



# 15TH EUROPEAN YOUTH PARLIAMENT FOR WATER

## PREPARATION GUIDE



**NIZHNY NOVGOROD - RUSSIAN FEDERATION  
17-24 NOVEMBER 2019**

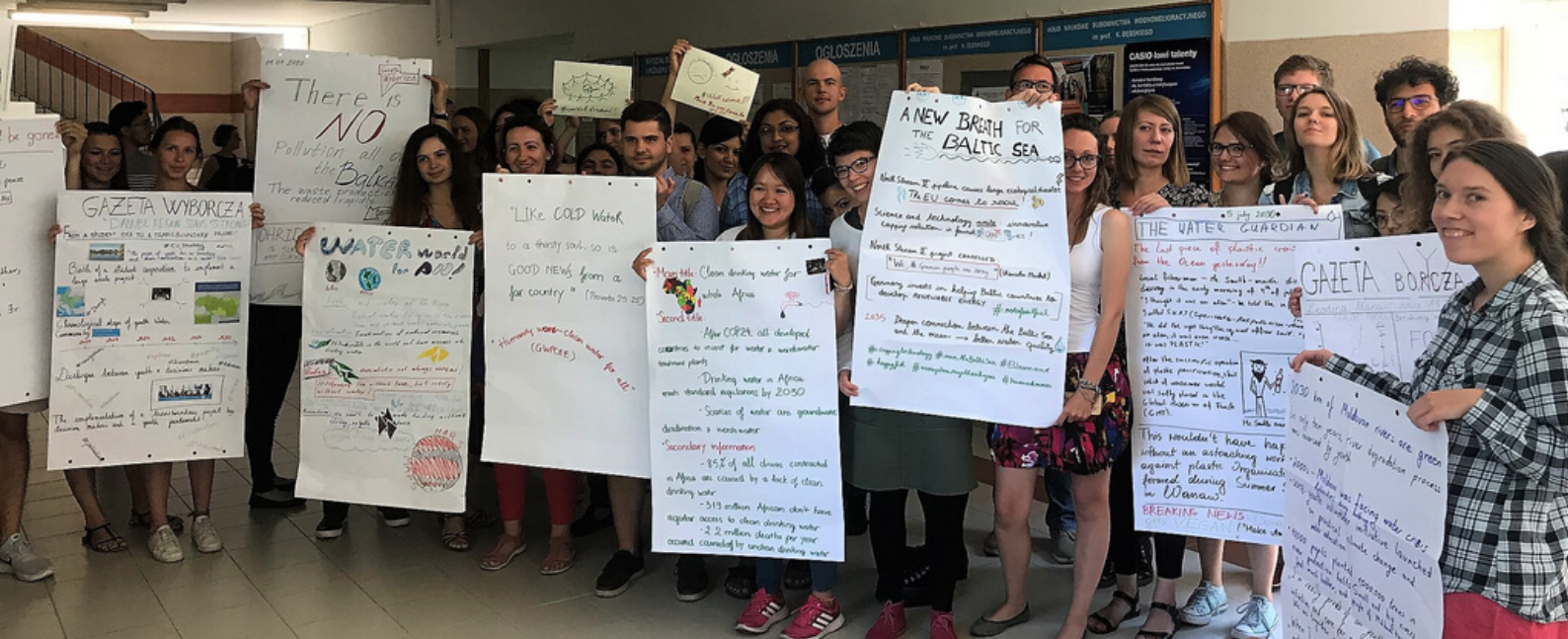
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Let's help the river movement



**THIS SHORT GUIDE WILL HELP YOU PREPARE FOR THE 15TH EUROPEAN YOUTH PARLIAMENT FOR WATER.**

**THERE ARE FOUR SECTIONS:**

**Introduction**

**Programme**

**Preparation**

**Practical information**



# INTRODUCTION



# EUROPEAN YOUTH PARLIAMENT FOR WATER

The European Youth Parliament for Water is your link to the water sector, both by increasing your knowledge on water resource management issues and by fostering understanding of citizenship and democracy. [With this parliament, you will be joining a community of young European leaders for water.](#)

For over 20 years, 14 editions of the Parliament have been organized, with the objective to :

- Enable young people to [learn](#) and [act](#) as agents of change;
- Facilitate the [participation of young people in decision-making](#)
- [Inspire youth actions for water](#)
- [Strengthening the capacity of young Europeans to act, dialogue and be a driving force in the water sector.](#)

# Engaging youth for a sustainable Europe



# SOLIDARITY WATER EUROPE

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 open 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.



