Interreg Alpine Space

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RÉGION BOURGOGNE FRANCHE COMTÉ

EUSALP

YOUTH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

2025/2026

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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.

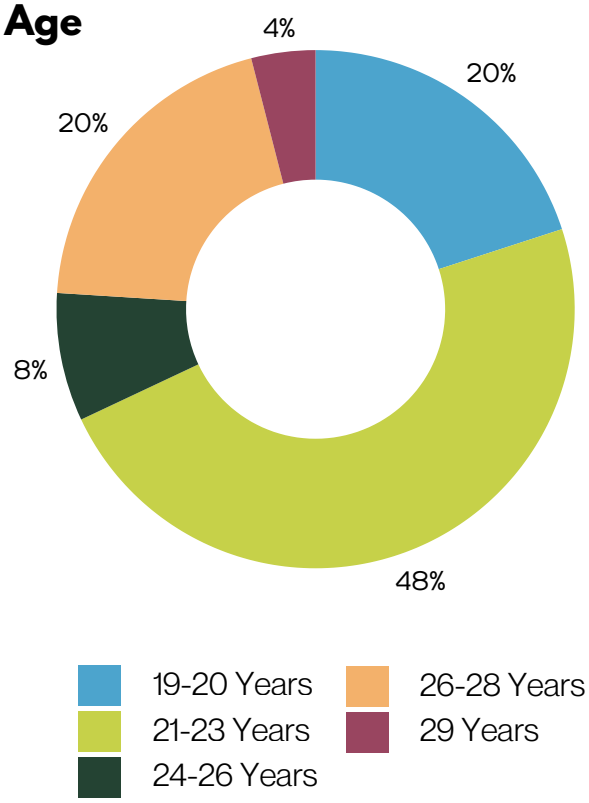
FACTS & FIGURES

Gender

12

13

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.

TG1: (Sustainable) Tourism

- Initiate cooperations with new Interreg Alpine Space projects.
  - Focus on 3.2 (digitisation) and 1.2 (protection of nature).
  - Check which projects got selected and contact them for possible cooperation).
- Contact AG2 to get involved in suitable projects.
- Collaborate with AG3 on "Discover Mountain Jobs" and possible future projects.
- Contact AG5 and participate in / contribute to the final Smart Community Conference in Freiburg (Germany).
- Create a network between young alpine clubs to support the missions above.
- Organise more field visits with relevant actors focussing on sustainable tourism

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.
- Foster topic-based collaboration between AG1 and AG 4. Conducting an availability survey of eligible institutions and compiling the results in a shared database.

TG3: Environment & Cultural heritage

- Participate in AG6's 2nd Landscape Conference in autumn 2025.
- Engage with AG7 to identify opportunities and shape a path toward future joint initiatives.
- Collaborate further with the Task Force of AG8 on the themes of climate change adaptation (CCA) and risk governance.
- Partner with (local/regional) entities, cultural institutions, natural parks and influencers to engage and make youth aware on the Alpine resources and connected risks through a social media campaign focused on risk awareness, preparedness and resilience, events and educational programs.
- Engage with ongoing or future Interreg projects linked to this topic.

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

NIVES HÜLL
Slovenia

RAFAELA RABIČ
Slovenia

DAVID TOMAŽIČ
Slovenia

BLAŽ ISTENIČ URH
Slovenia

GERMANY

TANJA FITZEK
Bayern

FREDERICK HAMSA FELD
Bayern

ROBIN MANNHORST
Baden-Württemberg

YANNICK WERNER
Baden-Württemberg

FRANCE

HAJAR ABBA
Bourgogne-Franche-Comté

CLAIRE MORRIER
Auvergne Rhône-Alpes

OTHMANE EL-HAMI
Grand Est

DORIAN UGO
Région Sud

AUSTRIA

PHILIPP AUBERGER
Wien

NICOLAI GESSL
Tirol

ANNA SCHWEINSTETTER
Tirol

AMELIE RIEDL
Niederösterreich

ITALY

MANUEL AITA
Lombardia

FILIPPO BENEDETTI
Trento

CHIARA CORTIANA
Veneto

ALICE ROSSI
Friuli Venezia Giulia

SWITZERLAND

WENDY GARCIA
Geneva

MIA BUCHS
Bern

LIVIA BEHNISCH
Solothurn

PAULINA PATRUSCHEWA
Bern

LIECHTENSTEIN

HANNES TSCHOL
Liechtenstein

2025/2026 Mandate
Highlights

July 2025
YC Team building

The EUSALP Youth Council team-building event took place in Galtür (Tyrol, Austria) and marked the first in-person gathering of Youth Council members for the 2025–2026 mandate.

The event aimed to strengthen team cohesion, encourage exchange, and lay the foundations for a shared vision for the work ahead.

August 2025
Position Paper

The position paper for the 2025/2026 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.

September 2025
AG3 Discover Mountain Jobs

Filippo Benedetti represented the EUSALP Youth Council at the AG3 event "Discover Mountain Jobs – Forestry and Timber", held from 18 to 20 September 2025 in Trentino. Through exchanges with experts, educators, entrepreneurs, and local authorities, Filippo gained valuable insights into sustainable forestry, innovation, and the importance of skilled jobs in mountain areas—knowledge he will bring back to support the Youth Council's work on education, labour markets, and soft skills within EUSALP.

October 2025
EU MRS DAYS 2025

Othmane and Amelie, members of the EUSALP Youth Council, participated in the MRS Days in Brussels, contributing a youth perspective to discussions on key territorial challenges. During the event, they took part in the "Water Resilience" workshop, where the importance of involving young people in shaping future-oriented and sustainable policies was highlighted.

