

FLYING FACTS

Tuesday 7th March 2023

Dear Readers,

Welcome to this year's YPAC in Sonthofen! After two years online YPAC and even one cancellation it's great to see you all again in person. The last two years definitely were challenging and even if the online version is better than nothing, it is safe to say that it's just easier and overall more enjoyable to discuss and get to know each other in person.

The focus this year is on "Quality of Life in the Alps", which is a very wide spread topic, though it is of great importance for our generation. With crises like climate change, the Covid- 19 pandemic and the ongoing war in Ukraine, it is important to look ahead and make plans for the future. We will have to face changes in the Alpine region and by discussing the topics of tourism, social coexistence, environmental challenges and cultural life we are trying to make these changes less challenging and sudden. With YPAC we are preparing for the future.

That's why it is important to have successful discussions and good resolutions so we can present them to the politicians and really show what the youth and the Alpine region in general wants but also needs.

So do your best, have great discussions and have fun at the opening ceremony!

Best wishes,
your Editors in Chief, Emma Stockhaus and Franziska Schroeder

CONTENT

Editorial	1
Overview of the day	2
Inside Committee 1	3
Inside Committee 2	4
Inside Committee 3	5
Inside Committee 4	6

Overview of the Day

The first YPAC Day started with the "Kick - Off Meeting", a presentation of the Delegations in the school of Sonthofen and a few welcoming words from Lina Stockhaus, one of the YPAC Presidents.



The kick-off event

This was accompanied by a short video, which was filmed by the delegation in Sonthofen. Every delegate also got a goodie bag and a t-shirt with the YPAC logo.

After that the different committees and the press group went to their team building workshops to get to know each other better.

For lunch every member of the YPAC received self-made lunch from the Sonthofen Staff team.



The staff team preparing lunch
In the afternoon the "real" work already began and the committees started discussing the topics and working on their postulations.



Committee 2 in action

Lastly everyone came together once more for the official opening ceremony, where each delegation performed a traditional dance.

Inside Committee 1

Committee 1 met in the "Haus Oberallgäu" to discuss the topic of tourism.

With the support of expert Tomaz Miklavcic, Undersecretary of the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning in Slovenia, the delegates brainstormed about current problems of mass tourism and niche tourism in the Alpine region but also possible solutions for these issues.

What are the problems?

Tourists mostly concentrate on very few hotspots and don't spread throughout the whole country. But bringing them to more remote areas requires a lot of infrastructure and thus higher costs and environmental issues. Tourism is not only concentrated on certain places but also on very few seasons of the year. For example, ski resorts are mostly empty throughout the summer and therefore only half as efficient as they could be. Plus, Alpine tourism is very dependent on nature which is destroying at the same time because the people cause a lot of harm to the environment. Cars are a big problem as well because of the pollution and traffic jams they create. Finally, the locals do not benefit as much from the many tourists in their town as they could.

What can be done about it?

A few delegates proposed the idea of an app to track where the most people are with the aim of helping others to choose their travel destination more easily and wiser. Additionally, a ticket or pass could be implemented that contains opportunities for public transport as well as different attractions. This could also have the effect of introducing people to new activities.

-Timo Risch and Filippo Bonato

Interview

Elettra, CP Committee 1

"What are three qualities necessary for the role as CP?"

"Open-minded, positive, ready to listen to the delegates."

"How long have you been part of the YPAC?"

"This is my third year as YPAC delegate and this time I'm a Committee President!"

"What's the thing you like the most about this project?"

"The most exciting aspect of the YPAC has to be the fact that we're all given the opportunity to express ourselves, to collaborate and to confront the other delegates."

"What's the hardest part of your job?"

"I think it is the organization of the activity of my committee because we all have many ideas and the CPs have to make sure that no one is excluded from the exchange of our opinions."

"How did you decide to work with your committee?"

"I thought about an introductory session of brainstorming, then I summarised the various ideas in three points so that each concept was developed by a specific group. It's been a very productive day!"

Inside Committee 2

Today Committee 2 was joined by a specialist, Katharina Zwettler, from the Alpine Convention.

Before talking about details, they defined the term "Social Co-Existence" as living next to or with each other in a nonviolent way, accepting people and their differences.

The two most important strategies for overcoming the barrier are "Passive and Active Co-Existence". "Passive Co-Existence" is the nonviolent conflict between people without accepting or tolerating them. "Active co-existence" is the way of respecting people as they are, but finding solutions to the conflicts that arise while co-existing. With this, the question of how a group can evolve from passive co-existence to active co-existence, comes up.

At the end the expert introduced the aim of the Alpine Convention, which is the protection and sustainable development of the Alps. This focuses specifically on the drastic loss of biodiversity, and the protection of the sensitive Alpine ecosystem.



As a result the delegates decided on the following four topics, of which three will be used for their postulations: equal education, respecting disabilities, minorities and local products.

-Vita Fink, Annalena Schmidt



Inside Committee 3

While the climate keeps on changing, people in the alps worry about their future with these different conditions. We should reduce our carbon footprint for the future and help our regional environment with all its variety of animals, plants and landscape to keep or get back their peace between the consequences of industrialisation.

The fourteen members of committee 3 discussed and debated about these environmental challenges today in the Alpenstadt Museum. At first each of them shared their ideas and Basedow on those the committee proposed a preselection of postulations. Many solutions have been discussed, but only a few of them were proposed. Those solutions are:

- public transportation: The main goal is to develop public transportation and reduce use of cars on daily basis

- Curriculum environmental activities: The committee voted for a school subject that in-depths environmental correlations and teaches solutions for it.
- Alternatives to ski resorts: The topic is to find more eco friendly alternatives to ski resorts which also attract tourists (like better hiking opportunities, climbing places...)
- Aisha Blakaj, Clément Martin, Johanna Zeitz



Inside Committee 4

In the afternoon, on the very first meeting, committee 4 started to work on their topic cultural life at the "Alpenstadtmuseum". At first the team prepared their questions with the help of brainstorming for the upcoming meeting with expert Sinan von Stietencron, who provided them with a lot of information.

How is it with the cultural life in the alpine regions?

The Alpine region is known for its rich cultural heritage that spans across many centuries. The cultural life in the Alps is diverse and unique, reflecting the traditions and customs of the people who live in there.

What is cultural life?

Cultural life refers to the ways in which a society expresses and celebrates its shared beliefs, values, customs, and traditions through various forms of art, literature, music, religion, and other cultural activities.

It encompasses the cultural practices, artifacts, and symbols that shape the identity and worldview of a community or group of people.

Cultural life can include a wide range of activities, such as attending concerts and festivals, visiting museums and art galleries, reading books and literature in general, participating in religious ceremonies as well as rituals, and engaging in cultural practices and traditions that have been passed down through generations.

Why is it so important?

Cultural life is an important aspect of our society, as it helps to create a sense of community and shared identity among individuals who share common beliefs and values. It also provides means of expression for individuals to explore and communicate their ideas, emotions, and experiences.

