 2023.

This rise reflects both the expansion of tertiary education and structural difficulties in absorbing qualified youth into the regional labour market.

The province of Turin alone recorded a net loss of over 15,000 university-educated Italian citizens between 2008 and 2023 (difference between departures and returns). This data is particularly relevant for the OUT4INGOV project, as it directly relates to the challenge of safeguarding regional prosperity in Alpine and inner territories.

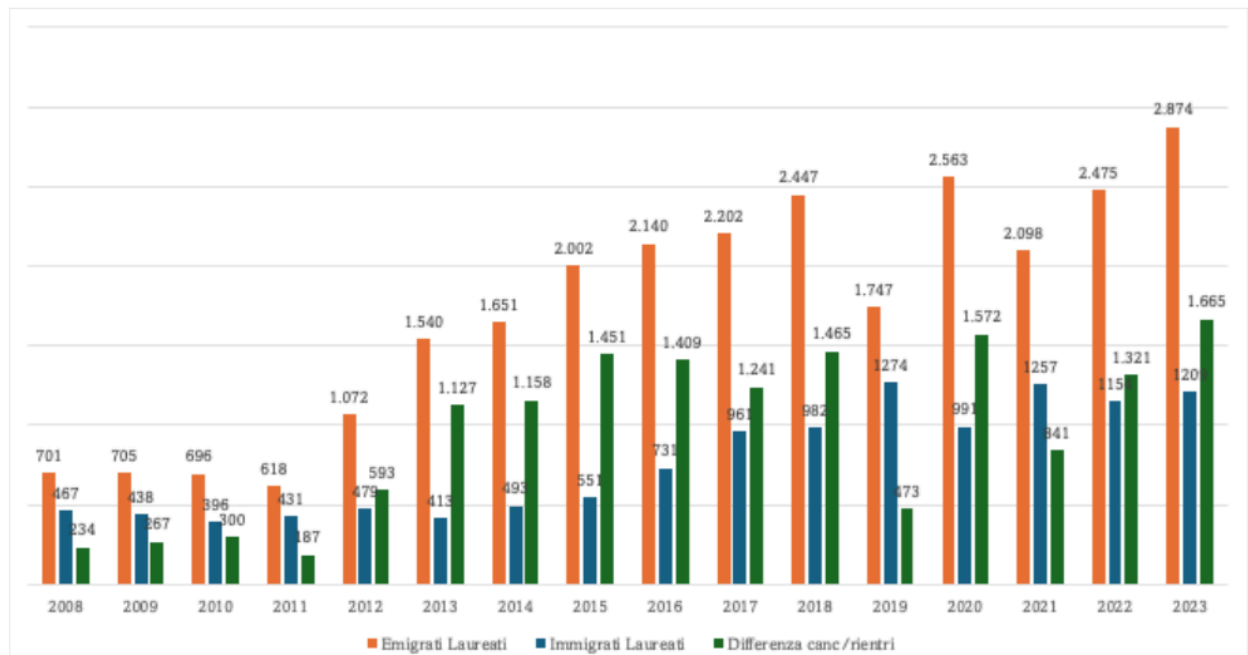


Figure 5 – Emigration by education level in Piedmont (2008–2023)

Profiles and motivations: insights from interviews

The 30 in-depth interviews portray a young, dynamic and highly skilled population, including:

- ▲ Physicians and medical researchers
- ▲ University lecturers and PhD holders
- ▲ Engineers and software developers
- ▲ Architects and designers
- ▲ Cultural and social professionals (educators, actors, journalists)

Most interviewees describe their departure as linked primarily to professional development and merit recognition, rather than exclusively to unemployment. However, over time, push factors such as **limited career progression**, **bureaucratic rigidity** and **salary gaps** became increasingly relevant.

An important **qualitative finding concerns mobility fragmentation**. Unlike earlier waves of migration, current trajectories often involve:

- ▲ Multiple relocations
- ▲ Temporary stays
- ▲ Returns followed by re-departures

- ▲ Hybrid forms of transnational living (including remote work)

This suggests a **shift from linear migration to circular and multi-local mobility**.

