

**Solidarity  
Water  
Europe**



**Youth  
Water  
Sanitation  
Culture  
Advocacy  
Field Projects  
Solidarity**

**Activity  
report  
SWE 2012**



**Our Mission**

**A Word from the President**

**Our Participation in the 6<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum**

**Our Programmes in 2012**

**Administration, Financing and Budget Breakdown**

*When, in the same year, the Chairman of the board hands over the reins and the Secretary General heads off to support the Swiss Cooperation office in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, even the strongest of teams could feel orphaned. However, this is no ordinary team and with the arrival of new people and new energy they were able to ensure continuity while developing new ideas.*

*2012 has provided us with the opportunity to take stock, to review our strengths and our weaknesses and to strengthen relations with our collaborators and partners. The year we have been able to hone our role and confirm our added value.*

*There is nothing like a period of crisis and instability for facing up to reality and realising the scope of the challenges ahead. We know that the entire planet and its ecosystems are threatened. Solutions exist, and we human beings need to apply them like the hiker who defines his path as he walks.*

*The notion of acting local and thinking global comes into its own as we set out the markers together. It is with this in mind that Solidarity Water Europe draws more than ever on the five principles of the Strasbourg Declaration "Re-learning about Water", our founding text.*

The five principles are:

#### **THE DEMOCRACY OF WATER**

*A "Shared Heritage", water resources must be shared fairly among the different users.*

#### **THE PROTECTION OF ACQUATIC ENVIRONMENTS**

*Human activities must respect ecosystems : this objective requires an integrated management approach, with the priorities being set by the people and water resource users.*

#### **WATER SERVICES FOR A FAIR ECONOMY**

*Water is a capital resource. In managing it we must be economically efficient, but we must ensure that all the technical and financial choices are also socially acceptable.*

#### **WATER, A FACTOR IN LAND DEVELOPMENT**

*As an essential element for most species, the water of our rivers, lakes, water tables and marshes must be integrated into land development policy at all levels: local, national and international.*

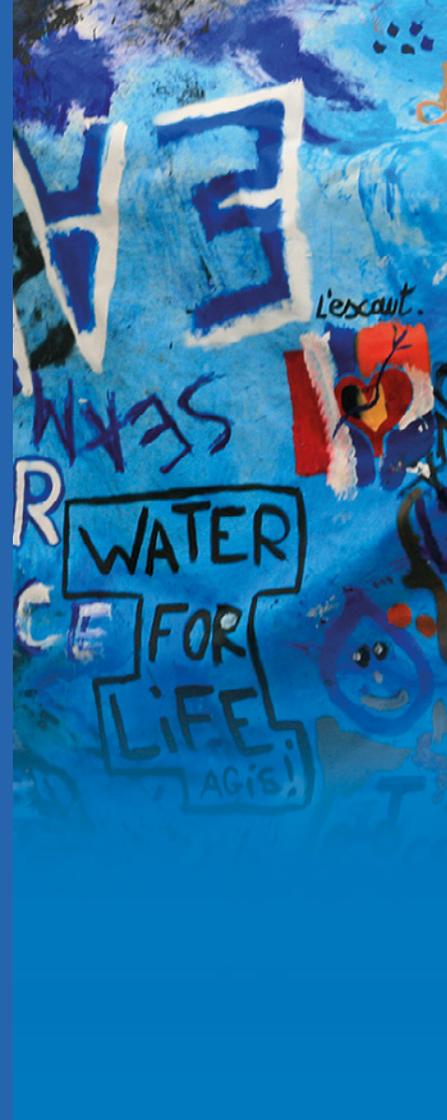
#### **WATER, A SOURCE OF LEARNING**

*Knowledge about water must be shared widely. This is why Solidarity Water Europe is stepping up its education, awareness-raising and information activities targeting all audiences, as well as encouraging research and information sharing among the different partners in water management.*

*The main lesson we have learnt in 2012 is that crises can be overcome providing we remain true to our fundamental values.*



**Raymond Jost**  
President





**SOLIDARITY WATER EUROPE (SWE)** is an international non-governmental organisation created in 1998 at the joint initiative of the Council of Europe and the International Secretariat for Water (ISW) with the support of the French Water Agencies Committee. Its headquarters are in Strasbourg and its field of action is that of the Council of Europe (47 countries on the European continent), in particular the Rhine River basin and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

**Its missions are:**

- To develop all forms of solidarity so that the people of Europe, particularly the poorest, can have access to safe water, sanitation and a better quality of life,
- To inform the public and raise awareness about their role in water management
- To promote participatory and rational water management according to hydrographical basin and in compliance with the principles of democratic debate.

