

Checklist for the Sustainable Organisation of Meetings and Events of the Alpine Convention

Event: 19th session of the Youth Parliament to the Alpine Convention, Karolinen-Gymnasium Rosenheim, 10th to 14th March 2025, 71 students and 24 teachers

Short description: For 19 years, the Youth Parliament to the Alpine Convention has brought together young people from 10 schools in seven Alpine countries to discuss current issues affecting the Alpine region in a parliamentary simulation. It aims to give an insight into parliamentary structures and to provide a forum for students to take part in political discussions. It is also a platform for cultural exchange and networking among young people.

Regional or national certification not applicable because: There is none in Bavaria/Germany

| Venue | Concrete implementation |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choose a location with high ecological standards (e.g. energy efficient) and | We used rooms in our school for the event, apart from the general assembly, for which we travelled to the Bavarian State Parliament in Munich. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good accessibility by public transport or foot | Our school is located in the centre of Rosenheim and is easily accessible by public transport. |
| Accommodation | Concrete implementation |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommend hotels with high ecological standards (e.g. certified) | There is no choice of certified hotels in Rosenheim, but the hotel we chose is constantly reviewing its processes with regard to environmental issues. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommend hotels in walking distance or with good connection to the event location | The hotel we chose to accommodate the teachers is within walking distance of both the train station and the school. |
| Technical Equipment | Concrete implementation |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choose a local technical supplier to minimise the need for transportation | We have our own technical services at school (<i>Karo Sound and Light</i>). |
| Catering/Meals | Concrete implementation |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choose caterers and restaurants which have high environmental standards | Our main caterer <i>foodvariété</i> is a certified organic company. (www.foodvariete.de) |

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🍃 Ask caterers and restaurants to use regional/seasonal foods (this should be possible without additional costs) and, if possible, organic and fairtrade products (might increase costs) | <p>They use regional ingredients and certified organic products whenever possible. For the food we prepared ourselves, we used organic and fairtrade products.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🍃 Ask for at least one vegetarian menu alternative or ask for vegetarian food only | <p>There was a vegetarian alternative at every meal; some of the meals were vegetarian only.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🍃 Avoid single-use packaging (e.g. for sugar, salt, pepper or candies) | <p>We didn't use any of these.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🍃 Ask for a supply of tap water; if feasible, avoid bottles | <p>All participants were provided with tap water and asked to bring their own flasks. For coffee or tea, they used the reusable coffee mugs they were given or cups from our school kitchen.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🍃 Communicate the ecological reasons behind the choice of foods (e.g. on menu cards) | <p>We put up posters to communicate our choice of food / drink (food sharing, tap water, local suppliers, fairtrade, etc.) and also explained this aspect of our event in the <i>Actionbound</i> Sightseeing- and SDG-Rally the students went on. (https://de.actionbound.com/)</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🍃 Avoid food waste by adjusting the amount of food to the number of participants and try, if possible, to organise the reuse of leftovers | <p>We offered the food as a buffet and put up notices asking people to take only as much as they could eat. We used pots from our school kitchen to store any leftovers and offered them to the teachers at our school for lunch the next day. We also took pots for leftovers to the restaurant at Nicklheim on Friday and made sure that nothing was thrown away. Since we catered the coffee breaks with products made by our students, we were able to serve leftover ingredients in different forms until they were gone.</p> |

| Mobility | Concrete Implementation |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🍃 Encourage the use of public transport and provide information on public transport options; refrain from giving information on car or plane travel | <p>All delegations travelled by bus or train.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🍃 Recommend comparing the overall travel times between plane, car, and public transport | <p>unnecessary</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🍃 Organise shuttles where public transport is not available | <p>We organised shuttles to the Bavarian Parliament and to Nicklheim Moor, as there is no regular service to Nicklheim and the train service to Munich is highly unreliable.</p> |

Procurement of Supplies

Concrete Implementation

- 🍃 Use reusable badges and collect them after the meeting
 - 🍃 If give-aways are necessary, try to choose gifts which will actually be used and have a small ecological footprint
 - 🍃 Use reusable decoration only (plan rollups etc. accordingly)
 - 🍃 Paper:
 - Minimise the printing of material
 - Use recycled or at least FSC-certified paper
 - 🍃 Pay attention to ecological/social certificates of purchased goods
- We bought lanyards and reusable covers for the nametags, collected them at the end of the meeting and gave them to the Chamonix team to use again at next year's meeting.
- Students and teachers received canvas bags and pens from the city of Rosenheim. Some of them also received the reusable coffee cups we had bought for the cancelled YPAC 2020.
- We had a YPAC flag printed which will be given to the next organising school each year. One of our two roll-ups explains the history of YPAC and what it is and so it is reusable, of the other one the cover can be reused. Both roll-ups are made from eco fabric.
- We used a small number of snowdrops and lilies of the valley from the garden in recycled Crodino bottles to decorate the tables at the evening receptions.
- Our daily press releases (YPAC's Flying Facts) were posted on Instagram and on our website, with only a small number of copies printed for promotional purposes. We also minimised the number of posters etc. and used the paper at our school, which is FSC-certified.
- Since we are both a *Fairtrade School* and a *"Partnerschule Verbraucherbildung"*, we always do that.

Waste Management

Concrete Implementation

- 🍃 Reduce waste as much as possible
 - 🍃 Ensure, as far as possible, recycling or reuse
 - 🍃 Provide bins for waste separation
- This is high up on our agenda, so we bought as many as possible of the ingredients we used to prepare food ourselves either in big containers or unpackaged.
- See the sections on waste separation and reusable supplies.
- The school has bins to collect paper waste separately in each classroom, and we have additional bins to collect plastic and natural waste in the kitchen.

Social Responsibility

Concrete Implementation

- 🍃 Ensure accessibility for disabled people in all aspects of the event
- 🍃 If possible, include social projects (e.g. for catering or give-aways)
- 🍃 Promote gender equality in selection of speakers

There was one participant who needs a wheelchair. We found a host family for him, and our school and the Bavarian Parliament building have escalators that gave him access to all the venues. Even the Nicklheim Moor proved to be accessible.

Our washing-up liquid came from a company that has a social and ecological agenda. (<https://em-chiemgau.de/ueber-em-chiemgau/>)

We did our best and succeeded with experts, politicians for the world café and speakers at the opening ceremony.

Communication

Concrete Implementation

- 🍃 Communicate the sustainable approach to the organising team, all suppliers (technical, catering, venue, accommodation, etc.) and the participants
- 🍃 Include the “Alpine Convention Green Event” logo in the internal and external communication
- 🍃 If possible, get a “green event” label and include it in communication

We did that on numerous occasions.

We did. It is on all our publications, except the flag and the roll-up that is for reuse.

There is no green event label that applies to us in Bavaria/Germany.