

Youth councillors of EU Strategy for Alpine Region, from French Republic, Republic of Slovenia, Republic of Italy, Republic of Austria, Federal Republic of Germany, Swiss Confederation and Principality of Liechtenstein, representing these states or alpine regions thereof,

do unanimously adopt the following

STATUTE OF THE YOUTH COUNCIL

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

The Youth Council is an official body of the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (hereinafter EUSALP).

Article 2

Participation in the Youth Council is voluntary.

Youth councillors may speak freely and openly about any and all matters under the purview of EUSALP and the Council and about any councillor in their role as a member of the Council, or about any state or region, without fear of removal.

Regardless of the previous provision, personal dignity of the councillors shall be maintained.

Article 3

Constituent states of the Youth Council are French Republic, Republic of Slovenia, Republic of Italy, Republic of Austria, Federal Republic of Germany, Swiss Confederation and Principality of Liechtenstein.

Several constituent states shall participate with individual regions, federal entities or other equivalent administrative bodies of self-government, which are wholly or partly considered part of the alpine space.

Article 4

The Youth Council is an apolitical body representing the voice of the alpine youth in EUSALP.

The mission of the Council is to bring the youths of different alpine states and regions together as a community and build a bridge between them, regional politics and policy makers and to participate in the preservation of their common region.

The Youth Council promotes youth participation in the macro regional strategy, with no distinction based on age, gender, social status, religion, race, nationality or any other related personal circumstance not listed in this Statute.

Article 5

The working language of the Youth Council shall be English.

All internal rules and guidelines and any other correspondence, documents or memorandums shall be translated to any of the official languages of the constituent states at the request of any youth councillor.

II. RESPONSIBILITIES

Article 6

The Youth Council shall, at the start of every mandate, publish a position paper which shall specify its vision and a draft program for key activities.

Article 7

The Youth Council shall cooperate closely with the nine Action Groups of EUSALP and shall appoint councillors to facilitate the flow of information between the Council and Action Groups and to ensure that youth is represented in their decision-making process.

The Youth Council collaborates with other entities and participates in other projects in the Alpine Space.

III. MEMBERSHIP

Article 8

Each constituent state of the Youth Council shall be represented by at most four youth councillors.

To be eligible for selection councillors must be between 18 and 29 years of age at the start of their mandate.

Article 9

Young councillors have a one-year mandate that can be renewed consecutively for a further year only. This limits the maximum term of office to 2 consecutive years.

Article 10

The young councillors are chosen following a selection and renewal process designed to ensure that the youth council continues to operate in the long term. This process is defined in the selection procedure document, which may evolve until the most appropriate system is found.

IV. ORGANISATION

Article 11

The internal organisation is detailed in the rules of procedures document. This document is subject to change at the first internal event of each new term of office.

Article 12

Thematic groups of the Youth Council shall deal with projects in areas covered by EUSALP action groups or the scope of the Interreg Alpine Space program.

Article 13

The Youth Council shall appoint by vote two youth councillors to represent the Council in the meetings of the EUSALP Executive Board, meetings of the Executive Board and the Action Group Leaders as well as the General Assembly.

V. VOTING

Article 14

The Youth Council always tries to find a consensus. Where this is not possible, a decision of the Youth Council is subject to an internal vote, the details of which are set out in the Rules of Procedure document.

The Council may adopt further rules and guidelines regarding the voting procedure in the rules of procedures document.

VI. SATELLITE GROUPS

Article 15

Anyone, who has applied to become a youth councillor but was not selected as such, living in the constituent states or regions thereof who expresses interest and anyone who has already served as a youth councillor shall be invited to join the Youth Council's Satellite groups.

Article 16

Members of the Satellite groups shall receive updates on the work of the Council after every physical meeting, or at any time the Council shall find it necessary.

Members of the Satellite group shall be encouraged to contribute to the work of the Council with their suggestions, ideas, and opinions and shall be invited to attend physical meetings or events of the Council when they shall be held in their country of residence.

VII. REMOVAL OF COUNCILLORS

Article 17

In the event of non-compliance with the Youth Council's Articles of Association or reprehensible behaviour as defined in the exclusion protocol, a member may be excluded from the Council. In these specific circumstances, a letter will be sent to the member's country representative on the board, the TSS director and the EUSALP presidency to inform them of this. The decision will then be proposed to the next meeting of the EUSALP Executive Board.

Article 18

No youth councillor shall be removed from the Youth Council without the proper procedure.

Article 19

Councillors may resign their mandate at any time by notifying the council.

Article 20

Councillors who shall leave the Council during the mandate shall not be replaced until the next selection process.

VIII. SUPPORT

Article 21

The Youth Council shall be supported by one or more mentors who are closely aligned to the EUSALP. The mentors can give advice or provide information if necessary and help organise or moderate the meetings of the Council.

Article 22

Financial support for travel and accommodation expenses must be provided by the constituent states or regions thereof according to their rules and procedures.

Financial support may also be provided by the organisers of events at which the presence of a youth councillor shall be requested.

IX. ADOPTION AND REVISION

Article 23

This Statute shall be amended only if so agreed by two thirds of the youth councillors.

Article 24

Any councillor may recommend amendments to this statute at any time.

Article 25

The Council shall adopt its own rules and guidelines concerning its internal structure as referred to in Article 11 of this document.

Article 26

Any new mandate should adopt these statutes at the first internal Youth Council event.