

EU contest »Pitch Your Project to the EU!«

The Jury and the evaluation process

1. Description

Young people can take part in the ideas competition "Pitch Your Project to the EU" until 31 October 2018. They will be given the opportunity to present their project idea for a sustainable and modern Alpine Region. In speed presentations, the young people will pitch their projects at the 2nd Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP) from 20 to 21 November 2018 in the Congress Innsbruck. The audience will then select the three winning projects, which will be funded with 5,000 EUR, 3,000 EUR and 2,000 EUR respectively. The European Commission and this year's EUSALP President, the Tyrol, are thus setting the motto of the Annual Forum "shaping.future together. - with the next generation". The competition is furthermore the prelude to a long-term integration of young people via the "Alpine Youth Initiative".

2. Eligible applicants

Eligible applicants are young people who fulfil the following criteria:

- are between 16 and 25 years old on 1 August 2018
- are citizen of one of the 7 Alpine countries Germany, Austria, Switzerland, France, Italy, Slovenia and Liechtenstein or a permanent resident of one of these states
- apply as an individual or a group with a project conception. As a group they have to nominate at maximum three group leaders to present the project

Any applicant not fulfilling the eligibility criteria will not be able to participate in the application process and will not be taken into consideration in the award decision.

3. Application procedure

The application round to the contest is open from 1 August 2018 12:00 (CET) until 31 October 2018 23:59 (CET). Any application after the deadline will not be taken into consideration.

The eligible candidates' project applications have to fulfil the following application criteria:

- the project addresses one of the following topics:
 - Work and education in the Alpine Region (search for apprenticeship, mobility, tourism, professional perspectives)
 - Nature and environment (living environment, water, soil, air, flora and fauna, sustainable economic development)
 - The Alps as modern/attractive living environment (internet, digitalisation, e-connectivity, mobility)
 - Climate change and energy (management of natural risks, renewable energy)
 - Other aspects of the tasks of the EUSALP Action Groups
- the project idea is ready for implementation
- the candidates apply as individual or as a group (and named at maximum three group leaders)
- the application is submitted in written form and in English
- the application consists of:
 - a) the completed online application form

b) the project proposal consisting of:

- summary
- motivation
- aim
- relevance
- problems and chances
- task and time schedule, the needed materials, financial support and human resources

c) curriculum vitae of the participant or the group leaders

d) expert opinion rendered by a supporter of the project (teacher, professor, leader of youth organization etc.)

- the application is submitted before the closing date on 31. October 2018 at 23:59 (CET) as one pdf-file (max. 5 MB) mentioning the reference: **pitch-application** under the following e-mail address: **pitchyourproject@alpine-region.eu**

The following projects are not accepted:

- projects submitted by persons working for the European institutions or in the framework of the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region
- scientific thesis and publications
- projects already funded by EU funds
- projects already awarded with a prize by a European institution
- projects submitted hand-written, incomplete, in more than one file or application e-mail, as well as projects submitted by post

A group application will be assessed as one single application. Groups can be composed of persons from different nationalities/residencies (from the 7 Alpine countries as mentioned above). Multiple registrations in terms of groups will also be forbidden, the first application as a group will be considered. In addition, individuals applying in differently composed groups will also be excluded. No one is allowed to apply more than once. The data will be checked by the project coordinator.

The applicants will receive a confirmation e-mail within 48 hours through pitchyourproject@alpine-region.eu once they have submitted their application. This confirmation e-mail will inform them that their application has been registered and also about the timetable for the communication of the jury decision on the five projects which are allowed to the pitch session. Additionally, they receive their project code, which is to be named in every correspondence between the project coordinator and the applicants. This code will also be used for publishing the list of the jury decision on the website www.alpine-region.eu.

4. Selection process

The applicants will first have to pass the eligibility criteria check as mentioned under point 2. Please note that this will be double-checked by the project coordinator designated by the European Commission and by the jury members.

If all eligibility criteria are fulfilled, the applicants will then have to fulfil the award criteria as mentioned in point 3.

To create a fair competition, the project applications will be classified into two categories: applicants at the age of 16 to 19 and applicants at the age of 20 to 25 (for the classification of group applications the average age of the group leaders at 31/10/2018 is decisive). The selection for the pitch will be taken out of both categories. In any case applicants out of both categories will be represented in the pitch session.

The jury's decision in both categories is based on the criteria: relevance, feasibility and innovation potential of the project. Every member of the jury gives points from 0-3 on 8 criterias (see annexed evaluation form). The highest possible amount of points is 24 in those criterias. In every category (16-19 years / 20-25 years) every jury member can give once additional points of 10 (totally award worthy) and 5 (award worthy).

The project coordinator sends out the ranking in both categories to the jury members after the first evaluation round. The projects with the highest ranks (above 20 points) will achieve the second round in the jury's decision. The following review by the jury will bring out the final ranking. Again every member of the jury gives points from 0-3 on 8 criterias (see annexed evaluation form). The highest possible amount of points is 24 in those criterias. In every category (16-19 years / 20-25 years) every jury member can give once again additional points of 10 (totally award worthy) and 5 (award worthy). The projects of each category will be ranked by the amount of received points. From both categories the two highest ranked project applicants get the chance to pitch their project on the 2nd Annual Forum of the EUSALP. The amount of points on the third position of the ranking in both categories decides from which category the fifth applicant is chosen to pitch their project.

The first evaluation round starts on 1 November 2018. Until 6 November 12:00 (CET) the jury members send their evaluation to the project coordinator and receive a list with the ranking within 24 hours. Until 9 November 2018 12:00 (CET) they have to send their evaluation of the second round to the project coordinator. She prepares the final ranking list. In case of equal rankings she consults all jury members to decide on the finalists.

