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Development of an Action Plan for Youth Participation in the EUSALP

Report of the 1st workshop

Innsbruck, 19th November 2018, Landhaus 2

DESIGN, FACILITATION AND REPORT BY

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CIPRA INTERNATIONAL - NICOLETTA PIERSANTELLI

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with the next generation



PROJECT BACKGROUND AND OVERALL PROJECT AIMS

The following institutions have proposed to develop an action plan for youth participation within the EUSALP:

- Tiroler Landesregierung/EUSALP-Presidency (represented by Melanie Plangger)
- Bundesamt für Raumentwicklung, Schweiz (represented by Silvia Jost)
- Amt für Auswärtige Angelegenheiten, Liechtenstein (represented by Daniel Batliner)

They have endorsed following organisations with the task to support them in doing so:

- CIPRA International (Represented by Kaspar Schuler and Michaela Hogenboom/Nicoletta Piersantelli)
- „Alpine Town of the Year“ Association (represented by Claire Simon)

The project should also involve further structures and persons (EUSALP representatives, Youth Parliament to the Alpine Convention, CIPRA Youth council, GaYA partners and pilot regions, etc.)

The project should capitalize on following experiences and take following principles into consideration:

- Experiences and critical view on youth event within the EUSALP-Forum in Munich in 2017
- Take principles of youth participation into consideration, such as exchange at eye level, openness for results, process transparency.
- Avoid any type of official representation of each country through the participation of young people. The young participants should consider themselves as representatives of their own ideas and view points and participate as such, with no expectation of having a seat/official role in a possible future participation structure.

A **3-step process** has been proposed to develop an action plan proposal to the Executive board/General Assembly of the EUSALP, including:

- 1st workshop, 19.11.2018, Innsbruck/AT
- 2nd workshop, Jan. 2019, Liechtenstein (tbc)
- Presentation of the results at the EUSALP to the Executive board, Feb. 2019

Overall project aims

- Short term (2018): participation of young people from the EUSALP regions/countries to the annual forum in Innsbruck/AT on 20th-21st November 2018.
- Midterm (2019/2020): Joint elaboration of a binding youth participation plan within EUSALP, which really makes their influence possible. Youth participation should hence be installed on a long term basis within EUSALP, thanks to a Youth Participation Action Plan.

The **present report concerns the activities of the 1st workshop.**

AIMS, OUTPUT & ACTIVITIES OF THE 1ST WORKSHOP

aim

- EUSALP process is open to young alpine citizens.

output

- Young participants have a clearer understanding of EUSALP and they are willing and motivated to be actively involved

activity

- Input by Melanie Plangger about EUSALP and Crowd Lab

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- Young people have the possibility to exchange with EUSALP representatives on their reciprocal needs, fears, and expectations towards youth participation.

- Common agreement between young participants and EUSALP representatives on principles for good youth participation within EUSALP (reciprocal needs, possibilities, limits).

- Groupwork young people and representatives from EUSALP: based on own experience of youth participation they discuss in small groups and find out what they need for a good youth participation.

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- Young people discuss with EUSALP representatives on what should be different within the EUSALP thanks to youth participation?

- Common proposal for an aim/aims to be reached thanks to youth participation within EUSALP.

- Groupwork young people and representative from EUSALP: discussion about “Within EUSALP youth participation should...” and “EUSALP should...”

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- Possible forms and contents of youth participation measures are proposed by young people and EUSALP representatives and jointly discussed and developed.

- Based on the common aim/aims, first ideas for an action plan are proposed.

- Open space method

INVITATION TO THE YOUTH AND REPRESENTATIVES OF EUSALP

The aim was to involve approx. 21 young people (3/each EUSALP country and ages 15-28) with have a variety of origins and experiences.

Min. 3 representatives of EUSALP should participate during the whole workshop (invitation done by Melanie Plangger).

The invitation was done with an official letter sent by the Land Tyrol to all the addresses that CIPRA International and ASdJ identified. The letter contained a link to a registration form. After the letter, CIPRA International and ASdJ made a recall per mail and/or telephone and/or social media.

22 young people were registering for the workshop; a confirmation mail and a flyer with detailed program was sent to each of them. 2 of them (1 from France, 1 from Slovenija) cancelled their participation at the last minute for personal reasons. In total 20 young people attended the workshop.

To involve young participants following channels were used:

- Young people from the GaYA pilot territories
- Young people form the member towns of ASdJ
- CIPRA youth council (recall by CIPRA International)
- Youth Alpine Interrail (YOALIN) participants (recall by Swiss Office ARE)
- Participants of Erasmus+ YSAM/YouTurn (e.g. Schaan, Chambéry) projects (recall by ASdJ)
- Members of Youth Parliament to the Alpine Convention (recall by ASdJ)
- Participants of other initiatives/projects (e.g. YouRALPS-recall by ASdJ)
- All associations involved in youth work in Alpine countries, included in CIPRA Database (recall by CIPRA International)
- Youth in contact to National CIPRAs (recall by CIPRA International)
- Contact to UNI Innsbruck, Politecnico Torino through personal contact to professors (invitation and recall CIPRA International)

WORKSHOP ACTIVITIES



After a few "ice breaker activities" to get to know each other ("standing on a line" name, age, place of birth, actual place of residence), we started to go through the agenda and to identify volunteers to be in charge of the cleanliness of the room, of the air quality in the room and of energizers when needed; we explained then where we are, what is EUSALP Forum. Then we introduced Melanie Plangger, who gave a presentation about EUSALP. Information of her power point and relation between this workshop and EUSALP Forum presentation have been visualized by facilitators in three posters. With the Crowd-Lab method we started to get to know EUSALP. After the presentation, participants worked in small groups and we collected questions. Answers were given by Melanie Plangger and Alicia Cucho.

