WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

The year that just went by has been an important one for our movement. New currents have arisen, and the way has been cleared for our initiatives to develop.

Current events in 2017, as with this year, show our world in difficulty. Societies trying to define themselves, the rise in intolerance, open or latent conflict, racism, and the forgetting of democracy. The arrival of many new migrants who fled their country or region because of war, political crisis or their very survival poses a challenge that the international community of democracy and solidarity must wake itself up to.

Where is water in all this? More than ever, water can and must be the lever to transmit the values on which democratic and just societies are founded. By assuring the most vulnerable have access to water and sanitation, we open the door to dignity, health and comfort, but also to governance, to participation, to cooperation, and to a future.

Youth are the future of the water sector. Raising their awareness, motivating and instilling a sense of responsibility in them will make them actors in the present, who do more than just carry the torch of those who passed before them. But the challenges of equitably and sustainably managing this resource should move to the forefront, with the pressure of climate change, agricultural practices and environmental catastrophe. All of these factors combined compel us to be engaged on all levels with a concerted effort from all stakeholders to converge on our common objectives. Solidarity Water Europe and the International Secretariat for Water are both fully conscious of this fact, and for that reason I rejoice.

The young participants of the 14th European Youth Parliament for Water worked for a week on the theme of Water and Peace, and they realized that, beyond just being a cause of war, water must above all be a vector for dialogue. Sharing water and the conservation efforts that this entails must facilitate dialogue, knowledge of others in the name of preserving this vital resource, and moving towards a community of progress, development and cooperation. The engagement shown by youth, the awakening of a real consciousness within them, and the willpower to commit on this path are encouraging results that show the way for the rest of us.

2017 also brought our movement WaterGeneration, our five-year youth strategy. This platform and instrument allows us to accompany, encourage and help young people have their voices heard, enrich their process of reflection, and facilitate their interactions with each other and with stakeholders.

We are conscious of the important challenges that are before us. But we are also aware of our drive to bring our energy, savoir faire and vision to work for collective action for water.

WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Water ecosystems are inherently complex and can change rapidly. When factoring socio-economic and environmental issues, solutions to guarantee our future must constantly adapt to new challenges.

The International Secretariat for Water-Solidarity Water Europe movement and their partners are uniquely positioned to develop ideas and drive action for water infrastructure, governance, mobilization and engagement.

Who are we? We create ideas and projects that refresh stagnant approaches and deliver sustainable results. We are a connector for people and movements with talent and potential, no matter how close or far they may be to the corridors of power. Our agility and adaptability means that we can implement high quality projects around the world, while still maintaining direct personal relationships with the people who benefit from our actions.

Every year is pivotal in its own right, but 2017 took us in a new direction, as we began several new projects and collaborations. We have expanded our network of partners and diversified our revenue streams. We’ve been selected by the Quebec Green Fund for a new initiative in West Africa, and launched new projects with the Global Water Partnership and AgropolisTech, among others. We also expanded our communication footprint with a more engaging, frequent presence online and on social media. We expanded our partnership with the Geneva Water Hub, to drive public engagement on the pressing issue of Water and Peace.

In the almost three decades since its founding, ISW-SWE has acquired a reputation for innovative youth programs. We continue to increase our capacity to produce motivated young leaders ready to assume their rightful place as stakeholders. We built on this work with the launch of WaterGeneration, our five-year global youth strategy.

Global access to water has improved significantly since our movement was founded, but much still needs to be done. We exist to advocate and amplify the voices of the people who have the least, and to do this we commit to disrupt, to use our position and strengths to connect with stakeholders and the public.

Benefiting from a strong foundation of partnerships and collaborations, we will work to create a movement that causes actors to re-evaluate what “business as usual” means.
AROUND THE WORLD IN 2017

Field Projects
Advocacy and Awareness
Youth
ISW/SWE Offices
Active projects
Partner network
Based on the evolution of knowledge, partnerships and creativity, we develop initiatives that mobilize advocates for universal access to water and sanitation, while taking a long-term approach to resource preservation. We and our partners build bridges and enable dialogue between all stakeholders – governments, civil society, academia and the private sector. Much of our work is concentrated in small rural and semi-urban communities. We aim to contribute to better water management, using watersheds as our reference framework.

MISSION

Openness
We involve all stakeholders in the actions that affect them, regardless of their social, economic or material circumstances.