To fulfil these missions, SWE sets itself the following objectives:



- To promote democratic management of water
- To raise awareness and mobilise the public, in particular young people
- To encourage fair access to safe water and sanitation for all
- To protect aquatic resources and environments
- To share knowledge and develop cooperation between East and West



In 2012, as part of its missions and thanks to the various partnerships and projects led in particular with the International Secretariat for Water, SWE carried out a wide range of youth, advocacy and cultural activities within the 6th World Water Forum that was held in Marseille in March. The activities organised as part of the lead up to and during the Forum itself reconfirmed SWE's place and role in the water sector, particularly in reiterating the importance of youth participation and highlighting the stakes facing this resource in Central and Eastern Europe.

### Session on fair access to water and sanitation for the poorest



SWE, in partnership with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), coordinated the preparatory process and the session on EU Target 7 in the European Regional process on fair access to water and sanitation for the poorest. The session was chaired by Chantal Demilcamps (UNECE) and Thierry Umbehr (SWE). **The objectives of the session were to present examples of good practice, to promote them and encourage commitments on the part of key organisations and governments to implement the solutions identified.** The three areas of inequality are geographical disparities, socio-cultural disparities and finally the inability to pay for water and sanitation services.

**The messages and solutions raised by this session are:**

- **A lack of access to information:** access to information enables users and other stakeholders to realise that there is a lack of fair access and to take appropriate action. It is also important to be able to communicate on good practices across Europe so the best solutions can be found.

- **The need for a legislative and legal framework:** this is crucial to upholding the right to water in all countries and to developing a holistic approach.

- In the context of the Protocol on Water and Health **all member countries must be regularly informed**, supported and monitored to assess how fair access to water and sanitation is in their countries.

**SWE also organised the participation of a strong Moldovan delegation**, made up of the Minister for the Environment, a national member of parliament, three ministry section heads, four local elected representatives and two chairpersons of water consumer associations so they could share their experiences about the reality of access to water and sanitation in their country. This delegation participated in the official sessions of the Forum relating to both the political and regional processes.

## The World Youth Parliament for Water



*The 85 young people of the WYPW at Canal de Provence, le Tholonet, Aix-en-Provence*

In the context of the 6<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, Solidarity Water Europe coordinated the World Youth Parliament for Water with the International Secretariat for Water. **The WYPW consists of 85 young women and men aged between 18 and 25 from 71 countries around the world** who came together after 6 months of preparation to discuss, select and share their solutions on **three of the key themes of the Forum: access to water and sanitation, climate change and water governance.**

With these objectives in mind, during the week prior to the 6<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, the young parliamentarians were hosted by the town of Aix-en-Provence and Canal de Provence to finalise their work. The result was a **Charter clarifying the governance of the WYPW and a joint declaration** which was adopted within the Chamber of the Regional Council of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur and then presented and defended at the 6<sup>th</sup> World

Water Forum. The young parliamentarians were well prepared to present their proposals in the official Forum sessions and the side-events. They were also able to present their work at the Forum's closing session on "Commitments".

Furthermore, through the Joint Declaration, **the young people undertook to carry out specific actions (field projects, advocacy and awareness-raising)** both at local level and catchment level over the next three years until the next World Water Forum to be held in South Korea in 2015. Today, the

WYPW constitutes a movement made up not only of the 85 young parliamentarians but 5000 other young people from around the world who are defending the cause of water and making their voices heard by regional and international political institutions.

