

# Governance and Youth in the Alps

Strengthening innovative and participatory democracy

Involving youth in decision-making processes

Increasing national and transnational governance

Familiarise youth with complex policies

**Young people** tend to leave the Alpine space because they lack personal and professional fulfilment. Furthermore a majority of decision-makers remain unaware of the benefits a young active population brings to society. In cooperation with eight partners from all over the Alps GaYA aims to increase the quality of democratic processes in the Alpine space by enhancing the involvement of young people in regional governance and by

developing new approaches for decision makers. Therefore, new democratic methods are collected throughout the project and made available in order to overcome the challenges of territorial cohesion and participatory involvement of young people in everyday political actions. The implementation of innovative governance forms has great potential for increasing sustainable and fair decision making.

## Outputs

**Comparative Report** on democratic innovations and participatory democracy in the Alpine space, which is including decision-makers, public institutions and youth.

**Participation Toolkit** of concrete methods and tools based on Comparative Report and on the merged Local Action Plans of Participation.

**Policy recommendations** on the relevance of participatory democracy in decision-making processes, in order to underline the importance of transnational exchange and cooperation on institutional innovation from national to local level.

## Activities

### Comparative Analysis: Democratic Innovation and Participation

The project departs from a comparative analysis of democratic innovation and participatory democracy in the Alpine space. In order to effectively compare and foster the exchange of good practices and innovative decision-making methods, GaYA analyses legal framework and collects good methods within the Alpine space.

### Policy-makers and Youth in Action: mutual learning

Based on the findings of the Comparative analysis, a set of trainings and workshops will be conducted with the aim to educate, practice and motivate decision/policy-makers to use innovative democratic methods for involving youth in their Agenda. To provide a starting ground for implementation of selected measures, Local Action Plans of Participation will be developed and compiled into a Participation Toolkit.

### From Theory to Practice:

#### Testing participatory democracy in pilot areas

In this phase the implementation of the Local Action Plans of Participation (LAPP) with the support of the Toolkit, aims to go one step further in the concrete establishment of local participative processes, including youth, which participated in the trainings and workshops. Decision-makers and local youth together will test and report the implementation of the actions selected from their own LAPP with participatory methods.

#### Youth Film Contest

Furthermore, Young people will be involved, by producing film clips that portray participation/youth governance in Alpine region from their own perspective, in a transnational creative youth contest.

### Funding

Total eligible costs: 1.092.748 EUR  
ERDF grant: 928.836 EUR

### Duration

Project start date: 01/11/2016  
Project end date: 28/02/2019

### Contact

Michaela.Hogenboom@cipra.org

[www.alpine-space.eu/gaya](http://www.alpine-space.eu/gaya)

 [www.facebook.com/project.GaYA/](https://www.facebook.com/project.GaYA/)