Sharing
We share experiences and best practices so all stakeholders can enrich their knowledge and skill sets.

Emotional intelligence
Our actions are guided by an intuitive understanding of each person’s needs, enabling constructive dialogue and giving depth and perspective to our actions.

Dedication
Members dedicate their efforts to the movement’s mission, helping it achieve its objectives.

Commitment
Our members are committed to the movement’s intentions, values and mission.
Field Projects

Andean communities at the heart of water infrastructure and governance.

We have been active in Peru since 2014, working primarily in communities located in the headwater regions, where major water sources originate. Isolated at high altitudes, these communities are becoming impoverished as younger residents seek new opportunities in the city. In addition to infrastructure and governance, we also undertake institutional synergy initiatives, such as the Blue Book, to foster improved management.

Five years in, our work in the Cachi river basin continues with the help of our partners. In 2017, the team broke ground on Project Waripercca. The project will deliver running water supply and an ECOSAN-based sanitation system to the community’s 150 families. Located at the source of the Cachi 4,000 metres above sea level, the fragile ecosystem’s difficult, rocky terrain had long been an impediment to adequate infrastructure.

By the end of 2017, approximately 8 km of the main distribution line had been completed. The toilets reuse 100% of excreta and grey water.

Our Peruvian projects integrate with GOSSA, an adaptable participatory management framework for river basins. GOSSA integrates water supply and sanitation management into basin and watershed-level governance. In practice, once a system is constructed, the community can manage services, maintain infrastructure, and preserve headwaters. A single water management body, elected by the community and operating in a participatory manner, administers water supply, sanitation and the watershed head. The team created a participatory management plan for the head of the Cachi River basin. GOSSA has only been tried in Peru, but could be scaled up and replicated in any Latin American country.

2017 also saw significant advances in the ISW’s institutional synergy efforts. ISW drove adoption of the OECD Principles on Water Governance in the Rimac basin, home to the capital of Lima. Peruvian lawmakers’ adoption of an ecosystem services levy will charge downstream users for the water they consume, with a portion of the funds allocated to headwater communities such as Waripercca. In cooperation with the Blue Book Committee, the ISW continues to coordinate the United Nations Green Fund in Peru.

1100 citizens reached
4000 m above sea level

Peru 9
Tajikistan 10
Uzbekistan 11
Moldova 12
West Africa 13
TAJIKISTAN

Sustainable access to water and sanitation thanks to effective local governance.

The villages of Tajikistan’s Ferghana Valley have long gone without adequate water infrastructure. Over the last 10 years, the Regional Rural Water Supply and Sanitation project, coordinated by ISW, has constructed water supply and sanitation networks in the region, providing hygienic and safe systems for the first time in many years. A participatory and consultative process includes local communities in decision making and management, and local water operators have increased their maintenance and management capacities. 2017 saw significant advances on all of those fronts, with new construction completed by a maturing network of local actors. The project aims to anchor development in the Tajikistan context, in order to develop a model for other projects in the country. The project, which began in the Tajik part of the Ferghana Valley in 2007, has been extended until the end of 2018 and will reach 70,000 citizens. Over 80% of households covered in Phase I (2007 – 2013) now have access to private connections, follow up activities such as awareness raising on law in public bodies, and contracts between consumers and operators, continue. Beyond the villages, the team is also implementing a comprehensive training program on safe water practices. With support from the Ministries of Health and Education, teachers and nurses have been trained throughout the Tajik part of the Ferghana Valley to educate children and the general public about water and hygiene.

UZBEKISTAN

Engaging citizens and local actors: the key to making drinking water available to everyone

In Uzbekistan, less than half the national population has access to improved drinking water. In rural areas, water is pumped through antiquated Soviet-era infrastructure for an average of just 8 hours per day, with high rates of water loss and contamination. Tanker truck operators serve the residents with an expensive, poor-quality product. The ISW’s project in Uzbekistan enhances access to safe drinking water with construction of water infrastructure, decentralised governance, and better hygiene and sanitation practices. Targeting selected villages in the Ferghana Valley and Syrdarya province, the project will foster improved living and health conditions for 135,000 people by mid-2018. Second, the project strives to integrate the new model of decentralised governance into the Uzbek water supply and sanitation agenda. The basins where the project is being implemented are a trinational region shared with Tajikistan, in a time of great change. Uzbekistan experienced a change of government in 2017, and the country is going through significant changes, becoming more open to the outside world. In this context, the proposed model of decentralized governance, using semi-autonomous drinking water organizations, has great potential for advancement. The project’s current phase is scheduled to wind down near the end of the 2018 calendar year, with responsibilities transferred to local authorities. This phase of the project cost approximately $6 million USD, with the bulk of financing provided by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