Agenda

✓ 9:00 Check-in round

✓ 9:30 About EUSALP
Input, Groupwork, Plenary

10:20 ☕

10:40 Youth participation & me, us...
Groupwork and Plenary

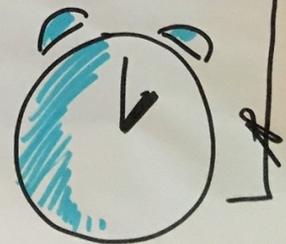
12:00 🍴

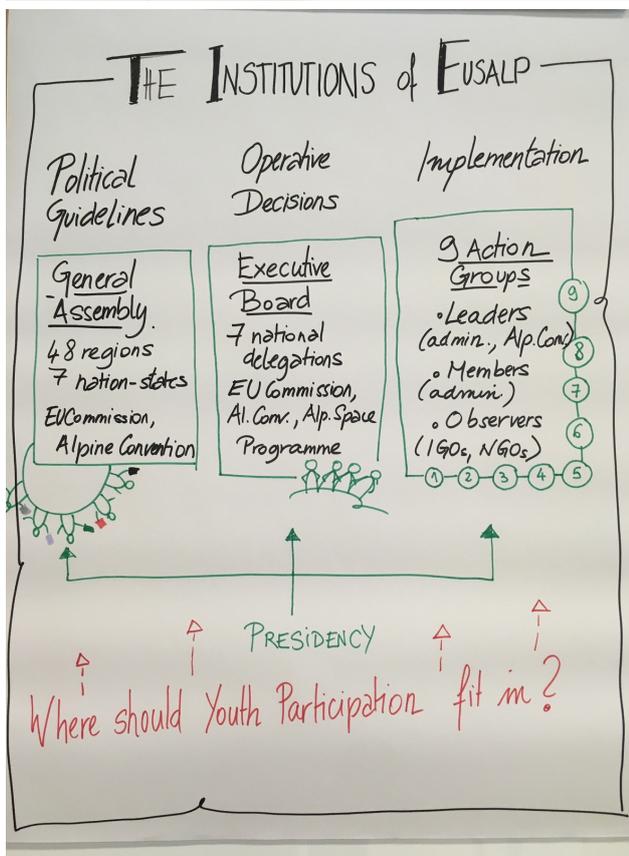
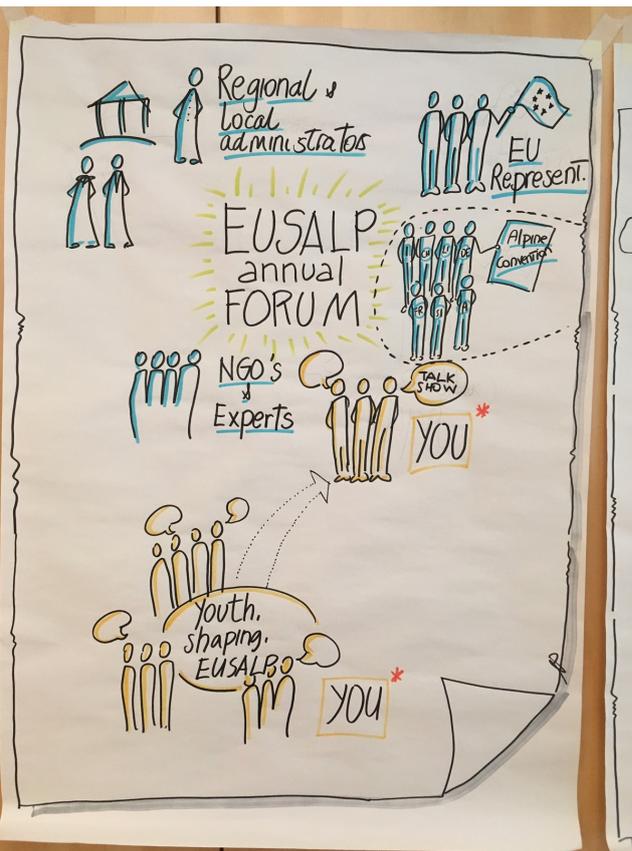
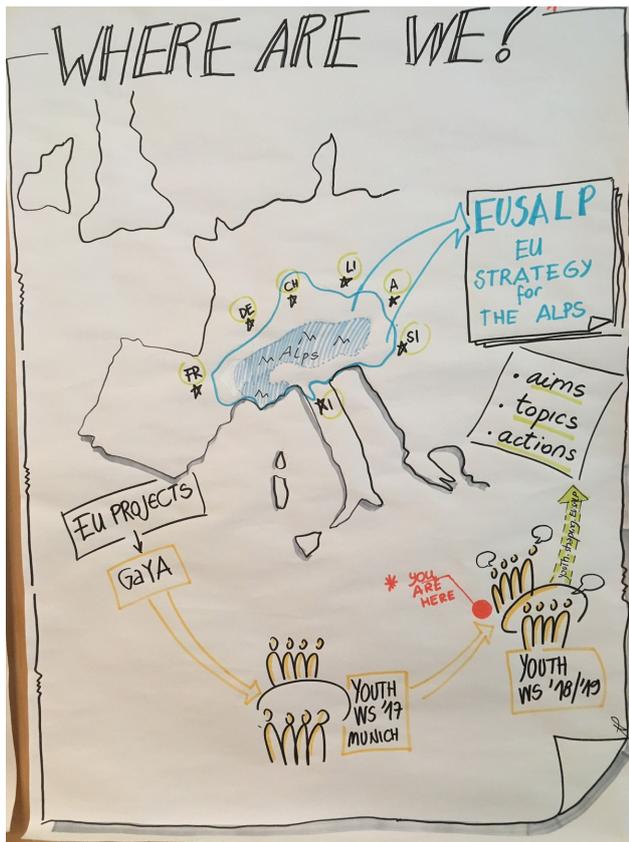
13:30 What should be different, if...?
Groupwork and Plenary