Identity and territorial attachment

A distinctive feature of the Piedmont case is the strong regional identity maintained by expatriates. Many interviewees describe themselves as “Piedmontese” or even “Sabaudian,” expressing pride in their territory’s historical, cultural and gastronomic heritage.

The emotional bond with the region often remains stronger than purely national identification. Interview narratives reveal that:

- ▲ Migrants frequently act as informal ambassadors of the region abroad;
- ▲ Cultural, culinary and touristic promotion occurs through personal networks;
- ▲ Emotional attachment coexists with professional integration abroad.

This reinforces the idea that diaspora networks can function as bridges rather than representing a simple loss of population.

From a governance perspective, this suggests the importance of structured diaspora engagement strategies, rather than focusing exclusively on return incentives.

Return migration and policy implications

Although many interviewees express emotional attachment to Piedmont, return decisions are strongly dependent on employment conditions. The possibility of re-attraction is closely linked to:

- ▲ Availability of competitive jobs;
- ▲ Recognition of skills acquired abroad;
- ▲ Presence of internationally oriented universities and companies;
- ▲ Supportive regional policies.

The case of Piedmont illustrates that mobility does not necessarily imply permanent loss, but rather calls for **proactive policies** aimed at:

- ▲ Maintaining ties with expatriates;
- ▲ Mapping global professional networks;
- ▲ Facilitating reintegration pathways for returnees.

This directly aligns with OUT4INGOV’s objective of identifying strategies to influence migration dynamics and mitigate brain drain effects.

Regional case study: Lombardy, Italy

The analysis of mobility in Lombardy (2008–2023), based on statistical data and 50 interviews, reveals a highly **interconnected “glocal” system where local and global dynamics continuously interact.**

Lombardy accounts for approximately 19% of total national registry cancellations (a proportion slightly higher than its demographic weight) indicating strong exposure to international mobility dynamics.

Age and gender dynamics

Mobility in Lombardy is highly concentrated among young adults:

- ▲ Over 50% of departures involve individuals aged 25–44;
- ▲ Around 20% involve minors, often within transnational family strategies;
- ▲ The share of emigrants aged 25–34 holding a university degree exceeds 40%.

Gender dynamics show a gradual feminisation of mobility:

- ▲ Female representation increased from approximately 42–43% to 45–46% over the observed period.

Lombardia, emigration by education and age (2008-2023)

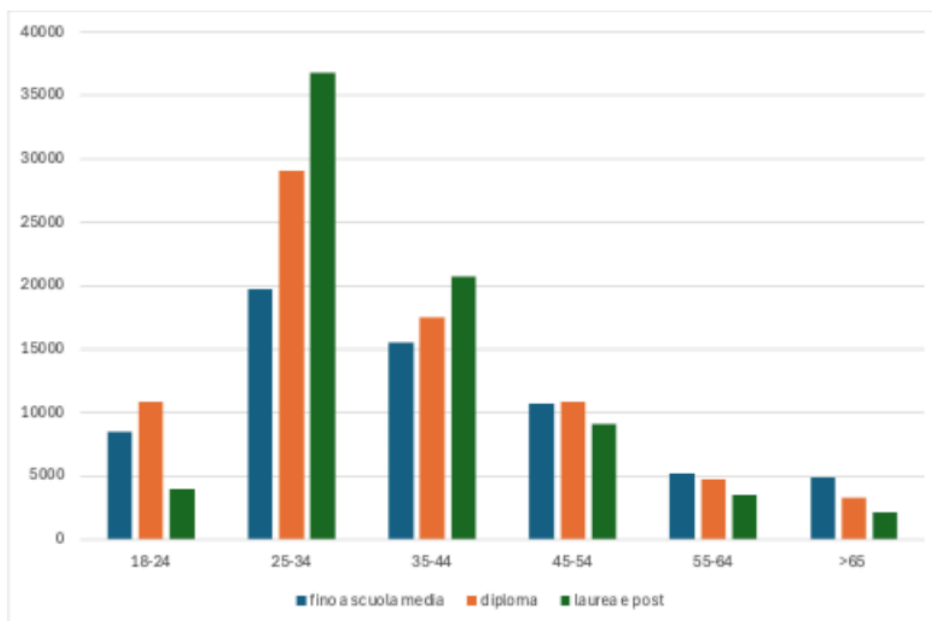


Figure: Age and education profile of Lombard emigrants (2008–2023)