The success of the WYPW at the 6<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum was to meet the challenge of mobilising youth from around the world during the Forum and to establish firm, long-term commitments through specific projects. The space given to these young people at a high political level confirmed the role of SWE as a key stakeholder in mobilising civil society organisations focusing on youth, the environment and "water". By holding the WYPW, SWE was able to export its know-how gathered over 14 years beyond the boundaries of Europe to North America, Africa and Asia, where the WYPW approach and SWE's expertise are highly solicited.

### **Lilya Abdurashitov – Member of Parliament from Uzbekistan:**

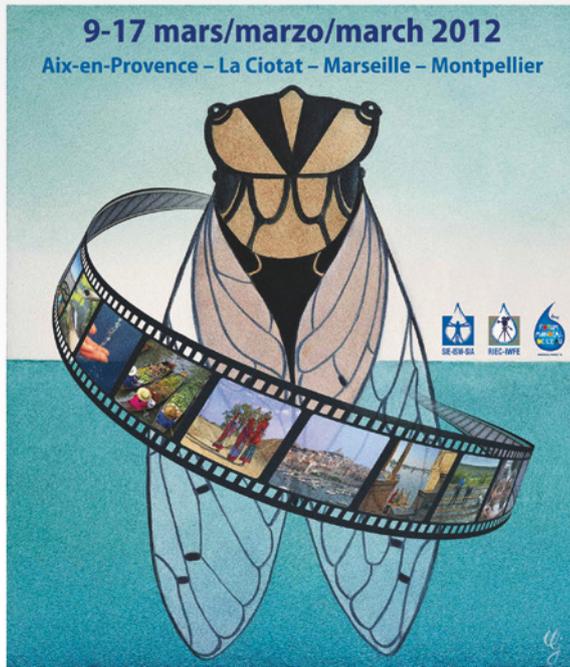
*"In Uzbekistan, the Aral sea is well known because it has been emptied by irrigation for agriculture. I would like to set up a Central Asian Youth Parliament for Water mobilising young people from the whole region to discuss these problems. Youth must be heard by political decision-makers as this is where the future of the Aral Sea lies."*



## The International “Water and Film” Events (IWFE)

### Les 3<sup>e</sup> Rencontres internationales « Eau et Cinéma »

Los 3<sup>ros</sup> Encuentros Internacionales “Agua y Cine”  
The 3<sup>rd</sup> International “Water and Film” Events



SWE organised, in collaboration with ISW, the International “Water and Film” Events. The IWFE present an arena for debate, encounters, awareness-raising and the creation of films. In 2011, the international competition was announced through more than 800 organisations and individuals. More than 250 films were submitted under five categories:

- Documentary – Personal Stories
- Documentary Science-Education
- Professional Documentary
- VidéEau
- Soft Spot

The awards ceremony was held on 11 March, on the eve of the opening of the World Water Forum, at the Pharo Palace. Free of charge, and open to all, 450 people attended the event. Of the 17 awards presented, Tatiana Bezede of Moldova received the Bronze Drop for her film “Water, the beginning of all beginnings”, and Arbias Lloluni, from Kosovo (member of the WYPW) received the public’s choice award for “Differences”, following a public vote on the Dailymotion website.

SWE also co-organised with ISW and Images de Ville two film-screening and debate evenings during the week of the WYPW in Aix-en-Provence, bringing together 250 people.

## Sails of Solidarity



For four months from **December 2011 to March 2012**, the sailing ship “Sails of Solidarity” traversed the Mediterranean, visiting Tanger, Oran, Bizerte, Palermo, Bonifacio, Ajaccio, La Seyne-sur-Mer, La Ciotat, Marseille and Barcelona, to talk about fresh and salt water. Through this project, ISW, SWE and their partners showed that the sharing of knowledge encourages the assuming of responsibility and solidarity among all water

management stakeholders. This Mediterranean trip, with its many stop-overs, field visits, educational workshops and debates led to the development of solutions to scale up initiatives. The results of this trip were presented and exhibited publicly at the old port of La Ciotat and in Marseille as well as in schools and the Citizens' House for Water.



