



Dear readers

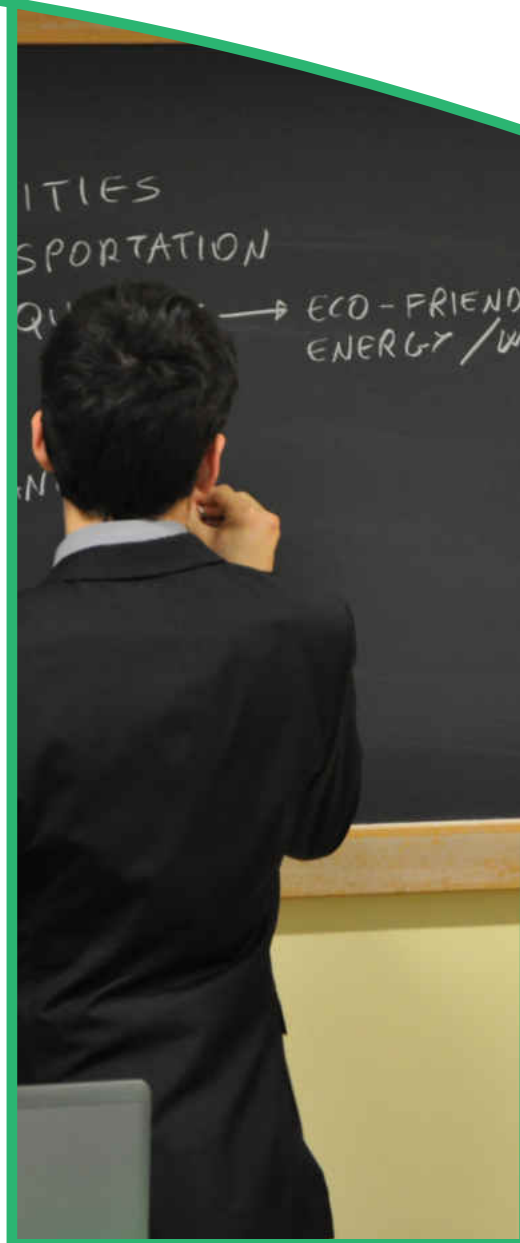
Irene Cinel, Bassano del Grappa
Katharina Stolz, Innsbruck



As a simulation of a proper parliament, YPAC offers secondary school students an opportunity to discuss and suggest sustainable solutions to current issues concerning the Alpine region. The topic of this year's event, taking place between 9th and 13th May 2016 at Liceo G.B. Brocchi in Bassano del Grappa, is Green Economy in the Alps, within which the committees will be discussing the following subthemes: Living, Local Business, Consumption, Leisure & Culture.

The future is ours and it's important to preserve the environment we live in. Every landscape, every breath, every moment of our lives depends on nature, and so it is especially important to raise the youth's awareness of ecological issues. YPAC gives the great opportunity to involve young people's ideas and creativity to find new ways for a sustainable lifestyle.

We wish you a great time, to spend these days in harmony and happiness with your new friends, and to inspire and help other delegates to grow together with this year's edition.



- The Committees
- About Austria and Bassano
- Sudokus

COMMITTEE 1

Giordana Giolai, Bassano del Grappa
Jessica Walzl, Meran



The main topics of Committee 1 are demographic change, spatial planning and the quality of life. Committee 1 started the meeting with brainstorming these topics. As a result, it was clear that people were most concerned with the young moving to bigger cities, creating better job opportunities, transportation facilities, and more affordable housing.

After a long discussion, Committee 1 came up with five ideas for the postulations: houses, transportation, relationship with newcomers, buildings and nature and loss of young inhabitants.

We decided to interview one of the delegates to know what he thinks about the topics.

Vincent Kiesl from Rosenheim, Germany, says: “Demographic changes are strictly connected with immigration. We should know how to help people but also improve the relationship between the locals and the newcomers. Good integration may lead to a better quality of life and it can also help to avoid conflicts among the population.”

Everyone should understand that having diverse backgrounds doesn't necessarily mean being different and that knowing each other could help to be more open-minded.

COMMITTEE 2

Meriem Jebali, Germany
Lucija Ivanuša, Slovenia



The overarching topic of Committee 2 is “local business”. Identifying pollution as one of their main problems they decided to spend the most time working towards a solution to decrease its level, especially pollution caused by tourism. Committee 2 suggested a change in transport that would allow vacationers to use a well-developed and well-connected public transport, especially shuttles, and also for hotels to use homes that have a smaller carbon footprint or to use them more efficiently.

They found insufficient resources for start-ups as their second main issue. This is a problem because people lack the funds and the knowledge to execute good ideas properly. We are left with a graveyard of once brilliant ideas that would not only help the economy in the region to prosper, but would also make it more attractive for young people, solving the third main problem of young people leaving the region. All in all, Committee 2 will tackle these problems and hopefully find a solution that will benefit the economy and the environment.

