

THE FLYING FACTS

~ Official YPAC News ~

No. 1



YPAC

Topics
Committees

**Teachers
Survey (part 1)**

Fun

Food and ...



YPAC 2015

"YPAC was founded in 2006 by two teachers of Akademisches Gymnasium Innsbruck, Irmgard Senhofer and Claudia Rauchegger. In collaboration with the Alpine Convention and the Permanent secretariat a model of the youth parliament was born. As a simulation of a proper parliament, it offers secondary school students an opportunity to discuss and suggest sustainable solution to current issues of concern in the Alpine region, as well as provides a chance for exchanging different opinions and experiences, along with establishing new friendships. The topic of this year's event taking place between 16th and 20th March 2015 at Rudolf Maister Grammar and Vocational school Kamnik, is Ecosystem services in times of climate change, within which the committees will be discussing the following subthemes: *Soil, Food production and waste assimilation, Importance of forests as the source of renewable energy, Recreation and the cultural aspects of ecosystems.*



Dear readers

Rubina Viriant,
Kamnik

Everything comes to those who wait!

17th March has finally arrived, so I am welcoming you at our school on behalf of the whole Kamnik delegation. I hope you will enjoy your staying here, that you will get to work as soon as possible and that the fact that our school is a small one will not cause you any major problems. I am glad that I as a member of the press group will be able to follow your work . The fact is that in the near future we will be cultural ambassadors and that is why I think it is important for us to assure ourselves the environment in which we would have the opportunity to do what we love, where our creativity will be noticed and our efforts rewarded at the end.

I wish you a lot of political inspiration and I support all your ideas.



Soil

Dana Polzer, Innsbruck

2015 is the International Year of Soil, to make us remember how important soil is for our lives. Without it the people could not exist, because there has to be soil in order to have plants, animals and people in the world.

This is the reason why it is also a topic in one of the committees at this year's YPAC session, which takes place under the umbrella topic Ecosystem Services in Times of Climate Change. Especially in the Alpine region we have to take care of the soil, because it is very vulnerable and there can arise big problems.

The committee, which works with the topic, will deal with different questions and problems like interventions in the environment in the Alps. For example ski resorts and their impact on the soil by bulldozing ski slopes or if people can build on their land even when the government forbids it. There are often clashes between the interests of different people or groups and it is important to work out a solution which is a good middle course and fits everybody.



Food production and waste assimilation

Anna Strutz, Austria

The production of food proportional to the amount of waste has always been an important theme. Therefore the topic of committee 2 is food production and waste assimilation.

First there will be a discussion about the maintenance of mountain farming, because without state subsidies this will not be possible any longer. The next point will be combined farming, if this is a good option or not.

Then there is the difficulty about transportation of locally grown food if it is really necessary to transport it to somewhere far away and not just sell it in the region where it has been growing, what is contingent on a high carbon dioxide emission.

Next will be a discussion about the harm of genetically modified organisms and how people exploit the local species of animals. Subsequently the discussion will go on about waste processing, because loads of energy is need there. Thus the question of bestowing the waste to other more agile regions beyond alpine regions and paying other people for processing, poses at this point.

Finally there is the issue of passing a law determining the number of package layers.



Importance of forests as the source of renewable energy

Laurie Jacot, Chamonix

The guiding line of this committee is to assess the value of the forest resources in the countries of the Alpine convention. Human populations don't only benefit from forests, they depend on them. As they provide materials and food and represent a significant source of energy, forests must be considered in a sustainable reasoning, especially because they're renewable if they're reexploited the right way. The committee will have to debate about the use of this resource while keeping in mind the various issues linked to it. For instance, they're likely to discuss which mean of energy production is more beneficial for alpine countries between biomass and hydro-power. Another topic to broach is whether we should preserve forests for their ecological value or exploit them for their economic value. Choosing implies dealing with new problems but the aim of a committee is to suggest solutions. Our representatives will have to find one that is as close as possible to the golden mean between sustainability, economy and sociology. Committee 3 has been tasked to deal with the different aspects of the use of forests, one of the main issues for the alpine arc as trees cover most of our land.



Recreation and the cultural aspects of ecosystems

Maruša Terzič, Maribor

The goal of our committee's work is to analyse the opportunities for recreational and non-commercial use of ecosystems in the Alpine region.

We will start by educating ourselves about the use of ecosystems in various fields.

Furthermore, we will focus on the recreational activities, such as fishing and eco-tourism, discussing how we can utilize our ecosystem to contribute to people's recreational requirements and how we already benefit from it.

In the next part, we will examine the non-commercial or cultural use of ecosystems, which means exploiting their artistic, aesthetic, educational, spiritual, and scientific values. All those will be presented separately.

Similarly to the study done on the recreational purpose, we will elaborate on the existent, as well as the possible forthcoming opportunities for the cultural value of ecosystems.

Our analysis will primarily focus on the future and how we can exploit the possibilities the ecosystems offer even further. Our wish is to provide a different approach to the utilization of ecosystems.





