



Solidarité Eau Europe
Solidarity Water Europe
Solidarität Wasser Europa

ANNUAL REPORT 2010



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1. A Word from the President

Tuned in to Europe and keen to take action at a European level, **SOLIDARITY WATER EUROPE** continued its activities in 2010, focussing on two priority areas: The first concerns bringing together Western European water professionals and their Eastern and Central European counterparts. The second involves giving the floor to youth, so that it may express its ideas and, in light of the urgency of the matter, its firm demands regarding a stronger and better orchestrated water policy, targeting both their national and European politicians.

We keep hearing that “water is life”, and yet the share of aid assigned to this sector is shrinking.

How can it be that in the early 21st Century, access to water and sanitation is still a problem for the survival and dignity of hundreds of thousands of people living in certain parts of our continent, of our Europe?

SOLIDARITY WATER EUROPE is fighting to try to meet our commitments to the people in the East. Promises were made 20 years ago and to keep these promises we now need to double our efforts. If we do not, the situation will reach tragic proportions for certain regions.

Through our programmes in the East, we also wish to draw attention to changes that do not respond to the usual ideals or reasons used to promote building stronger ties between the central and eastern parts of the continent and that of the west.

Aware of the growing importance of youth commitment, and in a bid to give them their say, **SOLIDARITY WATER EUROPE** has organised training sessions and debates. Whether it be in Brussels where young people presented their view of a European Vision for Water at the European Parliament, in Douai on biodiversity or in Strasbourg in the context of the European Week of Local Democracy, where they talked with local and regional elected officials, each of these encounters demonstrated their determination to take a strong stand against environmental degradation.

I wish to thank all the members of the team, Nicole Crochet, Cathy Martinez, Florence Kohtz and Thierry Umbehr, for their commitment, which has contributed to a remarkable level of success, both in the organisation of meetings and in the sometimes rather sensitive task of running projects in the field. I can only rejoice in the growth of the activities of **SOLIDARITY WATER EUROPE** in MOLDOVA (SEAM) and offer my heartfelt thanks to Galina Cazimir and Nina Plop for the quality of their work. The continued pace of activities is all the more commendable in that SWE has gone through a relatively significant metamorphosis, due to both structural changes and a new location for its offices. Its statutes, like those of SEAM have been clarified and its sign now hangs at Number 55 Avenue de Colmar in Strasbourg.

The financial sustainability of **SOLIDARITY WATER EUROPE** is, more than ever, one of our prime preoccupations. The current economic situation, marked by a drop in aid, subsidies and donations, means we must not only continue to tighten our belts, but also work even harder, which does not come without cost. Indeed, it has become imperative to widen our circle of donors if we wish to continue our actions as planned. All that we have achieved could not have been possible without the support of the SDC, the MEDDTL, the Artois-Picardie, Rhin-Meuse and Seine-Normandie Water Agencies, the SIAAP, private companies and foundations, the Region of Alsace, the Bas-Rhin General Council and the European Union. We extend our sincere thanks to all these organisations!



It is thanks to their support that we can carry out our programmes to help the poorest communities of Central and Eastern Europe and develop original and replicable expertise; expertise where the introduction of integrated water management principles to ensure sustainable local management is based on all stakeholders and the consideration of local knowledge and practices.

Victor Ruffy
President

2. Solidarity Water Europe's Mission

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) based in Montreal, with the support of the French Water Agencies Committee.

Our Missions...

Solidarity Water Europe's mission is to increase access to water and sanitation for the poorest communities, in particular those of Central and Eastern Europe and to mobilise all stakeholders to apply the principles of integrated water resource management at local level.

Our 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



Further reading:

Declaration of Strasbourg: "Water, source of citizenship, peace and regional development"
SWE Brochure (available in French, English, German and Russian)

3. Youth Programme

SWE is convinced that youth participation in local management of and political debates on water contributes to the change in mentality and practices required for responsible and shared water management.

Convinced of their effectiveness, SWE has been organising the **Youth Parliaments for Water** since 1998. This programme, which has benefitted thousands of young Europeans, has enabled SWE to establish **recognised expertise facilitating youth participation in European debates on water and the environment**. Furthermore, while ensuring the Parliaments continue, SWE can now offer its know-how to other youth organisations and events.