## The Citizens' House for Water

Coordinated by ISW, the Citizens' House for Water provides an arena for dialogue, advocacy and cultural expression within the Forum programme. SWE also participated in these activities, organising an exhibition on Moldova and debates on decentralised cooperation between France and Moldova and on European decentralised financing mechanisms based on solidarity for water.

## Advocacy

# 1 Encourage decentralised cooperation with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe

Solidarity Water Europe continues to carry out advocacy actions targeting stakeholders in decentralised cooperation to **encourage field projects, step-up knowledge transfer and strengthen relations between Western and Eastern Europe**. During various meetings among European stakeholders, Solidarity Water Europe mobilised its network in Central and Eastern Europe to **present experience from the field regarding access to water and sanitation in these countries**. During these discussions, many partners from the West discovered the reality of Central and Eastern Europe, becoming aware of the needs and realising that they need to also direct their cooperation projects to these areas.

To further encourage decentralised cooperation with Eastern Europe, **SWE focussed on Moldova and published a handbook entitled “Moldova, your Next Destination! Guidelines for Cooperation with Moldova”,** which aims to facilitate the task of donor elected authorities (municipalities, water and sanitation boards etc.) and organisations that would like to initiate cooperation with Moldova in the field of water and sanitation. The handbook presents the general hydrographical context in Moldova and how water is managed. It aims to provide the key elements for successful cooperation including partner contacts, information on existing projects etc. The handbook was launched during the 6<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum. The presence of a large Moldovan delegation also reinforced these messages and provided a basis for discussions and establishing partnerships with other stakeholders present.



## 2 Promote decentralised financing mechanisms for water and sanitation based on solidarity

Since 2011, SWE has been involved in promoting decentralised financing mechanisms based on solidarity to improve access to water and sanitation for the poorest.

In this context, much work was carried out with the pS-Eau in 2012 to co-organise information sessions (in particular during the 6th World Water Forum and during the 10<sup>th</sup> European Conference of the Implementation of the European Water Framework Directive organised by INBO in Istanbul in October 2012), to promote these mechanisms at the Council of Europe and to support interested

countries. Because of its network, its understanding of the situation on the ground and its capacity to mobilise its partners, Global Water Solidarity (GWS, a global network hosted by the UNDP) asked SWE to coordinate a European platform on these financing mechanisms. This platform provides an opportunity for promoting and sharing experiences and expertise on such mechanisms underway around Europe. It is also a catalyst that can support and develop partnerships between the various approaches of decentralised financing based on solidarity that are emerging in Europe.



In December 2012, SWE organised a strategy workshop on these mechanisms in Europe. The event brought together all European partners to specify the expectations, orientations and priority actions to be carried out to develop these mechanisms. Furthermore, through its presence at the World Water Forum and its participation in the various political, regional and thematic sessions, the Moldovan delegation was particularly interested to learn about such mechanisms (like the 1% for water or urban-rural solidarity systems). Upon his return home, the Minister for the Environment announced his desire to implement a principle of solidarity between areas with a safe water supply (mainly urban centres) and rural areas, to increase the national contribution to infrastructure projects which are often financed by bilateral and multilateral donors. The Moldovan Ministry asked SWE to support them in thinking about setting up such a system at a national level. SWE, along with French and Swiss experts subsequently organised a workshop on this issue in Moldova in November 2012, to present the concept, the various options and to study how such mechanisms can be organised. A workgroup made up of local Moldovan stakeholders was created and has begun to work on developing such a system in Moldova.

In France, SWE works together with the pS-Eau, the CNCDCNE Group and the Coalition Eau on the 1% solidarity for water mechanism.



## The Youth Programme: Involving Youth, an on-going and stimulating challenge

### 1 The 11<sup>th</sup> European Youth Parliament for Water (EYPW)



Meeting for the 11<sup>th</sup> EYPW: SWE, Armenian Water and Sewerage Company, SAUR and Asian Development Bank

In June 2012, after studying the different candidate countries, SWE chose Armenia to host the 11<sup>th</sup> EYPW which will bring together almost 100 participants from 15 European countries. They will discover, discuss and undertake actions relating to “water governance”.