These patterns highlight the transformation of mobility into a structural life-course strategy rather than an exceptional phenomenon.

Territorial differentiation within the region

Lombardy presents diverse internal mobility patterns:

- ▲ Milan functions as a global hub embedded in international academic and corporate networks;
- ▲ Border provinces such as Varese, Como and Sondrio reflect strong cross-border labour mobility towards Switzerland;
- ▲ Other provinces demonstrate diversified trajectories shaped by historical links and new destinations (Central Europe, United Kingdom, France, Brazil).

The region thus emerges as a “glocal” system, where local identities coexist with intense transnational exchanges.

Skilled mobility and global integration

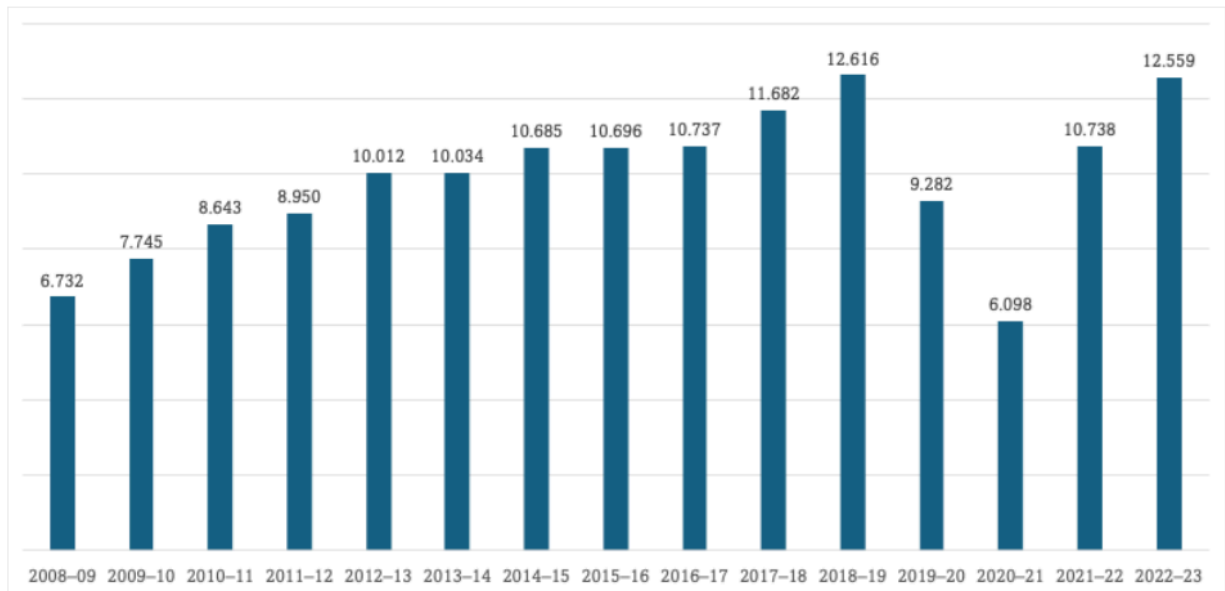
The high share of university-educated emigrants suggests that Lombardy’s strong educational and economic system simultaneously:

- ▲ Produces competitive human capital;
- ▲ Facilitates its integration into global labour markets;
- ▲ Experiences outward flows of highly skilled professionals.