14:20 Open Space
Groupwork

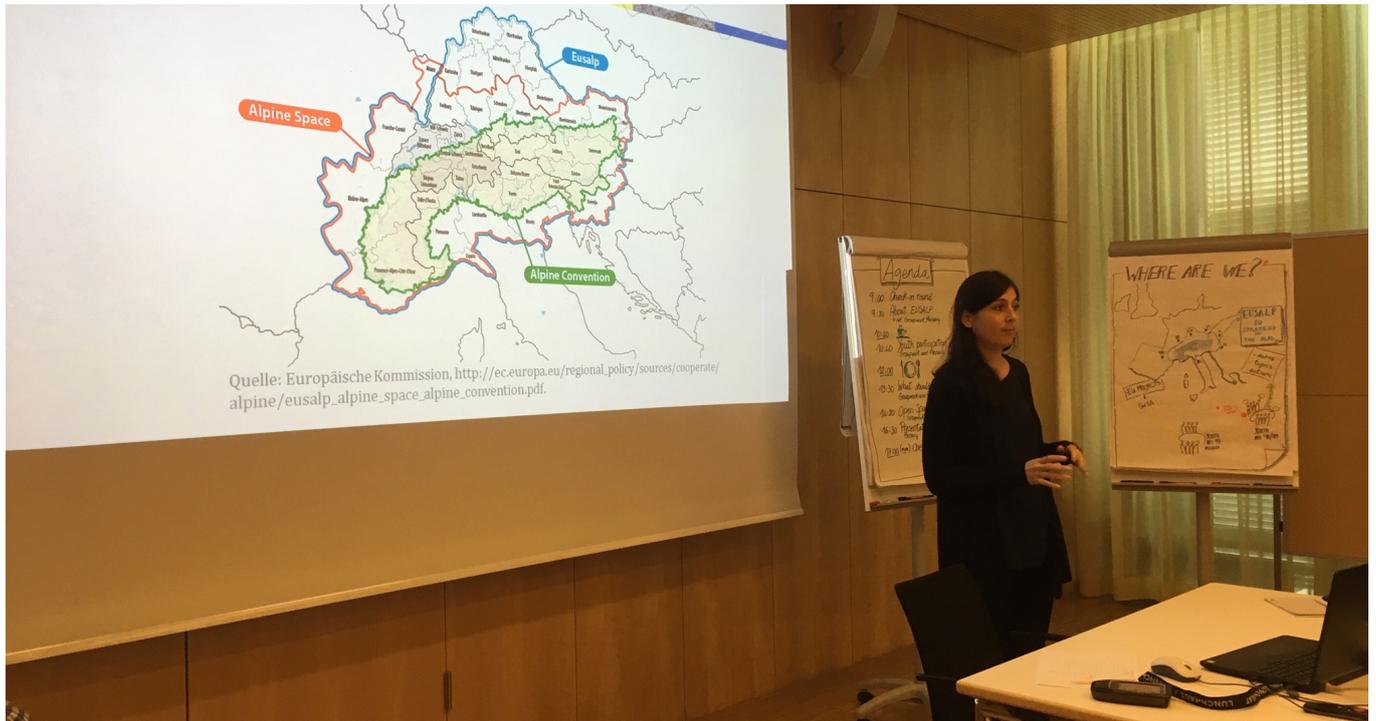
16:30 Presentation, Sum-up & Next steps
Plenary

