



EUSALP Youth Council Welcome Kit

Interreg
Alpine Space



Co-funded by
the European Union

4Support EUSALP



**RÉGION
BOURGOGNE
FRANCHE
COMTÉ**



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THE JOURNEY

To shape the future of the Alpine Region, the ideas of young people are needed. EUSALP is therefore working to embed the voice of young people in EUSALP activities in the long term.

Initiated by the Tyrol and supported by the Swiss Federal Office for Spatial Development, the Office for Foreign Affairs of Liechtenstein, the Association Alpine Town of the Year and CIPRA International, the process “youth.shaping.EUSALP” was kicked off. True to its motto, co-determination is taken seriously from the very beginning. In the context of two workshops on 19 November 2018 in Innsbruck and on 29 and 30 March 2019 in Liechtenstein, 30 young people from all seven EUSALP states developed together with EUSALP representatives concrete proposals on how they want to participate in EUSALP. The young people elaborated three proposals:

1.

Inform and connect

Young people see the need for communication that reaches them through various channels. They propose direct information in schools, an interactive online platform on EUSALP (“WikiAlps”) and communication via social media (especially Instagram).

2.

Meet and share.

Young people want to meet to share common experiences. EUSALP should therefore offer meeting opportunities related to EUSALP projects and topics.

3.

Act together

Young people do not only want to discuss or participate in meetings, but they also want to act together and with EUSALP stakeholders, to create tangible results.





THE JOURNEY

These activities are now implemented together with the decision-makers of EUSALP, with the support of the European Commission through the Interreg Alpine Space program thanks to the project “4Support EUSALP”.

Based on these proposals, EUSALP Youth is organizing the following youth activities aiming at ensuring that the concerns of young people are taken into account in the future decisions and actions of EUSALP:



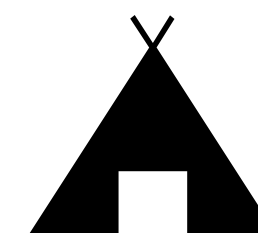
“Pitch Your Project” contest



EUSALP Youth Council



EUSALP online platform



EUSALP Summer activities



THE TEAM

In order to organize and ensure the smooth functioning of the youth activities of EUSALP, a dedicated team works throughout the year. They establish a connection between the young participants in the activities and the partners of the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region.

Region
Bourgogne-Franche-Comté



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Natael Fautrat

WHAT IS EUSALP?

EUSALP is a macro-regional strategy with 7 States and 48 regions, 9 Actions Groups and 4 Cross-Cutting priorities. Its objective is to enhance collaboration between states and regions around the Alpine region. Within the Action Groups, the aim is to bring together different stakeholders (public institutions, SMEs, associations, clusters, etc.), identify common problems and solve them using European funds. We can consider EUSALP as a project incubator, or a strategy aiming at sharing best practices and agree on common public policies.

Governance aspects:

Rotating presidencies (1 year Presidency)

Executive Board: The Executive Board is responsible for the overall horizontal and vertical coordination of the Strategy. Every delegation is represented by a National Coordinator and they exchange and discuss about the agenda's proposals.

Board of Action Group Leaders: It's composed by all Action Group leading institutions and meant as a tool to support official EUSALP bodies. It aims at ensuring the Horizontal coherence among Action Groups (AGs) tackling all policy fields and systematic steering of EUSALP implementation process and a smooth vertical interface to all levels of EUSALP governance model, especially between coordination level (EB) and implementation level (AGs).

General Assembly: Highest policital level.

Youth Council: 28 members. 1 year mandate renewable for another year.





THE EUSALP PRESIDENCY

The Presidency organizes and chairs the meetings of the General Assembly and the Executive Board and draws up the agenda and the minutes. It elaborates, together with the Action Groups, a Presidency program with concrete projects and events that is implemented during the Presidency year. The Presidency rotates annually.

The 2026 EUSALP Presidency is Bavaria.