This dynamic challenges the simplistic narrative of “**brain drain**” and introduces a more complex framework of brain circulation, where mobility may generate long-term transnational networks beneficial to the region.

However, under-registration in Italian statistics indicates that temporary, circular and informal forms of mobility are more widespread than officially recorded, complicating policy responses.

Italian students studying abroad (2008/09-2022/23)



Narrative shift: from loss to contribution

A distinctive element of the Lombardy approach is the effort to move beyond a victimistic or pauperistic narrative of migration. **Instead of framing emigrants solely as a loss, the regional analysis highlights their contribution to:**

- ▲ Made in Italy sectors
- ▲ Design and fashion industries
- ▲ Cultural production
- ▲ International business networks

This perspective **encourages policies** aimed at:

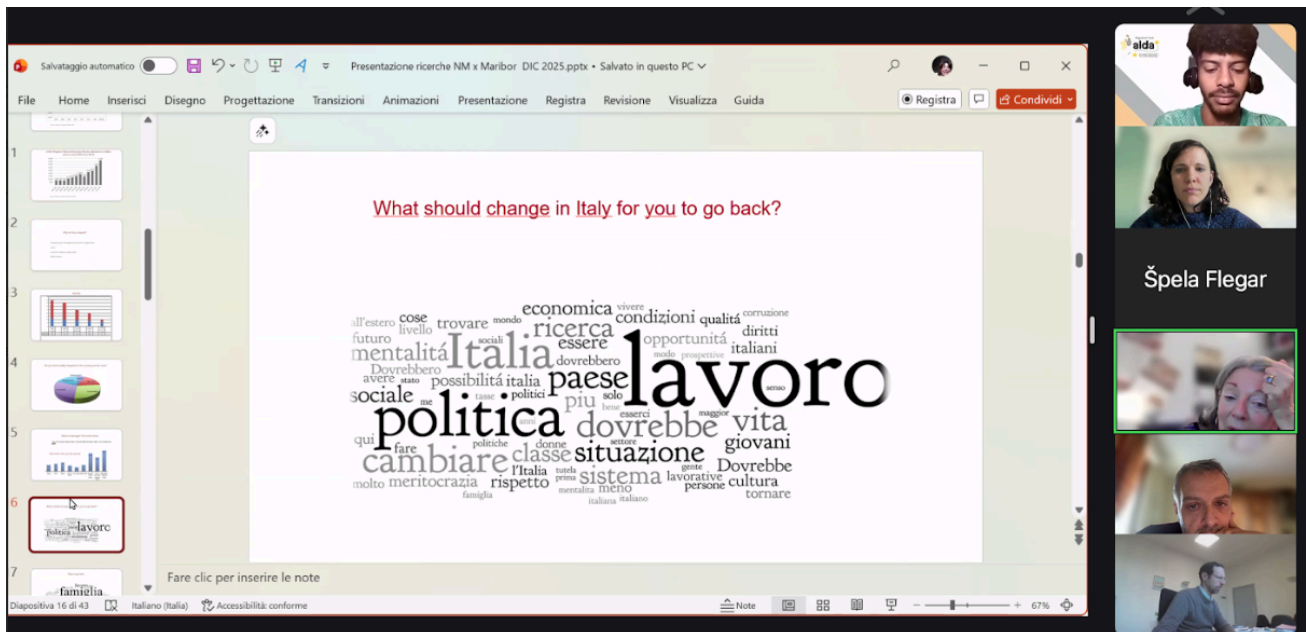
- ▲ Engaging global Lombard communities;
- ▲ Supporting international professional networks;
- ▲ Strengthening cross-border economic and cultural cooperation.

Specific Objectives

- ▲ Provide an **evidence-based overview** of contemporary Italian youth migration.
- ▲ Present innovative methodologies for **measuring and analysing migration flows at regional level**.
- ▲ Increase awareness of the structural **links between youth mobility, labour markets and regional development**.
- ▲ Explore **diaspora engagement and return migration** as policy instruments.
- ▲ Foster comparative reflection among Alpine pilot areas.

