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EUSALP YOUTH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

2024/2025

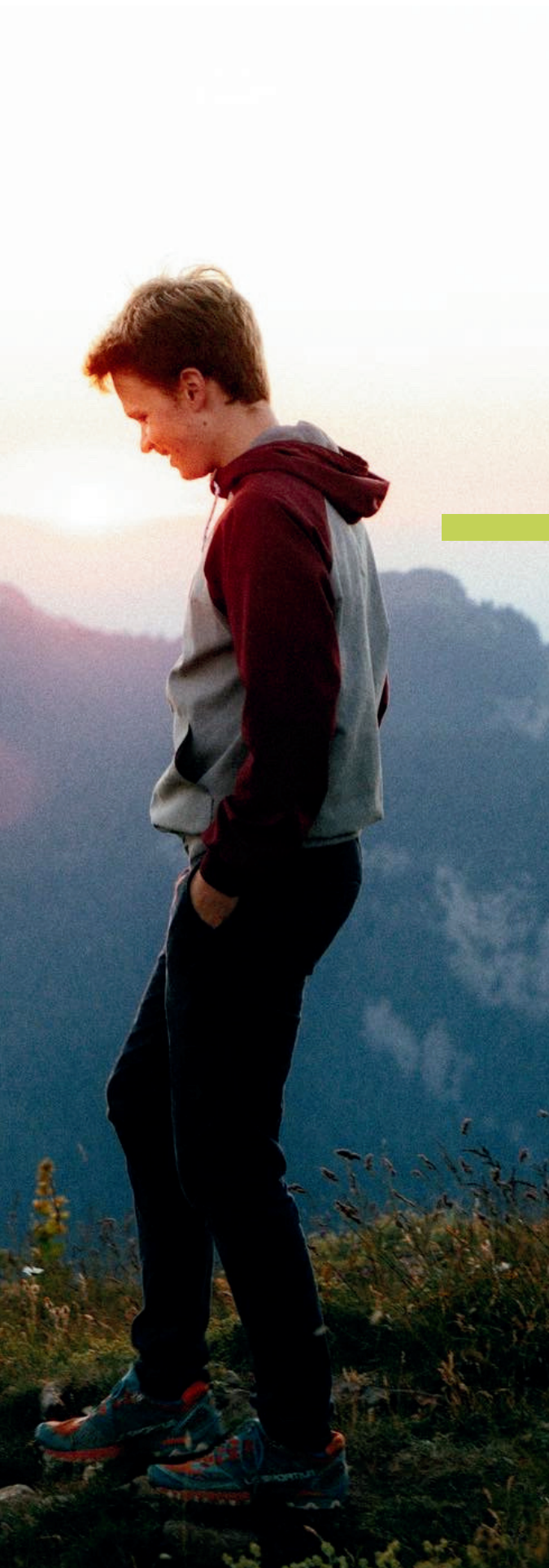


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ABOUT THE EUSALP YC

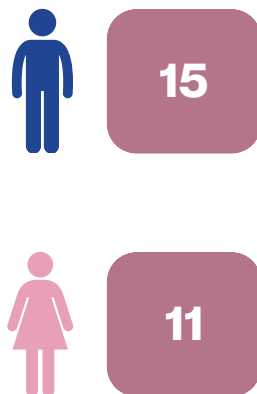
The EUSALP Youth Council is an official body of the European Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP) that aims at building bridges to enact youth-led change in the Alpine region.