Water supply systems constructed in previous years are in the process of being turned over to local drinking water associations. A major challenge in 2017 was integrating these associations into a productive working relationship with Uzbekistan’s Ministry of Housing and Communal Services. Water utilities, most of whom have yet to adopt computers, continue to struggle with limited capacity and incomplete statistics. As the project prepares to close, the process of capacity building continues.
MOLDOVA

Infrastructure and a new governance framework for the Nirnova basin communities.

Moldova is one of the poorest countries in Eastern Europe. In underserved rural communities, water and sanitation is far from meeting basic standards. Solidarity Water Europe has been active in Moldova since 2006 and especially in the Nirnova river basin, where several ECOSAN toilets were successfully installed in 2016. Based on these previous assessments, SWE launched a new project in October 2016 to expand its range of action. Over 24 months, Phase I will provide access to water and sanitation to 31 villages in the Nirnova basin, while also implementing a sustainable governance framework for integrated water resource management. Implementation of year 1 of the project began in October 2016, and has delivered many concrete results since then.

In order to be able to undertake a coherent and relevant Water Supply and Sanitation (WSS) development action, a necessary first step was to perform a technical and institutional assessment. This document gives a complete and clear overview of the water resources available on the territory as well as the WSS infrastructure and projects currently undertaken in the basin. Moreover, it provides a multi-level analysis of the institutional background of the Moldovan WSS sector, its political and administrative framework and the relevant actors. Plus, making the most of the results of the assessment, numerous concrete actions have been proposed for the short and medium term. Implementation of some of these actions will occur during Year 2. The assessment has been translated into English and Romanian to facilitate its broader distribution, and was presented to the partners and steering committee.

Finally, a huge step forward has been made in the field of governance. The Mayor’s Platform met for the first time. The platform aims to promote communication between French and Moldovan elected officials on inter-community WSS management, and to explore the model’s practical applications in Moldova. The overall objective is to create a joint water committee, that will harness local energies and will eventually be capable of developing WSS projects in the basin itself.

WEST AFRICA

Connecting water issues and climate change with three pilot projects.

Fragile water ecosystems are especially vulnerable to the effects of climate change, which is significantly impacting precarious countries in sub-Saharan Africa. In collaboration with partners, we are implementing three microprojects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve climate change adaptation.

1. BURKINA FASO: With the support of the Country Water Partnership (PNE), the team is designing and building solar-powered drip irrigation systems.

2. TOGO: In Danyi-Apéyémé-Todomé, a youth association is setting up a sheepfold, purchasing composting and agro-ecological gardening supplies, and installing ECOSAN toilets.

3. BENIN: This country’s project contributes to the restoration of the Mékrou basin ecosystem. The project will strengthen environmental education and decrease greenhouse gas emissions, while applying climate-resilient agricultural practices.

These projects are not only conserving ecosystems affected by climate change and anthropogenic pressures, but are also improving the food security of vulnerable populations in the region. During the project lifetime, project partners will offer training sessions and activities to raise awareness among the public and local authorities on climate issues affecting their region.

The ISW has partnered with the Global Water Partnership West Africa, the Country Water Partnerships of Burkina Faso and Benin, and the NGO Eau Vive Togo to implement the three parts of the project. The Your Future, Your Climate platform launched officially in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso on November 28, 2017. Youth shared their messages on water and climate and built linkages for action.
Much of the world’s basin regions cross international boundaries. In spite of often-competing interests, the imperative to manage and defend these regions remains the same everywhere. Unlike a regular passport, a Blue Passport bearer is not denoted by nationality, but a basin region. They are a tool to generate dialogue between actors at different levels to work together on common basin-level challenges. This helps foster understanding that we are all citizens of a basin facing common challenges, and must join our efforts to protect the region. Blue Passports have been issued to over 7,000 people, covering 47 river basins since the launch of the initiative.