17:00 (max) Check-out and END





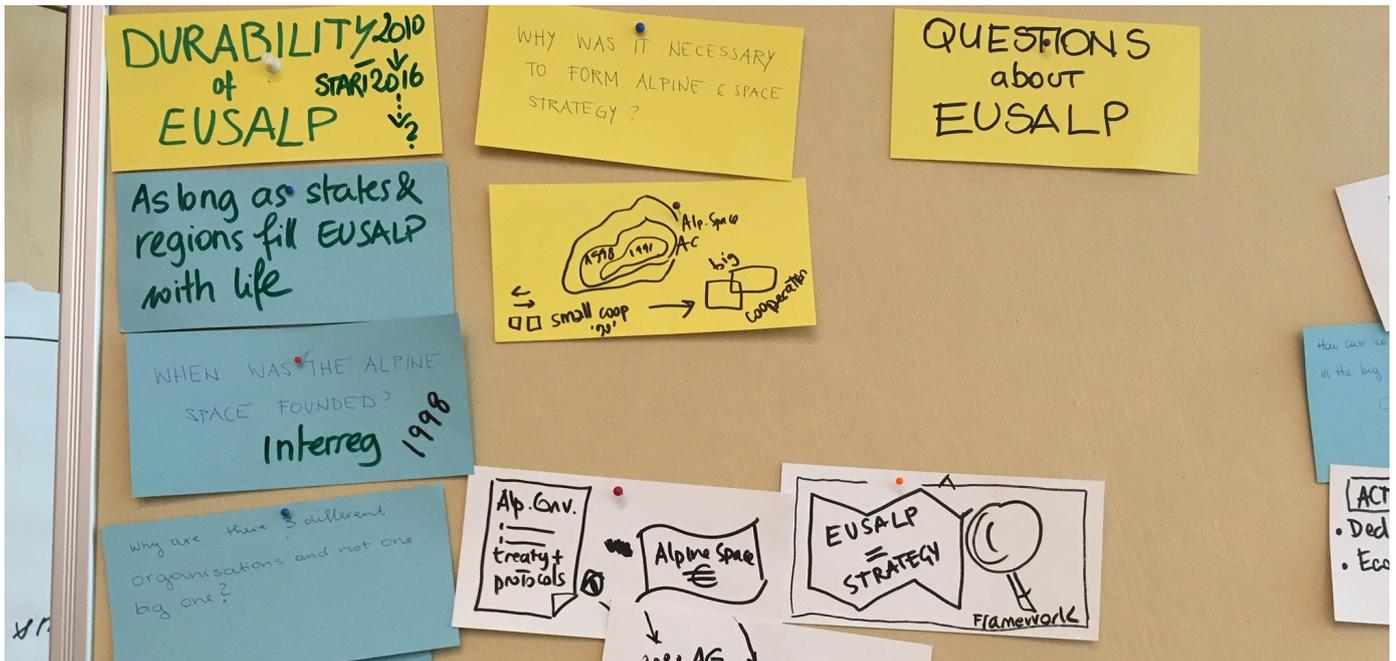
Visuals of main introduction topics: where are we, relationship between this workshop and EUSALP Forum, main EUSALP Institutions



Presentation of EUSALP by Melanie Plangger



The Crowd Lab is a method specially "patented" by Sociolab (www.sociolab.org) to revolutionize the structure of a traditional lecture and integrate the moment of inspiration provided by experts with a fluid and interactive dynamic, which is the moment of active involvement of the participants. The frontal input is followed by a moment of confrontation among the participants who, divided into small groups, are able to formulate shared questions to be submitted in a second round to the speaker/s.



CROWD-LAB QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

When was the Alpine Space founded? In 1998

Why was it necessary to develop the EUSALP strategy? Alpine Convention was signed in 1991, Alpine Space as space of European Projects was initiated in 1998, and then it became clearer that the cooperation from a small one was becoming a larger one; so it was a long process (2011-2016) to come to the idea of a larger strategy.

Durability of EUSALP? As long as States and regions fills EUSALP with life

What is the coordination/relationship between EUSALP, Alpine Space and Alpine Convention? Why are there three different organizations and not a big one?

The Alpine Convention is a treaty among 7 States with legal value, with protocols. The Alpine Space Programm is the european programm to finance projects in the alpine lands; EUSALP is the strategy regarding the alpine space, it is the big framework. The Alpine Convention is present as an observer in the Action Groups (AG) and in the Executive Board of EUSALP, so we are collaborating strongly with them.

What are the reasons for different perimeters and would it be possible to extend the EUSALP perimeter in the future? Different perimeters have a geographical scope, especially because there are not only mountains, but also plains and rivers are going from mountains to cities, as well as woods are also serving other areas. Yes an extension is possible, it will depend on what States and region decide.



Finding questions in small groups

How are cities involved in EUSALP? They are mainly involved in specific topics, while Regions and States are more deeply involved. Cities Networks are easier to involve in the strategy.

How are the Action Group Leaders recruited? It is on a voluntary basis, a Region can propose itself to become leader.

What are the main successes of EUSALP? We are working on an AlpTravel information platform, because actually if you want to travel across the Alps by public transportation means you have to gather information from many different sources in each country/region. We are also disseminating a model of dual education.

What is an example of concrete actions to tackle environmental problems and to contribute to in-depth transformation of the society? Action group 6 and 7 made a Declaration about protection of the Soil (<https://www.alpine-region.eu/file/3444/download?token=FU-qrNrX>) and group 7 is focussing on Ecological Connectivity.

What did young people do before EUSALP? There are/were many different platforms like YPCA, CYC, Youth Projects from CIPRA, Youth part of other EU projects.

EXPERIENCES AND NEEDS

What do we need for a good youth participation in EUSALP?



After a break, we continued in small groups sharing own experience of Youth Participation in different projects. Starting from their experiences, the participants were asked to answer as group to the question “What do we need for a good youth participation in EUSALP?”

Our experience of Y.P.

- YPAC
- CYC
- YOALIN
- YOUrALPS
- EVS
- VisPO
- Legambiente
- Cibra France
- Mountain Wilderness
- Service Civil International

What do we need for good Y.P. in EUSALP?

- Legitimation
- Freedom
- Honesty
- Accountability
- Time
- Money/Funds
- Structured Process and Facilitation
- Transparency of the process
- Transparency of Information
- Exchange at the same level

- CIPRA Italia
- Climathon
- WhatsAlps Youth
- Living Labs of CIPRA International
- GaYA
- EUSALP Workshop 2017
- Network of young Architects
- Student Workshops
- Regarding Communication and Information we would need a platform to:
 - work on common projects
 - see everything that is going on in the Alps
 - see successful cases of youth participation
 - have more diverse channel to reach young people

WITHIN EUSALP YOUTH PARTICIPATION SHOULD...

