

Dear readers

Irene Cinel, Bassano del Grappa
Katharina Stolz, Innsbruck



Since YPAC already draws to a conclusion and this will be the last Flying Facts we write for this year we would like to thank everyone who took part in the event. As for us, it was a pleasure to work together and inform about the latest news whilst having lots of fun. Occasions like YPAC leave their traces on each and everyone of us: they have a great impact on our personality and way of living and make us socialize and meet different cultures.

We will not only stay in contact with our new friends, but also try to make our lifestyle ecologically friendly using the knowledge we got from this year's event. Furthermore, we will try to raise awareness not only in school but also in our circle of friends and family to spread the significance of an environmentally conscious behaviour.

We are very thankful that Bassano and Liceo Brocchi hosted us and did such a great job and we're already looking forward to next year's YPAC in Innsbruck!



Thank you all for
this amazing YPAC
experience!

COMMITTEE 1

Angela Ventrici, Trogen
Dorothea Mähner, Innsbruck
Lilith Decristoforo, Innsbruck



The postulations of the first committee started with a really extensive speech by Martina from Maribor. For their main topic, „Living: demographic change, spatial planning, quality of live“, they wrote the following postulations:

Buildings and Nature

The main concern the audience had with this postulation was the clearness of certain phrases. Committee 1 defended itself by giving more details and stating that they want to renovate houses and build on already used surface. The last point of the postulation was the only thing that wasn't further questioned; everybody believes that using regional material is important and should be supported.

Youth housing

Just as the first one, this postulation wasn't let down easily, because the reasoning was based on the youth leaving home because of high living costs, whereas the real reason instead seemed to be the infrastructure, just as a very spare range of job offers. Moreover, the delegates were worried about the effects on workers and their work that this postulation would have. The

committee responded by saying that new jobs would be created if the ideas were be carried out and that more supply meant less costs.

Improvement of the bus system for young people.

This postulation had to be made much more precise in the debate. The first problem was that one can't make public services free for a certain group and have it completely financed by another. Secondly the introduction of nightbuses and more busstops would mean more work, whereas cheaper prices were demanded. Furthermore, due to the small population the buses in rural areas would often remain empty, which would not be very eco-friendly again and would moreover lead to the whole idea being contradicting the general idea of this year's convention. The answers were strong, but they often repeated that their idea is still better than the current situation.

Increasing the quality of life in rural areas.

Just as in postulation 2, this wasn't that eco-friendly. Building facilities in order to make rural areas and little villages more attractive for their inhabitants is basically a good idea, but leads, as mentioned before, to new sources of emissions. Furthermore, it often doesn't pay off for

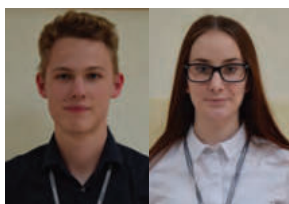
the companies to establish facilities for small communities. Another problem which came up during the debates was that improving the infrastructure in one place might cause emigration from other places, which is actually one of the goals of the committee, as they see it as beneficial for decreasing pollution in the cities.

COMMITTEE 2

Kilian Schroeder,

Rosenheim

Lucija Ivanuša, Maribor



As the guideline of this year's YPAC is „Green economy in the Alps“, committee 2 presented their final postulations mainly concerning the economic view of this year's overarching topic. In the opening speech they summed up the content of their final resolutions and defined their ultimate aim, that is to encourage start-ups, but reduce pollution.

Firstly, they proposed a plan of renovating older facilities, so they would save space and reduce costs. The postulation was met with concerns over how the community would react and whether or not the renovated villages would keep their rustic charm. An excellent example of the eco-spa Snovik was mentioned to illustrate the chance of businesses using renewable energy sources.

The second postulation of Committee 2 referred to supporting start-ups that promote the use of green economy. In order to help them, the committee members suggest reducing taxes to create the optimal atmosphere for these new businesses to prosper. A question about the probability that these tax reductions would guarantee start-ups to flourish, sparked a debate that resulted in the committee admitting that you really cannot guarantee anything, but then they also stressed a lack of promotion for start-ups and presented a solution in form of periodic expositions.

The third postulation, talking about an affordable public transport, suggested that people should use public instead of private transport. The biggest concern of the delegates was coordinating the needs of the tourists and the locals. A good portion of the time was also spent debating on whether or not two travel cards should be implemented, one for buses and one for trains. The last of their postulations was titled "mountaineer villages". It's modelled on a concept that is already applied in Austria - giving the towns that use sustainable agriculture the title of a mountaineer village which could then promote their tourism using the title. While some delegates were sceptical if such villages could really benefit from this concept,

the committee explained that it would encourage eco-friendly tourism, as vacationers would more likely be attracted to a destination that causes less pollution.

