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MESTNA OBČINA
MARIBOR

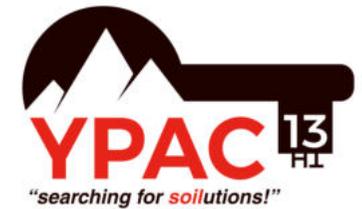


Flying Facts

Issue No.1

TUESDAY, 20.3.2018

FINALLY STARTED!



"So, the first day of YPAC 2018 was for me personally a mixture of emotions. I was nervous, anxious, but soooo excited. Excited to meet my guests, and of course, all of the other participants. I must say I was not let down. My fellow colleagues are smart, innovative and fun to be around. I can't wait to see how this week unfolds."

- Katarina Les PF



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Snapchat: Official YPAC

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WHAT HAPPENS TOMORROW?

Besides meetings of committees, there will be a World cafe in the amphitheatre before noon. Many experts and politicians will come and answer some of our questions, which we cannot wait to ask. We expect some answers that will satisfy our curiosity. There will also be a meeting of delegations with teachers. The committees will continue to discuss their topics after lunch and they will not stop until dinner. There will be a musically coloured evening - we will watch the musical, Sen Kresne Noči by the English Student Theatre at II. Gimnazija Maribor. Druga has a 'pretty famous' theatre, which is known for their outstandingly well-prepared musicals. After the show, our work day will (finally?) end.

YPAC INSIDE

INTERVIEW- EXPERIENCED MEMBER
(ANGELA VENTRICI)

Where do you come from? How many times have you participated in YPAC?

I am a member of the Trogen delegation. I am partaking in the Youth Parliament for the third time this year.

Why do you participate in YPAC?

I see it as a great opportunity to meet people that I would never have met otherwise. It is also a chance to practise (and improve) my English debate skills and openness in general.

What do you expect from this year's YPAC?

I expect the interest and effort of the participants to be on the same level as last year. Work in such conditions is bound to produce some good ideas that will lead to creative postulations.

What would be the linking factor between your region and this year's topic (soil)?

Where I come from, there is a lot of farming going on. The soil is mostly used as grazing land for cattle. As it stands, the soil is quite uncultivated - we should change that and put it to better use.

FOREWORD

Dear Readers,

Another year, another YPAC!

Dobrodošli to Maribor! A new year, a new country, new members and new topics waiting to be discovered and discussed. The work will be hard, there will not be much sleep, but in the end, it will all be worth it!

This year's topic, "the preservation of soil" is special because it is essential for the environment and for everybody's life. The committees will talk about the most pressing issues today and how to tackle them to secure a sustainable life in the Alps.

Since climate change is a great threat to nature, soil is directly affected by it, and the problems that come along with it keep getting bigger. So it is about time that we find "soilutions!"

But, as serious as this topic seems, we should not forget about the spirit of YPAC: Meeting new people, making friends, working together and, most importantly, having a lot of fun! Enjoy your stay!

FACTS



94,876 inhabitants

**Original name:
Marburc = Marc (borderland) +
Burc (fortress)**

The city is divided into 11 districts

**The city stretches along both sides
of the Drava River and beneath the
Pohorje mountain range**

**Maribor has the oldest vine in the
world (over 400 years old)**

**Maribor received town privileges in
1254**

COMMITTEE 4

NATURAL HAZARDS

Global warming, thunderstorms, floods, erosion and landslides – just to name a few. These will be some of the main discussion points for the delegates of the fourth committee in the coming days. How could they be/are they prevented? How important is it that we prevent them and what are the safety protocols if they happen anyways?

How do they affect soil and its quality? Natural hazards - a topic that poses many questions that are in need of answers. Hopefully the next few days will be fruitful in that respect and supply us with some creative postulations.



COMMITTEE 3

SPATIAL PLANNING IN URBAN AREAS

Committee 3 concerns itself with spatial planning in urban areas. There are a lot of challenges a growing city is facing and one of them is definitely the preservation of soil. The members of the committee talk about problematic aspects of their topic, for example »soil sealing« which inevitably happens when building new infrastructure such as houses, streets and so on.

They also discuss the depletion of suburban soil, that is to say when soil is being brought from rural areas in order to make up for concrete surfaces in the cities. The committee tries to find solutions for the different challenges including what can be done to make cities livable and green.



Platform future

throughout the year

For some, YPAC 2017 in Innsbruck may have ended with the closing ceremony, but the work for the platform future just began at that time. In order to spread last year's resolutions and the project in general, they reached out to politicians, newspapers and radio stations to raise awareness on their work.

Using the same procedure as every year, YPAC in Maribor started with the platform future presenting their results. Many of the delegations published large articles in local broadsheets explicating YPAC, what was discussed in Innsbruck and what problems are still to be faced. Four delegations took part in the "European Strategy for the Alpine Region" conference,

where they had the opportunity to talk with politicians about issues affecting the region, youth participation and politics in general. Innsbruck, for example, even got to meet with the Austrian chancellor, Sebastian Kurz, and the Austrian president, Alexander van der Bellen. Other delegations, like Maribor and Kamnik presented last year's resolutions to the National Assembly, or, like Vaduz, discussed them with the head of government.

So, it is fair to say that the platform future did not stand still in the last year. It will be exciting to see how YPAC will be represented in the year to come and what results they will show us in 2019 in Meran.

COMMITTEE 1

AGRICULTURE

I think we have all seen beautiful images of black, white and brown cows grazing on our green, alpine meadows. And of course, it seems that this is the most natural way to treat cows, but do they have a negative impact on our sensitive, alpine soil? And how do farmers manage producing our food on the steep hills and mountains?

It must be very difficult, the alpine soil is often only about 15 centimetres deep and very sensitive. Sometimes farmers try to improve the soil with artificial fertilizers, but nowadays, we know that they are making

the problem of losing good soil even worse.

In our time, eating organic food is like a trend. The demand for all-natural products is increasing. So more and more farmers should and could practise green farming. How do they do this, and what are their problems? And how can we convince more farmers to do so? The agriculture committee is about to discuss this. But there are even more topics connected to the ones mentioned before. For example, if water consumption is relevant to this issue.

COMMITTEE 2

SPATIAL PLANNING IN RURAL AREAS

The Alps mainly consist of rural areas, which are a source of wealth, but also of problems. In this committee, we talked about settlement development, second homes, land grabbing, seasonal overpopulation, national parks, soft tourism, snowmaking and agricultural land protection. Indeed, there are a lot of complications caused by these factors.

For example, agriculture and snowmaking can damage soil with the massive use of pesticides and chemicals.

That is why we have to react and find solutions, such as national parks, which can contribute to the preservation of soils, the management of activities within natural ecosystem cycles, or to intelligent spatial planning in order to limit existing and future infrastructure.