In 2017, Blue Passport holders in Peru gathered to follow-up the decisions collectively made in the Cachi River Public Consultation that was held March 2016 in Ayacucho. The Blue Passport holders in Ayacucho, with the help of ISW-SWE and partners, presented the authorities with the decisions approved during the consultation. Notably, indigenous groups expressed their desire to create a community organization to protect headwater territories and to obtain funds from a new ecosystem services levy, to be invested in rural water supply and sanitation projects in the Basin.

The Regional Government of Ayacucho, the Municipality of Huamanga in Ayacucho and San Cristobal University endorsed the results of 2016’s consultation. These results have been communicated to the members of the Blue Book National Committee (see page 18), which includes government ministries, universities and civil society organizations. The families of the community of Cuchiquesera, located on top of the Cachi River basin, have actively participated in the Blue Passport initiative. In 2017, the nearby community of Wariperqa joined.

After successfully validating the Blue Passport approach in multi-stakeholder public consultations in Peru, we are ready to scale up and replicate this approach in other basins. We developed a methodological guide for these consultations, and have advanced discussions with key basin organizations around the world, in anticipation of future efforts.
THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT

A international network of civil society organizations with far-reaching effects.

The Butterfly Effect is a worldwide network of over 130 local and international civil society organizations and NGOs, working together to advocate for civil society’s voice in the water sector.

Since its formation in 2010 at the occasion of the 6th World Water Forum, the network has been recognized as the sector’s pre-eminent network of civil society groups, with the capacity to both obtain access to decision makers that others cannot, and to apply pressure for inclusive, participatory negotiation. Representing members from five continents spanning the global North and South, the Butterfly Effect promotes sustainable local solutions that can benefit communities’ access to water and sanitation and water resources management. The secretariat of the network is coordinated by the ISW and Action Against Hunger, with the support of Coalition-Eau.

2017 was an exciting year full of change for The Butterfly Effect, which began the year by electing new organizations to its Steering Committee, and adding 22 new organizations as members.

To prepare for the 8th World Water Forum in March 2018, the Butterfly Effect participated in the Forum’s preparatory meetings. It was selected as part of the Theme People Coordination Team, and influenced the 2nd Stakeholder Consultation meeting in Brazil in April 2017. The network’s Forum involvement is an extension of its founding principles, as it was originally created to ensure strong civil society representation at the 6th World Water Forum in 2010.

Determined to continue to elevate these voices, the Butterfly Effect consulted its members through three Working Groups. In addition, the network’s members held intervention at the two negotiation sessions of the Forum’s Political Process, where the Ministerial Declaration is drafted.

In consultation with members, the Butterfly Effect developed influential messages and recommendations for the water and climate agenda. 2017 saw a presence at the Stockholm World Water Week, the Climate Chance Summit in Morocco and COP23 in Bonn. At the latter event, the network intervened at the day dedicated for water and climate, with a consistent presence throughout. The network continues to advocate for innovative solutions and the recognition of the efforts of civil society for the implementation of the SDGs, advancing the human rights to water and sanitation, and the fight against climate change.

Breaking communication barriers

Trilingual website and newsletter every 3 months in English, French, Spanish

Key messages of the network also translated into Portuguese for Brazilian audiences for the 8th World Water Forum.
Driving governance evolution with a participatory approach

Highlights from the Blue Book Peru:

May
Blue Book National Committee meets to follow up on recommendations, the Environmental Vice Minister proposed the idea to identify actionable concrete projects.

June
Blue Book National Committee begins the process to pilot test OECD water governance indicators in the Rimac basin.

July
Peru experiences a change of government. Three ministries renew their Blue Book involvement. The Latin American Development Bank offers technical support for project implementation.

September
OECD water governance indicators approved by state and civil society participants, with the support of the Committee.

October
Blue Book Assembly held to identify projects that reflect the Blue Book approach.

November
Projects preparation workshops drive concrete application of Blue Book principles.
ENGAGING NEW AUDIENCES

#WaterGeneration campaign brings the youth movement for water to a new audience

15,500 views of our video content

ISW-SWE projects mentioned by 28 national and regional media outlets

Contributed to launch of Blue Peace movement on water cooperation

Empowering new audiences on water, peace and security challenges

550,000 people reached by ISW-related content on social media

Advocacy aids produced for youth initiatives and The Butterfly Effect civil society coalition

Targeted content produced in English, French, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese

Regular newsletters distributed to 4,500 decision makers, influencers and youth

CELEBRATING WORLD WATER DAY


Leading up to the day, we collaborated with high school students at the Lycée Jean Monnet for three workshops and training sessions on Water and Peace.