The two speeches in favour of these postulations and the closing speech all stressed that investing into green economy will never be a waste of resources.

COMMITTEE 3

***Jessica Sbalchiero,
Bassano del Grappa***



“There is no question that we live in troubled times. We are called to solve problems such as exploitation of primary resources, consumption of energy and pollution, which all lead to one consequence: the destruction of the Alpine ecosystem”. This is how Committee 3 opens the discussion about their postulations, which are articulated on four main points: infrastructure, education, industries and sales management.

Postulation 1 revolves around education: in primary school teachers should implement games to raise the awareness of recycling. The main criticism was on the suggestion of giving minus points to children that do not follow the rules, because this could lead to the creation of negative feelings towards recycling.

As for Postulation 2 there was one main problem: the suggested system already exists, so what is innovative about it? The delegates insisted on the fact that the aim of this postulation was to bring this system everywhere, starting from the cities and reaching small towns as well.

Postulation 3, which had at its centre in industrial symbiosis, was the most controversial one. Wouldn't additional taxes encourage companies to leave the Alpine region? Wouldn't it be too difficult for companies to change their production system, leading them to failure? In response the committee underlined the fact that the intention is not to cause the breakdown of industries, but to encourage them to adopt a sustainable system.

In Postulation 4 the committee suggested to use Life Cycle Assessment. This measures the impact of every product from its production to its disposal, so every single product would have a scale that would indicate this. Who would analyze these products? Local people could do it, therefore new jobs would be created.

Regarding the speeches against and in favor, the most criticized postulation was the third one. Someone found it contradictory, as with raising taxes on primary resource, farmers would have to buy them for higher

costs; in order to get that profit back, they would have to raise the price of secondary products, but the aim of the postulation was to increase the use of secondary resources. But the first two postulation were very realistic, a characteristic that was generally appreciated.

COMMITTEE 4

Jessica Walzl, Meran
Giordana Giolai,
Bassano del Grappa



Last but not least, Committee 4 presented its postulations. After the opening speech, held by Quirin Wolfrum postulations started to be discussed.

In Postulation 1, which is about making the already existing terraces that are part of our cultural heritage more self-sustainable and productive, these interesting ideas are intensively discussed.

In Postulation 2, which deals with an Alpine Culture Pass, the delegates propose to introduce a "Culture-Pass" for young people from 14 to 21. The aim is to encourage the teenagers to take part in exhibitions or visit museums and theaters. This postulation was discussed a lot as well.

In Postulation 3, which deals with landslide prevention, the delegates deal with building new terraces near villages in order to prevent landslides and to create

new farming land, whereas Postulation 4, which joins a postulation of Committee 1, is about improving the relationship between the people who currently live in the Alpine region and those who migrate into it.

