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EUSALP YOUTH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

2023/2024



Table of Contents

About the EUSALP Youth Council	1
Position Paper 2023-2024	2
Members	3-4
Highlights of the mandate	5-6
Key activities	7-8
Got questions?	9



ABOUT THE EUSALP YC

The EUSALP Youth Council is an official body of the European Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP) that aims at building bridges to enact youth-led change in the Alpine region.

THE OBJECTIVES

The Youth Council aims to represent the alpine youth, their ideas, and their opinions in EUSALP. Its mission is to bring the youth of the different alpine regions together and build a bridge between them and politics. The proposal of concrete political action to the EUSALP body as well as the direct implementation of projects are tasks of the Youth Council. The responsibilities of the Youth Council also include consultation with the Executive Board and the General Assembly of EUSALP as well as close cooperation with the nine action groups of the EUSALP, to ensure that the youth's voice is heard in the decision-making process.

FACTS & FIGURES

Gender

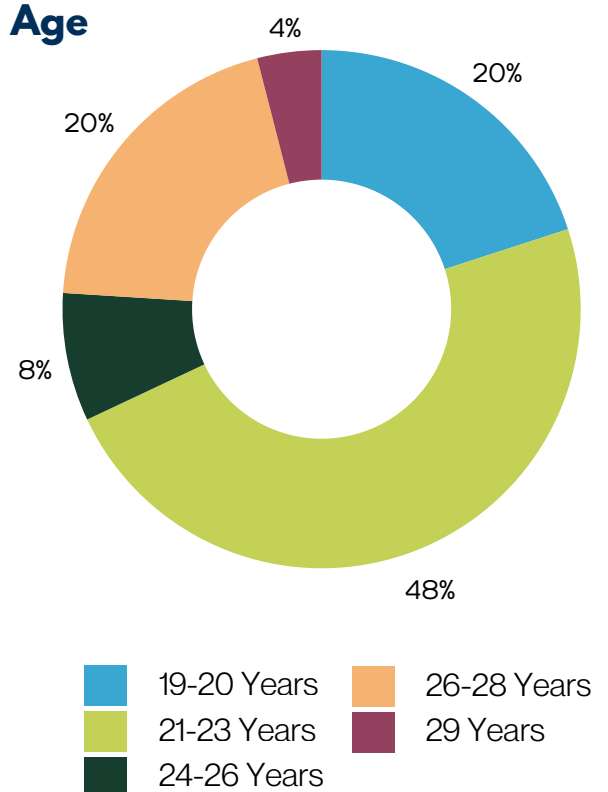


11



12

Age



POSITION PAPER OF THE EUSALP YC

4 Thematic Groups were created by members of the Youth Council. The annual work of these thematic groups is discussed during team building. The young people wanted their thematic groups to be linked to the activities of the EUSALP action groups. They wished to keep a thematic group on youth activities within EUSALP.



TG1: Economic Development

- Help ski resorts transition and find alternatives to winter tourism (collaborate with Beyond Snow Interreg project and TranStat AG2 project).
- Collaborate with AG3 on the dual systems activities and "Discover mountain jobs" project.
- Institutional collaboration in higher education to highlight skilled workers in alpine-specific industries and create a network between local companies, educational institutions and Youth.
- Search for positive examples and innovative ideas of mountain countries that are improving the attractiveness of the Alps for students and young professionals.



TG3: Environment & Cultural heritage

- Support sheppards with regards to their work environment in the Alpine Space
- Jurying the 2nd edition of the EUSALP energy award
- Cooperate with EUSALP on projects related to smart villages
- Issue a circular economy project to the pitch your project event
- Raising awareness for environmentally conscious behaviour across the Alpine Space
- Youth engagement events on energy and environment (AG9)
- Putting emphasis on the Cross-Cutting priority of Circular Economy



TG2: Mobility

- Improve the efficiency of EUSALP events by providing a car sharing document and support for alternative journeys
- Work and discuss with the mobility stakeholders of the alpine region to know the main problems and explore the solution with a global vision
- Help the Alptick project in his implementation



