

FLYING FACTS

March
10th-14th 2025
ROSENHEIM / GERMANY

Sustainable life
in the
Alps



2ND EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

The second day of the YPAC week is already over and we hope that you are prepared for the General Assembly tomorrow.

Yesterday we already mentioned the difficult times we are living in right now. But during the opening ceremony we were told to not lose hope. To “be bold” and “be brave” and to talk to each other. Every speaker highlighted the importance of YPAC and how our commitment has an impact on future politics. By standing together and searching for compromises we can help shape the world and especially the Alpine Region.



Many of you already showed courage and commitment when trying to pronounce the tongue twisters of each delegation correctly.

While talking to the politicians you had the opportunity to see how politicians think and react and also gain an insight in how your postulations are perceived. Hopefully these discussions have given you enough arguments to defend your postulations in the General Assembly.

Good luck for tomorrow and best wishes

Franziska Schroeder and Sebastiano Walzl, Editors in Chief

INTERVIEWS WITH EXPERTS

Expert for C4: Wolfgang Hofbauer

Mr. Hofbauer what are you doing and why are you here?

I am a biologist, a botanist and a microbiologist and I am employed at the Fraunhofer Society for Building Physics and I am involved in the connecting of greenings. We are helping people to develop new building systems, materials and applications, so we are a connection between science and the industry.

How is your work connected to YPAC?

House buildings, cities and villages are very much connected to the SDG 15 because we need to have more space to protect and expand diversity. In new buildings and systems of buildings you can integrate much more biodiversity.

What do you think about the postulations and are the postulations realistic?

I am impressed about all these topics here and I think they are on current problems and some of them are very ambitious. The students will realize that some projects are difficult to implement, but they should keep at it anyway, even if it is long lasting and hard. Because we can change something and we have to change something.

Do you have any advice for the YPAC members?

Such projects are also always a process – it's quite normal that you don't know everything at first. It's just important that the students don't stop asking questions, but try to keep expanding their knowledge.

Greta Schacht, Julia Veronika Tröger



Expert for C3: Roland Zech

What is your everyday work like?

I'm a geographer and I teach at University and have specialized in physical geography and my main focus is on how the climate has changed. Not only the last 50 years, but how it has changed in the past with solar variability with full vulcanism, tectonics and the way there's always been a climate change. And my task is to put it into context (...).

How is your work connected to YPAC?

On the one hand, my job involves all research on the mountains, how climate change has affected the lakes and the glaciers in the past and why is it so different now in the last 50 years. However a big connection is not just a topic itself – a big connection is rather education. I'm educating young people and YPAC is a nice example that education can be so much fun and interactive. Important thing is that you need to acquire soft skills to learn how to make team work.

Just based on your first impression, do you think that the postulations will be successful in the General Assembly?

They are all valuable contributions to an overall aim, but what I missed is the bigger picture. If they expand their ideas all of these small projects will have a great contribution.

Destina Hernler, Lina Mlinar

INTERVIEWS WITH POLITICIANS

Florian Ludwig and Abuzar Erdogan



**Would you please introduce yourself?
Would you start?**

A. Erdogan: Yes. My name is Abuzar Erdogan. I'm a member of the Social Democratic Party of Germany and part of the City Council of Rosenheim.

F. Ludwig: My name is Florian Ludwig. I'm also part of the Rosenheim City Council and I'm a member of the German Conservative Party.

What do you think about the postulations so far?

F. Ludwig: It is very important to get the people motivated for the ideas the young people had. We heard many very idealistic ideas and they can only become real if many people join them. So that's the big challenge from my point of view.

If you want to know more about that, you can watch the whole interview on our Instagram page.

Anna-Laura Misof, Karolina Graj

Madeleine Rohrer

Media Group: **First of all, can you please introduce yourself?**

Madeleine Rohrer: I'm part of the parliament in South Tirol and I know the YPAC for a very long time because I was working for the Alpine Towns of the Year network.

In 2019 the YPAC took place in Merano. I was part of the city government and responsible for Environment, Climate Change, Mobility and Urban Planning.

Stella Benedickt:

Stella Benedickt has been working on issues of sustainability in Rosenheim and works closely with the goals of the SDGs.

Media Group: **Is your work similar to the work the delegates do?**

S. Benedickt: I work in sustainable public procurement so I think my work is really connected to the work they do. I actually set sustainable criterias so in my opinion I think that goes a bit in the same direction.