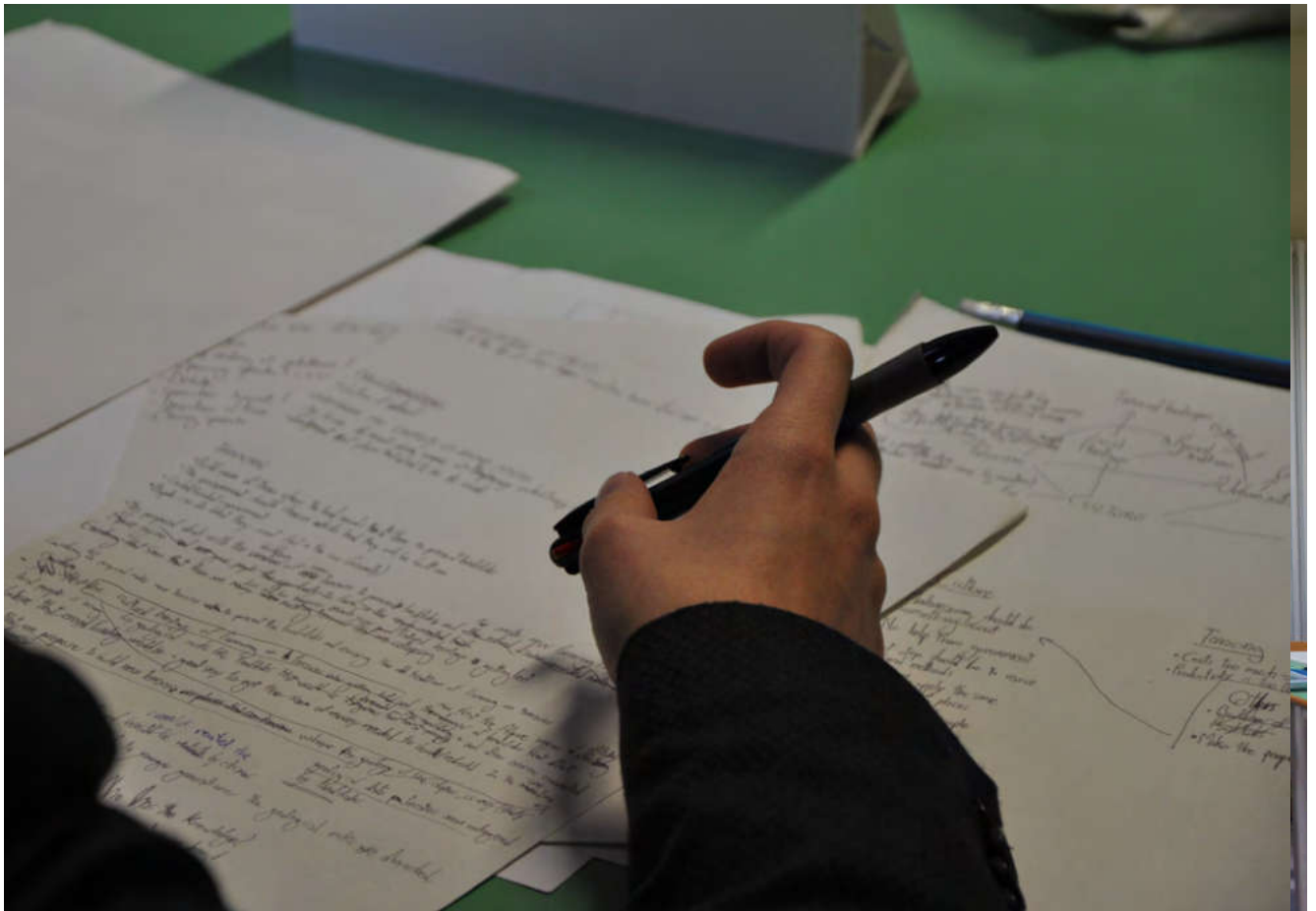
Just one delegate proposed a speech against the postulations and on the other hand three delegates made a speech in favour of Committee 4.

The whole presentation ended with a wonderful and impactful closing speech held by Adam Righi and a big applause.





Bassano del Grappa, Italy, 9th-13th May 2016



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INTERVIEW WITH MR. REITERER

*Anna Rizzo,
Bassano del Grappa*



What are you working on at the moment?

I'm the Secretary General of the Alpine Convention, which is an international organisation for the protection of the sustainable development of the Alpine region. As the Secretary General I've got a lot of tasks related to the implementation of the convention's protocols and related to communication.

What do you think about the YPAC project?

I'm a big supporter of the Youth Parliament. I think it is really important for many aspects: first it is about democracy, about how you communicate to each other and how you reach decisions for the democracy. Secondly it's about the responsibility of each one of you and us for not only your own life, but for the society.

Why have you become interest- ed in this project?

I've heard about the Youth Parliament 11 years ago when it started. I wasn't working for the Alpine Convention at the time.

When I was younger I was one of the co-organisers of the first Vienna International Model United Nations, I participated and I just found out for me, myself and my whole professional career that these simulations

were almost more important than the rest that I learnt at school.

What about your experiences with this YPAC?

I absolutely liked them. The way how you engage in the discussion, how you treat the methods, how you develop the ideas. You can also show the profits of what you've learned and what you've taken from life so far. The way how you approach the different issues is just fascinating and for me personally it's so great to hear what the future generations' thoughts, ideas, issues and needs are. So my experience with YPAC was a really positive one.

What would you like the young people of this year's YPAC to con- centrate on especially?

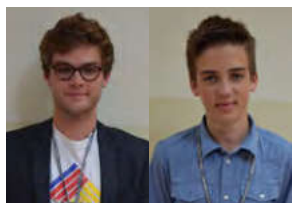
I would not like to focus too much on some topics, focus on what you can do to make our region, our planet the place you would want to live on in the future. Think really hard about what you want of life and think about what you need to get it, not only for you but for the whole society.

What would you suggest to the participants of the YPAC?

Don't lose your energy, keep your desire to improve and develop your skills. And keep your spirit which is that you know that you are shaping your future, don't leave it to the others. Take your life in your own hands.