Committee 1 today

Stefanie Malleier, Merano

Soil is the terrestrial ecosystem of our planet, without which no living species could exist. Therefore it is our duty to protect the environment, which is surrounding us. The task of committee 1 is to raise awareness about the importance of maintaining a healthy soil to secure biodiversity for the future.

The delegates of committee 1 focus on solutions for the problem of exploiting the soil and the impact it has on every living being. One topic that is very important is the impact of house building has on the soil. Therefore the restoration of old buildings or space-

saving constructions would be options, same as the avoidance of covering new land with buildings, but using already developed real estates.

Committee 1 discusses also the role good

parenting plays in this regard, because our children will be our future and someday they will make the decisions.

The next days the committee will be trying to find solutions for many problems which affect soil, every delegate being motivated to bring in his own ideas and find together a way to help the environment and make the world a little better.

Way too much food gets thrown away without even thinking about the prize the environment has had to pay for its production.



Committee 2 today

Stefanie Malleier, Merano

The different needs of the various organisms obtain an optimal balance in the food chain, making the ecosystem the best recycling facility on our planet.

An important problem committee 2 is searching solutions for, is the waste treatment. In nature nothing goes to waste because of a perfectly functioning biological cycle in which all materials are utilised, providing nutrients for new growth. In contrast, humans produce waste that is useless for further utilization and its disposal is often a big problem for the environment and its habitants.

Committee 2 sees the imprudently exposure to litter as a very big problem. The route of transport is often very long and also the way food gets transported is not optimal.

For this and many other problems which have yet to be discussed, committee 2 tries to find realizable solutions that would open the people's eyes about their wasteful lifestyle, because if we don't watch out, we will soon be living in a planet over floated with trash.



Committee 3 today

Gina Senteler, Vaduz

How can we use the forest as a renewable energy without damaging it? Almost 40% of Europe is covered with forest or any other kind of biodiversity. So it is a good idea to really use it for producing energy. But which kind of energy should we use? On the one hand you can use it for hydropower (producing energy with water) or biomass. Is a dam a good solution for creating energy in the woods? Or is it too risky because of breaking? Should we build windmills in the wood? First of all of these possibilities we have to pay attention on our forest. It has to stay intact and not get any worse than this. How much wood we can take from it or how many is too much? We also have to organize ourselves on how to react to for example forest fire etc.

There would be benefits of this managing. We could improve the structure of it an also the species or the forest roads could be used in much more different ways.

In general everybody can start to protect the forests in treating them nicely.



Committee 4 today

Gina Senteler, Vaduz

National parks are a really important aspect in the topic of committee 4, because they are really important places for the recreation of people.

For whatever purpose we use our ecosystem, it gets polluted. But without it we can't survive and nearly every resource from our ecosystem is limited. But exactly these limited resources are responsible for our living, our mental and physical health, our climate etc.

The committee 4 wants to emphasize the importance of nature, especially national



parks, they would for example do summercamps were they would raise little tour guides. Also they talked about the production of the food in their own country, for example potatoes in Switzerland. The use of local products would really encourage the ecosystem and would also be a good treat for the environment.

Committee 4



Committee 2



Committee 3



Committee 1





Teacher's work

Theresa Kreisl, Innsbruck

Of course also the teachers have a lot to do for the YPAC.

Unfortunately, a lot of their work deals with the organization and the management and rarely with the content. They do not have enough time to listen carefully to the different discussions, which is a real shame. The students have so many great ideas and lending an ear to their dialogues can be worthwhile and rewarding.

For sure the teachers are very interested in the topics and they enjoy listening to the different committees a lot. Only because of their ambition and commitment the YPAC is able to exist like it does today. We can consider ourselves fortunate to be part of this great project, which is unique and very special.

The teachers have to discuss about the

future of the YPAC and how it can be financed furthermore. As everybody knows the money gets scarce and it needs a lot of organizational work and willingness to maintain something like this.

But we will not have to worry about the YPAC, because our teachers share the opinion that it is better to arrange a small Youth Parliament with a lower budget every year, than having an uncertain future.

Another innovation is that the YPAC has turned into an association, which brings a lot of advantages. It is easier for our teachers to talk to other societies and the Youth Parliament is taken more seriously now. The strategy structure is written down on paper now and the host country has to abide by clear rules how the YPAC should be organized.

But what I have noticed clearly by the conversation with every single teacher is that they are very proud of us, our work and this great project!





We all judge!

Giulia Me, Bassano

People judge. We all do that and we all deny it, but now it is time to face the truth. Judgements and prejudices are often caused by a lack of knowledge or the inability to keep an open mind towards everything that is different from what we know and what we like. Sometimes they are true and sometimes they are not, but the common factor between them is their oddity.