Destina Hernler, Lina Mlinar



Stella Benedickt



Madeleine Rohrer

Continuation of the interview of Madeleine Rohrer: That was a really great moment for me, we were writing the strategy for adaptation to climate change for my hometown which was also the topic of YPAC. That's why the postulations were then integrated in the climate change adaption strategy.

What is the YPAC to you?

Madeleine Rohrer:

For me, the YPAC is not just a parliamentary simulation, for me, it's a place to develop new ideas. It's a place to reinforce but also to build Alpine identity because I was in all the four committees. We talked about tourism, skiing, and the impact of this monoculture in the Alps. So it's bringing together all our experiences. We are all coming from different countries, but we have the same problems and the same solutions.

Hillina Giraux, Romy Lanzendorfer

POSTULATIONS

Committee 1

Smart Drops – Sustainable Irrigation

This postulation tries to save water from being wasted. Therefore they developed a campaign which helps farmers with current issues caused by climate change. For example the campaign promotes drip irrigation because thus, less water is needed and watering plants is much more efficient.

No Fake Flakes – the Real Experience

Due to the progressing climate change, ski tourism is wasting a lot of water on artificial snow. This postulation suggests repurpose ski resorts for other, more sustainable activities, such as hiking, biking and horseback riding. They also want to expand beyond winter sports to encourage tourism in every season of the year.

Agricultural Adaptation Act (“3A Act”)

This postulation focuses on the pollution of the groundwater and tries to minimize it. The idea is to measure the concentration of certain chemicals in the groundwater and introduce legislation on threshold values of kilogramms per hectare. This limit depends on the current quality of the groundwater in the specific regions.

Hillina Giraux, Romy Lanzendorfer

Committee 2

Regeneration through New Generations

This postulation is about retaining young families in rural areas to support the older generation by providing free rent for four years and good infrastructure. Another measure they would use is the implementation of the obligation to work in the region for at least five years after leaving a local school. Some politicians, however, were wondering who would receive the free housing and if there were specific criteria the young people would have to meet. The support should be received by young families with at least one child, in order to ensure the growth of the population.

A Home, not just a Destination

The second postulation of C2 focuses on conflicts between tourists and local residents. Their main goal is to transform tourist discount cards into local discount cards, as the locals are affected by the rising prices of goods and services due to the high demand and willingness of tourists to pay more. This counter movement could prevent the prioritization of tourists. Something that was criticized about their idea was that it could eventually push inequality as there is a difference in the income of locals as well, which could mean that the rich would get even richer.

Opportunities for Everyone

The goal of the third postulation is to help disabled people in finding jobs and creating a good working environment for them. They want to achieve this by funding a campaign supporting people with disabilities or a migration background with their job application. This could have an immense impact on society, but might be quite complex and difficult.

Anna-Laura Misof, Karolina Graj

POSTULATIONS

Committee 3

ReStamp: Don't Throw It, Reuse It!

The first postulation focuses on developing a non-profit governmental organisation to reduce the production of plastic and motivate customers to reuse their things with a stamp-system. The customers get stamps when they bring their own items and with a defined amount, they get a benefit. The goal of the postulation is to get rid of single-use items and also one way packaging, so that less wrapping-waste is produced.

Make It Green And Make It Clean – MIGAMIC

This postulation aims to create a free website designed as a tourist assistant system that helps visitors explore the Alps. It provides recommendations for similar destinations based on their preferences, making it easier to discover new and exciting places.

Fixing our Future

The last postulation aims at forming a community space where people can bring their broken items to be repaired instead of throwing them away, with the help of skilled professionals and experienced volunteers. This not only reduces waste and saves money but also promotes sustainability and allows people to learn valuable repair skills.

Destina Hernler, Lina Mlinar

Committee 4

The Alpine Agricultural Renaissance

Traditional farms are finding it increasingly difficult to compete with the large market but they are needed for the survival of threatened species and good soil. That is why an alpine council for traditional farms is proposed, in which farms from the Alpine countries are represented. This body should be an organization that is independent from governments and consists of farmers, consumers, environmental experts and politicians to ensure that farms remain competitive.

Sustainabees

The second postulation of C4 wants to increase biodiversity of insects and, above all, the number of bees by installing pollinator hotels. They want to achieve this through cooperation between farmers, experts and beekeepers, who can set up their apiaries on farmers' meadows. This gives the bees space to live and the farmers' plants are pollinated. The project is to be supported by the Alpine Convention.

Help Ecosystems, Book in Advance

This postulation wants to limit the number of visitors that can visit skiing areas and introduce a booking system, so if you book very early, you get it cheaper and the later you make your booking the more you have to pay.

Julia Veronika Tröger, Greta Schacht