The five finalists are invited to present their project to the audience of the EUSALP Annual Forum 2018 in a five minute pitch. The European Commission and the Tyrol will invite the 5 applicants or per each group 3 group leaders to the EUSALP Annual Forum 2018 in Innsbruck and will reimburse respective travel and accommodation costs.

The pitch session takes place on 21. November and can be performed in English or in any of the other four Alpine Region languages (German, French, Italian and Slovenian). Immediately subsequent to the pitch session the audience will vote for the five projects. The three winners of the voting will receive a prize for the implementation or continuation of their project.

The prize moneys are provided by the EUSALP President of 2018, the Tyrol. The winners receive the payment in form of a prize cheque.

1st Prize: 5,000 EUR

2nd Prize: 3,000 EUR

3rd Prize: 2,000 EUR

All applicants get the chance to participate in the EUSALP Annual Forum 2018 »Shaping.future.together. – with the next generation« on 20./21.November 2018 in Innsbruck, to attend the workshops and to network with engaged young people and representatives of the European Union. Travel costs cannot be reimbursed.

5. Notification of results

The final decision will be published on 11 November 2018 on www.alpine-region.eu.

All applicants will be informed via e-mail until 12 November 2018.

6. Evaluation Committee / Composition of the Jury

The Jury is composed of 5 members of European reputation, who carry out their duties as individuals and in accordance to their knowledge as representatives of their institutions. The members of the Jury are selected on the basis of criterias such as expertise on the Alpine Region and their belonging to institutions working on the EUSALP. They are appointed by the European Commission and geographical balance is to be ensured.

They will be brought in contact with the members of the EUSALP Action Groups for necessary requests in the decision process.

The project coordinator is responsible for the organisation of the selection process and makes the arrangements for the official announcement, the implementation of the pitch session and the award ceremony.

She is also allowed at any time to inform the Commission where, in the opinion of the Jury, any of the following is apparent: (i) contestants are estimated to have received undue assistance from experts; (ii) contestants have had undue privileged access to resources; or (iii) the contestants have clearly plagiarized ideas from others. In such a case, the Commission will withdraw the project from the competition and even after the event retain the right to demand if necessary, the return of any prize monies.

The decision of the Jury is final.

7. Reserve list

All non-selected applicants will be placed on a reserve list in descending order of their ranking. Inclusion in the reserve list does not create any entitlement vis-à-vis the European Commission.

8. Withdrawal and cancellation of the participation on the Annual Forum by the selected participant

Each travel ticket and accomodation confirmation will be nominative and cannot be transferred to another person. The name on the travel ticket cannot be changed.

If a selected participant declines for whatever reasons before the project coordinator designated by the European Commission has booked the travel ticket and the accommodation in Innsbruck, his/her place will be given to someone else from the reserve list in descending order of the selection.

If a group leader declines to travel before the project coordinator has booked the travel ticket and accommodation, this decision will not jeopardise the whole group. The remaining group members (only designated group leaders) can still travel as foreseen. However, the person who withdrew cannot be replaced.

Once the bookings are done, any potential cancellation or modification fees will need to come from the participant's entitlement.

9. Disclaimer

The European Commission will only provide for the travel tickets and accommodation as explained above. Therefore, subsistence, insurance, travel supplements or any other expenses related to the trip shall be covered by the participants. Insurance coverage is not provided by the European Commission and is the sole responsibility of the selected participant.

The European Commission and the project coordinator shall not be held liable for any damage caused or sustained by any of the participants in the contest, including any damage caused to third parties as a consequence of or during the implementation of the activities related to this contest.

The European Commission and its project coordinator shall not be held liable for any material, non-material or physical damage suffered by the participants or those accompanying them in the course of their journey to or during their stay at their destination.

10. Applicable Law

This contest is governed by the applicable Union law complemented, where necessary, by the law of Belgium. The General Court or, on appeal, the Court of Justice of the European Union, shall have sole jurisdiction to hear any dispute between the Union and any participant concerning the interpretation, application or validity of the rules of this contest, if such dispute cannot be settled amicably.

11. Data Protection

By submitting the application, the applicants confirm that

- their data will be saved for the purpose of the selection process
- their submitted application documents are allowed to be used for the purpose of exhibition, media and advertisement by the European Commission and the region of the Tyrol (except for the personal data)

The personal data requested will only be used for the purpose of selecting the participants and to book the travel tickets and accommodations.

Any personal data will be processed by the European Commission under the Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and according to the 'notifications of the processing operations' to the Data Protection Officer (DPO) of the European Commission (publicly accessible in the DPO register). Such data will be

processed by the "data controller" of the European Commission for the purposes of the contest, implementation and follow-up or protecting the financial interests of the EU.

The applicants have the right to have recourse at any time to the European Data Protection Supervisor.

12. Timetable

Opening date of registration	1 August 2018 (12:00 CET)
Closing date of registration	31 October 2018 (23:59 CET)
First evaluation round	1 November 2018 (14:00 CET) – 6 November 2018 (12:00 CET)
First ranking list	7 November 2018 (12:00 CET)
Second evaluation round	7 November 2018 (12:00 CET) – 9 November 2018 (12:00 CET)
Eventually additional consultations of the jury members	10 November 2018 (16:00 CET)
Publication of final ranking list	Latest: 11 November 2018 (12:00 CET)
Information of applicants	Latest: 12 November 2018 (18:00 CET)