RESOLUTIONS OF YPAC 2016

BASSANO DEL GRAPPA, MAY 2016

COMMITTEE 1: Living: demographic change, spatial planning, quality of life.

Postulation 1: Buildings and Nature

This postulation concerns the balance between nature and the influence of urbanisation. We propose a possible solution for stopping the destruction of nature by humans.

The main issue is the overdevelopment of towns and cities in the Alps, followed by the impact on the natural surroundings. We suggest that the regional government should be responsible for sustainable spatial planning in the Alps in order to provide enough green areas (also in the cities) as well as to decrease overdevelopment. Moreover, we strive for useful and fitting architecture according to the surroundings, controlled by the regional government. We would also offer support to businesses and new homeowners who use regional materials like timber and stone.

COMMITTEE 2: Local Business – Start ups, social innovation, new forms of sustainable tourism.

Postulation 1: Renovating saves space in an eco-friendly way

This postulation is about turning old tourist facilities (accommodation) into a contemporary and attractive, energy efficient source of income, instead of building new ones.

Tourist facilities in the Alpine region need to be more energy efficient, since accommodation contributes immensely to pollution.

We strongly encourage the government to subsidize the renovation of accommodation already in existence. Since less soil and land would be wasted, the ecosystem would significantly benefit.

This would be done only if the renovated facilities were to switch to renewable energy sources (such as biomass heating and solar power). By doing so, remarkable amounts of greenhouse gas emissions and money would be saved and the environment would be kept intact.

Postulation 2: Support of Green Start-ups

This postulation is about helping green start-ups to succeed with the aim of promoting the Green Economy in the Alps.

New entrepreneurs who want to start their own businesses in an eco-friendly way may have many problems because of high costs and their lack of experience in promoting their start-ups. We suggest that governments reduce taxes for start-up companies which are dealing with problems concerning the Green Economy.

Moreover, it is recommended that their final business ideas are presented in periodic exhibitions where they share and promote their ideas with others.

Postulation 3: Affordable public transport for less emissions

Special all-inclusive travel cards encouraging local people and tourists to use public transport to reduce pollution should be introduced.

This postulation aims to reduce carbon emissions and pollution by introducing single payment travel cards valid for all public transport for a set period. This would encourage local people and, especially tourists, to use public transport systems instead of private cars.

This travel card would give the user access to all public transport facilities such as trains, buses and trams and to certain attractions in their specific region or province. The travel card should be subsidized by the State, even more so, if the State owns the public transport system.

Accommodation and travel agencies could provide tourists with ticket information to positively contribute to the reduction of pollution in the Alps.

Postulation 4: Mountaineer Village

This postulation is about motivating Alpine villages to achieve the status of a sustainable Bergsteigerdorf (mountaineer village).

We want to promote an Austrian idea throughout the whole Alpine region. The «Mountaineer Village» is an award given to towns which work with sustainable agriculture and forestry to sell local products. Tourism would work along with small high quality accommodation providers; they want to offer good mountaineering conditions in these areas. This will make tourists appreciate the beauty of the natural landscape and be more attracted by the opportunities that the Alpine region offers. The towns would enhance and improve their landscape making it much more attractive for tourists and benefiting the local economy.

COMMITTEE 3: Consumption: Circular Economy, waste, CO2, energy management.

Postulation 2: Efficient recycling

This postulation is about making recycling and waste separation more easily accessible.

Recycling as a main goal leading towards circular economy has to be more efficient. As it is more accessible, people are willing to separate their waste adequately.

Considering that we would like to introduce a system of small waste separation bins in publicly frequented places. To prevent recycling mistakes there should be pictographs engraved on the bins so that people would be aware of the correct usage such as separating the caps from the plastic bottles.

Another option would be producing bins with openings shaped according to the waste is it designed for. These bins already exist in several cities in Europe and our aim is to adjust this system in the whole Alpine region. This solution is simple as it influences people to behave more consciously regarding the environment and it is easy to implement too.

Already existing waste bins can be expanded by several sections that are separated into different types of waste as for example glass, paper or organic waste.

Postulation 3: Industrial symbiosis

With this postulation, we want to achieve circular economy.

Circular economy is an economic model that focuses on eliminating waste as a concept - instead, waste is re-used as a source of material.

Industrial symbiosis is the act when diverse organizations build a network to foster eco-innovation and long-term cultural change. Companies nowadays mostly use a linear economy model - they use primary resources from nature and eventually produce environmentally harmful waste. The potential in waste as a raw material is not seen. Primary resources are limited and precious and therefore should not be over-exploited.

We advocate that the government encourages companies that use secondary raw materials by lowering the taxes and put higher taxes on primary resources usage for industrial purposes. So using secondary resources becomes more attractive in the Alpine region. Secondary resources would be obtained by collaborating with other companies - using their 'waste' and by this entering industrial symbiosis.

Postulation 4: LCA – Life Cycle Assessment

In this postulation we propose to use LCA as a tool to inform people about the effect products and materials have on the environment.

Most of the population is not informed about the damage that these products and materials cause to the environment. LCA – Life Cycle Assessment is a method which allows us to systematically break down every product to its original components and industrial procedures, used in the production process, and see the impact of the product on nature from creation to disposal.

The factors measured are all the evident causes of environmental change. We would use LCA in the following way: markets should put a scale next to the product, which shows in what way the product influences the environment. The scale would go from red, to yellow and to green.

Also, local products are very popular in the Alpine region, and therefore LCA can be used as a tool to provoke the consciousness of buyers. For example a number of eco-harmful products defines the color (e.g. red, yellow or green) of the receipt. In second plan, producers of both types of products will be challenged either to award their buyers, or to redefine their production.

COMMITTEE 4: Leisure & Culture : culture as a resource for regional development, terracing, culture of cooperation.

Postulation 1 : Self sustainable terraces

This postulation is about making the already existing terraces, which are part of our cultural heritage, more self-sustainable and productive.

Considering that the terraces require a lot of work and expense to take care of and that if they are left unattended they become infertile, we have to find an answer for this.

We propose a solution which includes a closed nutrient-cycle, which would reuse the nutrients from the

side products of organisms living in a pond.This nutrient cycle consists of ponds with fish, bacteria and other small animals, which would clean the water and produce nutrient-rich waste which is useful for plant growth. Then, water with "waste" would be pumped up from the pond to the top of the terrace with plants. The government would subsidize the costs of construction of the nutrient-cycle (ponds and pumps). This solution would be beneficial for the community as it would create jobs, including those of maintenance of ponds and pumps and of crops on the terraces, and it would also reduce the use of artificial fertilizers and the amount of waste produced.

Postulation 4: Integration through cultural events (joint postulation with committee 1)

This postulation is about improving the relationship between the people who currently live in the Alpine region and those who migrate to it.

Conflicts are often caused by different cultural backgrounds and prejudices. Immigrants often prefer to stay with other people from their country of origin which could lead to parallel societies. Young immigrants in particular must have the opportunity to get in touch with the new language and culture.

In order to achieve our goal we thought about creating a platform for young people to meet each other.

The platform would give locals and immigrants the chance to participate in different cultural exchanges and activities. They should either be free or very cheap in order to make them affordable for everyone.

Activities like sports events, music festivals or group cooking workshops could be arranged and promoted by the online platform. The projects could be organized by schools every three months and could include local associations. These events would be integrated to school curricula to prevent the problems mentioned above.