November 2025
EUSALP Annual Forum

During the EUSALP Annual Forum 2025 in Innsbruck, the EUSALP Youth Council (YC) actively contributed to the event and its key discussions. Two Youth Council representatives participated in the General Assembly, ensuring that youth perspectives were reflected within EUSALP's strategic and governance exchanges. On this occasion, the Youth Council stressed the necessity of strong political support to ensure meaningful, high-quality, and productive youth involvement in EUSALP processes.

December 2025
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.

2025/2026 Mandate
Highlights

January 2026
AG6 Meeting

One Youth Council member took part in a three-hour online meeting of Action Group 6. The meeting provided an interesting opportunity to follow the discussions, debates and objections raised by AG members, particularly regarding the future work plan of the Action Group.

February 2026
AG3 Meeting

Members of the Youth Council thematic group “Education, Soft Skills and Digitalization” took part in a EUSALP Action Group 3 meeting. Their participation offered an opportunity to follow ongoing discussions, better understand AG3 priorities and identify possible links between education, skills development, digitalisation and the work carried out by the Action Group. It also contributed to strengthening the connection between Youth Council activities and EUSALP Action Groups.

March 2026
Vernetzt im Alpenraum

One YC representative took part in the “Networking in the Alpine Region” event in Villach, which brought together Interreg project representatives, programme bodies, EUSALP actors and Alpine Convention stakeholders. The event provided a valuable opportunity to exchange on current developments in the Alpine region, explore new cooperation opportunities and strengthen links between youth participation and transnational cooperation frameworks.

April 2026
Executive Board Meeting

The EUSALP Youth Council was represented during the Executive Board and Board of Action Group Leaders meeting held in Munich on 15–16 April under the Bavarian Presidency. This meeting provided an important opportunity to update key EUSALP stakeholders on the ongoing activities of the Youth Council and its contribution to the Strategy. The participation of the Youth Council helped strengthen the visibility of youth engagement within EUSALP governance and supported better alignment between youth priorities, Action Group work plans and the strategic direction of the Alpine region.

May 2026
EUSAIR Annual Forum

One EUSALP YC representative took part in the 11th EUSAIR Annual Forum 2026, held in Skopje under the North Macedonian Presidency.
The representative contributed to the round table “Youth at the Helm: Navigating Meaningful Participation in Macro-Regions”, which brought together youth representatives from different EU MRS. This participation offered a valuable opportunity to exchange experiences on meaningful youth participation, compare governance practices across macro-regions, and strengthen links between the EUSALP and EUSAIR youth structures.

June 2026
Interreg Alpine Space Get Started Seminar

Two Youth Council members took part in the Get Started! Seminar, which brought together new and ongoing projects, EUSALP Action Groups, EUSALP Youth Councillors and Alpine Convention Thematic Working Bodies. Their participation offered a valuable opportunity to meet project leaders, identify concrete synergies and explore possible cooperation with Interreg Alpine Space projects. The seminar also introduced them to the Youth Ambassador initiative and helped clarify how YC members can engage with this opportunity.

TEAM-BUILDING

EUSALP YC ALPINE EXPEDITION IN GALTÜR

In July 2025, the newly appointed members of the EUSALP Youth Council for the 2025–2026 mandate gathered for their first team-building event, the Alpine Expedition & Teambuilding, held from 10 to 12 July in Galtür (Tyrol, Austria).

This event marked the first in-person meeting of the Youth Council since its establishment and aimed to strengthen team cohesion, foster mutual exchange, and build a shared vision for the year ahead.

The programme combined outdoor activities, collaborative workshops, and reflection sessions in a natural setting emblematic of the Alpine region. Participants explored the Jamtal Valley and engaged in discussions on environmental, social, and political challenges specific to the Alpine area, including a hike to the Jamtalferner Glacier accompanied by a presentation from glaciologist Andrea Fischer. This expedition provided a meaningful link between climate change awareness and collective work on the Youth Council's priorities.

The event was also marked by the active participation of regional political representatives, including the Governor of Tyrol, Anton Mattle, highlighting the importance placed on youth engagement in the development of the Alpine region.

At the end of the three days, Youth Council members had established a shared roadmap for their mandate, strengthened interpersonal connections, and laid the foundations for concrete projects for the months ahead, while reaffirming their growing role in EUSALP decision-making processes.

KEY ACTIVITY

EUSALP YC AT THE ANNUAL FORUM

During the EUSALP Annual Forum 2025 in Innsbruck, the EUSALP Youth Council (YC) actively contributed to the event and its key discussions. Two Youth Council representatives participated in the General Assembly, ensuring that youth perspectives were reflected within EUSALP's strategic and governance exchanges. On this occasion, the Youth Council stressed the necessity of strong political support to ensure meaningful, high-quality, and productive youth involvement in EUSALP processes.

In addition, one Youth Council member took part in a high-level panel discussion, bringing forward young people's views on the future of the Alpine Region. During this exchange, the Youth Council also referred to the recent team-building event, sharing key learnings and underlining the importance of in-person collaboration for effective youth engagement.
Throughout the Forum, the Youth Council hosted an EUSALP YC stand, where members presented the Youth Council's activities and priorities to participants. The stand served as a space for dialogue and outreach, including the promotion of the Youth Council Mobility Survey, which was shared with Annual Forum participants to gather insights on mobility challenges and expectations across the Alpine Region.

GOT QUESTIONS?

Reach out.

+33-656-897-409

contact@eusalp-youth.eu

eusalp-youth

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EUSALP EU STRATEGY FOR THE ALPINE REGION

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