THE OBJECTIVES

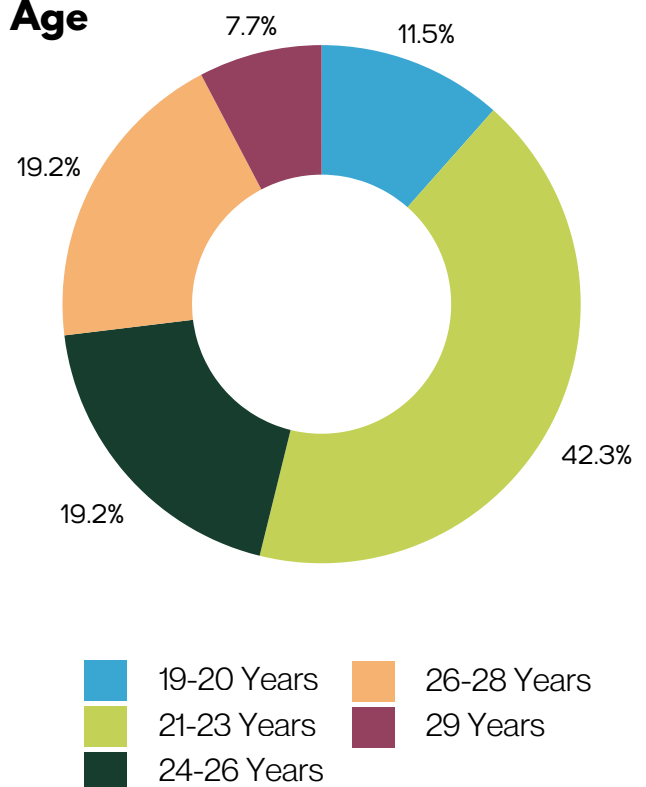
The Youth Council aims to represent the alpine youth, their ideas, and their opinions in EUSALP. Its mission is to bring the youth of the different alpine regions together and build a bridge between them and politics. The proposal of concrete political action to the EUSALP body as well as the direct 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



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.

TG2: Mobility



- Improve the efficiency of EUSALP events by providing a car sharing document and support for alternative journeys
- Support Pitch Your Project initiative in relation with the mobility topic and help them to reach their goals
- Support the expansion of the "YOALIN" project
- Support AG4 in planning and organizing the EUSALP mobility conference 2025

TG3: Environment & Cultural heritage



- Participate in AG6's 2nd Landscape Conference in spring 2025
- Collaborate with AG8 on the theme of climate change adaptation (CCA)
- Launch a social media campaign focused on alpine culture and heritage
- Partner with (local/regional) museums, cultural institutions, natural parks and influencers to engage youth in Alpine culture and resources through social media, events and educational programs

TG4: Education, Soft Skills and Digitalization



- Collaborate closely with AG3 on dual education systems and the "Discover Mountain Jobs" project
- Contribute to AG3's existing map of soft skills best practices by identifying and sharing examples from youth organizations.
- Develop and organize workshops focused on soft skills (e.g., communication, teamwork, adaptability), with the goal of creating a Canva template that can be used by other youth groups to easily replicate the workshop.
- Partnering with IT experts to take part in sustainable digital workshops or initiatives for younger generations.
- Search and highlight innovative educational programs from other mountain countries that can be applied in the Alpine region to make it more attractive for students and young professionals.

SLOVENIA



TINE ŠTEGER
Slovenia



RAFAELA RABIČ
Slovenia



GAŠPER LESKOVEC
Slovenia



BLAŽ ISTENIČ URH
Slovenia

GERMANY



MICHAEL JUNG
Bayern



ANNA KÜHN
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ROBIN MANNHORST
Baden-Württemberg



YANNICK WERNER
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KILIAN BÜCHEL

Liechtenstein



FLORIN KONRAD

Liechtenstein

2024/2025 Mandate Highlights



July 2024

Start of the new mandate

The mandate officially begins on July 1st for a duration of one year. The members have been informed and have received their official email addresses.

They have received the welcome kit and have begun reflecting on the thematic groups and the mission of their mandate.



August 2024

Alpine Rivers Symposium

At the first Alpine Rivers Symposium (Burghausen, 10–11 August 2024), Anna Kuhn represented the EUSALP Youth Council.

She contributed youth perspectives to discussions on climate change impacts on Alpine rivers and participated in scientific and policy sessions. Anna also joined the field visit to an EU LIFE project and took part in networking activities, including a traditional boat ride on the Salzach River.



September 2024

Digital Alps Conference

Sandra Pasaricek participated in the Digital Alps Conference 2024, where she joined the workshop “New Ways of Work to Encourage the Settlement of Youth in Mountain Areas.”

She contributed insights on how flexible work models, digital infrastructure, and innovative regional policies can help make mountain regions more attractive to young people. Her participation supported the conference’s broader goal of promoting digital transformation as a driver for sustainable Alpine development.



October 2024

YC Team building

The EUSALP Youth Council held its 2024 team-building event in Mouchard, bringing together the new members for two days of collaboration, planning, and community building.

As part of the programme, Lionel Croissant from EUSALP Action Group 3 joined the participants to discuss the role of AI and digitalization in shaping the future of the Alpine Region. His contribution offered valuable insights into emerging technologies and their relevance for youth-led initiatives within EUSALP.