They identified 3 thematic priorities:

- Economy & Innovation.
- Funding
- Visibility

The contacts persons are:

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THE INTERREG ALPINE SPACE PROGRAM

EUSALP is closely linked to an INTERREG program called Alpine Space. The Interreg Alpine Space programme co-finances and supports cooperation projects across the borders of seven Alpine countries.

As a Youth Councillor you will be able to participate to project meetings organised by Alpine Space projects. This initiative is called Youth Ambassadors and it is a concrete way to discover the implementation of EU projects such as Transtat, Beyond Snow or Alptextyles.

This program is financing the Support EUSALP project and the Alpine Youth activities.
You can find more informations here: www.alpine-space.eu





THE EU MACRO REGIONAL STRATEGIES

The EU Commission agreed on four Macro-Regional Strategies. A Macro-Regional Strategy is a political framework where states and regions meet and can exchange on common problematics. These states and regions do not share the same administrative territory but they are sharing the same geographical particularities and therefore share the same issues. Finding a solution in a territory should allow the duplication in others places.



The first Macro-Regional Strategy in Europe is Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) then the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) had been endorsed by the European Council in 2011. The EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR) is the third Macro-Regional Strategy and EUSALP is the last one, established in 2015.





THE EUSALP TSS

The EUSALP Secretariat and the 4Support EUSALP Project

The EUSALP Secretariat

Currently composed by 6 people, it has several objectives:

- Support for the Governing bodies and ensuring a smooth transition between rotating presidencies.
- Support of Action Groups activities
- Support Youth and Stakeholders' involvement

Secretariat contacts:

- Veronica Capenti (Policy officer & Youth Contact) - veronica.capenti@alpine-region.eu
- Francesca La Greca (Manager) - francesca.lagreca@alpine-region.eu
- Timothé Poulain (Communication officer) - timothé.poulain@alpine-region.eu
- Alexia Colin (Governance officer) - alexia.colin@alpine-region.eu

The 4Support EUSALP Project

Interreg Alpine Space Project started in January 2026 to finance EUSALP 5 Work Packages:

- WP1: Implementation of the Strategy
- WP2: Supporting AGs activities & Capacity buildings
- WP3: Supporting Presidencies activities
- WP4, Youth activities and engagement
- WP5, Communication and stakeholders involvement

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The Région Bourgogne-Franche-Comté is responsible for Work Package 4. Veronica Capenti will be your contact person inside the Secretariat.





THE EUSALP ACTION GROUPS

The EUSALP Action Groups are divided by topics:

PILLAR 1 ECONOMIC GROWTH & INNOVATION

01

Research and Innovation

- Identification of key strategic sectors where R&I cooperation can have an impact in economic or societal terms;
- Capacity building of research institutions, networks and infrastructures with an Alpine region dimension.
- Mapping of existing clusters, competence centers linked to the economic and academic landscape of the region.

02

Economic Development

- Develop new or improved value chains in sectors that are considered strategic in the Alpine region and that have potential under specific conditions in the region
- Advance value chains or adapt products and services to the green economy

03

Labour Market, education and training

- Improve the match between the labour market, education and training in strategic sectors
- Improve cross-border cooperation and enable the exchange of best practices
- The long-term objective of the group is to establish a common macro-regional educational space in which professions and corresponding certificates are mutually recognized.



THE EUSALP ACTION GROUPS

The EUSALP Action Groups are divided by topics:

PILLAR 2 MOBILITY & CONNECTIVITY

04

Mobility

- To promote intermodality and interoperability in passenger and freight transport
- Supporting the modal shift from road to rail
- Develop cooperation and greater integration between existing transport bodies and structures.

05

Connectivity and Accessibility

- To propose a technical solution with a focus on ICT
- Establish a permanent think tank on accessibility of services of general interest in the Alps.
- Propose ICT solutions for the work of the other action groups.