TG4: EUSALP Youth outreach

- Continue acquiring and updating information on existing youth initiatives in the Alpine area through various means and a common effort to collect and structure information on youth participation in the different Alpine countries.
- Creation of a network between local and interregional youth initiatives in the Alpine area enabling a better cooperation between youth initiatives and politicians
- Restructuring of the educational activities of Youth.Shaping.EUSALP and proposal of summer camp activities, workshops
- Officiate collaboration with AG3 targeted at furthering the integration of the voices of young people under the framework of "strategic flagship initiatives"

SLOVENIA



TINE ŠTEGER
Slovenia



KARIN PUST
Slovenia



TADEJ KOBAL
Slovenia



ANĐELA DAMJANOVIĆ
Slovenia

GERMANY



MICHAEL JUNG
Bayern



ANNA KÜHN
Bayern



THOMAS KEUTHEN
Baden-Württemberg



SOPHIA WULFGRAMM
Baden-Württemberg

FRANCE



KILLIAN FOLOPPE
Bourgogne-Franche-Comté



OPHELIE GUINET
Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes



ALI ALKHARJI
Grand-Est



RAFAEL BERTOMEU
Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur

AUSTRIA



COSIMA RUDIGIER
Vorarlberg



NIKLAS GRAF
Niederösterreich



SANDRA PASARICEK
Kärnten



ROBIN EISENHARDT
Tirol

ITALY



GIULIO BERNASCONI
Lombardia



RAKEB TOSIO
Lombardia



FABRIZIO PITTONI
Bozen



PAOLA SIMONE
Trentino Alto Adige

SWITZERLAND



JEANNE CAVERZASIO
Fribourg



REBECCA DE ROMANIS
Geneva



LEILA IZARD
Vaud

LIECHTENSTEIN



KILIAN BÜCHEL
Liechtenstein

2023/2024 Mandate Highlights



July 2023 YC Team building

The activities of the EUSALP Youth Council for the year 2023-2024 started more concretely in July during the team building event. After several online meetings in one month to prepare for the various missions that awaited the group, the 25 councillors were invited to the first EUSALP Youth Council team building.



August 2023 Position Paper

The position paper for the 2023/2024 mandate has been shared with the members of the EUSALP Executive Board. This document establishes the framework for the actions of the Youth Council and outlines the objectives of each thematic group.

Also during August, two members participated in the EB meeting and the Mobility Conference in Lugano, as part of the Swiss Presidency agenda 2023.



September 2023 Lausanne meeting

Following the invitation from the EUSALP Swiss Presidency 2023, the Youth Council of EUSALP convened in Lausanne. This internal meeting brought together 14 members of the Youth Council over the course of three days.

During this meeting, members had the opportunity to meet those who were unable to attend the team-building event and work together on the topic of water management in the Alps. The goal was to draft a document that was shared at the 2023 annual forum.



October 2023 EUSALP Annual Forum

In October 2023, a select number of members from the Youth Council were invited to the annual forum of the Swiss Presidency 2023 in Bad Ragaz. This event holds significant importance for the Youth Council as it provides an opportunity to engage with all partners involved in the strategy, participate in the event's program, and take part in the General Assembly of the strategy. Each year, two members are granted access to this meeting and are allowed to contribute actively by speaking during the session.



November 2023 PYP Finale in Strasbourg

This edition invited young people to innovate towards four main themes: climate change and water management; mobility and energy; circular economy and Alpine crafts; social innovations and intergenerational synergies. Two round tables targeting the themes of the European Year of Skills and Youth Participation have been organized.



December 2023 Collaboration with Action Groups

Throughout the year, members of the Youth Council participate in the meetings of EUSALP's nine action groups. Each thematic group within the Youth Council is connected to different action groups. The aim is to enrich their work with the perspectives and ideas of young people. The members also participate in the official meeting of the strategy, called BAGL, which brings together the leaders of the action groups.

2023/2024 Mandate Highlights



January 2024 Internal Meeting in Vaduz

On the initiative of the members of the Youth Council, an internal meeting was organized to make concrete progress on the thematic group projects. This meeting provided an opportunity to meet local partners who collaborate in EUSALP's activities. We met representatives from the Youth Council of CIPRA International and also AHA Liechtenstein, which is a local youth organization.



April 2024 Executive Board meeting

In its 2nd meeting under the Slovenian Presidency the Executive Board discussed the progress made by Task Force on revision of EUSALP Action Plan as well as the continuation of the Youth Council model of work and its inclusion in EUSALP implementation. Presidency and EUSALP secretariat reported on their activities, especially the results of recent BAGL meeting. Slovenian Presidency also provided its first glimpse of the upcoming 9th EUSALP Annual Forum.