November 2024

EUSALP Annual Forum

At the 2024 EUSALP Annual Forum in Brdo pri Kranju, the Youth Council was represented by two delegates who took part in the General Assembly. During the session, they presented their non-paper on water management, highlighting youth perspectives and proposing concrete ideas for sustainable and transboundary approaches in the Alpine Region. Their contribution underscored the important role of young people in shaping future EUSALP policies.

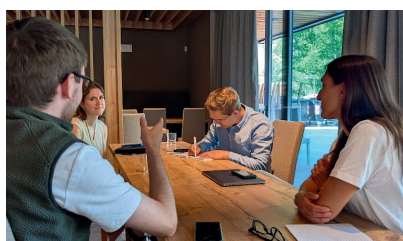


December 2024

Collaboration with Action Groups

In December 2024, the EUSALP Youth Council strengthened its cooperation with several EUSALP Action Groups, with a particular focus on mobility and economic development. Through joint meetings and exchanges, Youth Council members contributed fresh perspectives on improving sustainable mobility solutions for young people in the Alpine region and on creating economic opportunities that support youth retention.

2024/2025 Mandate Highlights



January 2025 Collaborative work

Some months are quieter in terms of events, but they provide an opportunity for members to work within the thematic groups. The members of the Youth Council worked on the organisation of the event “Shaping the Future of Alpine Ski Resorts: When Sustainability Meets Youth Empowerment”.



April 2025 Digital Alps Conference

Claire Morrier and Robin Mannhorst took part in the Digital Alps Conference 2025 as a speaker in the roundtable “Discovering Hidden Treasures: Enabling Open Platforms on EUSALP Key Priorities.”

They contributed insights on how digital tools and open platforms can help unlock the potential of the Alpine Region, support knowledge sharing, and strengthen cooperation across EUSALP’s key priority areas. Her participation highlighted the importance of accessible digital ecosystems in advancing innovation and fostering collaboration throughout the Alps.



February 2025 Austria - Liechtenstein Co-Presidency Kick-off

Robin Mannhorst represented the EUSALP Youth Council at the EUSALP Kick-Off Event on 4 February 2025, where high-level political leaders discussed the future of the Alpine Macro-Region. During the event, key priorities for the new chairmanship were presented, including circular economy, the energy and mobility transition, and stronger youth engagement.



May 2025 Internal meeting in Salzburg

The members of the EUSALP Youth Council gathered in Salzburg from May 9 to 11, 2025, for their internal in-person meeting. These meetings play a key role in strengthening the group’s dynamics, offering a space for members to discuss their projects, plan upcoming activities, and reinforce team cohesion and mutual understanding.

The meeting was supported financially by the Austrian/Liechtenstein EUSALP Co-Presidency and the member regions, ensuring a high-quality working environment and covering travel costs for the participants.



March 2025 Smart Community

Yannick Werner took part in the SmartCommUnity project meeting held across Valence, La Roche-sur-le-Buis, and Nyons. During this fifth official gathering, he joined partners in exchanging insights on communication, project coordination, and innovative approaches to shaping a smart vision for Alpine territories.



June 2025 Danube Youth Camp

EUSALP Youth Council representatives took part in the 4th Danube Youth Camp, a three-day gathering that united young people from across the region to exchange ideas, develop leadership skills, and shape strategies for the Danube’s future.

Working alongside the USDR Priority Areas, they contributed to discussions on cross-border cooperation and youth-driven solutions.

The camp was marked by creativity, collaboration, and a shared commitment to regional development — three days full of purpose, people, and progress.

EUSALP YC TEAM-BUILDING 2024 IN MOUCHARD

The 2024 team-building event took place in the Lycée des métiers du bois of Mouchard, in the Jura Region (France). The gathering began with an inspiring exchange with Lionel Croissant, member of Action Group 3, who presented the group's work on education, the labour market, and soft skills. This discussion resonated strongly with the Youth Council and prompted a refinement of its internal priorities.

As a result, Thematic Group 4 has been renamed "Education, Soft Skills, and Digitalization," reaffirming the Youth Council's commitment to addressing the evolving needs of young people in the Alpine Region. Meanwhile, the former standalone topic of youth participation and outreach has been elevated to a transversal priority, now integrated into the work of all four thematic groups.

The meeting also offered an opportunity to explore a remarkable cultural site with a meaningful connection to EUSALP: the Royal Saltworks of Arc-et-Senans. Awarded in 2023 by EUSALP's Action Group 6 through the Green Infrastructure Goes Business Awards, the site embodies innovation and sustainability in heritage management.