After the lunch break and some energizers, the participants were asked to work in small groups answering the questions “**What should be different thanks to youth participation in the EUSALP?** How/what should youth participation contribute to the EUSALP?” Each group suggested one sentence, explained it in plenary. It came out that some groups also answered the not asked questions “**EUSALP should...**”. Facilitators collected both families of sentences as follows.



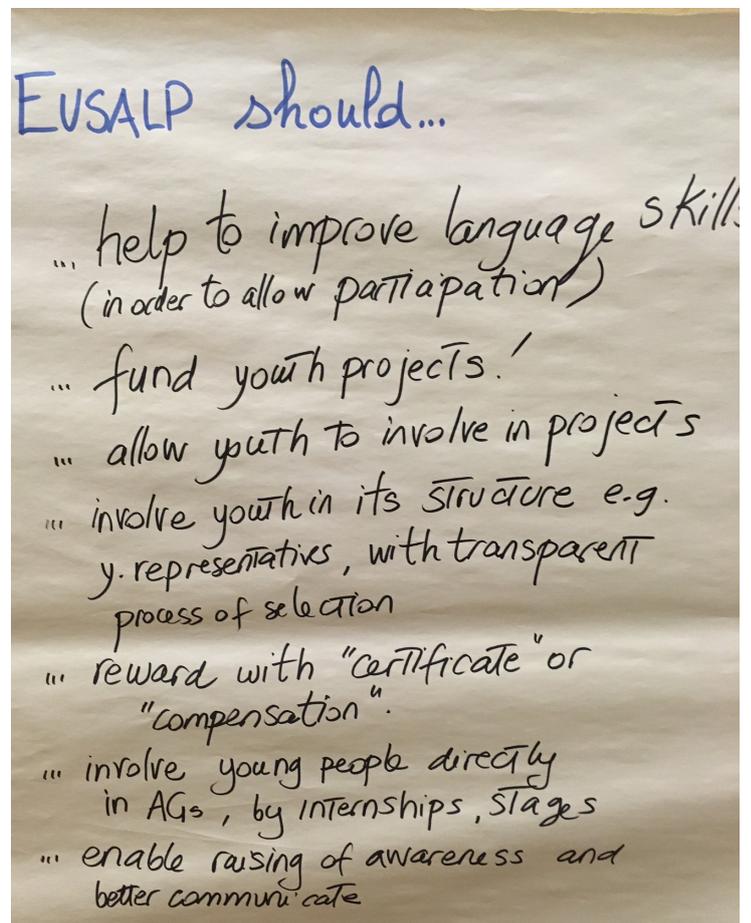
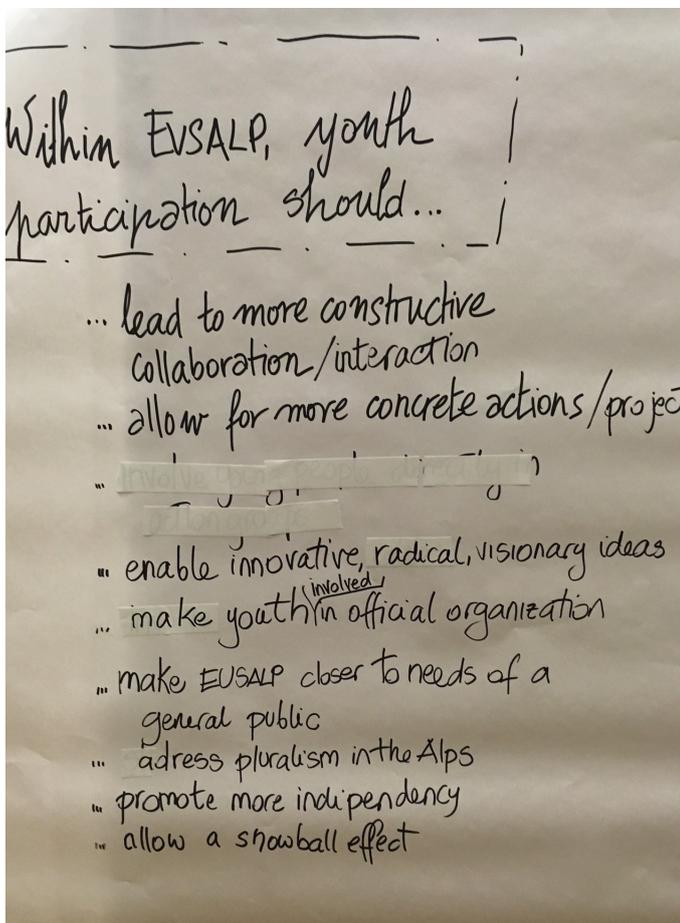
Working in small groups with EUSALP representatives

