

# FLYING FACTS

## Kamnik 2024

Dear readers,

Having spent your first 24 hours here in Kamnik I hope you've had a chance to enjoy the view of our beautiful little city and create some unforgettable memories. Yesterday was already an amazing day. After the delegations finished their work they all gathered in our school's great hall for the grand opening ceremony. The second day of YPAC's event begins after a restful night for the Grand opening ceremony. The second day of the YPAC week begins after a, hopefully, restful night.

**Žan Gerič, Editor in Chief**



## EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

The first day of YPAC always goes by so quickly you don't even really notice that it's over. But today was a new day and it was also the last day for finishing and finalising your postulations. You have no doubt worked hard today and managed to write three convincing postulations per committee, which will be presented tomorrow.

In the General Assembly you will be confronted with questions and criteria but unquestionably also with understanding and approval for your ideas. Unfortunately not all of your postulations can be voted for but surely each committee can convince the other delegates of at least one of their ideas. But until then we hope you have time to relax and unwind and good luck in tomorrow's General Assembly!

**Best wishes,**

**Franziska Schroeder, Editor in Chief**



All the flags of the YPAC delegations

# THE OPENING CEREMONY

The opening ceremony of this year's YPAC was filled with as many important guests as one can imagine. From the mayor of Kamnik and the headmaster of the school up to the president of Slovenia, dr. Nataša Pirc Musar. All the influential people, who play an important role in the Alpine environment were there.

The evening was moderated by a teacher of Kamnik's Grammar school, Milan Mandeljc, who started the evening by greeting all our guests.

The first speaker of the evening was the school's headmaster, who expressed his gratitude and wished us a successful YPAC week.



Headmaster of the school



Alenka Smerkolj

Yesterday the committee members had the opportunity to meet experts from the Triglav National Park and give insight. These are the experts on Biodiversity, Quality of Life, Climate Change and Cultural Heritage:

## Biodiversity expert

Andrej Arih is a biologist and conservationist. He works in the Triglav National Park in Slovenia.



Mr. Arih has published many papers on biodiversity and conservation biology. His expertise was used to assist committee 1 in their task to solve issues regarding said topics.

As his father was a forester, Mr. Arih got in contact with nature and biodiversity. He is very interested in the vast variety of plant species.

*Question to Andrej Arih:*

**Did you hear about YPAC before you were invited?**

*I had heard of the concept, but I did not really know what the YPAC was before.*

-Timo Risch, Clément Martin

## Quality of Life expert

Janez Nered is a researcher at the Research Center of the Slovenian Academy of Science and Arts. He works on regional planning, regional development, regional politics, spatial planning, economic geography and participatory planning. He completed his studies in geography and sociology in 2007, and since then, he has been working at SAZU. While he was studying, he won the Prešeren Award for students at the University of Ljubljana and has published many articles with other experts since then. He also published approximately 20 books about different regions.

-Katja Zgank, Emma Sodeur



Janez Nared and committee 2



Mojca Pintar in committee 3

## Climate Change expert

Mojca Pintar is an Environmental Education Coordinator for the Triglav National Park. She studied Landscape Architecture at the University of Ljubljana, Biotechnical Faculty. Furthermore she participates in different projects all around nature using her various language skills in English, German, Croatian and Slovenian.

-Manca Petek, Laura Peintner

## Cultural Heritage expert

Tina Komac works at the Triglav National Park and is a graduate of the University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Arts and Technology. She enjoys learning about cultural experiences and environmental developments and wants to pass her knowledge on. Her goal is to inspire and connect people by educating them about the environment and their culture.

-Anamarija Mušič, Huq Md Tasin Ibn



Tina Komac



Committee 4  
working with their  
expert

## Postulations committee 1 - biodiversity and education

### 1. Dealing with invasive species

Invasive species interrupt natural processes, and it is nearly impossible to get rid of them. Therefore, Committee 1 wants to keep the balance between invasive and native species by focusing on the human aspect rather than the natural. This would be accomplished through regulating appropriate interest groups like fishers or hunters, who would have to fulfil certain requirements regarding cleanliness and handling of equipment.

### 2. Education on hiking trails

Committee 1 wants to raise awareness and inform the broad public about biodiversity in protected natural areas because they think most people are not informed enough. The tools for achieving this are so called "Edustations". These are interactive and educational stations at hiking trails. Hikers would, for example, learn how to distinguish between native and invasive species. Overseeing and maintaining these trails would be the responsibility of NGOs.