Learning Outcomes

- ▲ Gained deeper knowledge of migration data analysis and cross-referenced statistical methodologies.
- ▲ Increased awareness of the **scale and characteristics of youth mobility**.
- ▲ Understood the implications of ‘highly selective’ migration for regional prosperity.
- ▲ Reflected on **diaspora networks as potential strategic partners** for territorial development.
- ▲ Identified **policy instruments and governance approaches** relevant to their own pilot areas.



3rd training: “Communicating the complex interrelations between inner-Alpine migration, brain drain, and safeguarding regional prosperity”

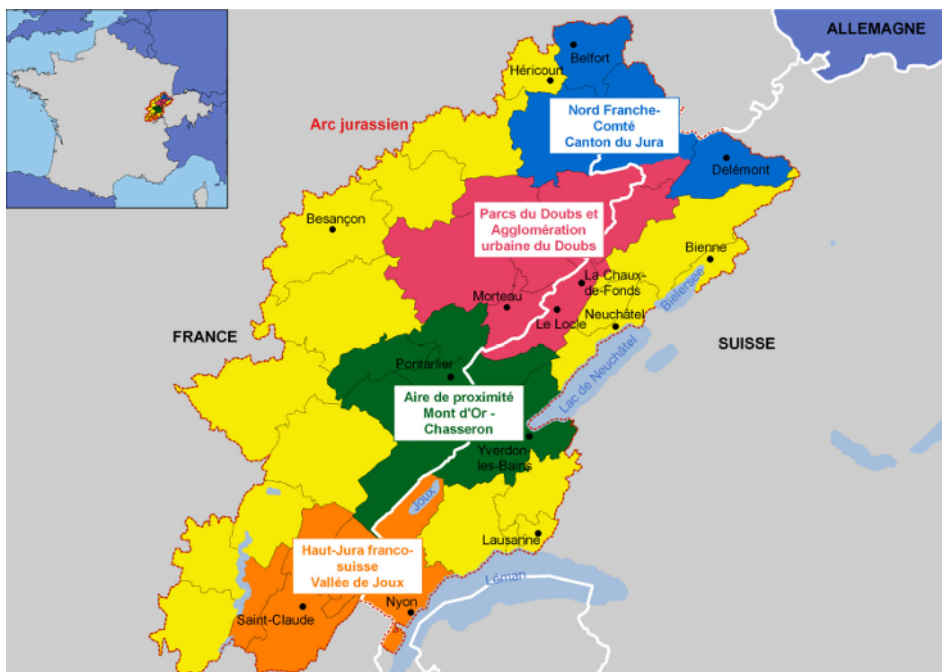
On 17 December 2025, the third Training of Trainers (ToT) session of the OUT4INGOV project was delivered by **Frédéric Spagnoli**, Associate Professor Institute of Science and Technology of Antiquity in Besançon. The session focused on communicating the complex interrelations between

inner-Alpine migration, brain drain, and safeguarding regional prosperity, using the Franco-Swiss cross-border area of the Arc Jurassien as a case study.

The training aimed to provide partners with a territorial and governance-oriented perspective on mobility dynamics, illustrating how demographic evolution, cross-border labour markets, youth engagement and local policy choices interact within mountain and border regions.

Territorial framework: the Arc jurassien

The session began with an overview of the so-called **Arc Jurassien**, a 300 km cross-border area stretching between the Rhine in the north and the Rhône and the Alps in the south. On the French side, it includes parts of the Bourgogne-Franche-Comté region (notably Doubs, Jura and Territoire de Belfort), while on the Swiss side it encompasses districts within the cantons of Jura, Bern, Neuchâtel and Vaud.



This cross-border configuration creates:

- ▲ Strong daily mobility flows;
- ▲ Integrated labour markets (especially towards Switzerland);
- ▲ Diverse demographic trajectories within relatively short distances;
- ▲ Interdependence between local prosperity and transnational economic dynamics.