THE EUSALP ACTION GROUPS

The EUSALP Action Groups are divided by topics:

PILLAR 3 ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

06

Resources

- Preserve and enhance natural and cultural resources.
- Land use planning and soil conservation.
- Agriculture and forestry for the future
- Integrated and sustainable water management

07

Green Infrastructure

- Identify Alpine Green Infrastructure elements of transnational importance,
- improve governance approaches and explore funding opportunities.
- Enable the benefits of ecological connectivity to emerge at the ecosystem and societal level, building resilience to threats such as climate change.

08

Risk governance

- Inventory of relevant actors and interests, mapping and improvement of governance structures and processes in the policy areas of risk / hazard management and climate change adaptation.
- Identification of best practice solutions to address the policy challenges of natural hazard management and climate change adaptation.

09

Energy

- Creation of an Alpine cluster on renewable energy and energy efficiency
- To make the Alpine infrastructure more ecological
- Promote better use of local resources and increase energy self-sufficiency while reducing impacts on the climate and the environment.



PRESENTATION OF EUSALP'S YOUTH ACTIVITIES

The Interreg Alpine Space project "4Support EUSALP" has integrated the actions of the project "youth.shaping.EUSALP" that incorporates several formats of youth participation within EUSALP.

It includes 3 formats of participation and one online platform.

- "Pitch Your Project" is an annual competition open to all young people living in the alpine region between 18 and 29 years old.
- EUSALP Youth Council which offers a longer and more official involvement for young people aged from 18 to 29 years old.
- Summer activities open to all the alpine youth who wish to learn about EUSALP in a new way.

Our website allows us to:

- Register and apply to our activities
- Inform about opportunities for young people in the Alpine Region
- Follow the latest news of EUSALP Youth

These formats are always designed for young people and by young people. Our activities take place in different places and with different temporalities, they adapt to the needs of young people and are always evolving. Some of you have already contributed to their construction, others will join this process tomorrow or later and so a community of young active citizens participate in the evolution of youth participation in the EUSALP.





EUSALP Youth Council

The EUSALP Youth Council is young!
It just celebrated its 5th anniversary. It is organized by the youth and for the youth.

It is composed of 4 members per Alpine country and is structured in 4 thematic groups:

- Economic development
- Mobility
- Natural resources and cultural heritage
- Youth participation

Young people have the opportunity to set up projects, to meet each other and to bring their ideas to the political bodies of EUSALP.



Pitch Your Project

The PYP competition is open to all young alpine citizens between 18 and 29 years old. Every year the EUSALP presidency proposes themes for the projects. It is very easy to propose a project idea. Just go to our website and describe it in a few pages.

An international jury evaluates the projects and 5 finalists will have the opportunity to present their ideas in a pitch.

The top 3 are rewarded with a cash prize. All projects will gain experience and visibility.

Applications are open until the 8th of August 2026 !
Don't wait anymore and submit a project for this year.



EUSALP Summer activities

The idea of organizing summer camps was proposed by young people at the beginning of youth.shaping.EUSALP. The desire was to get out of the classical framework of participation while discussing the issues of the alpine region, but also to offer an opportunity to participate over a shorter period. We are also organized summer activities in 2024 and 2025.

In the summer 2022, 3 camps were organised during the month of July:

- Italy, Val di fiemme region
- Germany, Lake Constance
- France, Chartreuse

Last year, the camp took place in the French moutains of Jura.



Pitch Your Project

Objective : Support a project idea and bringing new perspectives to the EUSALP.

Target Group : 18-29 y.o. living in the Alpine region

Application period : until the 8th of august 2026

Potential time commitment:
 2 preparation meetings = 3h
 Creation of a video with the help of a professional = 1 day of shooting and 4 hours of preparation

- Participation in the final = 1 day

Reward :

- 1st-- 5000€
- 2nd -- 3000€
- 3rd -- 2000€

EUSALP Youth Council

Objective: To bring the voice of youth to EUSALP

Target group : 18-29 yo living in the Alpine region

Application period : from March to the end of May

Potential time commitment:
 1 year, renewable 1 year = 2 years maximum
 2 online meetings per month = 1 hour / month
 4-5 face-to-face meetings per year = 15 days / year

- Projects and meetings throughout the year = Random

Reward: international experience, travel, various skills, contributions to public policy.