We interviewed the delegates and found out some interesting prejudices about the countries involved in the YPAC project. First of all the majority of you think that Italian people eat pasta and pizza as breakfast, as lunch, as dinner and during every break they take during the day: Italians make common cause with the French, who are supposed to eat only baguette and croissant while drinking a

lot of good wine. Apparently, in fact, the French people don't like trying different food. Actually from our survey it seems that they hate anything that has not a French name or accent, both food or languages, including English! Because of this prejudices new ones are born, for example that they are too proud and a little bit arrogant. Anyway, our French friends have something good, too: many delegates are convinced that every single delegate from France has an entire wardrobe full of strange hats and dresses (branded Chanel); probably they wear these during their crazy parties they do all night and day long. The most curious prejudice we heard about French is that they do not shave. Never. Well, this is something they have in common with Italians: the 85% of you think that they are hairy.

(Read the second part of this survey in tomorrow's edition.)



		3	5		9			2
	6		4			1		7
4					7			
			1	8			7	6
	3						1	
8	7			9	4			
			2					9
3		7			1		2	
5			9		6	7		

Win a prize: If you fancy solving this sudoku and want to participate in the contest for mighty prizes, leave your solution in the box in coffee room. Don't forget to write your name on it.

The spirit of YPAC quotes about YPAC

Ulysse Robach (F) – Improving future is very important, you meet new friends and different cultures

Philipp Eibl (A) – It is incredibly great that many people from different cultures come together to

discuss important topics for future generations.

Jure Dvorsak (SLO) – Students are open-minded, it is nice to hear all the different opinions

Ilija Bajunovic (CH) – It is nice that many people from different countries come together.

Magdalena Steinlechner (A) – The spirit of YPAC are the cultural mix, the different opinions, to show different views, to convince others, the different languages.

Horoscope (by Magdalena Steinlechner)

Presidency

Health: At the moment you feel better than ever before.

Career: Don't overwork yourself!

Love: There are millions of things you want, but only one thing you really need. Keep looking for it!

Committees

Health: An apple a day keeps the doctor away.

Career: Talking is the most important thing at the moment.

Love: Today you'll have the opportunity to meet people from different countries. Don't miss this chance and ask them to go out with you. You may find your soul mate.

Platform future

Health: Sometimes you should give your body a break to recover.

Career: With ambition you can reach everything you want!

Love: Keep calm and drink tea.

Press group

Health: Go home after work and relax! In this way, you will be fit for the next day.

Career: Be careful of not surfing too much on social network, keep focus on your work!

Love: Every flower blooms at its own sweet time.

Teachers

Health: Sleep will make your appearance ten years younger.

Career: There isn't much work for you at the moment. The pupils handle it all for you. Be proud of them.

Love: Just remember your teenage years.

Menu for Wednesday:**Lunch:**

- cauliflower soup
- veal roast with
- mushroom sauce
- cottage cheese rolled dumplings
- fried peppers
- mixed salad
- strawberry cake

Dinner:

- grilled chicken fillet with leek
- mashed potatoes
- mixed salad

Weather for Kamnik

Weather: cloudy

Temperature morning: 2

Temperature day: 14

Joke of the day:

A president of YPAC opens the door of committee x, and enters the room. When he sees that all delegates and cps are sleeping on the tables, he tells the cp that it is break now. The cp slowly raises his head, looks at the president and says: "Oh, it is ok! Today, we work through!"

Picture of the day: The beautiful artwork of committee four.





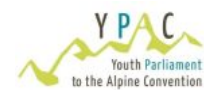
Editors in Chief: Rubina Viriant and Magdalena Steinlechner

Editors: Theresa Kreisl, Jakob Siebenrock, Anna Strutz,
Stefanie Malleier, Giulia Me, Micaela Lauchenauer,
Laurie Jacot, Gina Senteler, Maruša Terzič, Mark Lisičič

Photos: Tabea Tandler, Magdalena Kapfinger

Layout: Marko Strehar

Menthor: Vesna Fabjan



REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA
MINISTRSTVO ZA OKOLJE IN PROSTOR



GIMNAZIJA IN
SREDNJA ŠOLA
RUDOLFA MAISTRA



Avtobusni prevozi Florjančič s.p.; Avtoličarstvo in avtokleparstvo Papež; BAR M 2000; Calcit d.o.o.; Coca-Cola HBC Slovenija, d.o.o.; CONSAL d.o.o.; DANA d.o.o.; GOLDI d.o.o.; ILA d.o.o. - dotik ustvarjalnosti; Janko Rode, Rova; Kavarna Veronika; Kulturno umetniško društvo HIŠA KERAMIKE zakajpanemajolka; LJUBLJANSKE MLEKARNE mlekarska industrija, d. d.; Pekarna EVROPA; Picerija Napoli; POS Elektronček d.o.o.; Restavracija Arboretum; Salon Kveder, Frizerstvo, Tomaž Kveder s.p.; SAM d.o.o.; Slaščičarna ČAROBNI VRTIČEK; Tehnounion1 d.o.o.; Trival kompoziti d.o.o.; TROPIK, Ramadan Ahmetaj s. P.