A recent demographic projection for 2050 shows differentiated growth scenarios within the Arc jurassien. Two areas stand out for their sustained positive demographic dynamics across all scenarios: Mont d'Or – Chasseron area and Haut-Jura – Vallée de Joux.

These territories benefit from sustained net migration and residential attractiveness, demonstrating how certain inner-Alpine zones can function as growth engines despite broader demographic challenges.

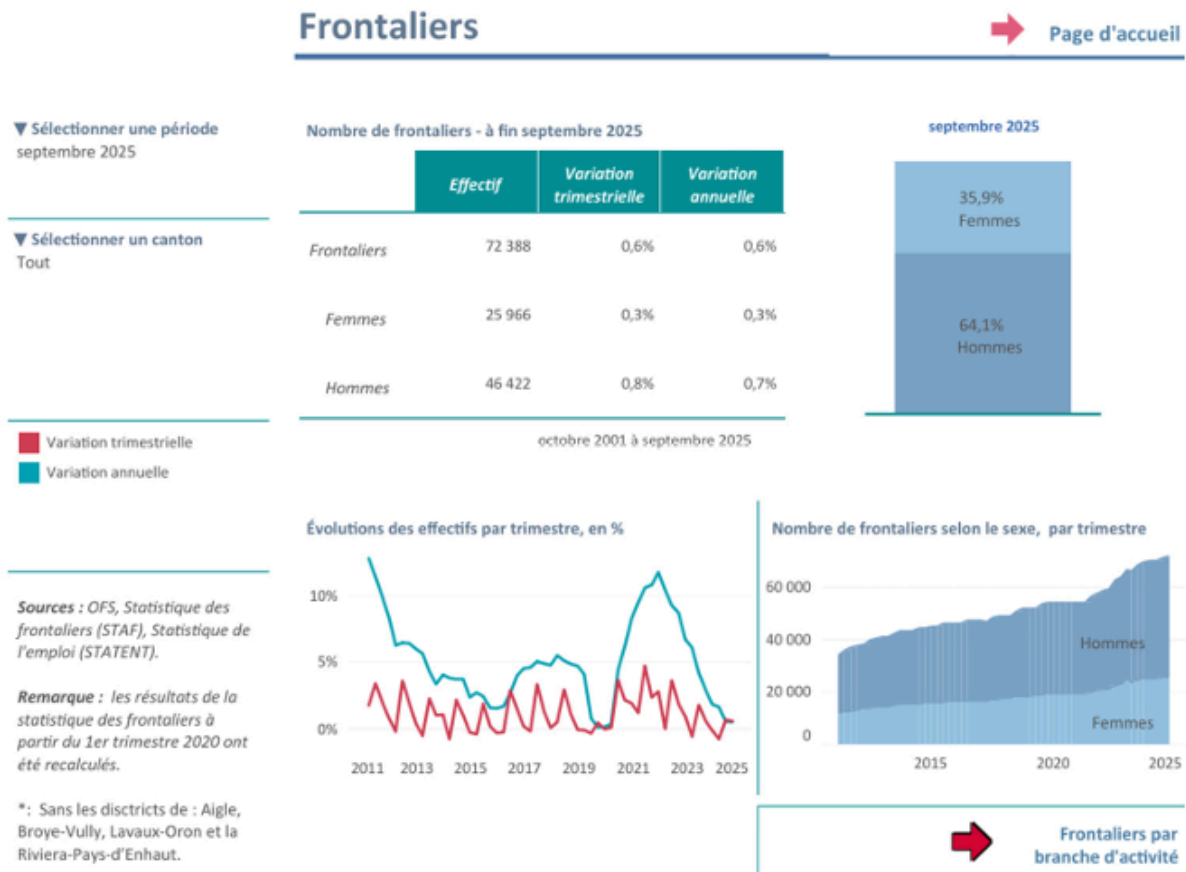


Figure: Demographic projections 2050 in the Arc jurassien

Inner-Alpine migration and cross-border labour dynamics

A central message of the session was that inner-Alpine migration cannot be understood solely as "brain drain" or depopulation. In the Arc jurassien, cross-border commuting (particularly employment in Switzerland) is a structural component of daily life.