This year is a good example, as SWE's expertise was solicited three times (for the Council of Europe's European Week for Local Democracy, the Artois-Picardie Water Agency's "Youth and Bio...diversity" Symposium and the European Youth Water Summit of the European Water Partnership, EWP). At the same time, SWE was preparing the 10th Parliament in the Netherlands, scheduled for 2011, in which delegations from 16 countries are registered.

3.1 Our Expertise

3.1.1 European Youth Water Summit – Brussels – 17/18 March 2010

The European Water Partnership (EWP) called upon SWE to provide expertise and co-organise the first European Youth Water Summit in Brussels. The objective was to ask for young people's opinions on the "Water Vision for 2030" drawn up by EWP.

SWE helped identify and prepare the young participants, coordinated the consultation with young people and led the event in collaboration with Green Belgium and EWP.

36 young people from 16 countries attended and drew up a joint declaration on the *Water Vision for 2030*, which was presented to members of the European Parliament.



The young people accepted the terms of the *Water Vision for 2030*, but insisted on the need to increase youth participation in water policy. They highlighted the fact that youth participation is a right mentioned in various political texts in most European countries. They also formulated specific proposals for involving young people in European decision-making processes.

“We the youngsters are a very important part of European and local communities and we can also help to solve water problems with our strong power in creativity, imagination, energy and enthusiasm.”
Extract from the Youth Declaration - Brussels, 18 March 2010

>> Complete declaration available on request or for download at <http://www.ewp.eu/european-youth-water-declaration-available>

3.1.2 International “Youth and Bio...diversity” Symposium – Arras – 24 March 2010



On 24 March 2010, the Artois-Picardie Water Agency organised an international meeting on youth involvement in the preservation of biodiversity. Solidarity Water Europe was asked to designate and set up youth delegations from the “European Youth Parliaments for Water”. The young people had to present local initiatives they had led to preserve biodiversity. Young people from Russia, Bulgaria and the Netherlands participated in the symposium. SWE also coordinated a round table during the symposium on youth participation initiatives.

>> for more information: <http://www.eau-artois-picardie.fr/Colloque-international-Jeunesse-et.html>

3.1.3 European Week for Local Democracy – Strasbourg – 15 – 18 October 2010

In the context of the “European Week for Local Democracy” and at the request of the Council of Europe’s Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, SWE organised, in cooperation with the town of Schiltigheim, a discussion between young people and elected representatives on the theme of “Youth, Climate Change and Water: the implications for development and the impact on the poorest”. SWE proposed the concept for this encounter, coordinated the project, prepared the participants and led the workshops.

Around fifty young people and elected officials from all over Europe (Croatia, Moldova, Russia and Latvia, invited by SWE) and from the town of Schiltigheim (Bas-Rhin, France) and members of the Council of Europe’s Congress came together to discuss and debate the topical issue of climate change and its effect on the environment and people.

This project also helped to raise the profile of the youth programme within the Council of Europe and to widen SWE’s network. Furthermore, it provided the opportunity to promote the upcoming Parliament in the Netherlands. Following this event in Strasbourg, we received the Council of Europe’s agreement in principle to support the 10th Parliament.

“To protect water, the first step is a change in attitude. Awareness-raising, which is a huge task, is essential for improving the situation. We raise young people’s awareness about water with our association, Viola. One of our activities is to bring them to the banks of rivers to measure water quality. Interviews and debates with elected officials are also essential, such as the one I participated in at a European level. They must understand what we expect from them and what they can expect from us”.

Elena Zhukova, a Russian student from Bryansk



3.1.4 Youth involvement in European debates



During the **3rd European Solidarity Week for Water** (see section 5.1) the President of the 9th European Youth Parliament for Water, the Vice-President of the Youth Parliament of the Artois-Picardie basin and two young people from a Franco-Bulgarian cooperation project initiated by SWE participated in the different debates of the symposium and presented their involvement in cooperation actions, awareness-raising and local projects in the field.

Through the various presentations and discussions, the young people realised that access to drinking water and sanitation in Central and Eastern Europe is a real issue. Similarly, they underlined the importance of their local commitment. Their actions need to be increased and they need to share experiences with their European neighbours in order to achieve effective and sustainable results.