Strasbourg City Hall hosted the participants for a round table and Q&A with the public, local youth, experts including François Münger, director of the Geneva Water Hub and ISW-SWE president, Antonella Cagnolati.

On World Water Day, Solidarity Water Europe and students took to Place Kleber in central Strasbourg for a public awareness campaign. Clad in distinctive white T-shirts, the students approached the public for discussions, to answer questions, and distribute materials from a stand installed in the square.
Youth

Youth are heavily and directly affected by water issues, and when it comes to the prospect of a sustainable future, they have the most to lose. It is only essential and fair that they have a say in this matter immediately.

We are inspired by the youth movement for water. This is the idea of a movement built around the large-scale, dynamic and connected mobilization of young people. The number of youth and water stakeholders has grown in recent years, expanding the size of this youth movement for water. This movement is still young, but it has vast untapped potential. We believe that supporting the youth movement for water will benefit young people. It will build their capacities, and help them expand their scope of influence, networks and opportunities for action. The #WaterGeneration strategy, which was developed through a participatory process, reflects this conviction.

#WaterGeneration helps ISW-SWE cement its relationship with youth and clarify the role we want to play as facilitators for the a global youth movement for water. We want this movement to be “glocal”, capable of taking action anywhere from the local to the global level. It will be connected, diverse and active in all countries, especially in those with the most severe water problems. The youth movement for water will influence decision-makers on water issues and help young people become committed citizens working to build more sustainable societies. Over the next five years through to 2022, we will work to strengthen the collective voice of youth, inspire them with creative workshops, tools and events, and help them influence decision makers.

participatory development including:

95 interviews
47 partners
The World Youth Parliament for Water (WYPW)’s passionate global network ensures that youth are recognized as legitimate water stakeholders with tangible effects on outcomes, while taking local actions in over 80 countries. The goal of the Parliaments is to strengthen capacities for successful local youth projects, while influencing decision makers and ensuring youth voices are heard on the international level. In 2017, the network saw a significant expansion of international partnerships while also accelerating the creation of local, regional and basin-level Youth Parliaments for Water, which now number thirty-five.

In the leadup to the 8th World Water Forum, the WYPW advocated for better inclusion of youth and civil society in the Forum processes and in the sessions. Former president Asma Bachikh took part in the Citizens’ Forum commission. Network members played a key part in the thematic process, coordinating the theme Capacity, as well as Water, cultural diversity, justice and equity, among others. At Stockholm World Water Week, they organized a panel on scaling up youth-led solutions at the Young Professionals booth. At the 16th World Water Congress in Cancun, Mexico, WYPW received a mandate to coordinate youth engagement at the event.

The network has long been recognized by key actors, including UN-Water, UNESCO and SIWI, as a vector of youth involvement. The network represents youth at the annual meeting of the Global Water Partnership steering committee. In their last year of their mandate, the 2015 Board expanded international partner networks, accelerating the creation of regional and national Parliaments, including Afghanistan and Nepal, among others.

On the local level, the WYPW network is a support system for young leaders who want to implement projects, while learning from best practices elsewhere. The members worked tirelessly in their local communities to implement concrete projects. The Togo Youth Parliament for Water organized Climate Saturdays, three months of awareness activities. In Pakistan, the local chapter organized a panel on youth’s role in wastewater management. The WYPW and the 30+ chapters around the world together count over 6,000 members in all the world’s major regions.

Global youth network strengthens ties with a strong international and local presence.

For over 20 years, Solidarity Water Europe has brought young people together for a week of discussion on a water-related issue. The 14th edition of the Parliament took place from October 1 – 7, 2017 in Rovereto, Italy, bringing together 70 participants from 14 European countries and their neighbours. The goal of this week was to offer youth the opportunity to broaden their water knowledge, while increasing their awareness of the vital role of civil society and youth in building a society of dialogue and cooperation. The majority of the world’s hydrographic basins are shared between countries and susceptible to future water conflicts, inspiring this year’s theme of Water and Peace. With theme-based workshops, field visits, working groups and collective discussions, the participants ranging from 17 to 27 years old explored the many diverse aspects of the theme.

