



**The 9th European Youth Parliament for Water
Hotel Volga, Nizhni Novgorod
7 October 2009**

Final Declaration of the 9th European Youth Parliament for Water

We, members of the 9th European Youth Parliament for Water, gathered in Nizhni Novgorod adopted the following declaration.

Part one, general principles:

1. Worldwide cooperation:

The first important main point of integrated water resources management (IWRM) is cooperation. To reach the best results, this cooperation has to happen on a worldwide scale. All ecosystems are connected with each other. Not only within a country, but also across borders. For this reason, it is of high importance that countries are open to discuss issues which involve IWRM. A great number of countries try to solve the problems on their own behalf, which was ineffective until now. It is necessary that countries participate in a council where environmental problems are discussed on an international IWRM basis. Relationships between different nations need to be improved, in order to achieve cooperation.

2. Knowledge and experience:

Knowledge and experience are very important in a IWRM context. Without experience in solving environmental problems and without knowledge of circumstances, ecological hydro systems cannot be restored. Several experts are needed to advise governments and councils. The nations participating in IWRM could give consultations to exchange information. Interested organisations should be heard. This is certainly the most effective way to solve environmental problems.

3. Sustainable management of the environment:

Only one planet is available for six-and-a-half billion people to live on, therefore this planet must be preserved. To keep this planet liveable, it must be treated in a decent and careful way. The most important source of life on this planet is water. When water is polluted, the rest of the environment becomes polluted as well. This indicates the enormous effects water has on the Earth.

The purpose of IWRM is to protect the Earth and its water. To reach this goal, two different approaches have to be combined. Firstly, the nature that is not yet polluted has to be protected from negative influences. Additionally, polluted water and environment have to be cleaned and the habitats have to be restored. This is the only way to reach a sustainable solution.

4. Involve people:

More people have to be involved. Mass media could help to reach them. Educational programs on IWRM and environment have to be provided. This education starts at an early age. Citizens should not only execute ready-made plans, they should be part of the elaboration process.



5. Pay attention to local situation:

The people who know the most about a region are the people who live in this area. They can be helpful in providing information. These people are the first ones to notice the changes, be they negative or positive. Therefore local knowledge and traditions have to be considered.

6. Consider all the interests of the nations:

In order to make IWRM successful, nations will need to take into account the interests of the other countries and not only their own. Nations need to work together. It is not always possible to agree on everything, consequently agreements and compromises have to be found.

Part two, study cases:

1. *Case study: Nizhni Novgorod*

The European Youth Parliament for Water (EYPW) suggests the different stakeholders:

- to improve the water quality of the lake by limiting the industrial effluents.
- to place garbage bins on the shores of the lake.
- to restore the bridges.
- to install streetlights around the lake.
- to replace the iron planks in the north-western part of the lake with concrete plates.
- to organise a poster contest for children on the theme : “Keep the water clean”.

2. *Case study: Sergach*

The European Youth Parliament for Water (EYPW) commits to:

- help to provide educational tools for schools to increase involvement and make people aware of the river.
 - provide other tools and promote international exchange of experiences, which could contribute to the preservation and restoration of recreational areas.
 - foster international cooperation to support the Government of Nizhni Novgorod and the authorities of Sergach in their efforts to preserve the river.
 - ask Solidarity Water Europe (SWE), via the Russian Rivers Network, to promote integrated river basin management of the Piana river, to support and promote the Piana Water Board and above all to improve the water treatment system of the sugar factory.
 - encourage further investigation on the water quality of the Piana river by any possible means.
- The European Youth Parliament for Water (EYPW) suggests the government to preserve the forests in the catchment area and to improve the situation of the Piana river’s small tributaries.

3. *Case study: Shadrino*

The European Youth Parliament for Water (EYPW) suggests, to implement an eco-cultural tour alongside the Uzola river. This activity could include:

- Boating and fishing tour
- Crafts lessons
- Nature expeditions near the Uzola
- European Youth camps
- Cleaning operations



The EYPW proposes to organise the tour in collaboration with Shadrino's local authorities and citizens. The project could start on a voluntary basis and receive the help for materials from the youth centre of Gorodetz. To develop a real tourism activity, financial support and restoration of the artificial lake are needed.

4. Case study: Arzamas

The European Youth Parliament for Water (EYPW) suggests:

- to organise awareness-raising campaigns (by distributing flyers and broadcasting on TV and radio)
- to organise camps alongside the Serioja river
- to create an association called "Friends of the River" in which citizens and local authorities would participate.
- dedicate one day to the Serioja River called "The Serioja River Day"