-Timo Risch, Clément Martin

### 3. Preserving biodiversity

The postulation highlights the risk posed by fragmented protection of natural areas, which threatens local biodiversity. To address this, the postulation suggests establishing ecological corridors to connect habitats and safeguard entire ecosystems. Collaboration with private landowners is proposed to identify areas requiring heightened protection. Ecological corridors play an important role in preserving biodiversity by enabling natural movement between protected areas. It emphasizes the importance of local authorities enforcing regulations and educating stakeholders to mitigate potential industrial encroachment, stressing the need for comprehensive protection efforts supported by collaboration with NGOs.



Committee 1 at work

## Postulations committee 2 - managing tourism

### 1. Quality over Quantity in managing mass tourism

The committee wants to create a ticket system. Before entering a protected area, you must buy a ticket at the visitor center, which would be called the "green ticket". With the ticket, you can control the number of tourists that come into the area so there are less crowded areas and nature wouldn't be harmed so badly. New jobs for locals could also be created. They also want to include an informative video before you buy a ticket.



committees at work

### 2. Zones

The second postulation proposes the division into three different zones to control and regulate the infrastructure in the Alpine region. In zone A, there won't be any regulations regarding the infrastructure. In Zone B infrastructures would be strongly regulated to protect natural life. Zone C, however, will have the strongest laws. There won't be any infrastructure at all so nature can recover. Their idea is that the zones are the same in every country so people don't get confused when they go abroad. The quality of life would improve because people will be getting more jobs and there will be less noise.

### 3. Retirement homes in protected natural areas

The third postulation is based on making new retirement homes for older people in protected natural areas. The delegates propose that older buildings in protected areas will be renovated into new retirement homes. Older people will like peace and nature and with better infrastructure it will also be more attractive for younger people. With that, new job positions will be available to locals.

-Katja Žgank, Emma Sodeur



President Nataša Pirc Musar

*After the headmaster it was the president's turn to make a speech. Nataša Pirc Musar thanked all of us for our continuous hard work and our hopes to make the Alpine region a better place to live. She promised to support the YPAC in the years to come and wished us a pleasant stay in Kamnik, her hometown.*

*The next important speaker was the chairman of the Permanent Committee of the Alpine Convention, Emil Ferjančič. His speech was about the importance of the work the delegates of the YPAC are doing and that they actually use our regulations in their discussions and meetings, so the work we do this week will definitely not be in vain.*



Emil Ferjančič, head of the permanent committee of the Alpine Convention

## Postulations committee 3 - protecting the climate

### 1. Educational programme in primary and middle schools

The idea is to organise a yearly school trip in a sustainable way, including protected natural areas. The aim is to raise awareness towards children and influence them into pursuing sustainable tourism in their future.



committee 3 with their expert

### 2. The way of water into the lakes (water management)

The aim is to lower the risk of floods caused by the melting glaciers. With artificial seas connected to underground pipes, the water will be regulated and can be used for electricity. Afterwards the water would be injected into the streams again.

### 3. Expansion of protected areas to cities

The aim is to reduce damage in protected natural areas caused by cities located directly in or near them. Bonuses provided by the government help to finance the transition to a more sustainable city. With that you can create a parking lot outside of the city and improve the public transportation in the city to reduce pollution.

-Manca Petek, Laura Peintner

### **Interview with Victor Bertoux (Chamonix) (C1)**

Why did you decide to join YPAC? What convinced you?

*I heard about the YPAC at the Alpine convention and the CIPRA. What motivated me, was to meet different people from different countries and with different cultures. It's also a great opportunity to practice my English.*

How many times have you attended YPAC?

*This is my first time participating.*

What are you trying to achieve? What are you looking forward to? Is there anything you are worried about?

*What I like most of all is having the opportunity to make decisions that have an impact on society, meeting people from different cultures who see things differently and therefore seeing different educational systems. I hope people will like our postulation and that our arguments will be good. I'm not worried about anything.*

How have you experienced the YPAC so far? (delegates, teachers, host families, location, Slovenia)

*Everyone is nice, hard-working, you feel like an adult (deputy), Slovenia is a beautiful country and Kamnik is a very charming little town.*

## Postulations committee 4 - connecting history and tomorrow

### 1. Protecting nature & connecting people

Perseverance of traditions is important as it places an important role in passing generational knowledge to the youth. However, the youth are often misguided from their culture, traditions, and roots. Therefore, it is necessary to preserve their native culture and safeguard the protected areas. Nevertheless, encouragement and support by the politicians makes the work as easy as it can be. That's why, providing proper education will motivate the youth to be more effective in those regards. On the other hand, locals work collaboratively to preserve these areas.