COMMITTEE 3

*Anna Rizzo,
Bassano del Grappa
Jessica Sbalchiero,
Bassano del Grappa*



One of the most important issues discussed by Committee 3 is consumption, which includes Circular Economy, reducing waste and emission of CO₂ and the management of sustainable energy.

How should we start to reduce waste? Are people aware of what Circular Economy is? How can we improve the energy system? Nowadays the linear economy prevails over Circular Economy. Its aim is to not produce pollution or waste; to achieve this, waste is re-used and transformed into a new product. There are people who don't even know what it is and they aren't aware of what their behavior leads to.

In order to reduce the CO₂ production we can try to start to use more public transport, but the tickets' prices might go up, so people would start to use the car again. How can the government favor the spreading of this new form of economy? It could be possible to give rewards or reduce taxes for the industries that adopt this new system. But first people have to change their way of thinking: if people act differently and choose a sustainable lifestyle, the companies will also have to act differently.

COMMITTEE 4

*Kilian Schroeder,
Rosenheim
Lilith Decristoforo,
Innsbruck*

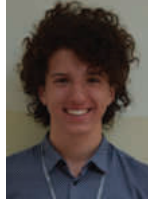


Culture and Leisure define our way of living in the Alps. Because of their importance, talking about the problems and issues that come along is essential at the YPAC. So in this year, it's the task of committee 4 to discuss it and formulate postulations that can be put into practice in the end.

Something that goes hand in hand with these main topics is tourism, which brings up many issues and challenges we have to face. Reducing the increasing pollution of environment caused by the transport of tourists, achieving a balance between the different seasons or making tourism cheap AND environmentally-friendly at the same time are goals which aren't easy to reach. Another subtopic that has to be mentioned is urbanization and making rural areas more attractive for their inhabitants. Committee 4 is collecting ideas how to keep – especially – the young population from moving into bigger cities.

LAND OF MOUNTAINS

Jakob Steck, Innsbruck



We Austrians are proud people that don't like to be confused with Germans. The official language of Austria is not German but Austrian. It's a very complicated language that consists of many dialects. If you have ever been to different parts of Austria you know what is meant. It's a huge difference if you visit Vorarlberg, Vienna or Innsbruck. Especially in Tirol, every single valley has its own language. That's very fascinating, but can also be confusing sometimes.

We are known for our good Bohemian deserts and for our food in general. Austria is located directly in the Alps and with about 54.600 square kilometers it holds the greatest share of the famous mountains. That's why we love winter-sports, skiing, ski-jumping, snowboarding etc.. But we will also come to France with great confidence this year to participate in the UEFA European Football Championship.

HISTORY OF BASSANO

Elise Trappier, Chamonix



From Romans to Modern Times.

Bassano was founded by Romans during the 2nd century BC. In the 15th century the city was subordinated to the Republic of Venice. As the commercial exchanges were very strong in the region, Bassano had a prosperous industry especially for wool, silk and iron. The city became part of the Kingdom of Italy in 1866.

21th century: a city in war.

Bassano was in the front lines of national defences during the two World Wars. Originally the name of the city was "Bassano Veneto", but it changed after the First World War in honour of the soldiers who died during the battles on Mount Grappa and became "Bassano Del Grappa". The city was invaded by Germany during World War 2, many inhabitants were then killed or deported. Today you can still walk next to the trees where Partisans were hanged by the Nazis.

Ponte degli Alpini:

This bridge played an important role in the history of Bassano. Built in the late 16th century, the bridge was destroyed several times, the last one was during the Second World War. The Alpini, Italian alpine troops famous for their heroism, rebuilt it in 1948.

PLATFORM FUTURE

*Jeldrik Schottke,
Liechtenstein
Vitja Bizjak, Maribor*



What is Platform Future in general?

Most participants of the YPAC do not know what Platform Future is as it was established only a short while ago. In the past YPAC sessions delegates called for a group that would collect the ideas and results from each committee. Two years ago, during the YPAC 2014, came the idea of having Platform Future as a permanent activity, functioning not only during the sessions, but throughout the year. Platform Future's main goal is to establish collaboration between the YPAC and politics as well as making it known to the public. It also ensures a lasting effect of the work of the young people and public figures, e.g. politicians.

What happened this year?

One of the aims of Platform Future is making YPAC visible and well known in each delegation's hometown. For example, the delegation of Chamonix organised 3 YPAC days in the hope of informing people about the resolutions taken at COP 21 and encouraging short circuits. They put up posters throughout the

school, did surveys and played films in the common room. They sent articles to their local newspaper and distributed flyers all over town. An example of cooperation between YPAC and politicians is the delegation Liechtenstein meeting their environment and education minister Aurelia Frick, hoping she can change something. They talked about real estate management, reduction of food waste, improvement of conditions for the local farmer and so on. In conclusion, over the past two years, Platform Future has become established as a crucial part of the YPAC.