February 2024 Slovenian Presidency Kick-off

The Slovenian EUSALP Presidency intends to give a significant place to youth in the programme of its presidency. The launch event of the presidency was an opportunity to confirm this commitment and to meet the Slovenian Presidency teams in person. We also took advantage of this event to meet the teaching staff of the Kamnik high school, which was set to host the Youth Parliament of the Alpine Convention (YPAC) as well as the members of the EUSALP Youth Council in march.



May 2024 Collaborative work

Some months are quieter in terms of events, but they provide an opportunity for members to work within the thematic groups. The youth were able to make progress on the internal regulations of the Youth Council and on the procedure for excluding members who remain inactive after a long period.



March 2024 Kamnik event

Youth involvement in the presidency's program is crucial for the success of youth participation within EUSALP. In 2024, the Slovenian presidency implemented a methodology and concrete actions to give strong visibility to youth participation. One of the presidency's key themes was the quality of life in the Alps, with a focus on young Alpine citizens.



June 2024 MRS Week

Events organized in Brussels by the European Commission are highly valued by the members of the Youth Council. This year, during the EU Macro-Regional Strategies and Sea Basins Week, members of the councils from each strategy were able to autonomously organize a plenary session. The members of the EUSALP Youth Council spoke about their involvement in the work of the Interreg Alpine Space Beyond Snow project, which addresses the transition of mid-altitude ski resorts in the face of climate change.

TEAM BUILDING IN SIGMARINGEN

In July 2023, the EUSALP Youth Council organized a team-building event in Sigmaringen, Germany, marking the first in-person gathering for the 25 councilors after a series of online preparatory meetings.

The event's primary objective was to strengthen relationships among council members and enhance their collaborative skills. The program included various activities designed to foster teamwork, communication, and a deeper understanding of the EUSALP framework. Participants engaged in workshops and discussions that focused on the strategic goals of EUSALP and the role of youth in shaping the future of the Alpine region.

These sessions provided a platform for councilors to share ideas, set common objectives, and plan upcoming initiatives.

The team-building event also featured interactive exercises aimed at developing problem-solving abilities and promoting innovative thinking. Through these activities, members enhanced their capacity to work effectively as a cohesive unit, preparing them for the collaborative efforts required in their roles within EUSALP.

Additionally, the event offered opportunities for informal networking, allowing councilors to build personal connections and establish a supportive community. This camaraderie is expected to contribute positively to their collective endeavors in promoting sustainable development and addressing challenges within the Alpine region.

Overall, the team-building event in Sigmaringen was a significant step in empowering the EUSALP Youth Council, equipping its members with the skills and relationships necessary to effectively contribute to the region's development.



CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ARPAF III PROJECT "MADE IN THE ALPS"

The Made in the Alps project is part of the ARPAF program (Action Plan Alpine Region Fund), an initiative linked to the European Union Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP). This project aims to promote authentic and sustainable products and services from the Alpine region. Its goal is to enhance local resources and traditional know-how while respecting principles of sustainability and quality.



The project places particular emphasis on:

- Certifying and labeling "Made in the Alps" products to ensure their authenticity.
- Promoting short supply chains and local economies.
- Raising consumer awareness about the importance of choosing local and sustainable products.

The EUSALP Youth Council actively participated in the ARPAF III "Made in the Alps" project. The project team reached out to the Youth Council to co-develop a method aimed at engaging young people in the project's activities.

This collaboration made it possible to incorporate the perspectives and ideas of young people into the development and promotion of "Made in the Alps" products. The Youth Council played a key role in raising awareness and mobilizing Alpine youth around the project's objectives by conducting a series of interviews with their peers to explore their consumption habits and gather qualitative data.

A team of videographers met with the Youth Council members during the internal meeting in Lausanne to produce a video on the project's theme. To learn more about this collaboration, you can watch a detailed interview with Youth Council members discussing their involvement in the "Made in the Alps" project on our Youtube Channel @EUSALP Youth.



GOT QUESTIONS?

Reach out.



+33-656-897-409



contact@eusalp-youth.eu



[eusalp-youth](https://www.eusalp-youth.eu)

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