The culmination of the week’s activities was the drafting of a Collective Commitment, created by youth and for youth and reflecting their future engagements on water and peace. The document will guide the youth as they develop their concrete local projects throughout 2018. Four delegations from the Parliament received grants from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation to support their implementation (read more on page 29). The members also elected a new Board, consisting of president Viktor Macé (France), and vice-presidents Arvesa Llolluni (Kosovo) and Ellen Vervaeke (Belgium). The board’s role is to represent participants and share the message of collective commitment, especially at major water and youth events.

In Italy, a collective commitment to water and peace.

EUROPEAN YOUTH PARLIAMENT FOR WATER
We believe that youth are change-makers. But to translate this drive into tangible improvements, they must work together and strengthen their capacities for knowledge and partnership.

In 2017, the ISW organized four #WaterGeneration Meetups, to develop local partnerships and lay the groundwork for effective political influence. The workshop-style events helped the young leaders prepare effective messages, while strengthening local and regional mobilization. They also served to identify new members for the World Youth Parliament for Water and its regional networks. Thanks to enhanced skills and increased connections, youth are already impacting their communities with a variety of imaginative, effective concrete projects.

In Central Asia, we organized meetups in Astana, Kazakhstan and Dushanbe, Tajikistan. In Astana, we saw a community of engaged youth develop many initiatives for water and peace (see facing page). These included a board game about transboundary challenges; launching a youth parliament for water in Afghanistan, and successfully advocating for youth representation at Kazakhstan’s regional basin councils.

In West Africa, the meetup in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso united participants from 20 countries, who teamed up to propose concrete projects. A jury made up of ISW and partners selected three of them to receive grants, which were distributed by the ISW. The projects are now in development. In Quebec City, Canada, we partnered with Laval University and local networks for a capacity-building workshop connecting water governance challenges in North America to the global context, while increasing North American youth engagement.

All four meetups were key milestones on the road to the 8th World Water Forum. The focus on message preparation enhanced the potential impact of youth voices, and the pool of young participants allowed the World Youth Parliament for Water to expand its network further.

For decision making processes to change, youth need to be included not merely to satisfy a diversity criteria, but as legitimate stakeholders whose inputs are valued. In Central Asia, ISW has helped drive a lot of progress in a relatively short time. In 2017, we mobilized fragmented groupings of youth from around the region to build a regionally-focused movement for influence and action that works across borders. As 2017 comes to a close, youth in the six Central Asian republics are increasingly visible in the political arena.

In June, youth gathered for the Central Asian Youth Initiative at Expo2017 in Astana, Kazakhstan. The week-long workshop included dialogue with experts, discussions and debates. The Swiss Minister of Foreign Affairs also launched the Blue Peace movement for Central Asia. In the spirit of this movement, young participants drafted a Youth Vision for Water for Central Asia. The Vision puts forth a world where the region cooperates as one to solve water issues, and state authorities commit to supporting youth engagement and implementing suggestions for improving decision-making processes. The document was translated into Russian and delivered to delegations of officials for each of the five Central Asian states present, plus Afghanistan. The delegations each committed to increasing youth engagement.

In October, two participants succeeded in securing youth representation for the future meetings of Kazakhstan’s eight regional basin councils. As the Aral Sea crisis intensifies, this milestone ensures that youth voices will be heard by the organizations that will play a key part in relief efforts. Transboundary cooperation is a vital concern for the Central Asian republics, as they strive to modernize their processes and take a region’s eye view with water challenges, in a complex geopolitical atmosphere. The success of the Central Asian Youth movement has shown that youth are not merely passive occupants of the place assigned to them, but assuming positions of leadership and driving the cooperation agenda.
Youth for Water and Climate (YWC) is an online platform designed to support talented youth who see the water and climate issues in their community as an entrepreneurial challenge. YWC matches young project leaders with organizations and individuals providing technical and financial support, in collaboration with the Global Water Partnership, AgroParisTech and youth networks. The platform is a space for dialogue and exchange built around a participatory, multi-stakeholder approach. Youth with a vision and goals may often end up on the periphery of an outside organization. Instead, the platform allows them to see their ideas – informed by their deep roots in the community and aided by experienced professionals – come to life. High potential ideas become high quality projects. Like ISW’s other activities, these projects all have the potential to be scaled up and replicated.