**SWE is part of the  
International Secretariat for  
Water movement**



## #WaterGeneration

We mobilize, connect and support young water leaders from 18-30 with the courage and spirit to stand up for water in their community and internationally. Our global networks and initiatives allow the young leaders to unlock their capacities as agents of change and adapt to complex new challenges, while speaking with a strong voice.



# LET'S HELP THE RIVER

"Let's help the river" movement, part of the umbrella organization "Ecocenter DRONT", is a social and environmental movement for the protection of the environment in the Volga river basin. It gathers around 200 environmental groups and stakeholders coming from different backgrounds : scientists, engineers, lawyers, teachers, students, schoolchildren, etc. The coordination center is based in Nizhny Novgorod.



## OTHER PARTNERS

- Erasmus +
- Agence de l'eau Artois Picardie
- Swiss Development Cooperation
- Global Water Partnership
- City of Nizhny Novgorod
- Region of Nizhny Novgorod
- Water academy of Nizhny Novgorod
- Association of European Border Regions
- Goodplanet
- Country Water Partnership Hungary
- International Sava river basin Commission
- Geneva Water Hub
- German Khazak University
- Collège de Burier
- Global Water Partnership - Central and Eastern Europe
- Delegation of the European Union to the Russian Federation
- GWP Magyarország Kozhasznu Alapotvany
- Fondazione Campana dei Caduti
- Earth Forever
- Youthorama
- Association of young journalists
- Friends of the Baltic
- Y4TE Malta
- UNESCO Center, Nizhny Novgorod State University of Architecture and Civil Engineering
- Ecovisio



# PROGRAMME



# PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES AND THEMATIC

You will experience seven days of workshops, debates, networking and discovery. At the end of the week, with the other participants, [you will come up with a “Common Statement” and project proposals for actions and concrete changes you will implement in your communities across Europe.](#) You will also have the opportunity to present outcomes of your engagement to decision-makers and officials. Forming a parliament means democracy in action - [during the week you will elect representatives to facilitate the dynamism of this community for the next couple of years.](#)

## **The River basin: backbone of regional development**

This 15th edition will focus on [the river basin as the most appropriate scale to manage](#) the water resources in an integrated and sustainable way. Therefore, we need to shift the way we think and adapt our institutions for improved water cooperation and resulting benefits to the economy, tourism, culture and the environment. We will explore how young people can contribute to water governance with new thinking and innovative actions..

**Building a community of young  
change-makers committed to water  
across Europe**





# PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

## ACTIVE LEARNING AND WORKSHOPS

Experience talks, workshops, debates and participatory activities and hands-on learning. Develop new skills and capacities to tackle water challenges.

## DIALOGUE WITH EXPERTS AND DECISION-MAKERS

Exchange with experts on different thematic, explore new solutions and how decision making can benefit from youth engagement. Shape your advocacy strategy to see the change you want.

## DIRECT DEMOCRACY AND ELECTIONS

Decisions, commitments and resolutions passed by the parliament are done following democratic processes. Vote for your representatives during an action-packed evening.



# PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

## CULTURAL DISCOVERIES AND EXCHANGES

Showcase your country and discover cultures from all over Europe. As the event will be organized in Russia, discover local culture, food and traditions.

## NETWORKING AND SOCIAL EVENTS

Get to know fellow participants and professionals from the water sector and make connections for future projects and career opportunities. Grow your community of water geeks.

## PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

Brainstorm how to be an active community and how to work together effectively after the event. Get to know more about other youth networks and youth engagement at all levels.



THIRSTY  
FOR  
CHANGE

## WORKING COMMITTEES

The **work committees** organize some of the participant-driven activities that **take place during the event**. Each participant is assigned to one committee based on their preferences. It is not mandatory to take part in the committees, but we strongly encourage you to do so.

Form to submit your choices: <https://forms.gle/LqoJiUbCSX2ceL1u8>

### **Communication**

Produce daily news & updates. Post on social media and be creative

### **Statement**

Draft the final message of EYPW and expect to get less sleep

### **Social**

Organize social activities including cultural events and energizers

### **Election**

Organize EYPW elections according to the the rules that govern them

**Don't forget to send your choices by  
November 1st by using the form.**



# ELECTIONS

In the final days of the Parliament, you will elect fellow participants to represent the Parliament and its community until the next European Youth Parliament for Water. Everyone participating in the EYPW can run for office by putting their name forward for one of the positions, and conducting a campaign.

## **What does being elected mean?**

You will work in synergy with other youth to push different messages and actions at European level and in water conferences. As representatives, you will be the main motor to develop opportunities for the EYPW. Solidarity Water Europe team will help you to connect with partners and develop a good strategy. Keeping the community in touch and active during your term also among the tasks.

