



RESOLUTION

2013

TOPIC: “My alpine town of the future”

YPAC 2013  
was held in  
Sonthofen,  
Germany  
from 11th to  
15th March

Dear citizens of our great Alpine Region,

YPAC 2013 was held in Sonthofen, Germany from March 11<sup>th</sup> to March 15<sup>th</sup>. The youth parliament is an institution for young people from different Alpine countries to voice their opinions in parliament.

This year's umbrella topic was "My alpine town of the future – Ideas of the youth for a sustainable development in the sense of the alpine convention". This way YPAC provides an opportunity for young people to create a holistic vision of their Alpine town of the future. The resolution is the final product of the YPAC in which there are 10 postulations included that passed by vote on the last day of the parliament. Therefore they are the most important in the view of the delegates. Some measurements, that are included in the resolution, are in test status or already put in execution in some regions but we demand that these measurements are put into execution all over the Alps.

## 10 Postulates to **the alpine town of the future**

### **Postulation 1**

#### **Mobility package**

Many young people hardly have any possibilities to travel around and to visit cultural monuments in foreign countries/cities. The main reason is that those journeys are expensive and hard to organize.

Our countermeasure is installing a database accessible through the internet which registers local partners in each alpine city to promote the areas for tourists and inhabitants. This service includes accommodation (e.g. hotels, couch surfing, hostels, host families, ...), cultural providers (e.g. museums, theatres, sight-seeing, ...) and public transportation. This database also contains information about general points of interest in cities.

Therefore the government of each alpine country should promote and provide financial support to innovative young people. Consequently, the prices of this service would be lower and more young people would travel in an environmentally friendly way.

The service is available to everyone but mostly attractive to young people and families.

We believe this is a good idea as it would make it possible for people to live and visit environmentally friendly Alpine towns, now and in the future.

## **Postulation 2**

### **Working at home**

#### *1. Promotion*

We want to promote this concept through publicity campaigns per using television advertisement and posters. Indeed this process is not really known and rarely taken into consideration by working individuals.

Therefore massive campaigns would enable people to learn about the many advantages that come with working at home.

#### *2. Positive impacts*

First of all, working in your house would greatly reduce the pollution usually created when one goes to and from their workplace. This especially applies in our alpine region, because we sometime need to go far to work.

This would also enable you to save a great amount of time usually lost in the transportation system. This time, you normally waste, could now be used at home for work and any other tasks.

Furthermore, the beauty of this “work at home” concept is the fact that one is now free to organize the work time. Thus, they are now able to work while taking care of their family or doing any other house task.

#### *3. How it works*

First of all, to be able to work at home one would have to either send a letter to the director of the company or meet with him to discuss why it is necessary for them to work from home. This concept specially applies to parents who wish to raise their children while continuing their career. Therefore they do not have to choose between their family and their career. Furthermore we need to specify that this does not apply to everyone in the company but only to the people who wish to work at home and whose request is accepted by the director.

This System would be set up to control your work through a time period, indeed on Sunday you will receive a weekly schedule describing the work you have to do through the week. Therefore this system is not time based but work based. It will be set up year by year depending on your wish to continue working at home or not.

#### *4. Socially*

We believe, that this system has an important social impact.

Indeed it reduces your social contact. Therefore we believe one or two days per week the worker should be bound to go to the work place and work there. That would enable them to blend with other people and get a feeling of the enterprises spirit.

Furthermore we think it would be good to organize events where people who work at home get to meet and interact

### **Postulation 3**

#### **“ACMS”- Advanced Company Mobile System**

In many companies we come across a large number of problems.

One of them is the rent of the parking spaces, which is a result of the necessity of the company to provide many spaces for private vehicles, since the company must guarantee parking spaces for 75% of the employees. That problem is closely followed by the pollution and jams due to traffic. A large amount of the companies' energy consumption can be found in the personal transport system. Therefore we would implement a system, where the employee would be encouraged to reduce the amount of rides with a personal vehicle. That would be achieved with a cash bonus partially financed by the government. This system would be very effective, because the company would not just save a lot of money, but would also help the employees (health and reduced stress) and the environment. With this system we would save around one third of the energy consumption and decrease the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> that is released in the atmosphere. Thereby we would also change the mentality of the employees and families.

### **Postulation 4**

#### **Recreation area**

*A future alpine town is a place that is comfortable to visit or live in. Place where you can go out to exercise and feel the nature. Problem of modern expanding cities is that the needs of humans are often put behind the interests of pursuing profits and forget about.*

*When cities are expanded or zones of municipal spatial plan are restructured to serve other purposes the green (e.g. parks) and exercise areas (e.g. courts) are not built because they do not provide any additional revenue.*

*To sum up, the main problem is that a person in such a town does not have enough opportunities to relax and stress out (e.g. walking or sitting in the park, exercising ...) nearby.*

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A legislation to regulate urban planning sufficiently needs to be passed. Each rezoned or newly created or expanded city district (city area) would have to distribute a certain percentage of land to public green and exercise areas which would be managed by the city authorities in order for the plan to be approved.