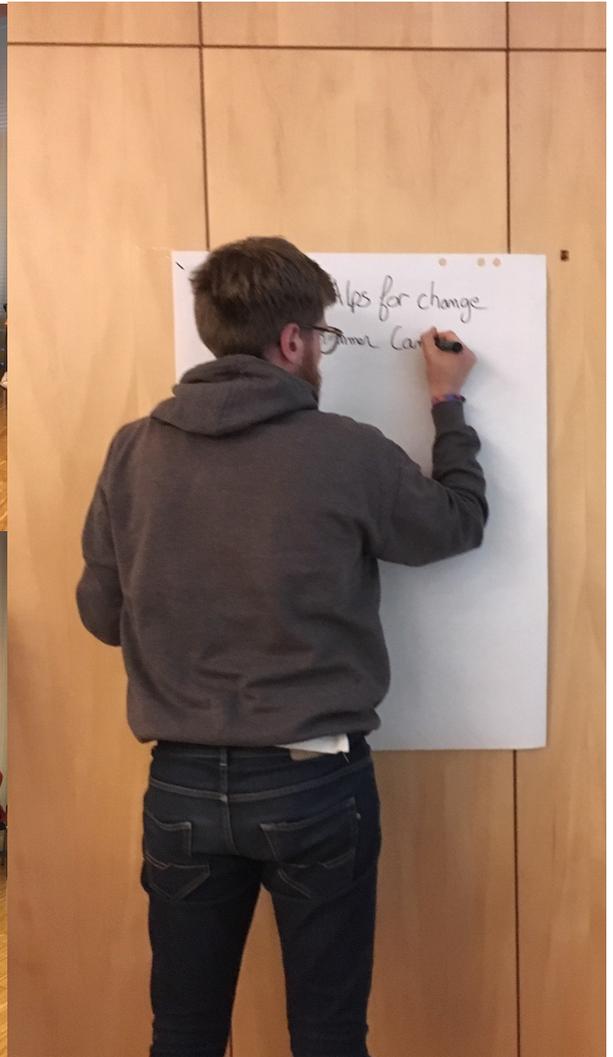
Within EUSALP Youth Participation should...

- lead to more constructive collaboration/interaction
- allow for more concrete actions/projects
- enable innovative, radical, visionary ideas
- make EUSALP closer to the needs of general public
- address pluralism in the Alps
- promote more independency
- allow a snowball effect

Regarding Youth participation EUSALP should...

- help to improve language skills (in order to allow participation)
- fund youth projects
- allow youth to involve in on going projects
- involve youth in its structure (e.g. youth representatives in AGs, by internships, stages)
- reward them with "certificates" or "compensation"
- enable raising of awareness and a better communication





OPEN SPACE: CONCRETE ACTIONS!

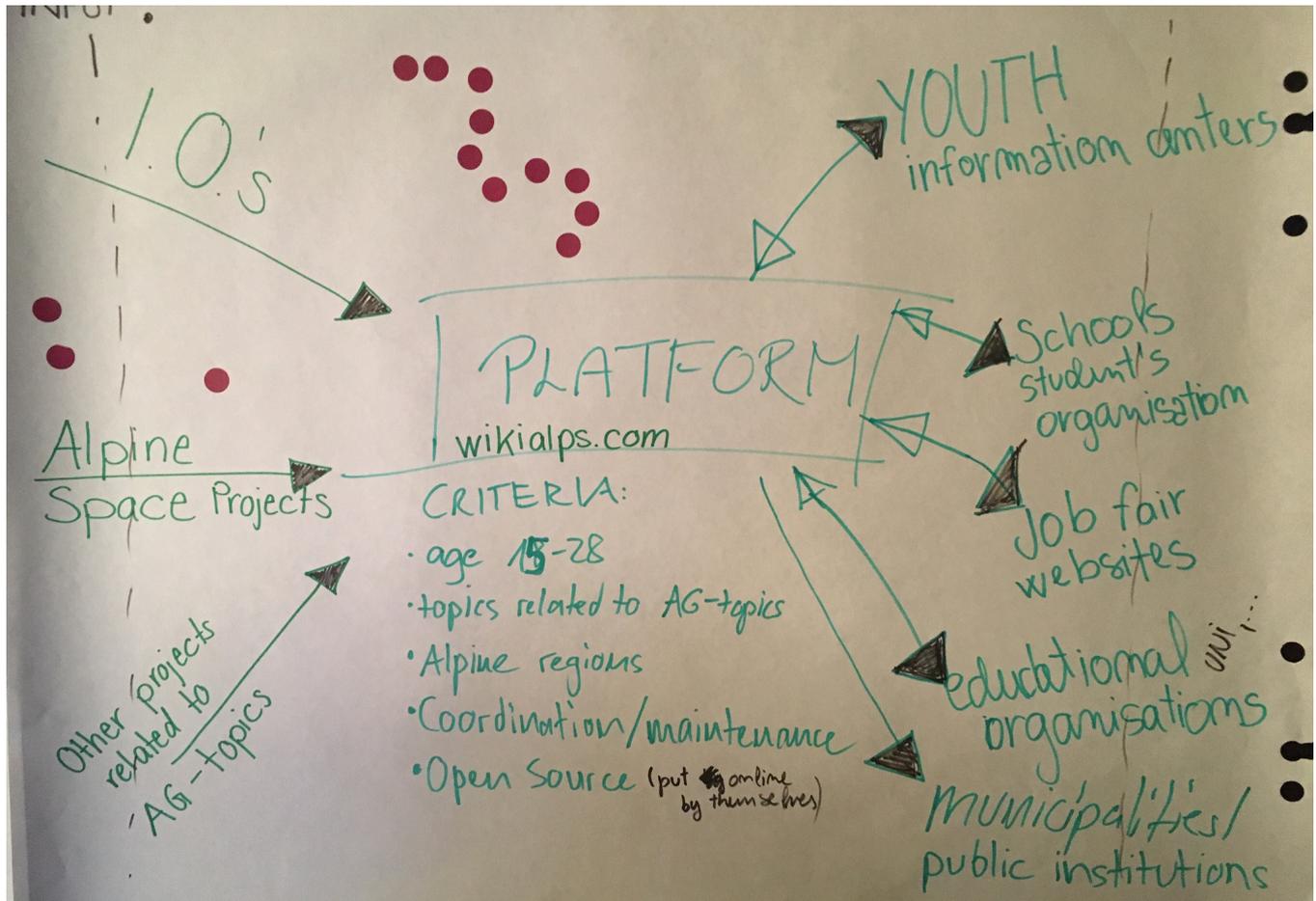
After a short moment of personal reflection in which participants were asked to reflect what they could imagine to do in EUSALP as concrete actions, they were invited to pitch their idea, explaining it to the others and to start an open space (OST) session.