INTERVIEW WITH CIPRA MEMBERS MICHAELA HO- GENBOOM AND KATARINA ČESNIK

*Jeldrik Schottke, Liechtenstein
Vitja Bizjak, Maribor*



What is your first impression of Italy and Bassano?

"The people are really friendly and hospitable. The city has beautiful and old buildings which create a nice atmosphere."

What is CIPRA and what are the aims of your organisation?

"CIPRA stands for Commission Internationale pour La Protection des Alpes (International Commission for the Protection of the Alps). Its aim is to establish

good living conditions in the Alps and protect the Alpine nature."

What is your opinion of YPAC in general?

"We generally support organisations that work with young people and concern the Alps, because young people are the future."

How are you connected to YPAC?

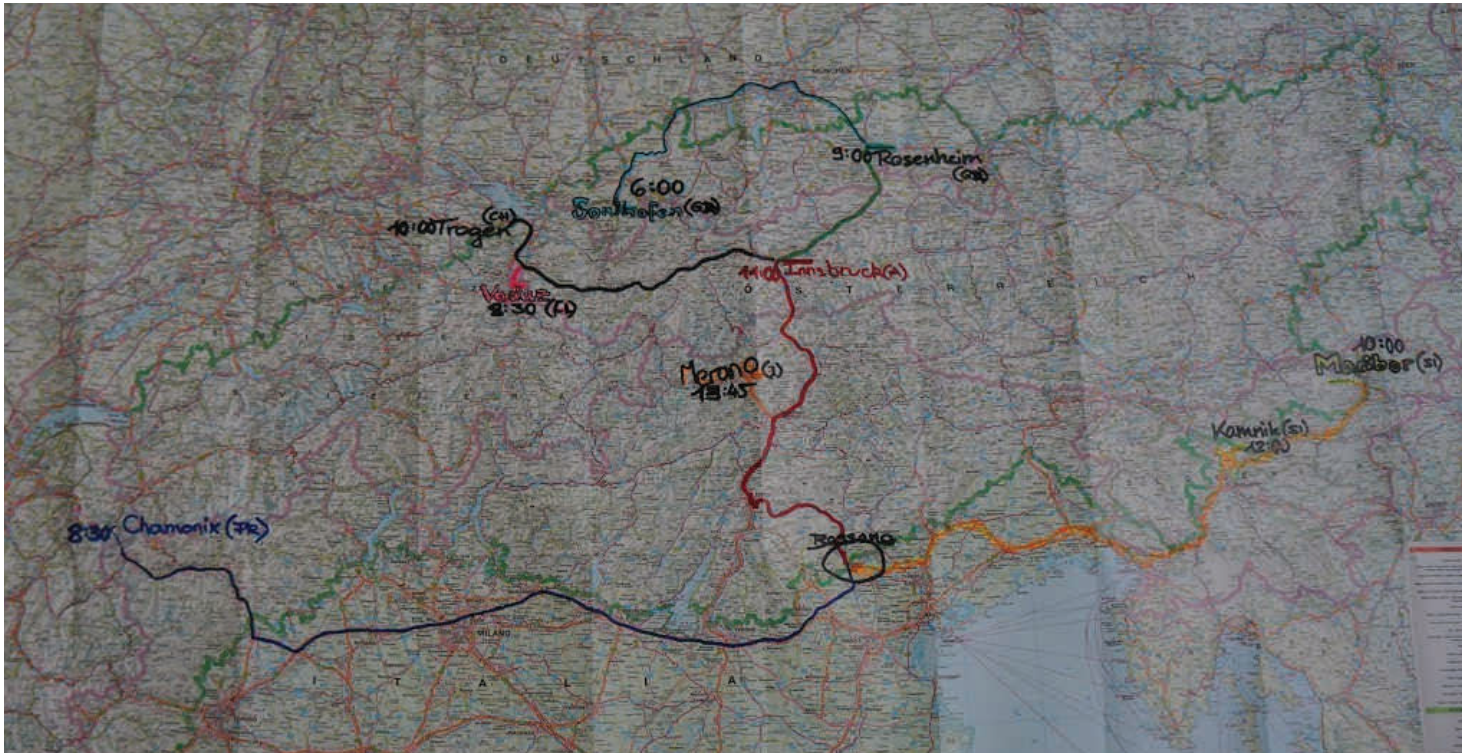
"CIPRA is one of the founders of YPAC and it supports YPAC's policies (working with young people etc.)."

What are you doing here in Bassano?

"We came here for CIPRA's workshop."



OUR JOURNEYS TO YPAC



Puzzle 1 (Medium, difficulty rating 0.55)

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Puzzle 2 (Medium, difficulty rating 0.53)

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