### 2. Edu-cultural: reconnect with history and learn tomorrow

The committee wants to have different projects at school. The classes would choose the way they want to experience cultural heritage. During these experiences the students are always accompanied and guided by local experts of different generations. At the end of the project, they would present their personal experience and achievements, by creating an outcome of their choice. Thereby, the interest of awareness regarding culture among younger generations will increase.

### 3. One label, many opportunities

This postulation is about proposing a label which sustainably and traditionally incorporates products in protected natural areas. The emphasis goes to the local farmers in the protected areas. Additionally, promoting their traditional way of farming which includes ecological sustainability, inspires the quality of living conditions. Due to the excessive manpower and manufacturing cost the price labelling offers many positive results. Therefore, social support towards the farmers will be initiated. Sticking the labels of Alpine farmers to their products lets the sellers know about the importance of that hard work.

-Anamarija Mušič, Huq Md Tasin Ibn



One of the YPAC presidents, Jaka Rudolf

*One of our YPAC presidents also held a speech, in which he thanked the staff and teachers for their hard work.*

*All of the speeches were followed by music and singing from students and teachers of Kamnik's Grammar School.*

*After all the delegations were presented, accompanied by a traditional Slovenian dance of two teachers, the long awaited dinner came. Accompanied by beautiful piano music, the delegates and guests joined together and enjoyed their dinner.*



Students singing traditional slovenian songs

## **Interview Presidency - Lara**

**1. What are the qualities necessary to be in the presidency?**

*You should be a good leader, have the ability to do speeches and have organisation skills.*

**2. What are your views regarding the YPAC?**

*I think that this year's YPAC versus last year's is something new, because we are accompanied by CIPRA and other youth organisations. I also like the idea that the General Assembly is taking place in parliament. Also, the involvement of the president of Slovenia makes it really professional.*

**3. What are the obstacles you faced so far throughout your presidency journey?**

*Mostly pressure, but there is also a lot of stress, because you are responsible for everyone. And there is a lot of management needed as there are so many delegates, teachers and authorities concerned.*

*-Huq Md Tasin Ibn, Anamarija Mušič*



Committee 1 delegates



EUSALP YC at work

## **Interview - members of Committee 3:**

**Why did you decide to join YPAC? Is this your first year participating in YPAC?**

*We decided to join YPAC to see other perspectives, meet new people, get the chance to travel and debate. It is the first time participating for all of us.*

**On a scale from 1 to 10 (with 10 being the most optimistic), how hopeful do you think it is that we will stop climate change right in time?**

*We'd say probably 2 out of 10.*

**What do you think will be the most efficient way to solve the problem?**

*We need to educate people about this problem first by making climate change a more important topic again, not only for marketing purposes. It's more of a long-term solution.*



Committee 2

## **Interview: Lara Mladenič from Maribor**

**Why did you decide to become a member of YPAC?**

*I wanted to improve my English debate and English skills. It's a great experience to meet new people and get to know other cultures. We must become included in politics at a young age.*

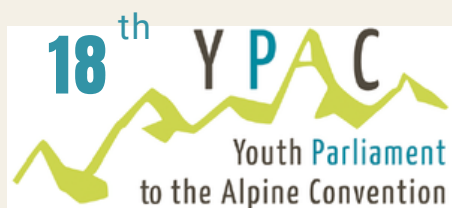
**What is, in your opinion, the biggest problem?**

*In my opinion, the biggest problem is that young people aren't aware of the damage we are creating on the planet because they aren't aware of anything outside social media, and lack of communication.*

**Name three adjectives that describe you the best:**

*Confident, responsible, and communicative.*

Thank you for reading, see you tomorrow :)



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
AND SPATIAL PLANNING



Občina Kamnik  
Glavni trg 24, 1240 Kamnik



GIMNAZIJA IN  
SREDNJA ŠOLA  
RUDOLFA MAISTRA