4 Ideas have been develop and presented. Participants were also invited to vote for their two favorite ideas amongst the 4 ideas developed. All ideas received almost the same amount of points.

1. Platform for youth participation
2. Youth Alps for change - EUSALP Summer Camp
3. Raising awareness
4. Representatives of Youth to EUSALP

PLATFORM FOR YOUTH PARTICIPATION

Regarding this specific topic, the facilitators informed the group that a similar platform has been already developed by CIPRA International within a Youth in Action project with exactly the same aim; the reason for which it is not dynamic is that it needs someone to care for it (www.yapp-network.org)



YOUTH ALPS FOR CHANGE - EUSALP SUMMER CAMP

• Youth Alps for Change
Summer Camp

WHO?

- Groups from each countries of the EUSALP.
- For few weeks give the opportunities to discover each culture of the Alpine space

HOW LONG?

- To give a first experience of cooperation (international)
- To practice the alpine languages
- To discover the hosting region / community
- To improve the local economy.
- Direct communication between EUSALP representative and youth. And concrete workshop project.

• YOUTH ALPS FOR CHANGE

Activities:

- Languages classes :- Each language of the alpine space
- They can chose and change during the camp.
- Just to discover, no grades or exams.
- Entertainment: - Arts - sports - Visits
- Gardening - Cooking - Games.
- EUSALP Workshop: - 9 topics.
- Mixed groups
- To conclude a meeting to give proposal to EUSALP representative.

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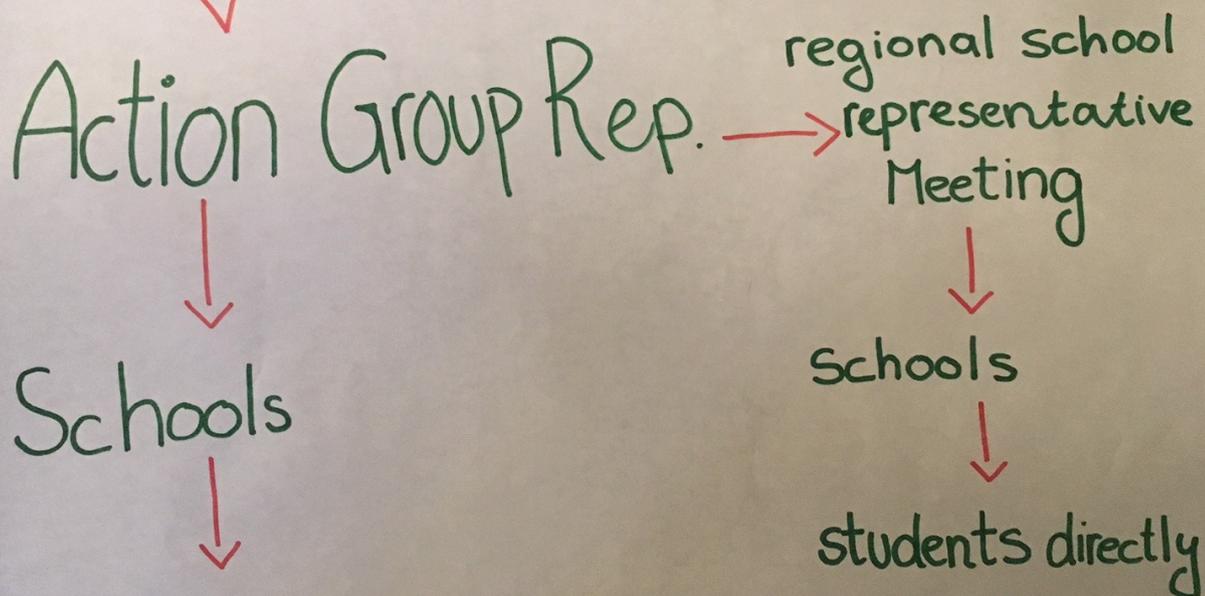
RAISING AWARENESS