3.2 Organisation of the 10th European Youth Parliament for Water

It was during the 9th European Youth Parliament for Water in Russia that SWE was approached by the Province of Gelderland to organise the 10th edition in Arnhem in the Netherlands. In March 2010, the preparation for the 10th Parliament began. This event will take place from 13 to 20 March 2011 and will host around one hundred participants from France, Germany, Russia, the Netherlands, Austria, Switzerland, Moldova, Bulgaria, Turkey, Latvia, Azerbaijan, Kosovo, Greece, Croatia, Belgium and Poland.

The theme is **“Water and Climate Change”**.

Climate change has been at the heart of debate for several years now... But what are its effects on the vital resource that is water? Are people aware of the impact of climate change on their water resources? These are the questions that the participants in the 10th European Youth Parliament for Water will be discussing.

The young people will debate with elected officials and experts and will discover the latest projects implemented in Gelderland to mitigate the impact of climate change on water. They will also film a video that

will be used as an awareness-raising tool in their areas and will write and adopt a declaration to be presented to local and European politicians.

During the course of 2010, Solidarity Water Europe made four trips to the Netherlands in order to specify the programme (field visits, workshops, official sessions and discovering the region), to identify the location for the Parliament and to seek further funding. SWE is responsible for the overall coordination of the event.

3.3 Capitalising on our experience

After more than ten years gathering a wealth of varied experience with the **European Youth Parliaments for Water**, it was becoming crucial to draw up a set of documents to capitalise on this experience and communicate on the programme.

The objective was **to improve the visibility of the parliaments, promote their achievements and enable the various partners** (young people, financial backers and technical partners) **to better understand these events**. This activity also aims to develop and ensure the sustainability of the parliaments.

SWE worked with the Ad-Syfral Communication agency, with whom SWE has been collaborating already, to define a communications strategy.



“Convinced of the utility of these events, we decided to do our utmost to promote water management and democracy on our continent by targeting young people. We hope in this way to garner the help and financial support of new partners in order to further develop and sustain the programme”

Victor Ruffy, President of SWE

In 2010, a **reference document on the Parliaments** was published. It contains detailed technical and practical explanations regarding the programme. It also includes all the background to the European Youth Parliaments for Water as well as their local and international spin-offs. It lists all the partners who have supported the project, as well as all the event sponsors.

A veritable mine of information, it will be used to produce other communication documents including:

- A brochure presenting the parliaments for the general public
- A brochure targeting young people
- A detailed and richly illustrated document for those partners who wish to have more information
- Multi-media material (videos, photos, blogs) to complement and illustrate the documents, particularly on the web-site.

The graphics and colours to be used have been validated, including in particular the systematic use of the “running man” logo to use to “sign” all Parliamentary documents.

4. Strengthening the Moldovan Programme

Moldova has been one of the pillars of Solidarity Water Europe since 2006. Indeed, thanks to the creation of the local branch, Solidaritate Europeana pentru Apa in Moldova (SEAM), several projects have been undertaken and rigorously monitored in this small Eastern European country.

It is in Vorniceni, in the district of Straseni, that the sanitation project began in 2006, based on youth mobilisation (see the Annual Reports of 2006 and 2007). Over the years, the network of young people has helped to widen the geographical scope of the activities, and to increase work on sanitation issues. SEAM's cooperation with other Moldovan stakeholders, such as NGOs, local councils, donors etc. has led to very convincing results, in particular the creation of an educational toolbox made up of educational material on water, hygiene and sanitation for rural areas. 1000 such toolboxes have been distributed to schools, libraries and town halls across the country.

SEAM's involvement has also enabled the SWE to extend its activities to neighbouring districts, which is how new issues such as public participation, raising users' awareness and youth promotion will be raised in 2011 in a catchment area of more than 30 000 inhabitants.

4.1 SEAM – New Statutes, formalising links with SWE

The Board of SEAM was renewed as were its statutes, thus strengthening the organisation in Moldova. This new structure will be even better equipped to face new challenges. The six board members, 3 of whom are from SWE, unanimously approved the strengthening of the links between the two organisations.

4.2 Sanitation projects in Vorniceni

The final phase of SWE and SEAM involvement in Vorniceni involved a sanitation project for 2000 inhabitants. Indeed, thanks to the coordination work led by SEAM locally, involving a dozen stakeholders from different sectors (political, educational, business, agriculture, health etc.), a feasibility study for sanitation was drawn up by a, environmental engineering firm. Out of the five options proposed, the choice was made to build a sewer network to drain all waste water from the social institutions, high-density residential areas, businesses and the town hall.