COMMITTEES' MEETING WITH POLITICIANS AND EXPERTS

Vitja Bizjak, Kamnik
Jeldrik Schottke, Liechtenstein



Late in yesterday's afternoon, experts and politicians who have specialized on the matters of the Alpine region temporarily joined the committees to help them refine their postulations. The committees presented their ideas to the experts who then expressed their opinions and talked about their own experiences with green economy. Experts found most postulations very likeable, but still gave advice to

the delegates on how to improve them and in some cases how to present them to the public so that they won't be misunderstood. Although many ideas were fresh, the experts found some postulations unrevolutionary as similar measures have already been taken by most countries. In conclusion, the experts' and politicians' input has been considered and greatly appreciated by the committees and we are sure that the results of the meeting will be visible in today's General Assembly.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Irene Cinel, Bassano del Grappa
Katharina Stolz, Innsbruck



Action politically motivated?

After the Duck had been made the official mascot of Committee 2, it was kidnapped on Wednesday and it has not been found ever since. According to a video, radical members of Committee 3 took possession of it. Any names of the culprits are not known. „We totally believe it was a long planned politically motivated action by Committee 3. But we

will never negotiate with terrorists!“, says Jonas Pyhrr, president of Committee 2. In the video the Duck still looked alive and healthy, but the kidnappers said they were „ready to cross any border“.

According to the statements of eye-witnesses, Committee 3 members were able to overwhelm Committee 2 member Leo F. who was alone with the animal and then they took the Duck along. After some attempts to free the mascot had already failed, a heroic special force managed to free the Duck in a very dangerous operation in the end. The animal itself was not available for a statement, but according to „The Times“ its head

LIECHTENSTEIN

Jeldrik Schottke,
Liechtenstein



THE BIG COUNTRY

As you know, the small principality is not as big as any of your countries. In addition our population is not even as big as the inhabitants of Bassano del Grappa. But these are not the requirements to be a great nation. The people and their culture are the main part of every country. The people of Liechtenstein - due to its largeness - nearly know everyone. If this is true is not validated, but it is a common joke in Liechtenstein which demonstrates one more time how small it is. Despite it is not the biggest country, we have the last monarch who lives in a castle and still has political power - which actually is a cause of concern for some people. Furthermore, Liechtenstein has more workspaces than inhabitants, which are the fundamentals of their robust economy. To sum up, Liechtenstein is in fact maybe unimpressive, but as a country it is really special and to some extent a beautiful and interesting country.

FRANCE

Elise Trappier, Chamonix



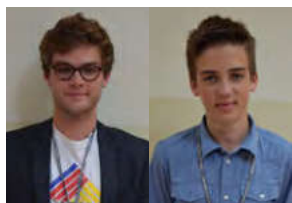
What 's the first sentence you learned in French? Write it here:

First of all, France doesn't mean Paris. This terrible city represents only 2% of the territory! So let's start with some French geography. But with the point of view of someone from Chamonix: people from Paris are the worst, most arrogant, boring, impolite citizens of France who never get out of their apparently so beautiful and polluted city. People from the north are named ch'tis, they have an incomprehensible accent and always eat French fries. In the north-east you can find strange people: les Bretons - they live in a place where it always rains and eat tons of butter. People from the south of France are having the nap all day long, they drink Ricard, play pétanque and speak with a singing accent. Finally, there are those who live in the south-east of France (where Chamonix is located) - eaters of tartiflette and strange lads who keep hiding in their mountains to practice some extreme sports.

So that was a little introduction of stereotypes (some are really true) about the people that you can find in the country of cheese and wine.

YESTERDAY'S PF MEETINGS

*Vitja Bizjak, Kamnik
Jeldrik Schottke,
Liechtenstein*



1st PF MEETING

Taking place in the library, the first meeting began with students telling each other where they come from. They formed groups which discussed and brainstormed different subjects (consumption, working, tourism/local business, eco-friendly living, leisure and culture). The students wrote their ideas on post-its with the help of experts specialized on the subjects the groups were given. Afterwards, each group presented their ideas.

DUCK KIDNAPPED

Kilian Schroeder, Rosenheim



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2nd PF MEETING

The second meeting took place in the afternoon. The PF members discussed their role in YPAC and made proposals on how to improve it. One of the suggestions was to give committees subtopics that are less alike, as the postulations this year might be too similar. The other proposal was to review and improve the daily schedules so that the students can spend more time with the host families and have more free time in general to enjoy the host town.

of Committee 2. In the video the Duck still looked alive and healthy, but the kidnappers said they were „ready to cross any border“.

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