



"YOUTH AT THE TOP" COLLECTIVE EVENT

PROJECT SHEET

Synthetic version available in F, D, I, E

1. SUMMARY OF THE OPERATION

→ **A great symbolic moment directed at youth**, in the form of meetings in key sites (refuges, summits) in **the mountains, at the same time, in all the countries of the Alps** and in the Carpathians (a great symbolic dimension given through notions about light, the shelter of the refuge, the simultaneity of the event beyond borders).

Key words: youth, Alps, mountain culture, citizenship, light, collective imagination, symbolic, experience

2. GOALS

- ✓ **Setting up a collective operation having a great symbolic impact**
- ✓ **Reinforcing mountain culture in young people as well as their feeling of belonging to the area**
- ✓ **Strengthening their relationship with nature and the protected area**
- ✓ **Enabling the young people of the area to “experience” mountain nature & giving youngsters who are not necessarily used to it the opportunity to try out and experience the mountain environment** (experiencing a night in a refuge, etc.)
- ✓ Mobilising Alpine players around an original unifying, operation
- ✓ Making visible the educational initiatives of the APAs by a common initiative throughout the Alpine arc & Reinforcing the notion of solidarity and collective construction among APAs
- ✓ Over time enabling the greatest number of young people possible (access for all) to take part.
- ✓ Setting up a convivial project, which has a pleasurable side and creates a social link in the valley

Educational goals:

Thanks to this operation a large number of educational goals linked to mountain education will be met (*cf. detailed documents which exist on this subject*). In particular:

- **Knowledge:** general knowledge of mountains, mountain culture, stakes, players...
- **Know-how:** mountain “actions” (observations, professions, ...)
- **Behavioural skills:** individual and group behaviour in the mountains...
- **Ability to act:** civic commitment...
- **Telling people:** outside communication (participant = future ambassador, broker)

Important: This is not an “educational” day in the traditional sense, but about “letting someone experience”, creating memories. The fundamental idea = the collective mountain experience

3. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

A major collective project¹: simple, yet ambitious, **directed at the young people of the Alps.**

An annual event; a general setting for a collective action at the same time in several places in the Alps

An international event involving the Alps as a whole and the Carpathians with the goal of showing how groups of young ones are mobilised for mountains

A project, run as a **partnership** between ALPARC and Educ'Alpes, which mobilises groups of young people from the 7 Alpine countries on a specific annual date, **in an active, civic process, with a symbolic and imaginative approach:**

- ✓ One sole date, in July
- ✓ A hike with a night in the mountains
- ✓ In symbolic places throughout the Alps (summits, passes, refuges, bivouacs...)
- ✓ Possibly around civic actions (e.g. taking up supplies, helping a refuge keeper or shepherd, worksites ...)¹
- ✓ An artistic restitution (photographic work, plays of light...) carried out by the young people themselves

4. TARGETED PUBLIC

Formal or informal groups of young people **from 6 to around 25 years of age.**

Principally coming from APA territories and the gateway towns of the Alpine arc.

Open to intergenerational involvement by inviting voluntary accompaniment from the territory.

5. DATE & VENUES

Date: The 3rd edition of the operation will be held on **11th July 2017**: departure: 11th July, return: 12th July.

Venue: In any protected area in the seven countries of the Alpine arc and in the Carpathians. Essentially in refuges, but also possible anywhere on symbolic high ground if there is no refuge (summit, bivouac, pass ...)
Open to partners and participants outside the protected areas.

6. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

1. **A general framework** is drawn up collectively around common values, but locally **freedom of initiative** is given (methodology document provided: handbook). Each APA site/group can thus interpret the basic collective idea in its own way
2. **Collective and adaptable communication tools are** created and shared.
3. **Beforehand**, the young people are the actors who prepare the outing (wishes, ideas, initiatives...)
4. **On the same day, every year**, a large number of groups of young people take part in a day+night in the mountains all over the Alpine arc and in the Carpathians.
5. **Day time : perhaps a civic action**, if opportunity and desired (a collective action in the general interest of mountains and their players)
6. **Evening: An artistic, imaginative action – suggested theme around light.**

¹ From an idea of Claude Dautrey, PNEcrins : "... This project represents a simple operation of highly symbolic value which would consist of experiencing, as a class, a mountaineering club or other, [...] a really festive moment of time, happy to be in the mountains, to roam about there, at the same time being useful there. In addition to possible mutual assistance, it's above all about having a real experience in the mountains, including at night, and that this intense experience could perhaps be the opportunity for a work of photography by a professional who would compile a collection of photographs of all the operations in a multilingual work: a magazine, an exhibition or any other support using the image as the universal language of the Alps. In all, this project can include in the neighbourhood of several tens of experiences and light up a summer's night with the fires of the greatest and simplest form of solidarity throughout the Alpine arc. The intergenerational side is a side which could also be taken into account."

7. **Night time: a collective experience in the mountains** (Observing/ listening to the mountains (scenery, wildlife) at twilight, at dawn, gazing at the stars, a night walk, sleeping in the refuge, artistic work around the night, etc.)
8. **During and after: active communication and sharing with others** (relating the youngsters' enjoyment and experience): e.g. restitution by the young people, outside communication (general population, families, press...)
9. **During and after: the artistic (photographic) rendering of the operation, striking and understandable internationally.** Images go beyond the language barrier (+editorial project support)

7. ORGANISATION, DISTRIBUTION OF TASKS

At the Alpine level:

- Strategic **Coordination** of the operation (organisation, communication) : **ALPARC and Educ'Alpes,**
- **International technical** Coordination (collective tools) : **ALPARC**

At a local level:

- **Coordination and leadership** of the project with **group (s) of local youngsters** (accompaniment, leading, overnight stay...): APA, association, refuge, communities,

What you have to do as a partner:

Initiate an action in the mountains which requires making a journey there, a time to be shared around a night in the mountains with young people from the worlds of education, sport or culture or all three at once. You should plan it to take place on the date collectively fixed in advance and be in a position to finance (or have financed) leaders, transport (as limited as possible), accommodation and catering during the action.

8. TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL PARTNERSHIPS

At the Alpine level and in the Carpathians:

At the global international level, funding is necessary for coordination (In 2017, ALPARC will once again benefit from co-funding from the BMUB for international coordination). Technical partnerships are possible but limited.

At a national and local level:

Technical partnerships, as well as possible local funding, **differing according to the countries and the various organisers** > to be defined by each structure, or by country. The project partners (APAs, etc) can group together by country to look for technical partners and funding at a regional or national level as the case may be.

For 2017, ALPARC is benefiting once more from co-funding by the BMUB – the German Ministry for the Environment. This subvention covers primarily general coordination and communication, but, as in the 2015 and 2016 editions, ALPARC has been able to put aside a budget devoted to the local support of the partners (APAs members of ALPARC) in the Alpine countries (a contribution to the expenses incurred for the young people : accommodation, meals ,transport).

9. CALENDAR

- **February 2017:** Call for participation in all the Alpine countries and in the Carpathians: form expressing interest to be sent in before 12th April 2017.
- **Between February and April 2017:** Identification of all interested partners and constitution of the 2017 partnership
- **April 2017:** only for ALPARC members: “application for financing” procedure.
- **April - June 2017:** Stage of preparation and organisation for the local 2017 events.
- **April - June 2017:** Development or updating of needed common communication tools.
- **3rd edition of the event 11th July 2017.**
- **From end July 2017:** Collecting and diffusion of feedback and artistic creations of each group of young people. Making of a common artistic work (video)
- **End July – September 2017:** Feedback and assessment of the operation.
- **From October 2017 :** Preparation of the 4th edition 2018 and diffusion of the 2017 common artistic work
 - **Official Website:** <http://youth-at-the-top.org/it/>
 - **Facebook Page:** <https://www.facebook.com/YATevent>

For more details please contact:

ALPARC: letizia.arneodo@alparc.org / 33 (0)4 79 26 55 03

Educ'Alpes (For France) : isabelle.roux@educalpes.fr / 04.92.53.60.96