EUSALP Summer activities

Objective : Discover the Alpine region and its issues in an informal form of youth participation.

Target group : 18-25 living in the Alpine region

Application period: Planned for summer 2027

Potential time commitment:

- around 5 days during the first week of September

Reward: Discovering a new territory, meetings, citizen experience and contributions to the work of the youth council.



28 seats in the Y.C
4 per Alpine Country
18-29 yo



25 Members in 2026-2027
15 new members
10 renewals

- Each member is officially a member of the Council for a period of 1 year, renewable for 1 year after the first mandate.
- Each year a maximum of 50% of the members per country can be renewed.
- The travel and accommodation of the councillors are covered by their home region.
- There are between 3 and 5 physical meetings per term & Young people meet online every 2 weeks for a Jour-fixe of 30min.
- The Youth Council is represented during Executive Board meetings and at the General Assembly of EUSALP
- Each member is free to join a working group and contribute according to his / her availability.
- The Youth Council is invited to several events and meetings related to the activities of EUSALP



4 Thematic Groups were created by members of the Youth Council. The annual work of these thematic groups is discussed during the Teambuilding. 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.



Economic Development



Mobility



Environment & Cultural heritage



Education, soft skills and digitalization

All information on the thematic groups is available on the EUSALP Youth Council position paper.





OVERVIEW OF YOUTH PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES IN THE ALPS

EUSALP

- Youth Council
- Pitch Your Project
- EUSALP Youth Camp
- Online tools

Alpine convention

- Youth Parliament of the Alpine Convention (YPAC)

CIPRA Youth Council

- Alptick
- Re.sources
- YOALIN

Interreg

- Interreg Youth Volunteer
- Youth Ambassadors
- ALCOTRA Youth Council





EUSALP Y.C RESULTS

During the second half of the Austrian-Liechtenstein co-presidency in 2025 and the Bavarian presidency 2026, the Youth Council had the great opportunity to work closer with other youth organisations such as students of Kempten University and other members of the YC of the 3 other Macro regional strategies.

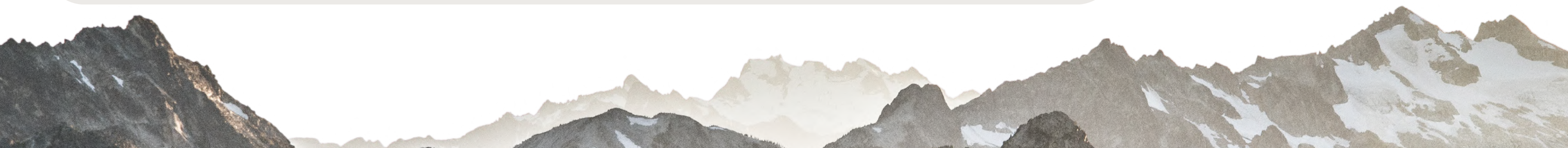
Youth Council members were also able to strengthen their links with EUSALP Action Groups and participate more actively in their activities and events.

This dynamic continued under the Austria-Liechtenstein 2025 Co-Presidency, which actively supported the activities of the Youth Council. For example, the Co-Presidency helped organise the Youth Council Team Building in Galtür in 2025, providing members with the opportunity to strengthen cooperation, develop joint priorities, and prepare their contribution to upcoming EUSALP activities.

In 2026, this cooperation was further reinforced through the EUSALP AI Hackathon in Kempten, where Youth Council members worked together with students, experts, and Action Group representatives, in particular AG1 and AG5, to explore innovative AI-based solutions for the sustainable tourism in the Alpine region.

Participating at the EUSALP Youth Council is an opportunity and will help you to:

- better understand the functioning of the European institutions,
- familiarize yourself with European project management
- take part in meetings with delegations from European countries
- gain experience and confidence in public speaking
- promote and represent the voice of alpine youth





EUSALP Youth Council: First Six Months of Mandate (29 Jan 2026)

The Council's mandate began with the Alpine Expedition and Teambuilding (July 2025), marking the official installation of the councillors.