To be held in the context of “2013, International Year of Water Cooperation”, organised by UNESCO, the objective of this Parliament is to encourage a sense of social responsibility and participation among youth in water governance by setting up specific actions and participating in public debate on water. Indeed, young people must have a clear role to play in discussions and decision-

making on water management issues at local, regional and national levels.

Since the break-up of the Soviet Union, Armenia has continually stood out, proving its potential ability to carry out local development projects. Armenia follows a participatory water policy where local authorities, private structures, the general public and associations meet to reach consensus on water. The keys for success are the recognition of the principles of social responsibility, the participation of all stakeholders and transparency.



Sevan Lake where the 11<sup>th</sup> EYPW will be held in 2013.

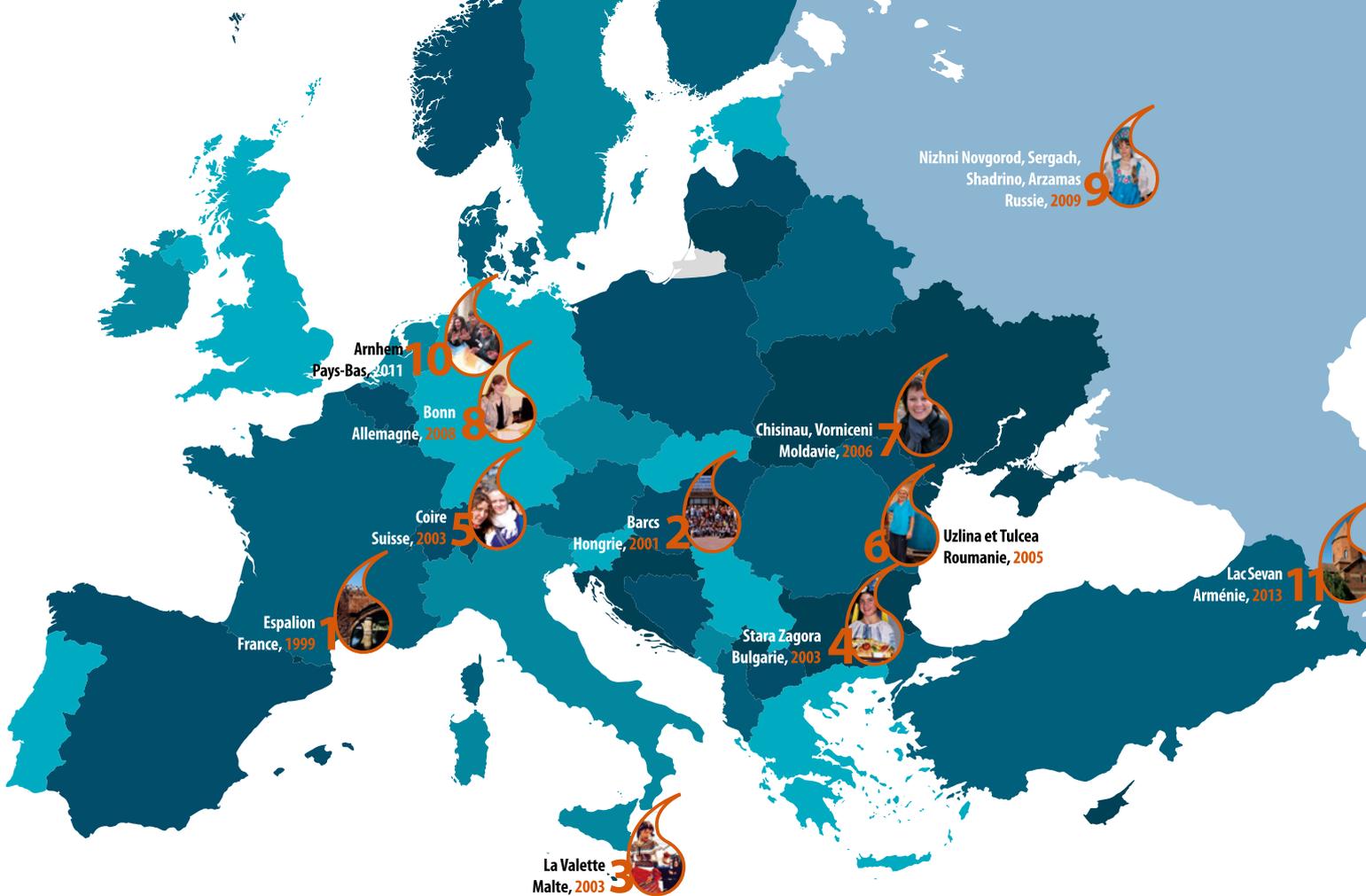
### 2 Other Youth Activities



The EYPW at the UN in October 2012

As co-coordinator of the WYPW with ISW, SWE participated in and actively supported the young parliamentarians' activities, setting up project monitoring mechanisms and facilitating/co-organising their presence at international and high-level policy conferences such as Rio+20, the United Nations General Assembly (where a parallel session on youth was organised with Belgium), the World Water Week in Stockholm and the INBO Meeting in Istanbul etc.

Map of European Youth Parliaments for Water organised by SWE from 1999 to 2013



## Our Activities in Moldova

In 2011, SWE, in collaboration with Solidarity Water Europe in Moldova (SEAM), Nisporeni District Council and with the support of the SIAAP, launched a project to update the sanitation aspect of the Nisporeni socio-economic development strategy. **The focal point is the drafting of a framework sanitation strategy for the Nirnova River Basin**, where more than half the district's inhabitants live and where a new water supply system is soon to be opened covering the city of Nisporeni and the surrounding area. Lacking in a clear concept for sanitation, this strategic document will fill the gap, providing the basis for developing specific priority actions for sanitation in this river basin. **SWE and its partners ensure that all the key stakeholders from the basin are involved in this process**, so that everyone can have their say on sanitation issues. **Throughout the year, information/participation/consultation sessions were held with key stakeholders** (local and regional elected representatives, administrative departments, schools, social services, farmers, businesses etc.) **to raise awareness regarding the importance of hygiene and sanitation**, to present a complete overview of the situation and the various sanitation options in terms of systems that could be set up and how they could be managed. One such example was the **Regional Forum for Nirnova: "Sanitation Solutions for the Nirnova**



