

Recommendations

on Climate Change Education in the Alps

adopted by the XVIII Alpine Conference (22 January 2025)

In order to further the development of climate change education in the Alps, especially in the field of education for the age group 5 to 19 years and based on the work carried out during the Slovenian Presidency of the Alpine Convention 2023-2024 through events and a best practice collection, the Alpine Conference recommends the following fields of action:

1. favour climate change education in the Alps as a holistic, open, interdisciplinary, cross-curricular and flexible educational process, based on a shared vision, attachment to the Alps and cognitively, socially and emotionally informed decision-making for sustainable development;
2. innovate in all five areas of the UNESCO 2030 Roadmap for Education for Sustainable Development¹ to achieve a qualitative breakthrough in terms of increasingly opening schools in the Alps, by establishing partnerships with parents, experts, local inhabitants and organisations and businesses, developing intergenerational learning programmes and implementing school-wide sustainability initiatives with the accent on the intermediary institutions;
3. provide the actors of climate change education with adequate information material, suitable moral, staff and financial support, both at school level and by developing networking opportunities across the Alps, and promote sharing of pedagogical resources;
4. activate and involve youth early and meaningfully in decision-making, as well as possibly other stakeholders, by using education, adjusted to the local situation, to address climate change anxiety and empower youth to develop and achieve their vision of living in the Alps;
5. promote transformative education and use of participatory teaching methods, emphasising critical thinking, outdoor education, and problem-based learning about local challenges, in an age-specific, inclusive approach, stimulating the reflection of daily routines and understanding of alpine environmental and climate issues by applying a wide range of formats and tools, along with better public outreach.

¹ Advancing policy, Transforming learning environments, Building capacities of educators, Empowering and mobilising youth, Accelerating local level actions in UNESCO (2020) *Education for Sustainable Development: A Roadmap*.