Working in Switzerland while residing in France represents:

- ▲ A strategy for income maximisation;
- ▲ A driver of residential attractiveness in French municipalities;
- ▲ A source of fiscal and social interdependence.

However, this model also creates asymmetries:

- ▲ Rising housing prices;
- ▲ Labour market distortions;
- ▲ Dependence on external economic conditions;
- ▲ Risk of local skill leakage if highly educated youth permanently relocate.

The session emphasised that safeguarding prosperity requires managing this delicate balance between mobility opportunities and territorial cohesion.

Municipal case studies: differentiated local responses

To illustrate how similar territories can evolve differently, three municipalities were presented as case studies: **Pontarlier, Delle and Saint-Claude**.

Although geographically close and sharing mountain characteristics, these municipalities display distinct demographic, economic and youth engagement strategies.

Pontarlier: structured youth engagement in a cross-border hub

Pontarlier (17,928 inhabitants; 28,580 in the greater inter-municipal area) functions as a central node in the cross-border system. Located at 837 meters above sea level, it benefits from strong commuting flows towards Switzerland.

Key characteristics include:

- ▲ A dense associative fabric (over 560 associations);
- ▲ Structured youth policies (Youth Council, youth information and counselling services);
- ▲ Dedicated youth communication tools (digital platforms and local media initiatives);
- ▲ Cultural initiatives targeting adolescents.

Pontarlier demonstrates how local authorities can proactively engage young people through participatory bodies and diversified services. The existence of a Conseil des Jeunes strengthens youth inclusion in local governance, aligning with OUT4INGOV's objective of empowering young communities.

However, its prosperity is partly linked to cross-border employment, raising questions about long-term economic autonomy and vulnerability to external shocks.



Delle: border city dynamics

Delle (5,677 inhabitants; 23,599 in the broader inter-municipal area) is directly located on the Swiss border (Boncourt). Its demographic and economic dynamics are strongly influenced by cross-border permeability.

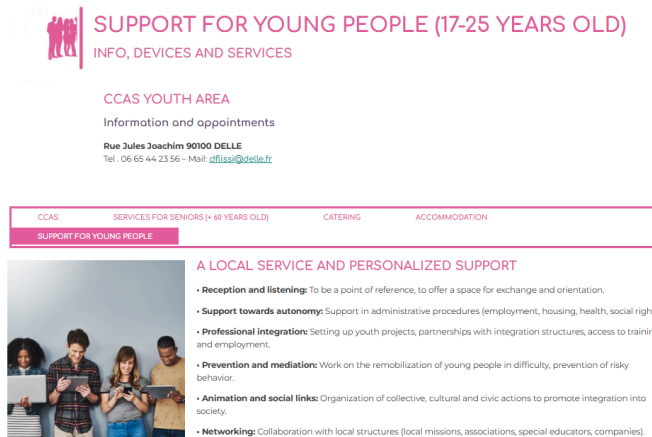
Youth-related initiatives include:

- ▲ A Municipal Youth Council;
- ▲ Youth clubs and local associations;
- ▲ Targeted youth programming at municipal level.

While smaller in scale than Pontarlier, Delle reflects the specific **challenges** of small border towns:

- ▲ Maintaining youth services with limited resources;
- ▲ Balancing residential attractiveness with local employment creation;
- ▲ Preventing the transformation into a “dormitory town” dependent on Swiss employment.

This case illustrates how proximity to international borders can both mitigate and intensify brain drain phenomena.