For supporters, YWC provides a frictionless experience for browsing, learning about and supporting projects. All entries are vetted for quality by the YWC team, and feature a crowdfunding-style project page that details resources needed, funding levels, and individuals/families reached. Organizations or individuals can browse projects by region, hear the stories of project creators, and help youth build capacity through collaboration. Projects are selected based on their fit with the SDGs and the most pressing water and climate challenges. Supporters can choose the projects that best fit their engagement strategy and interests, while targeting specific SDGs of their choice.

By providing a space for partnership and bringing innovative youth ideas to fruition, YWC will change the way senior decision makers see young water leaders. The platform was presented at major events around the world in 2017, including COP23 in Bonn, Germany, Stockholm World Water Week, and the Climate Chance Summit. A joint ISW-GWP team developed the website as part of an inclusive process, synthesizing the feedback of over 200 stakeholders. The platform is backed by a declaration of principles signed by 100 organizations and individuals who have joined as members, and directed by a consortium coordinated by ISW, GWP and partners.

WATERGENERATION GRANTS

Community-focused youth projects, ready to be scaled up.

K’aslem Y’ah – Home Rainwater Harvesting Systems
Marly Julajuj Coj
Guatemala

When Marly saw that her community of Panimaquin in the Guatemalan highlands was stricken with water scarcity, despite abundant rainfall, she knew something had to be done. Her project is constructing water harvesting and distribution systems for ten families, as well as a larger cistern for Panimoquin’s elementary school, benefiting over 150 people. Her team is also educating residents how to maintain their systems, and on hygienic food preparation and livestock practices.

My School Is Not A Trash Can
Zinsou Nounagnon Dakoz Daunou, Rebecca Lawani, et al
Benin

Urban waste management in Benin is lacking and open refuse is common in many areas where children congregate. For a group of young leaders from the Benin Youth Parliament for Water, change starts with cleaning up attitudes. Visiting primary and secondary schools around the country, they are educating students about waste management practices and how to improve their living conditions. They then get to work cleaning up their school and others in the region.

Civic Journalists for Water and Peace
Nare Hayrapetyan, Hrazdan Civil Youth Centre
Armenia

Exposing corporate and institutional water crimes takes dedicated work, and in countries with limited press freedoms, these stories may never see the light of day. This project is creating a network of civic journalists to disseminate knowledge and raise awareness about water crimes. Training sessions are designed to counter “learned helplessness” when witnessing water crimes, equipping participants with capacity and agency.

We believe that projects at a small scale can have the biggest impact

Young leaders with an intimate connection to their communities have the knowledge and dedication to drive effective high-quality projects. #WaterGeneration Grants from ISW-SWE help them harness their creativity and initiative to create success stories that are a model for water sector actors big and small.

> 100 signatories to the YWC declaration

$375,000 pledged to date
Participants of the first Central Asian Youth Workshop, held at Expo2017 Astana in June. Pictured: Swiss Minister of Foreign Affairs Didier Burkhalter, Presence Switzerland head Nicolas Bideau, ISW-SWE Executive Director Sarah Dousse.
The Board of Directors named Sarah Dousse as the permanent executive director for the International Secretariat for Water and Solidarity Water Europe in May 2017. The five-member Executive Board is appointed by the Board of Director to exercise operational oversight. ISW and SWE are legally independent but share the same executive director.
## Financials at a Glance

In 2017, the combined budget of ISW-SWE increased to approximately €2 million ($3.5 million CAD). A significant portion of the increase has been ear-marked to expand advocacy and youth areas of action, which have benefited from a 62% increase in investment. This is due mainly to increased contributions from our primary partners, including the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and French water agencies.

Our multi-year efforts to expand local partnerships began to bear fruit in 2017. SWE gained the support of the Grand Est territory and the City of Strasbourg renewed its support. Our financial diversification strategy has allowed new partnerships to flourish, among them various ministries of the government of Québec (MDDELCC, MRI, MESS), Presence Switzerland and the Global Water Partnership.

### Revenue

- International cooperation agencies: 87%
- Water and basin agencies: 19%
- Public organizations: 6%
- Local & territorial governments: 4%
- Memberships, donations & misc.: 1%

### Expenses

- Field Projects: 81%
- Advocacy & Awareness: 19%
- Youth: 9%
- Administration: 6%

ISW ends 2017 with a surplus of $18,250 CAD. Total income was $2,823,725 CAD. For SWE 2017 closed with a slight surplus of €1,838 Euros for an income of €238,214 Euros.

