

Youth project competition for the sustainable development of the Alpine region

Preserving the unique natural diversity, creating attractive educational and employment opportunities and mastering digitalisation: The Alpine Region faces a variety of challenges when it comes to its sustainable development as a living space for future generations. This is making it all the more important for young people to play a part in shaping the future of the Alpine region. Therefore, the European Commission and the Tyrol have launched the PITCH YOUR PROJECT competition for young people between 16 and 25. The competition takes place for the fifth time, this year under the patronage of the Italian Presidency of the EU Strategy of the Alpine Region (EUSALP).

Submissions until October 16th.

Under the motto "Your Alps! Your Future! Your Project!" young people from all Alpine regions are invited to submit their project ideas for an attractive, modern and sustainable development of the Alpine space by October 16th 2022. Both individuals and groups such as school classes, student groups or youth associations can apply for the competition. At the end of October, a jury of experts will evaluate all the projects submitted in two age categories.

Attractive cash prizes and participation in the Annual Forum in Trento, Italy.

The best projects will be awarded attractive cash prizes and the opportunity to network internationally with young people and experts from the EUSALP regions: The representatives of the five best placed projects are invited to present their ideas in a "pitch" to an international expert audience at the EUSALP Annual Forum on the 23rd and 24th of November in Trento, Italy. In a public vote, the audience will select three winning projects which will be awarded cash prizes of 5,000, 3,000 and 2,000 euros. The winners will also receive active support in the implementation of their projects by experts from the EUSALP countries.

The topics of this years' competition and the registration form are available via the following link:

<https://eusalp-youth.eu/application-pitch-your-project-2022/>

The PITCH YOUR PROJECT competition was created in 2018 as part of the EUSALP presidency of the Tyrol. In 2019 the competition was continued under the Italian EUSALP Presidency. The first prize in 2018 went to the CIPRA Youth Council for a mobility project which, for a small amount of money, enables young people to explore the Alpine region in summer by public transport. In 2019 the German project MyCabin, which uses an app and a website to arrange nature-based accommodation for travelers with rucksack, tent and/or motorhome, won the first prize. In 2020, an Austrian school class that uses activated carbon to reduce CO2 was awarded first place. In 2021 Roberta Pascolo won the 1st place for her idea to use a virtual map to collect stories from locals about their land and its citizens. The competition is funded by the European Commission and the Tyrol and supported by the Italian EUSALP Presidency 2022.

About EUSALP

Due to its unique nature and geography, the Alpine region is particularly affected by climate change, natural hazards, demographic changes or the negative effects of transport. At the same time, economic globalization requires a constant high level of competitiveness and innovation. The seven Alpine states (France, Germany, Italy, Austria, Switzerland, Liechtenstein and Slovenia) and their 48 provinces, cantons and regions have therefore joined forces in the framework of the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP) to address these challenges through joint initiatives and projects.

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