

Youth at the Top 2021

July 8th 2021 - 7th Edition

PROJECT SHEET

I. The Event

An excursion in the mountains for young people in every Alpine country and in the Carpathians on the common date of **July 8th 2021**. Please be aware that the terms of the 2021 edition might depend of the evolution of the covid-crisis.

Youth at the Top has a highly symbolic dimension: hundreds of young people can experience and live the mountains on the same day.

Youth at the Top 2021 includes:

- A hike with an **overnight stay** in the mountains with groups of young people
- Educational activities to let the younger generation discover and experience the Alpine and Carpathian natural and cultural heritage
- A **thematic action** on the topic **“Local Food”**
- Common communication tools shared with all the partner organisations

II. Aims

- To strengthen the relationship of the younger generation with nature and the mountain environment
- To raise young people’s awareness on nature protection and conservation
- To reinforce young people’s feeling of belonging to one common area, the Alps, as well as their feeling of being part of the European area
- To reinforce the notion of solidarity and share a moment in a group with the young participants
- To mobilise Alpine stakeholders around a unique and unifying project
- To make visible the educational initiatives of the Alpine protected areas and of all the organisations taking part in the event

III. Target Group

Formal or non-formal groups of young people aged **from 6 to 25 years old**.

Groups of young people living in the Alpine valleys or with fewer social/economic opportunities are highly encouraged to get involved.

IV. Activities

A common general framework is given. However, the development of Youth at the Top at local level is flexible; it depends on the needs and the aims of each group of young people and the educational approach of the adult responsible for the event. Especially in the context of the Corona crisis, the organisers are highly encouraged to plan their event according to national regulations.

During the day

- Going outside for a walk or a trek to reach a summit, a mountain hut or a refuge;
- Enhancing the ascent with games or nature-spotting activities;
- Sensitizing the participants to a common theme through a related activity, valorising the Alpine cultural heritage (all the organisations registered will be provided with a collection of activities on the topic – **Appendix 3**);
- Sensitizing and disseminating knowledge about the common cultural and natural heritage of the Alps via the pedagogical tool “The Alps in my Backpack” (**Appendix 2**)

During the night time

- Experiencing **the mountains** and nature with the group of young people by
 - gazing at the stars;
 - observing the mountains at twilight or dawn;
 - going on walk at night;
 - making a fire (if allowed in the protected area) and sharing tales around the fire;

During and after the event

On July 8th 2021, the organisers are invited to plan various activities regarding the official theme of the 7th edition of Youth at the Top: “**Local Food**”. This year is therefore an opportunity to combine cultural heritage and artistic creation!

At the end of the event, each participating organization will share at least one recipe illustrated by the young people. This sharing can take different forms: videos, interviews, drawing, painting, writing or theater, songs, slams, music, dance, land art, etc.

Images make it possible to overcome language barriers. All the recipes and artistic productions will be shared between the participants via the common communication tools. **At the end of this 7th edition, the creations of all participants will be combined to create a very unique cooking book!**

V. Communication

Each organisation that is registered as a partner for Youth at the Top 2021 has at its disposal.

Common communication tools

- A common graphic identity: the Youth at the Top logo (available for download [here](#))
- An [official website](#) in 5 languages including:
 - an event session in which is presented briefly each local event/ per country
 - an interactive map of the Alps and Carpathians on which each local event is visible
- A common customized poster
- A [Facebook page](#) administered by ALPARC

All the partners are invited to make use of these tools to communicate with the young participants.

Shared communication material

Each organisation registered officially as a partner of the event commits itself to:

- communicating locally about its action via press release, articles or social networks
- sharing/informing the material with ALPARC to allow for keeping track of an international press review
- sharing some communicational material with ALPARC according to the details described in the **Appendix Sheet 1**
- taking part in the online survey after the event. This feedback will help us improve the event for the next edition.



Youth At the Top 2020 © South Tirol Puez Geisler (IT)



Youth At the Top 2020 © Nationalpark Gesäuse (AT)

VI. Technical Partnerships

The 7th edition of Youth at the Top is coordinated by ALPARC – The Alpine Network of Protected Areas, with the financial support from the German Ministry for the Environment. ALPARC is responsible for the general management and international communication of the project. In particular, ALPARC collects the registration form, shares and updates the common communication tools and is responsible for the regular update of the website and social networks.

The CNPA coordinates the action (communication at local level) in the Carpathians.

Technical partnerships with other networks or organisations working at national/regional level in other Alpine countries are possible. ALPARC is open for new partnerships in the different Alpine countries.

VII. Financial Support

The 7th edition of Youth at the Top, is supported by the German Ministry for the Environment (BMU) and the Principality of Monaco. This grant allows ALPARC to carry out the project and to ensure the international coordination as well as the overall communication activities.

As for the previous editions, the BMU grant partly supports the costs of local events. **Please note that the refunding of local costs is only addressed to ALPARC official members.** To benefit from this refund, ALPARC official members will be invited to fill up a co-financing application prior the event. The maximal amount of the refunds will depend of the number and amount of co-financing requests received by ALPARC, but is roughly estimated around 800 €/organization (+ 500€ for any additional event). **In return, the organizations requesting a co-financing commit themselves to making the participation free of charge for the young participants - as much as possible.**



Youth At the Top 2020 – © Naturpark Pfyn-Finges (CH)

Contact

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