Full financial information is available on demand at info@isw-swe.org

## Partners

Thank you to our global network of partners for a year of great collaborations!

Action Against Hunger (ACF)
Afghan Development Bank (ADB)
AgroPlaneTech
Agua-C
Alliance Maghreb Maroc pour l’eau [ALMAE]
Alsace Moselle Water and Sanitation Syndicate [SDEA]
Artes-Piscario Water Agency [AESAP]
Association Bâtistime Airpaya [ABA]
Autonomous Province of Trento
Bangladesh Model Youth Parliament
Bremen Overseas Research & Development Association (BORDA)
Business and Professional Women
CAF – Latin American Development Bank
Center for Disease Control
CEWAS
Chicago Architecture Foundation
CICOS
City of Strasbourg
CUDAD
Coalition Eau
College of Engineers of Peru
Community of Cuchoaquaers
Community of Hipa Alta
Community of Vallagarna
CONAGUA
Council of Europe
De Gaspi-Besulben Foundation
Dolomiti Energy
Eau de Paris
Eau Vive
Eau Vive – Direction Togo
EDF
Eklektism
Enarwas +
Eurométropole de Strasbourg
European Union
Fondazione Opera Campana dei Caduti
French Agency for Biodiversity [ONEMA]
French Development Agency [AFD]
French Water Partnership
Fresh Water Action Network (FAN)
Geneva Water Hub – Pole Eau
Geneva Global Water Partnership
Global Water Partnership – Central and Eastern Europe [GWP-CEE]
Global Water Partnership – West Africa [GWP-AO]
Global Water Solidarity [GWS]
Good Planet Belgium
Governments of Uzbekistan, Quebec, The Netherlands, Peru, Switzerland and Tajikistan
Green Cross
Green Film Network
Gymnase de Burier
Historic Town of Chuschi
Hydro Conseil
Inter-American Development Bank [IDB]
Interdepartmental Syndicate for Sanitation in the Paraná Apagglomeration [SIAPA]
International Network of Basin Organisations [INBO]
ITAS Insurance Group
Korea Water Forum
La Molina National Agrarian University
Les Ailes de l’Espérance
Les Offices Jeunesse internationaux du Québec [LOJIQ]
McGill University
Members of the Butterfly Effect Network
Members of Youth Parliaments for Water
Moldova Water Agency
Municipalities of the Ninova Basin
Municipality of Chuschi
Municipality of Huamanga
Municipality of Kuerovo
Municipality of Scharnassherberg
Municipality of Trento
National School for Water and Environment Engineering of Strasbourg [ENGEES]
National Water Authority – Peru [ANA]
National Water Partnership – Benin
National Water Partnership – Buchina Faso
Nile Basin Discourse
Office franco-québécois pour la jeunesse [OFQJ]
Office international de l’eau [OIEau]
Peru Institute of Water Promotion [IPROGA]
Peru Ministry of Agriculture
Peru Ministry of Housing, Construction and Sanitation
Peru Ministry of the Environment
Potable Water Delivery Syndicate of Dippe-Nord
Programme Solidarité Eau (pS-Eau)
ProNatura Mexico
Protos
Quebec Ministry of sustainable development, environment and the fight against climate change
Red Viral
Region of Alace
Regional Council of Hincettz
Regional Council of Nisporeni
Regional Government of Ayacucho
Regional Institute of Development Coopera-
tion [RICO]
Réseau des organismes de bassin versant du Québec [ROBVQ]
Rhine-Maurice Water Agency [ARM]
Scotiabank of Peru
Secretariat of the 8th World Water Forum
Secure Water Network [RAS]
Seine-Normandie Water Agency [AESN]
Sepa Conseils
SEK
Skat Consulting Ltd.
Skidmore, Owings & Merril [SOM]
Solidarity Water Europe Moldova [SWEM]
Stockholm International Water Institute [SIWI]
Strategies Saint-Laurent
Suez Environment
Susta [IPES]
Sustainable Agriculture and Development Association [Tadepa]
Swiss Agency for Development and Coop-
eration
Swiss Water Partnership
UN Water
UNESCO
UNESCO-IHP
United Nations Development Program [UNDP]
Universidade do Povo
Universidad San Cristóbal de Huamanga
University of Strasbourg
Veolia
Veolia Foundation
Water Youth Network