

## **An economic evaluation of the methods ski resorts use to mitigate the impact of climate change**

The objectives and proposed outcome(s) of the project are:

- To understand and evaluate the effectiveness of the methods being employed by ski resorts to mitigate the economically damaging impacts of climate change on the resorts.
  - This would be carried out using secondary research by hopefully getting in contact with people from resorts to more fully understand the methods used.
- To then determine if these methods are effective in their aim. And if so how effective they are for the long and short term.
  - I would like to use qualitative methods to determine how effective they are by looking at their economic impact.
- To research and economically evaluate the potential methods that ski resorts will employ in the future as temperatures increase more rapidly and snowfall decreases.
- To see what the current best method is that is being used by resorts today and conclude what its economic impact is long and short term.
- To ultimately find the best long-term solution to allow ski resorts to function and thrive long into the future regardless of the increasing climate temperatures and more variable snow fall patterns.
- To assess if there is an economically viable future for these resorts at all or if the increasing effects of climate change will prove too much to operate against. And if there is a future, what that will entail and how it will stimulate economic activity.

The impact on the research themes is that this project will take an in depth look at the economic challenges faced as a direct result of climate change (one of the 7 research themes) therefore presenting an insight into the damage that climate change is doing to alpine environments. This is of interest because for scientifically unknown reasons alpine environments are facing more extreme signs of climate change compared to the rest of the world.

The reason I have selected this project is because snowboarding has been a great passion of mine. And as more everyone is so switched on to the damaging effects of climate change, I thought I would combine the two. A month ago, I listened to a podcast about how the reducing snow fall is impacting on ski resorts ability to stay open entirely; over 100 resorts have now closed over the last 20 years as a direct result of reduced snow cover. This fascinated me as it went on to talk about the millions of Euros that were being spent every season on keeping the resorts running for as long as possible into the foreseeable future to ensure the success of these resorts.

Furthermore, I plan on working in the growing niche of environmental consultancy in the future. And so, to undertake a project such as this, focusing on the economic impact of climate change, would be a great asset to set me up well for the future.

The way in which I would ensure the project is successful would be to break down the whole project into manageable weekly and monthly sections and then hit those deadlines. This way I would stay on track with the quantity of work.

The research methods I plan on using.....

\*Should my application be successful I would be available to have my interview on the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> of April as suggested\*