**Basin"** which provided the opportunity to inform the public, local stakeholders and Nisporeni district decision-makers, raise their awareness and draw their attention to the actual state of sanitation in the Nirnova River basin, to make it a political priority. **The youth network, created in 2010** with the support of SWE and SEAM, has also become a real driver of initiatives, inspiring elected officials and the general public to get involved. This network was further strengthened in 2012 and the actions carried out in the river basin (youth summer camp, information campaigns, youth forum) gave them excellent media coverage and brought them into closer contact with the Regional Council members and the various regional and local health and education structures. The young people are now recognised as stakeholders in discussions on the environment and development in general.

At the same time, SWE was overseeing the development of the "Water and Politicians" platform set up in 2011 by Alsatian and Moldovan elected officials. More meetings were held, in particular at the 6<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum. Following discussions by the various stakeholders, it was decided that the elected officials and technicians from the Bas-Rhin Water and Sanitation Board in France (SDEA) could share their expertise with their counterparts in the villages of Cristesti-Boltun in order to help them set up a water and sanitation service management system: involving the development of short and long-term social, economic and technical plans, covering in particular investment, building the capacities of village consumer associations regarding consumer relations, communication on payment of water bills, data collection etc.





**The 2012 annual accounts cover SWE headquarters and their activities throughout Europe.**

These accounts have been produced following a strict process of internal and external controls:

- Each programme coordinator is responsible for their budget.
- The various project accounts are checked and approved by the SWE Accounts Manager.
- The accounts are then checked by the Association Treasurer.
- All administrative procedures (salaries etc.) are carried out by our accounting firm, CAC-info.
- The annual accounts are audited and certified by the chartered accounting firm Laurence Schwob.

The 2012 consolidated accounts and the auditor's report are then submitted for approval to the General Assembly of the Association.