**Are you ready for a challenge that will take your involvement to the next level? Start thinking about it now.**



**PREPARATION**



## BE A PRO- ACTIVE PARTICIPANT!

Before coming to Russia, [we ask each participant to acquire some knowledge about their country and region](#). What is the current situation related to water issues in your river basin? What role does the river play in local development? Is it a transboundary area and if yes, what are the main axis of cooperation between the different stakeholders? Are there potential conflicts or problems related to water uses?

**Gather information relevant to your country and region – meet local actors, conduct research and familiarize yourself with the theme River basin and regional development.**

There are also multiple organisations, laws, solutions that act at local, national, European and international level! [Be curious, start to discover them now! We encourage you to contact your fellow country participants and exchange information.](#)

### Important!

Bring printed material about water situation from your country - photos, articles, graphics - newspapers, drawing!



## TAKING ACTION

During the EYPW, you will be invited to develop and pitch your idea for a [youth-led project](#), to be conducted once you return home. Take this opportunity to start thinking on how you are involved in your community, and how you will make a change with this project.

### Questions to consider

- What problems are there in my community?
- How does my project respond to them?
- What role do youth have in the success of my project?
- How is my project innovative?
- Can my project be adapted to other situations, other regions around the world?
- How can I create my own project?

**Take some time to think about your talents, skills, strengths and weaknesses, and the full complement of skills you'll need for a successful project. You can also team up with other participants.**



**GET**

**READY!**

**PRACTICAL INFO**





# YOUR STAY IN RUSSIA

## Visa

Make sure to have your passport ready and to obtain your Russian Visa on time. Don't wait to start the process. Look online for the proper requirements for the Visa and where to go to get it. We will provide invitation letter to help you with your visa request. Please let us know if you need anything or if you have difficulties to obtain the visa. For Erasmus participants, a maximum of 60 euros will be refunded by providing invoice during the event.

## Getting there

**Erasmus + participants** - You will be contacted for your flight by the organizers and you will receive your flight tickets.

**Other participants** - You need to buy your own flight ticket to Nizhny Novgorod International Airport - Strigino (Code AITA GOJ).

A transit bus will bring you from the airport to the hotel. You will receive further information later.

## Accommodation

We will be staying at the **Ibis hotel** and most of the activities will be there too. The hotel is downtown and easily accessible. Ibis address: Maxim Gorky St, 115, Nizhny Novgorod. Your room will be shared with 2-3 participants of the same gender.

The cost of accommodation is covered for the week. Extra room services will be at your own expenses.

**Start your Visa process now! It may take up to 3 weeks to get it.**



# YOUR STAY IN RUSSIA

## Dress code

The EYPW is an event for youth and with youth. There is no specific dress code. We would like to remind you, however, that there will be official events requiring more formal attire where local figures, experts, etc will be present.

Bring outdoor clothes and a pair of good shoes; some activities will be held outside. Be ready for cold temperature - temperature should be between 5 and  $-7^{\circ}$  C.

## Local currency

The local currency is the rouble.

You can withdraw cash from many ATMs with your debit or credit card, or convert money at the airport or a local bank.

## Food

Russian cuisine is rich and varied. You will have the pleasure of eating it throughout your stay. Of course it will be different from what you eat every day at home, that is part of the cultural experience. Please let us know if you have allergies or dietary restrictions.

**Bring traditional clothes for the intercultural evening!**



## CHECKLIST

- Make sure to have your passport ready and to obtain your Russian Visa. You will receive invitation letter to help you.
- Send us your proof of travel insurance.
- Send us your choice of committee, using the form before November 1st.
- Don't forget your items for the cultural evening (clothes, food, drinks, etc. – careful about customs clearance).
- Bring the support materials - printed -for your local survey.
- Bring musical instruments or games if you have them.
- Bring a cup or mug from your country so you don't use up plastic cups. Choose wisely, a special activity will involve it.
- Don't forget to bring appropriate clothes for the weather and more formal or traditional wear for the ceremonies
- Connect with others and join the WhatsApp group here:  
<https://chat.whatsapp.com/IW1XWAsQ33h8OM5B5H85eH>



# 15TH EUROPEAN YOUTH PARLIAMENT FOR WATER

## THANKS TO OUR MAIN PARTNERS!



"Let's help the river" movement



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC



Etablissement public du Ministère chargé  
du développement durable



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City of Nizhny Novgorod



Region of Nizhny Novgorod

At the heart of

# Blue Peace

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