YOUrALPS

Educating youth for the Alps:
(re) connecting youth and mountain heritage for an inspiring future in the Alps

Cultural Heritage as an Engine for Creativity, Innovation and Socioeconomic Development for the Future of Mountain areas
Vatra Dornei, 25. – 27. Sept. 2018

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BACKGROUND

• Mountain ecological systems are highly important for the soundness of the global ecological system;

• Young (and not only young) generations are losing contact with nature – including mountains;
  • Increasing disconnection between youth and mountain environment
  • Lack of alpine natural and cultural heritage
  • Eventual loss of alpine identity

• Gap between formal and non-formal education

• Inter-and intra-generational justice
  • Burden of the post-modern development
  • Taking action for a sustainable future
Education for sustainable development (ESD) and environmental education (EE) form the basis for Mountain-oriented education (MoE). MoE emphasizes the interrelations between mountain regions and society.
Baselines for implementing MOE

Kinesthetic information
ACTIVATION OF SENSES
Personal experiences

Experiences and knowledge of others

Cultural environment

How we understand the world - mountains (values, meanings, concepts)
Dewey’s model of reflective thought and action

Kolb D.: Experiential learning, 1984
Environment appraisal: 6 - dimensional framework (Gifford, 2014):

Description: What is there?

Meaning: What does it mean to me?

Emotions: How does a place make me feel?

Risk: Is it safe?

Aesthetic: Do I find it beautiful?

Evaluations and preference: How do I like it?
Spatial experience is important
Has to be positive;
Has to be deeper and deeper:
It ends behind the rainbow;
Mountains must be presented to the way youth understands;

FOMO - effect (fear of missing out);

Experience of older generations are welcome, but MOE is a two direction process, with education about mountains, all participants must improve their knowledge, attitude and intergeneration understanding.
Target groups

• **Youth:** 6 to 19;

• **Formal and non-formal educators:** institutions with and without education mandate;

• **Policy makers:** all elected representatives
Main project outputs

1. International network and webplatform
2. Comparative report on innovative practices and MOE strategies
3. • Alpine School model
International network

https://www.ouralps.org/en
Comparative report on MOE
Alpine School model

- 14 pilot sites;
- At least 6 certified Alpine schools;
- Handbook and toolkit;

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwin4XimDN1enA1XBDKN
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2hln8Nf2F9Y&t=126s
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The project in numbers

• 12 project partners
• 5 countries
• 25 observers
• 3 years duration
• 1.901.017,40 € budget
Thank you for your attention!

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For further information:

Sources: Working materials of YOUrALPS project