More detailed information on the accounts may be requested from the following address: [contact@see-swe.org](mailto:contact@see-swe.org).

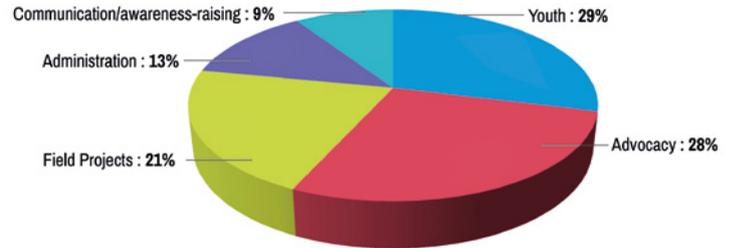
**Financial Statements:**

*« We certify that the annual accounts are in order and comply with French accounting rules and principles and give a sincere and faithful picture of the past financial year and of the current financial situation and assets of the association at the end of the financial year. »*

Extract from the chartered accountant's report, the firm Laurence Schwob.

The 2012 financial statements show a total income of 342 717 Euros and total expenditure of 348 918 Euros.

**Expenditure 2012**



**Income 2012**



## Board

- **Victor Ruffy**, SWE co-founder, President to April 2012  
*Former National Councillor in Switzerland and former Chair of the Commission on Political Issues and former Vice-Chair of the Commission on the Environment of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe*
- **Raymond Jost**, Co-founder of SWE and ISW, President since April 2012 and President of the Water Sages
- **Antonella Cagnolati**, Co-founder of SWE, Treasurer, Director at the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe
- **Annick Waller**, Secretary, retired engineer
- **Bernard Barraqué**, CNRS Research Director at LATTs, France
- **Pierre-Marie Grondin**, Director, Programme Solidarité Eau (pS-Eau)
- **Roger Lanoue**, President of the International Secretariat for Water
- **Pierre-Frédéric Ténière-Buchot**, Governor of the World Water Council

## The Team in France

- **Thierry Umbehr**, Secretary General to June 2012
- **Maggie White**, Associate Secretary General and Acting Secretary General since August 2012
- **Cathy Martinez**, Programme Manager
- **Florence Kohtz**, Programme Manager
- **Benjamin Noury**, Project Officer

## The SEAM Team in Moldova

- **Galina Cazimir**, Executive Director
- **Nina Plop**, Project Assistant

## Thanks

In 2012, we had the pleasure of working with the following organisations, who we would like to thank for their support and the confidence they have placed in Solidarity Water Europe and in our members and donors.

In alphabetical order:

*Agence de l'Eau Artois-Picardie*

*Agence de l'Eau Rhin-Meuse*

*Agence de l'eau Rhône-Méditerranée Corse*

*Agence de l'Eau Seine-Normandie*

*Armenian Water and Sewerage Company*

*Canal de Provence*

*Coalition Eau*

*Communauté Urbaine de Strasbourg*

*Conseil de l'Europe*

*Direction du Développement et de la Coopération Suisse (DDC)*

*Images de Ville*

*Ministère de l'écologie, du développement durable, des transports et du logement (MEDDTL)*

*Municipalité de Scharrachbergheim*

*Oxyo Water*

*pS-Eau*

*RIOB*

*Rotary club du Kronthal*

*SAUR*

*SEAM*

*Secrétariat International de l'Eau*

*6th World Water Forum*

*SIAAP*

*Skat Consulting Ltd.*

*Syndicat des Eaux et de l'Assainissement du Bas-Rhin (SDEA)*

*Ville d'Aix-en-Provence*

*Ville de Marseille*

# Activity report

**SWE** 2012



## Solidarity Water Europe

55 avenue de Colmar  
67100 Strasbourg - France

**Tél.** +33 (0)3 88 84 93 14

**Fax.** +33 (0)3 88 84 99 18

[contact@see-swe.org](mailto:contact@see-swe.org)

[www.see-swe.org](http://www.see-swe.org)

[www.facebook.com/see.swe](http://www.facebook.com/see.swe)

