

WHV – El Patrimoni mundial andorrà en mans dels Joves / Andorra World Heritage in Young Hands

Madriu-Perafita-Claror Valley, Andorra

PROJECT DATES

Cultural property inscribed on the World Heritage List (2004)

30 June - 11 July 2025

THE SITE - The cultural landscape of Madriu-Perafita-Claror Valley offers a microcosmic perspective of the way people have harvested the resources of the high Pyrenees over millennia. Its dramatic glacial landscapes of craggy cliffs and glaciers, with high open pastures and steep wooded valleys, covers an area of 4,247 ha, 9% of the total area of the principality. It reflects past changes in climate, economic fortune and social systems, as well as the persistence of pastoralism and a strong mountain culture, notably the survival of a communal land-ownership system dating back to the 13th century. The site features houses, notably summer settlements, terraced fields, stone tracks and evidence of iron smelting.

OBJECTIVES - The project aims at raising awareness among people of different age groups and public and private stakeholders about the cultural and natural wealth of the Madriu-Perafita-Claror Valley site and its vulnerability to the effects of climate change. The programme also continues the action already undertaken in 2023 and 2024 to highlight quality restorations that are representative of old buildings, using materials, traditional techniques and local know-how.

ACTIVITIES - The volunteers will take part in the restoration of the dry-stone walls with the local council's dry-stone technicians. The project will enable volunteers to learn how to interpret the natural factors and human activities that have contributed to the evolution of the valley's landscape, cooperate and work as a team, highlight quality restorations, and promote materials, traditional techniques and local know-how. The volunteers will also take part in visits to the FEDA hydroelectric power station, a tour of the Forge du Madriu site, sessions on revealing and observing photo-trap cameras and discussions on the effects of climate change on endangered species such as the desman, the Pyrenean newt, the great tetra, the white partridge.

PARTNERS - Ministry of Culture; Comissió de gestió de la Vall del Madriu-Perafita-Claror (VMPC), Comissió nacional andorrana per la UNESCO (CNAU); Cos de Banders d'Andorra; Forces Elèctriques d'Andorra (FEDA); Ambiotec.

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