

The proposed resolutions of the 4" YPAC:

Committee 1:

Active Involvement of Youth – Do the young people have the ability to make changes?

Resolution 1

The YPAC recognizes the problem that the youth does not have sufficient ability, such as decisive mandates and/or having their opinions taken seriously to make changes regarding the Alps and that this has a discouraging and negative effect on future YPAC delegates. The youth cannot make changes because they are not informed enough about Alpine issues and do not participate enough in Alpine-related projects.

Therefore, we propose the following:

An organized hierarchical network should be formed with local and state level bodies, which would be coordinated by a central Alpine regional body of this organization. These organizations would be run by delegate volunteers with adults on staff (a youth section of CIPRA, for example). The regional bodies of the organization would be coordinated by the state bodies which would answer to the Alpine regional body.

Said organization would:

- a) manage the new selection and post-selection process (nominating schools would stop, and the state body would send out invitation letters to all schools in the Alpine region in that country and delegates will be selected by previous delegates or committee presidents and general presidents on the basis of an essay or a video motivation letter. In that way more motivated and informed delegates will be sent to YPAC resulting in a more constructive and overall better discussion. As for the post-selection process, new and more committee-specific preparation sheets will be prepared and delegation meetings will be organized before the conference.)
- b) organize and implement to other Alpine related projects such as:
 - awareness raising campaigns
 - exchanges, such as theme camps in different states, sports competitions etc.
 - manage information exchange between local level organizations

Having a more structured network of young Alpine organizations would immensely increase the level of efficiency and coordination as well as increase the ability to tap into various funds for different projects and with that the influence YPAC has on young people will be increased and the message of YPAC will be sent to a wider young public, which is inherently good.

By sending the message of YPAC to a wider young public, the level of information available is increased and by widening the range of Alpine related projects, the interests of a wider group are taken into account, effectively increasing the level of youth participation in Alpine related projects.

In the long run a youth that is well informed and sensitive to Alpine issues will be the adults that will care and make positive changes and preserve the Alps as we know them.

Resolution 2

The experience of the last years shows that YPAC's resolutions are not recognized enough and taken seriously by the politicians of the Alpine Convention. No feedback is received so that it has to be guessed why the resolutions are not taken into account. What lacks is the connection between the YPAC and the Alpine Convention.

Therefore, we propose the following:

- a) More **feedback** should be sent by the Alpine Convention about our work to give the delegates of the next YPAC the chance to improve their work. Without any feedback it is nearly impossible for the delegates to understand why their resolutions are not realized. This causes confusion and the delegates cannot improve their work properly. Without a response the resolutions are made useless. This would help the YPAC to be taken more seriously and to operate in a better way.
- b) In order to achieve a (better) **interaction** between the YPAC and the Alpine Convention it is suggested that an exchange of the members of both conferences occurs. Apart from a delegation of YPAC visiting the Alpine Convention, we propose that a member of the Alpine Convention participates in the YPAC and spreads the YPAC's ideas in the Alpine Convention. Furthermore, the exchange of the members of both conferences would also lead to an increase in severity of the YPAC's resolutions.
- c) To get the YPAC more serious and realistic, we propose that the Alpine Convention provides **concrete and solvable problems** instead of the supra-regional and abstract ones dealt with previously. With more concrete problems, the delegates have the ability to inform themselves in detail about those problems. This would rise the productivity of YPAC's discussions and enable concrete solutions.

This would be performed by members of the Alpine Convention who would read the resolution of the YPAC and write a feedback and send it to the YPAC.

Feedback provided by the Alpine Convention, exchanges of delegations between YPAC and Alpine Convention and a change in topics will increase the quality of future proposals and resolutions, will show future delegates how to improve the work of YPAC and increase the severity of the resolutions.

More severe resolutions will be taken more seriously by the Alpine Convention.

Committee 2:

Networking and participating – can platforms like YPAC help young people to play an active role in developing the Alpine region and should more schools take part? How can this be handled?

Resolution 1

The problem at hand is that YPAC isn't popular enough, thus expansion of YPAC is more difficult because less sponsors are willing to support a project which is little known. The other problem with the lack of popularity is the small effect of YPAC because its work is not known enough even at the participating schools.

Therefore, we propose the instalment of a Chief Information Officer (CIO) at each school, backed up by an information committee composed of up to five students, based on the ad hoc needs and interests. The CIO (a student) would have to already be an active participant (delegate or one of the presidents) of YPAC. The CIO and the information committee would present the work of the annual meetings (project days, lectures, special newspaper), organize public discussions, post posters in their schools and towns using a logo/slogan common to all of the schools. The newspaper would be made on a supra-national level by all of the participating schools and distributed as an e-mail newsletter for free. The greater part of the newspaper would be the same in all of the countries and written in English, addressing the topics that are relevant for the whole Alpine region, and a smaller part different from state to state and in the local language. Project days and in-school lectures would be held in the schools themselves (for the alumni) whilst the public discussions would be set in public places and open for all. The CIO would be supervised by a teacher who only organizes the absolute basics (ensures that the students will have access to classrooms when needed, registers public meetings where required by law - students not of age).

The impact of the in-school activities would, among other effects, increase the interest of the students for participation, since people are much more likely to participate in something they know and are fully aware of the positive sides of. The newspaper would just as well inform the student of the state in the Alps more often than just once a year (as the annual meeting does) and it keeps feeding the people with new information. The public discussions organized in public places would not only inform the general public about YPAC and the problems within the Alps, but they would also catch the eye of the media throughout the year which would in terms mean that the general public would keep YPAC in mind throughout the year and that would increase the chances of getting new sponsors for projects and also the chances of receiving EU funds for them as the EU funds are more likely to go to the hands of those who already have projects running.