Old city areas that are culturally important would be left out of this legislation as this would negatively affect the cultural image of the city.

The advantages of these newly introduced places are less stressed and healthier people, better air quality (in case of green areas) and more space for socializing. This will also positively affect work productivity and increase value of surrounding land. The main reason this has not happened yet is because benefits of creating such areas are spread out and an individual private party (company, individual ...) has very little benefits compared to the investment.

### **Postulation 5**

#### **Improvement of the cultural program in youth centers**

In current alpine towns we face the problem of youth emigration which is in part caused by the lack of cultural events for the inhabitants where they have the possibility to cultivate their social connections and spend their leisure time. In addition it is a fact that the existing youth centers are unpopular because of the unused facilities and the missing cultural program for the young people caused by the financial abandonment of the government.

With yearly communal and governmental subsidies an increasing improvement of youth center facilities in alpine towns and its events like cinema evenings or concerts can be achieved. This would lead to the government providing a better environment for the young people's free time. Young people should get involved in the whole process of building or modernizing concepts.

Furthermore, teenagers and students should be used to occupy some of the roles of social workers (interaction with young people) and receive support by experts. This way they have the opportunity to collect working experience in addition to the usual school life. Young employees will also increase the interest in youth centers. By providing a modern and various cultural program the youth will enjoy their hometowns more and therefore the emigration will be reduced.

### **Postulation 6**

#### **Recycling old facilities**

Recycling old facilities which have no particular purpose in current form could bring various solutions when questioning what benefits could certain city or group of people living there gain by reusing them. On the one hand they could be used for educational purposes, meaning building botanical parks or gardens in them, which could be used for practical work for students when studying natural sciences, and on the other hand they could be renewed as hotels, hostels or dormitories for future tourists, especially the younger generations, and student as well. One of possible solutions is recycling materials, such as metal or glass, used in those buildings after tearing them down as well. About 30% of respective materials can be reused in the construction of new facilities.

### **Postulation 7**

#### **Recycling with colours: An effective system.**

In order to encourage people to recycle their waste, we introduce a coloured waste system. Every category of recyclable waste (e.g. plastics, aluminum) has its own colour. Every product will have a coloured button on the package, which indicates the category of the waste. With this system sorting your waste gets easy for everyone. In this way, we expect to lead the consumer to a more sustainable and responsible behavior. For children the colour system is an easy opportunity to learn how to sort waste. Furthermore different coloured bins will be installed at every household.

## **Postulation 8 Eco-Universities**

We propose to found universities in ambitious and good developed cities in the alpine region where the focus is on ecological disciplines. This issue concerns everybody's future especially in the alpine states. In this global topic it is important to involve different countries and cultures, that's why the lectures would be in English and the university supports international relationships. Therefore, these universities would set up an exchange program and would thus avoid decentralization. Also, there should be the possibility to attend specializations and further educations for everyone. Like in St. Andrews, a city with approximately 17000 inhabitants and a third of these are students, this institution would be in an ambitious village because of the existing infrastructure and the vicinity of the nature. In the alpine region there is a need for ecological educated people and enough working places. With that we will attract young people to study and stay in the alpine region.

## **Postulation 9**

### **Get Money for recycling: the creation of the Alpine card & the Alpine Label.**

To increase the consumption of Alpine products and to face the issue of littering, we implement the "Alpine card". This system works as follows: The customer gets credit points on his Alpine card when returning his packages to the supermarket. These credit points can then be used on products with the "Alpine Label".

Products with the "Alpine Label" have to be produced exclusively in the Alpine region. In addition the whole product cycle has to take place within the original place of manufacture.

With this Alpine card we would promote the production of authentic local products and increase the development of local companies. In addition we would also make a step towards a cleaner environment.

## **Postulation 10**

### **Mobility education as the future (r)evolution**

Nowadays many young people and adults are not as interested in saving the Alpine environment as they should be, due to the lack of information.

Thereby we would help the people to be more informed and we can achieve that by focusing on four groups: nursery, primary school, high school and further education. Since the human identity is formed at young age, we suggest workshops in nurseries teaching children about this topic in a fun and interactive way.

In primary school, there should be a project, which is divided into theory and practical experience. Students should be motivated to use different means of transport in a competitive way. The result of this work should be a presentation for their parents. This way, we are able to influence the youth and the parents as well.

In high schools and universities, experts should be involved in workshops to extend the student's knowledge.

In addition we propose a town-fair to be offered for adults and families.

The easiest way to change the status- quo is by educating the population from a young age.