Participants discovered the Vast Circle, a landscape project of 30 gardens across 13 hectares inspired by the vision of Gilles Clément. The gardens follow a philosophy of observing and accompanying nature rather than controlling it—an approach that mirrors the Youth Council's spirit of fostering diversity, creativity, and resilience.



The team-building days in Mouchard strengthened collaboration, redefined priorities, and reaffirmed the Youth Council's dedication to shaping a greener, more inclusive Alpine Region.

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EUSALP YC INTERNAL MEETING IN SALZBURG

The members of the EUSALP youth council organized their internal meeting in Salzburg on the weekend of May 9-11, 2025.

These in-person meetings are important for the dynamics of the youth council. They allow young people to be able to discuss and work on their projects but also to strengthen group cohesion and the mutual understanding of members.

The weekend program was busy with activities planned from Friday evening until Sunday.

The organization of this weekend will benefit from the financial support of the Austrian/Liechtenstein EUSALP co-presidency and the member regions of the strategy, in order to provide the members of the youth council with a qualitative working environment but also to cover their travel costs.

It was a very important and useful weekend for the dynamics of the youth council, it allowed us to move forward on a certain number of projects and to strengthen the knowledge of the members. We were also able to say goodbye and warmly thank those for whom it was the last event as a representative of the youth council after 2 years of mandate. We have enormous gratitude for the work and commitment of these young people.



All the best to: Killian Foloppe, Michael Jung, Jeanne Caverzasio, Sandra Pasaricek, Niklas Graf, Cosima Rudigier, Killian Büchel, Anna Kühn and Tine Šteger.

SHAPING THE FUTURE OF ALPINE SKI RESORTS: WHEN SUSTAINABILITY MEETS YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

In 2025, the EUSALP Youth Council actively contributed to a major milestone in the reflection on the future of Alpine ski resorts. In collaboration with EUSALP Action Group 2 (Economic Development), Youth Council members participated in the event “Shaping the Future of Alpine Ski Resorts: Sustainability & Youth Empowerment,” hosted in the heart of the Alpine region.



Bringing together young representatives, policymakers, experts, and regional stakeholders, the initiative created a unique space for intergenerational dialogue on one of the most pressing challenges facing the Alps: how to rethink ski tourism in a rapidly changing climate.

The programme included a field visit across the ski resort area, allowing participants to observe local challenges and opportunities directly on site. This visit laid the groundwork for in-depth discussions by offering a concrete understanding of the environmental, economic, and social context shaping mountain territories today.

Participants worked in thematic groups focusing on Sustainability, Economy, and Intergenerational Collaboration, three pillars shaping the long-term future of Alpine regions.

Sustainability:

- Discussions explored pathways to reduce environmental pressures, prioritising renovation over new infrastructure, encouraging nature-based tourism, and strengthening soft and public mobility solutions. The group underlined the need for ski resorts to diversify their activities and adapt to the reality of reduced snow reliability.

Economy:

- Young participants emphasised the importance of fostering resilient, locally rooted economies. Key proposals included developing circular economy models, supporting local entrepreneurship, encouraging meaningful job opportunities, and providing education tailored to the needs of mountain areas. Addressing youth outmigration emerged as a core priority.

Intergenerational Collaboration:

- Recognising the richness of intergenerational exchange, this group highlighted ways to strengthen cooperation between age groups within mountain communities. Ideas ranged from shared governance to improving access to social infrastructure and creating inclusive spaces that facilitate trust and collaboration across generations.



Throughout the event, the contribution of the Youth Council reaffirmed a core message: the involvement of young people is indispensable to shaping the sustainable Alpine regions of tomorrow. Their ideas and perspectives added depth to discussions, helping partners collectively reimagine the future of ski resorts as spaces that are ecologically responsible, economically resilient, and socially inclusive.

This collaboration between the Youth Council and Action Group 2 stands as a strong example of what youth engagement can achieve within EUSALP. By bridging generations and bringing innovative thinking to the table, the Youth Council continues to play a vital role in supporting the long-term transformation of Alpine territories.

“Shaping the Future of Alpine Ski Resorts” reflected the growing awareness that Alpine territories must rethink traditional tourism models in the face of climate change. It also underscored the need to involve young people meaningfully in shaping transition processes. The presence and active engagement of EUSALP Youth Councillors were not just symbolic, they represented a driving force for change.



GOT QUESTIONS?

Reach out.



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