Resolution 2

We consider the annual meetings of the Youth Parliament of the Alpine Convention as necessary, but we still want to install a platform as an attachment in order to assure an exchange of opinion between participants. Furthermore, the platform should be used to gain extra opinions from the people who are not able to participate in YPAC, but still want to play a role in the decision-making process concerning the Alpine regions.

Therefore, we propose:

- to add to the existing YPAC website a forum which consists of an open part accessible to everyone willing and interested in topics which are of interest to the Alpine Convention. Furthermore, this platform consists of a closed part which can only be used by participants of YPAC. They would receive a password from the administrative body of the platform in order to facilitate the discussion and work on different topics concerning the 8 Alpine states.
- to install an additional chat room which would be used by active participants of YPAC in order to exchange their experiences and work more efficiently during the rest of the year.

The platform is also meant to support other means of informing people. Interested and willing people should have the possibility to extend their knowledge about the Alpine Convention, YPAC itself and the Alpine regions.

Therefore, we propose as well:

- to give general information about the mentioned topics, which should be installed by the administrative body (or if possible experts) and
- to upload a newsletter which should be prepared by the CIO's in order to give an overview of the currently discussed topics concerning Alpine regions.

In order to make the platform more interesting to the visitors, we propose:

- to install an “artistic corner”, in which photos, literature, drawings, videos, etc. handed in by everyone can be uploaded by the administrative group who retains the right of censorship.

The administrative body consists of volunteers who create an additional committee. Their tasks are to install, update, and control the contents. Furthermore, they have to decide which pictures, photos etc. should be uploaded to the webpage.

Committee 3:

Crossing borders – do barriers still exist between Alpine countries?

Resolution

We realized that prejudices about other countries and between Alpine regions themselves and their inhabitants still exist in the heads of people living in the Alpine countries. On the one hand, these prejudices are caused by the historical background (e.g. wars), on the other hand, they are caused by a lack of knowledge about other countries. As a result, **mental barriers** have developed.

That is why we propose to build up **student exchange programs** all across the Alpine regions in order to build bridges between different cultures. By doing this, we want children to get familiar with other mentalities right from the beginning of their education. Schools ought to encourage pupils and help them financially to go abroad. To really get in touch with the local culture, older students should stay in **host families**.

The organization staff (schools, education ministries) is obligated to find **accurate programs for students of all ages**. For example, the younger children will connect through sports activities with the children of other countries and stay together in a youth hostel, while older children could engage in discussions and cultural activities.

The students will be **well-prepared** for the exchange week through **special lessons at school** (languages, history, geography). This knowledge will be given in advance and reflected afterwards.

The best example for the advantage of an exchange is the YPAC in Maribor last year because we got information about the Slovenian way of life and we realized that there are a lot of similarities with other countries. If children from different countries get to know each other, they will find out that they have **similar interests** and that they are all **alike**. Therefore, they will live keeping that in mind. This **prevents one from having false beliefs** about other cultures and **reduces the mental barriers**.

Committee 4:

Alpine identity – A limit to overcome or an opportunity to take?

Resolution 1

It should be recognized that the Alpine region is made up by eight countries. We have an Alpine identity. Therefore, we need a brand that represents ourselves.

The Alpine region needs a brand because foreign people must know what we have to offer. They must realize that we can offer more than just mountains, for example lakes, valleys, leisure activities, museums and tours. We want the Alpine countries to cooperate by solving common problems. People must know that we reformed ourselves to a single region. Therefore, a single brand is needed. The brand should include culture, tradition as well as the modern way of living, landscape and leisure activities.

The main actors in charge will be the Alpine Convention, along with the governments of the eight states. The government must approve the decisions because the Alpine Convention cannot decide in matters regarding international affairs alone. The brand should be professionally promoted by a marketing agency in cooperation with Alpine experts. In order to advertise the brand, we must give it presence in the media (television, newspapers, radio and internet).

We want to have one single brand representing the eight states of the Alpine Convention, because we firmly believe in one Alpine identity. In this way the Alpine region is represented best.

Resolution 2

Our Alpine culture and traditions are very much influenced by foreign ones. For example, Halloween as a new trend from the US is already well-known in the Alpine region. On the other hand, our own traditions are slowly dying out.

It is necessary to present traditions in a more interesting way. Alpine traditions should already be shown and explained in the first years of school and should constantly be mentioned during school education. Another way of keeping traditions alive is to make museums more attractive for all generations e.g. with real-life simulations or the use of modern media.

The government should encourage and support the young generation to learn about their own traditions, which they might have forgotten.

Traditions make this region unique and they have a huge influence on our Alpine identity. If we did not keep our traditions alive, it would be a great loss for all of us.

Resolution 3

Among younger generations Alpine identity is missing because of the lack of education. Most young people are not interested in culture and tradition, because they do not see any advantages and good things in them. The connection between young people and tradition is missing.

The solution for the missing connection between Alpine identity and young people is represented by an obligatory project week at least once a year in primary and secondary schools. In this project week, students will participate in different workshops. Their program is decided by each school, but they should consist of tradition, culture, sports and ecology. Schools can add some topics based on their decision.

Furthermore, we invent an “Alpine Week”: During this week, all eight Alpine countries organize places, where people can eat typical food, visit traditional dance performances and have the opportunity to educate themselves about the Alps. The program of this “Alpine Week” is for all generations. It should take place in several cities and villages in all eight Alpine countries.

The main actors are organizations (for example: CIPRA or the Alpine Convention), which present the plans to the governments. The government supports schools and organizations which plan the “Alpine Week”.

The plan works better if it starts from the childhood, because it is easier to implant something in a child’s mind.