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Youth at the Top

YOUTH AT THE TOP 2018

The Effects of Climate Change in Mountain Territories at the Heart of the Fourth Edition

Press Release

Chambéry, 26 July 2018

During its fourth edition on 12 and 13 July 2018, the Youth at the Top project brought together more than 450 young people in 43 destinations in the Alps and the Carpathians. By means of actions as diverse as they were varied the younger generation was able to have mountain experience as well as enhancing their knowledge in favour of the protection and conservation of nature. During most of the events an action on the theme of climate change was also organised in order to raise young people's awareness about this subject.

The two days spent high in the mountains, on this 12 and 13 July, were for several youngsters their first big adventure in search of their natural and cultural heritage; for others it was an opportunity to share once again in this collective, international experience. For all of them it was above all a unique opportunity to spend the night in the mountains bivouacking or in a refuge with other youngsters, to observe close up the wild fauna and flora and to express their artistic creativity. Group leaders and mountain educators proposed a great variety of activities: collecting drinking water and edible and medicinal plants along the way, bathing in the cool rivers, making campfires, watching the stars, etc.



The 2018 edition was marked by the common theme of **the impact of climate change on mountain ecosystems**. In this way some groups of young people were enabled to observe the phenomenon of climate change when traversing a glacier or crossing snowfields; others by observing the Alpine flora. Reflections on the actions to be implemented to slow down these impacts emerged in several groups.

Local events on an international scale

Drawing on the “**The Alps in my Backpack**” pedagogical tool, the international dimension was highlighted and finalised by the exchange of the **new postcards** between the youngsters from the 6 Alpine countries and the 3 Carpathian countries. To raise the young people’s cross-border awareness a group of radio hams gave a talk during one event and showed how sound waves can cross borders – a good proposal to keep next for year to connect the various groups of youngsters during the event!

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The international project Youth at the Top Project gives the younger generations a chance to have mountain experience by meeting up for one day and one night at a common date in several destinations in the Alps and the Carpathians. This initiative is open to all the protected areas of the Alps and the Carpathians as well all the organisations working in the educational field. Each action set up by local actors aims to reinforce the links between young people and nature and to raise their awareness about the protection and conservation of the mountain environment.

The 4th edition of the project is led by ALPARC – The Alpine Network of Protected Areas, with the financial support of the German Ministry of the Environment and the Principality of Monaco.

For further details : www.youth-at-the-top.org

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