The 2012 Marseilles Forum was all about finding solutions, one of which was to structure and ensure the continued participation of youths in the World Water Forums by implementing the World Youth Parliament for Water, which was held in 2012 - and will continue to be held in the following years. The youth assembled at Aix-en-Provence and Marseille worked hard to rise up to the challenge.

**BECAUSE WATER IS A LONGTERM ISSUE AND YOUTHS ARE TOMORROW'S POLICY MAKERS**

The World Youth Parliament for Water’s primary goal was to encourage youth participation in the 6th World Water Forum.

1. Acquaint youths with the enduring impacts of their participation in the World Water Forum
2. Encourage youths from around the world who are actively working on water projects and initiatives to meet and cooperate
3. Train youths to become eco-citizens and introduce them to water policy
4. Nurture future players and professionals of the water scene by familiarizing them with water related professions
5. Promote youths’ ongoing participation
COMMITTED YOUTHS ACROSS THE WORLD!

The youths participating in the WYPW are 18-to-23-year-olds involved in water-related initiatives who are committed to promoting equitable and sustainable water management, both locally and internationally.

There were 20 youths representing each continent – Europe, America, Africa, Asia and Oceania – and 5 delegates from France, the host country.

Which countries were represented at the WYPW?
WORLD YOUTH PARLIAMENT FOR WATER

March 5-17, 2012

To begin with, the WYPW was held in Aix-en-Provence, at the Canal de Provence; it then moved to Marseilles for the 6th World Water Forum.

Aix-en-Provence workshops (March 5-9, 2012)

From March 5 to 9, the parliamentarians held meetings during which they created the WYPW Charter and tailored the message they wanted to convey during the 6th World Water Forum: the WYPW Declaration.

The youths achieved their goal by attending workshops, conferring with resource people, and holding discussions and debates. The resource people helped guide the youths’ course of action by providing them technical assistance. The Aix-en-Provence workshops focused not only on the content of the WYPW’s message, but also on how to best convey the message at the Forum.

Elections (March 8, 2012)

In Aix-en-Provence, the youths elected a representative. During their time there, candidates were given the chance to put their names forward and campaign. On the night of the elections, the candidates presented their platforms and explained what motivated them to represent the WYPW.
Cultural events (March 7 – 11, 2012)

Even though the youths spent a large amount of time working on the Charter and the Declaration, they also had the opportunity to discover the various cultures of the 71 countries in attendance during the intercultural evening and to experience the local culture of the PACA region by participating during movie nights such as the “Water and Cinema” International Meetings, and by going on guided tours organised by local partners (Ville d’Aix-en-Provence, Image de Ville, International Secretariat for Water).

At The 6th World Water Forum in Marseilles (March 12-17, 2012)

The WYPW youths played an active role as both advocates and participants during the 6th World Water Forum. They had strategically pinpointed beforehand the sessions where the WYPW input would be most valuable and which key people they wanted to meet. On Wednesday, March 14, they unveiled the **Official WYPW Declaration**, which was witnessed by high profile attendees, the media and Forum participants.
THE WYPW TODAY

- 80 17-to-25-year-olds elected for 3 years
- 70 countries from Europe, Africa, America, Asia and Oceania
- 10 communal actions at the watershed level (Declaration)
- 18 individual local projects
- The presence of parliamentarians at international events
- A representative seat in such Boards as that of Global Water Partnership

YOUNG PARLIAMENTARIANS ACTING LOCALLY

- **Haiti**: formalizing the WYPW with the Haitian Parliament and Gouvernement de la jeunesse en Haïti (Haiti youth government)
- **Peru**: communicating with the Minister of the Environment
- **Mali**: presenting results to the president of the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences Faculty
- **Russia**: communicating on the radio and in the press
- **Kosovo**: creating an awareness raising program for schools in Pristina
- **Latvia**: presenting five times during the Nature Week in Valmiera
World Youth Parliament for Water

Organizers:

Partners:

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