Since then, members have actively represented the voice of Alpine youth across several key events:

- Discover Mountain Jobs (Roncegno, Sept. 2025) – exploring the timber industry in Trentino-Alto Adige, with Action Group 3
- MRS and Sea Basin Strategies Days (Brussels, Sept. 2025) – contribution to the Water Resilience workshop
- EUSALP Landscape Conference (Bolzano, Sept. 2025) – welcome speech with Action Group 6
- SmartCommUnity Final Conference (Freiburg im Breisgau, Oct. 2025) – advocating for projects co-designed with young people, with Action Group 5
- EU Week of Cities and Regions (Brussels, Oct. 2025) – Youth4Cooperation stand
- AlpTextyles Final Conference (Lyon, Oct. 2025) – youth perspectives on craftsmanship and innovation
- 10th EUSALP Annual Forum (Innsbruck, Nov. 2025) – Youth Council stand at the Networking Village
- Third Macro-Regional Citizen Agora (Budapest, Dec. 2025) – contribution on youth engagement in macro-regional governance





Y.C MEMBER TESTIMONY



Current Youth Councillor Testimony - Participation in the EUSALP AI-Hackathon 2026

Hajar’s team project : *“Our team developed an app called ‘TrailAwareAlps’, which uses AI to let hikers report trail issues while helping managers respond more quickly. Beyond the project itself, our main goal was to show that innovation driven by young people can provide concrete solutions to the challenges facing Alpine regions.”*

Learning about the responsible use of AI: *“This experience gave me a better understanding of AI’s potential when applied to specific needs. AI can be a valuable tool for data analysis, but it cannot replace human expertise. Using it responsibly as a decision-support tool – rather than a miracle solution – is essential.”*

A fulfilling experience *“On a personal level, this experience confirmed my ability to thrive in an international, multidisciplinary context and helped me build a strong network. Professionally, it deepened my understanding of AI’s potential in tourism and reinforced my conviction that cooperation between Alpine territories is an effective lever to address shared challenges. I can only encourage young people to seize this opportunity.”*

Hajar Abba, Youth Council member from 2025 to 2027





Y.C MEMBER TESTIMONY



Former Youth Councillor Testimony

Meetings with key actors: *“We had the opportunity to meet representatives of the regions, to meet government representatives at the Executive Board meetings, representatives of youth councils in different places, etc. [...] And what I remember most were the incredible encounters with other passionate young people, as well as those with political decision-makers. You also find out how the European institutions work... and you learn a lot about yourself.”*

An enriching experience: *“Being part of the EUSALP Youth Council allowed me to take more responsibility, for example at meetings with the national coordinators or at the Executive Board, where you have to present what you've done. Otherwise, it helped me work on project management skills, public speaking, formulating ideas so that they are convincing... I've also acquired knowledge on a variety of subjects. You become aware of the realities and learn about the actors involved in these issues: you gain a deeper understanding.”*

Giving young people a real voice: *“At the EUSALP Youth Council, I feel that we had the freedom to choose projects and deal with the issues we believed were really important. And the role of the Youth Council is well recognised by the Executive Board.”*

Killian Foloppe, Youth Council member from 2023 to 2025





Y.C MEMBER TESTIMONY



Former Youth Councillor Testimony

“During my participation in the YC, I had the opportunity to represent the voice of the younger generations in various panel discussions and workshops. This allowed me to strengthen my intercultural communication and public speaking skills and improve my understanding of European policy making and regional development. By organising and running our own workshops and events, I was able to connect with various interesting personalities, from leading policy makers to local experts. As I represented the YC several times at the EB meetings and the General Assembly of EUSALP, I was able to take a look behind the scenes and at the internal workings of a European institution. And last but not least, my involvement in the YC gave me the opportunity to get to know new places and make friends with many like minded young people from all over the Alpine Region.”

Thomas Wimmer, Youth Council member from 2021 to 2023



GOT QUESTIONS?

Reach out.



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