SUPPORT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE (17-25 YEARS OLD)
INFO, DEVICES AND SERVICES

CCAS YOUTH AREA
Information and appointments
Rue Jules Joachim 90100 DELLE
Tel. 06 65 44 23 56 - Mail: cfj@ccasdelles.fr

CCAS SERVICES FOR SENIORS (+ 60 YEARS OLD) CATERING ACCOMMODATION
SUPPORT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

A LOCAL SERVICE AND PERSONALIZED SUPPORT

- **Reception and listening:** To be a point of reference, to offer a space for exchange and orientation.
- **Support towards autonomy:** Support in administrative procedures (employment, housing, health, social rights).
- **Professional integration:** Setting up youth projects, partnerships with integration structures, access to training and employment.
- **Prevention and mediation:** Work on the remobilization of young people in difficulty, prevention of risky behavior.
- **Animation and social links:** Organization of collective, cultural and civic actions to promote integration into society.
- **Networking:** Collaboration with local structures (local missions, associations, special educators, companies).

Saint-Claude: industrial heritage and structural challenges

Saint-Claude (8,895 inhabitants; 19,431 in the wider Haut-Jura inter-municipality) is situated at 791 meters and historically linked to industrial activities (notably pipe manufacturing), alongside agriculture and tourism.

Unlike the more dynamic cross-border hubs, Saint-Claude faces structural **challenges**:

- ▲ Industrial restructuring;
- ▲ Transport accessibility constraints;
- ▲ Youth outmigration for education and employment;
- ▲ Perceived territorial isolation.

Media reports and local testimonies highlight **concerns among young residents regarding limited study and career opportunities**. This case illustrates the risk of enclave effects in mountain areas where economic diversification remains limited.

At the same time, tourism and heritage assets represent potential levers for territorial revitalisation, provided that youth are actively included in local development strategies.

Comparative insights

The comparison of the three municipalities demonstrates that even **within a relatively small territory, inner-Alpine migration produces highly differentiated outcomes**:

- ▲ Some areas experience demographic growth due to cross-border attractiveness;
- ▲ Others face stagnation or decline linked to structural economic transitions;

- ▲ Youth policies and governance capacity significantly influence resilience.

The **key message** of the session is that brain drain must be analysed within multi-scalar systems:

- ▲ Local governance capacity;
- ▲ Cross-border labour markets;
- ▲ Demographic projections;
- ▲ Youth participation structures;
- ▲ Economic diversification strategies.

Communication and governance implications

A major focus of the training was how to communicate these complex interrelations to:

- ▲ Local stakeholders;
- ▲ Working groups of EUSALP (especially AG3);
- ▲ Policy-makers and the general public.

Simplistic narratives (e.g., “youth are leaving” or “mobility equals decline”) fail to capture the systemic dimension of Alpine territories. Instead, communication should emphasise:

- ▲ The coexistence of mobility and attachment;
- ▲ The distinction between temporary circulation and permanent loss;
- ▲ The importance of youth engagement mechanisms;
- ▲ The need for territorially differentiated policy responses.

Specific Objectives

- ▲ Illustrate the complexity of inner-Alpine migration through a cross-border case study.
- ▲ Analyse **differentiated demographic and economic dynamics** within a mountain territory.
- ▲ Reflect on the relationship between youth mobility, labour markets and regional resilience.
- ▲ Provide governance-oriented insights for communicating migration challenges within local contexts.

Learning Outcomes

- ▲ Gained a deeper understanding of cross-border mobility systems in mountain areas.
- ▲ Identified structural differences between prosperous and vulnerable Alpine municipalities.

- ▲ Reflected on the role of youth policies in strengthening territorial resilience.
- ▲ Improved their capacity to communicate complex migration dynamics to institutional stakeholders.
- ▲ Recognised the importance of territorially adapted governance strategies.

What are we talking about?

- The so-called « Arc jurassien » : ca. 300 km between the Rhin in the north, the Rhône and the Alps in the south
- Région Bourgogne Franche-Comté : Doubs, Jura and Territoire de Belfort (28 local organizations)
- In Switzerland: 15 districts from the cantons of Jura, Bern, Neuchâtel and Vaud

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ANNEXES

Session 1 presentation

Session 2 presentation

Session 3 presentation