



## Young Academics Award 2016 *Greening the economy in the Alps*

Research and innovation are key elements for promoting sustainable development in the Alps and young academics play a crucial role in shaping the future of the Alps. Aim of the Young Academics Award is to recognize this key role by awarding outstanding master theses carried out on relevant alpine topics. This initiative is supported by the German Presidency of the Alpine Convention, the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention and by the Infopoints of the Alpine Convention Domodossola, Grand Paradis and Morbegno.

### **The 2016 call of the award focuses on the topic “Greening the Economy in the Alps”**

Green economy results in “improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities. In its simplest expression, a green economy can be thought of as one which is low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive” (UNEP, 2015). The Alps offer a positive framework with a high potential for green economy initiatives and present, at the same time, sensitive ecosystems that need to be protected. The issue of green economy is therefore particularly relevant for the Alps. This is why the Alpine Conference, upon proposal of the German presidency of the Alpine Convention, chose “greening the economy in the Alps” as a topic for the next Report on the State of the Alps, to be finalized in 2016.

Contributions are welcome on the issue of green economy in the Alps and especially on the related topics:

- Energy efficient and low carbon economy.
- Resource efficient economy (including waste management).
- Ecosystem services and natural capital-based economy.
- Economy supporting quality of life and wellbeing.

The submitted master theses have to be completed in the years 2014, 2015 and 2016.

### **The prizes**

Three main prizes will be directly awarded by the Presidency and the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention:

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize: 1,000 €
- 2<sup>nd</sup> prize: 750 €
- 3<sup>rd</sup> prize: 500 €

Four additional “Infopoint prizes” for works geographically dedicated to the areas where these partners are situated and active will be awarded by:

- Infopoint Domodossola, awarded by the association ARS.UNI.VCO: 500 €
- Infopoint Morbegno : 500 €
- Infopoint Grand Paradis, awarded by the Fondation Grand Paradis: a prize of the value of 500 € in form of an overnight for two people at the Hotel Bouton d’Or in Cogne and two dinners for two people at the Brasserie Les Pertzes in Cogne.

## Selection process and criteria

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The works will be evaluated by an international scientific jury invited by the Alpine Convention, based on a two-step process.

In the *first step*, 10 participants will be selected, based on the evaluation of the documentation submitted (see section *How to apply*) and according to the following criteria:

- relevance of the master thesis with the topic and sub-topics stated in the call.
- Direct relevance for the Alpine territory.
- Relevance (and, if applicable, innovativeness) of the theoretical and empirical contribution.
- Interdisciplinary merit.
- If applicable, practical implications for the Alpine Convention area.

In the *second step*, these 10 final candidates for the prize will be invited to a one-day workshop in Grassau (Germany), where they will have the possibility to present their work and discuss them directly with the Jury. Winners will be awarded in the framework of the Alpine Conference in Herrenchiemsee (Germany) at the presence of the German Minister of the Environment, Ms. Barbara Hendricks.

The three Infopoint prizes will solely be awarded to submitted works that focus mainly and specifically on the areas Grand Paradis National Parc, Verbano-Cusio-Ossola, and Valtellina respectively. Should these conditions not be met the prizes offered by the partners of the Alpine Convention may not be awarded. The winner of the Infopoint prizes will be also invited to the award ceremony.

## How to apply

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### First step

In order to participate *in the first step*, candidates are invited to submit the following documentation:

1. an application form submitted according to the template provided here <http://goo.gl/6gHkMO>;
2. an abstract of max. 5 pages A4 in English language;
3. a digital copy (PDF) of the complete work;
4. a copy of the graduation certification with marks. If the final exam has not been held, the candidate should present a declaration with the foreseen date of the final exam.

All the documentation has to be sent at the address [yaa@alpconv.org](mailto:yaa@alpconv.org) before **31.05.2016**.

### Second step

The 10 applicants admitted to the *second step* will have to provide a presentation for the workshop and a poster summarizing their research. Moreover, applicants should be ready to travel in the week from 10 to 14 October 2016. The travel and overnight costs will be reimbursed by the Alpine Convention.

## Deadlines

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Call closes: **31.05.2016**

Notification to successful applicants to 2<sup>nd</sup> step: within 01.08.2016

Deadline for sending the final documentation (presentation and poster): 30.09.2016

Workshop and awarding of the winners: 10-14.10.2016 (Alpine Week)

## Contacts

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For any question and for the submission of the documentation in the application package, you can contact [yaa@alpconv.org](mailto:yaa@alpconv.org).

## Disclaimer

By participating in the award you grant the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention the right to publish your entire work or the abstract on the website [www.alpconv.org](http://www.alpconv.org) as well as on the website of the above mentioned partners (Fondation Grand Paradis, ARS.UNI.VCO and Infopoint Morbegno) should the work focus mainly and specifically on the geographical areas where these partners are situated and active. No legal rights nor obligations can be derived by the participants against the PSAC from the participation in the award.

Further information:

<http://www.alpconv.org/en/activities/younggeneration/ysa2016/>

Questions?

[yaa@alpconv.org](mailto:yaa@alpconv.org)

