



alpenkonvention • convention alpine
convenzione delle alpi • alpska konvencija

Tagung der Alpenkonferenz
Réunion de la Conférence alpine
Sessione della Conferenza delle Alpi
Zasedanje Alpske konference

XIII

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ANLAGE/ANNEXE/ALLEGATO/PRILOGA

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Activities of the Task Force “New Generations”

The goal to have a wider audience of young people and professionals being aware of, and possibly involved in the development and implementation of transnational policies and measures designed in the framework of the Alpine Convention and aimed at fostering a real sustainable development of the Alpine territories is a primary objective of the Treaty and its Contracting Parties.

Two principal approaches have been historically used to involve young people in the framework of the Alpine Convention and in the policies agreed upon at the international level for the sustainable development of its territory:

- > awareness raising concerning the main topics under discussion among the Alpine countries, and
- > fostering of the direct participation of the youngsters in procedures and initiatives directly related to the action undertaken by the Alpine Convention and its Parties.

The “New Generations” project can be seen as the natural continuation of the activities that the Alpine Convention, its Parties and Observers traditionally dedicate to the involvement of the youth in the procedures and implementation of the Treaty at different levels, including the Parliament of Youth of the Alpine Convention.

The “New Generations” project has been launched by the current Presidency of the AC as a dedicated Task Force with the aim of ensuring the involvement of the youth in a few of the main initiatives of the Convention over the 2013-2014 biennium.

The Task Force has been coordinated by the University of Milan – Mountain University UNIMONT-GESDIMONT: Centre of Applied Studies for the Sustainable Management and Protection of Mountain Areas (from here on in: UNIMONT) with the participation of other education and research institutions from mountain areas across the Alps.

In this framework different activities were carried out:

- a delegation of youth participated in the 53rd meeting of the Permanent Committee in Cortina d’Ampezzo (Italy) at a special session called “*question time*” where they had the opportunity to discuss topics related to the Alpine Convention with national delegations (see attached report);
- in cooperation with the Presidency an initiative dedicated to the youth and aimed at allowing young talented people to participate in the XIII Alpine Conference (Torino, 21 November 2014) was developed along two parallel lines of involvement for the youngsters: young alpine talents have been invited to take part in the national delegations to the Alpine Convention under the responsibility of each Party concerning their appointment; a selected group of young communicators from the Alpine countries¹, who participated in a specific call managed by the current Presidency in cooperation with the Permanent Secretariat and UNIMONT, are given the opportunity to participate in the communication activities and journalism in the framework of the Press Conference organised at the closure of the XIII Alpine Conference (see attached call).
- In the framework of FORUM ALPINUM 2014, UNIMONT in cooperation with the Task Force “New Generations”, the Current Presidency of the AC and ISCAR organised a Workshop dedicated to “Themes for a new Alpine research and education network built on Youth’s view” that took place on Friday the 19th of September 2014 in Darfo-Boario Terme where education initiatives were presented from different Alpine countries dealing with the sustainable development of Alpine and other mountain regions² (see attached agenda);
- the current Presidency has been co-organising and promoting a Graduate Course launched by UNIMONT on “Project Management for the Mountains”, aimed to involve young people and professionals wishing to

get specific skills in the preparation and management of European and other Projects aimed at fostering the sustainable development of Alpine areas (see attached program and call);

- moreover, young talents especially from technical High schools and Universities located in mountain territories have been involved in the support to the meetings, workshop and other initiatives organised during the 2013-2014 biennium, including catering services, cultural entertainment, other organisational issues.

NOTE:

1 The call published on the website of the Alpine Convention (alpcnv.org) defines potential candidates as students or professionals, aged between 16 and 26, resident in one of the member Countries of the Alpine Convention, holding a certificate of lower secondary school, possibly with professional experience or study in the field of communication – including journals, radio, television and new media (journalists, publicists, bloggers) or the signing up for training schools, universities or master's degree in journalism and communication.

2 Initiatives were presented organised in Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Slovenia and Switzerland.