At the end of 2010, the installations were designed and a turn-key project developed, enabling the local elected representatives to raise funds to develop water and sanitation infrastructure from donors working in Moldova.

“The activities carried out in the context of the sanitation feasibility study enabled us to be included as stakeholders and to give us the experience to interact with the other stakeholders. They helped me to lead debates and show just how dreadful the sanitation situation was in the kindergarten. Until this study was carried out, we thought this situation was stuck; now we know that it can change for the better. If we had not been involved in this process, we would never have managed to develop a sanitation project”.

Mariana Cociug, Head of kindergarten n° 2



4.3 SWE Provides expertise to its partners on the ground

SWE's expertise in the field, acquired over several years, has strongly contributed to the creation and development of Moldovan NGOs specialising, among other things, in ecosan-type sanitation facilities. This expertise has helped to find solutions to problems relating to the whole sanitation cycle and to identify ways to involve other stakeholders interested in the process, such as farmers, scientists and local elected officials.

Further reading:

SEAM Statutes (Romanian and French)

SEAM 2010 Annual Report (Romanian, English, French)

5. Networking and Partnership Programme

Youth field projects carried out by SWE provide local solutions and local commitment, but are not enough to bring about large scale change. This is why SWE carries out additional advocacy actions to encourage mobilisation of public opinion and public participation in decision-making such that they can contribute ideas and influence decision-makers. SWE aims to bring the concerns and needs of local communities to the attention of national and international stakeholders and to do this, participates in various major European and international events. Furthermore, few French NGOs work in Central and Eastern Europe on water issues, despite the considerable needs. SWE wishes to inform French stakeholders and raise their awareness of what the situation really is in these areas to build new ties of solidarity and undertake new cooperation programmes between East and West.

To this end, SWE carried out different advocacy actions:

5.1 The 3rd European Solidarity Week for Water

Many European, and particularly French, stakeholders participate in cooperation projects for access to drinking water and sanitation. Their actions mainly focus on Africa, and few among them are aware of the alarming situation just next door in Central and Eastern Europe.

From 3 to 6 November 2010 the 3rd European Solidarity Week for Water "*The wall has fallen, the gap is getting wider*", brought together in Strasbourg around fifty participants (elected officials, academics, managers, donors, decision-makers and representatives of civil society) from Armenia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, France, Moldova, Uzbekistan, the Netherlands, Romania, Russia, Switzerland and the Ukraine.

The main objective of this 3rd Solidarity Week was to inform stakeholders in the West about the water and sanitation situation in Eastern countries and to bring stakeholders together to generate new partnerships to develop cooperation projects in the East.

It was clearly shown during these few days that there is a real gulf between Eastern Europe and Western Europe in terms of wealth, development and access to services such as water and sanitation.

The different discussions and presentations highlighted that it is not so much technical and technological gaps that need to be filled in these countries, but that they have fallen behind in managing these services according to democratic, participatory, sustainable and transparent principles.

Therefore it is clear that sharing of experiences, knowledge and skills must be stepped up between East and West. To do this, two tools will be developed:



A platform of Eastern and Western elected representatives to help partners in the East set up a sustainable management system for sanitation

This platform will be used to establish an organisational structure for the sanitation sector based on the experience of the different partners. Stepping up the sharing of knowledge and skills between elected representatives in Eastern and Western Europe will help to increase and improve the knowledge and capacities of local and regional elected officials in the Eastern countries. Finally, this platform could promote different means of financing decentralised cooperation projects (e.g. the Oudin Law in France, etc.), and propose management systems that are as yet little known in the East.

Country Guidelines: to encourage and facilitate the setting up of East-West cooperation projects: Moldova

The Central and Eastern European Country cooperation guide developed in 2009 focused on Moldova. It will be extended to include many geographical illustrations to better present the water and sanitation problems in these countries, in particular by explaining in more detail what challenges lie ahead in setting up these services in rural Europe.

Two Moldovan ministers (of the Environment and Land Development), the OECD and sector specialists are on the validation committee, which should ensure this guide is specific and practical, and provides effective solutions for people working on the ground. Furthermore, the style and content of the guide will take into account the increasing demand for information in France on this hitherto neglected area of Europe.