Raise awareness



EUSALP

Multipliers
=> snowball effect

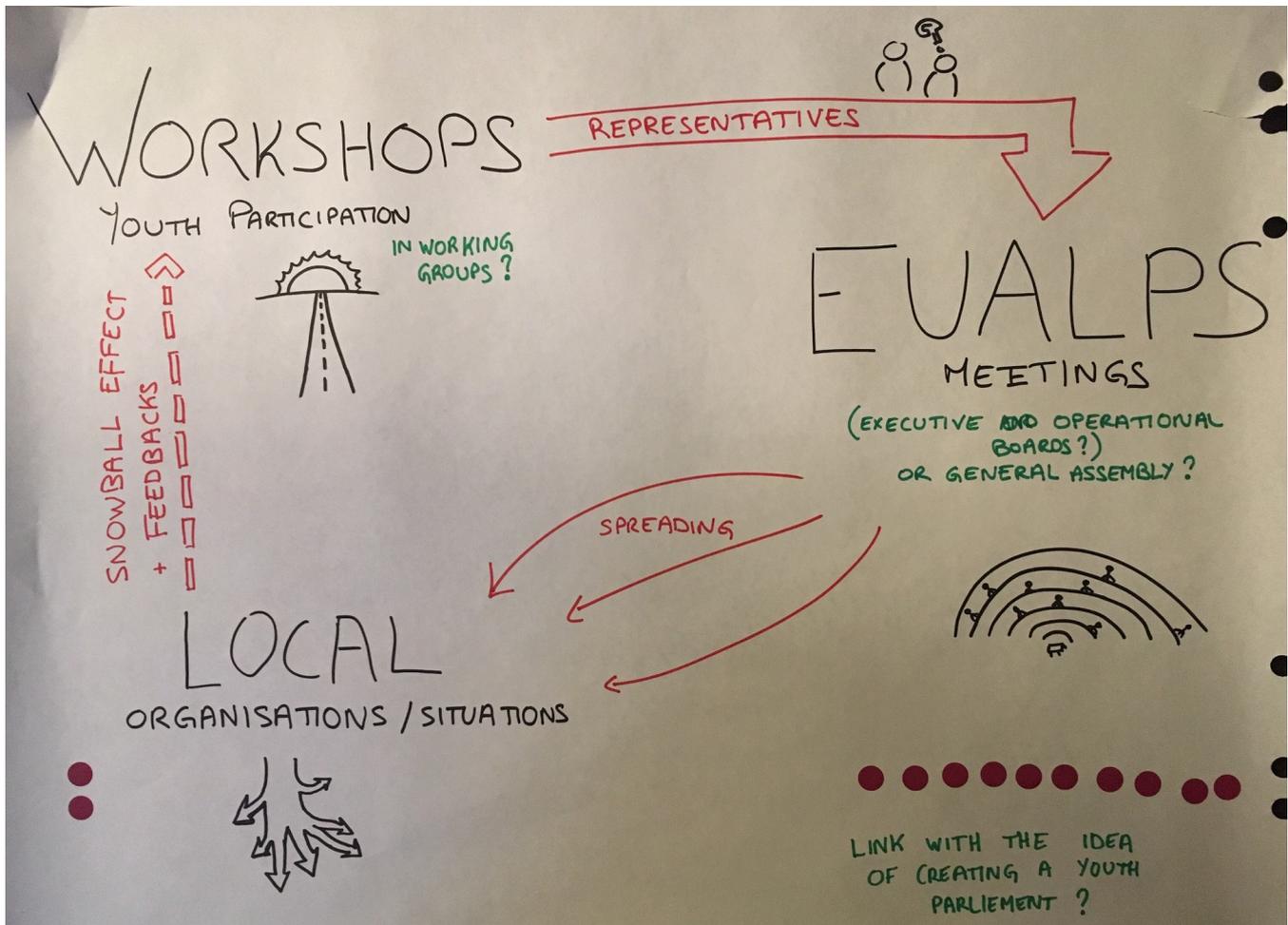


Workshops

GOAL: - Inform students

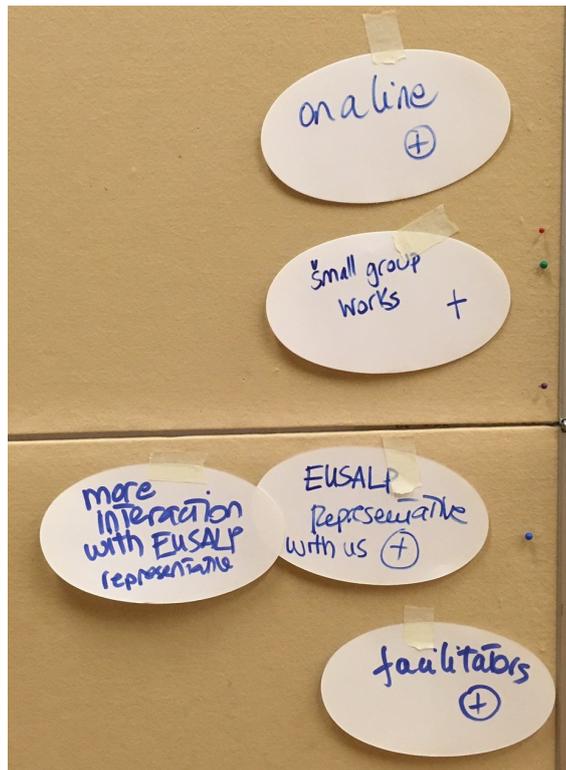
- Raise interest in youth participation

REPRESENTATIVES OF YOUTH TO EUSALP



Two other proposals were presented but not further developed at this stage:

1. A youth parliament to EUSALP
2. Development of intergenerational services and sharing experiences



FEEDBACK: WHAT WOULD YOU KEEP AND WHAT WOULD YOU LEAVE FOR NEXT WORKSHOP?

To be kept:

Facilitators

EUSALP representatives working with us, even more interactions

Small groupwork

Standing on a line (Ice breakers)

All the participants of the 1st workshop

To be left: nothing



ATTACHMENTS

1. List of participants with signatures
2. Presentation by Melanie Plangger
3. Invitation letter
4. Flyer