By responding to the many questions of Western stakeholders, this guide will facilitate the setting up of new cooperation projects for water in this country.

5.2 Seminars

Throughout the year, Solidarity Water Europe has been involved in various international seminars to present its projects and share its experiences with a target audience made up of water specialists, key stakeholders and representatives of various European governments.

The most important events during 2010 were:

- The seminar on sanitation organised by IRCOD at the ENGEES in Strasbourg, on 18 and 19 March for the 50th anniversary of this prestigious school,
- Aquawareness Policy Forum in Brussels on 22 March (organised by EWP),
- The workshop on public participation in water management in Bucarest on 15/16 June (organised by UNECE and WECF),
- The seminar on “Managing clean water and safe sanitation in Europe in transition”, Bulgaria from 6 to 8 July (organised by WfWP),
- The second meeting of the parties of the Water and Health protocol (UNECE/WHO) in Bucarest from 23 to 25 November.

5.3 Networking

An important element of SWE’s activities consists in networking at European level. SWE works to pass its messages through its members and other active partners both in the West and the East, at political levels and on the ground.

In France, SWE is a member of the *Coalition Eau*, a platform of French NGOs working to promote sustainable access to water and sanitation for all. In this network, SWE is the only NGO working in Eastern Europe. SWE is an active member of the working group on “Mobilising Mayors”, which aims to promote financing facilities for cooperation projects (such as the Oudin Law) among French local politicians.

6. Heading for Marseille 2012 – 6th World Water Forum

6.1 SWE’s involvement in the Forum preparation process

The 6th World Water Forum, which will be held from 13 to 20 March 2012 in Marseille, France, offers an immense opportunity for all stakeholders based in France to present their messages, their experiences and their projects and to bring them to the attention of the world.

The event will mobilise many people and a key place has been attributed to civil society (inhabitants, NGOs, associations etc.) to ensure the forum is firmly rooted in the concerns and needs of users.

Since June 2010 and the kick-off meeting, SWE has been actively involved with the *Coalition Eau* and is a member of various preparatory committees.

In the **Regional European Process**, which covers 12 priority themes requiring concrete solutions adapted to future actions in Europe, SWE is leading the working group on “improving water and sanitation services in Europe” with EUREAU, focussing particularly on issues of access to water and sanitation services in poor regions. During European meetings in 2011, SWE will lead workshops on this theme and will focus on this subject in the working group.

The president of SWE will contribute to the **Political Process**, which targets members of parliament and regional elected officials, as an advisor to the Council of Europe.

The **Thematic Process**, will be closely followed and fed by the *Coalition Eau*, of which SWE is a member. In particular, SWE will focus on the targets and solutions that are directly linked to its specific area of expertise.

6.2 The World Youth Parliament for Water

In collaboration with the International Secretariat for Water (SIE-ISW), SWE participated in the kick off meetings for the World Water Forum in Marseille, held in 2010, in order to specify the role for youth within this global event. At the same time, discussions were begun with the Artois-Picardie Water Agency, the Water Embassy and Green Belgium to organise the World Youth Parliament for Water during the forum. Due to its decade of experience, SWE was asked to coordinate this international event. Some of the young participants, representatives of the European continent, will come from the youth parliament for water process, in particular the 10th Parliament to be held in the Netherlands, in order to have their say not only at a regional but also at a global level.

7. Financial Report 2010

7.1 Comments on 2010 financial report

Introduction

The 2010 annual financial report represents the accounts of SWE headquarters and of its activities throughout Europe. These accounts are produced following an internal and external control process:

- Each programme coordinator is responsible for their programme budget
- The accounts of the different projects are checked and validated by the SWE Accounts Manager
- The accounts are then checked by the Association Treasurer
- All administrative processes (salaries etc.) are carried out by our accounting firm, Chabert-Ehling.
- The annual accounts are audited and certified by the Chartered Accountants, Cabinet Laurence Schwob.

The 2010 consolidated accounts and the Accountant's report are then submitted at the annual general meeting for approval.

Our main comments are given below. More detailed information on the accounts can be requested from contact@see-swe.org

Balance Sheet:

"We hereby certify that, as regards French accounting rules and principles, the annual balance sheet provides a true and faithful account of the operations from the past financial year, and of the association's financial situation and assets at the end of this financial year".

Extract from the Chartered Accountant's Report, Cabinet LS

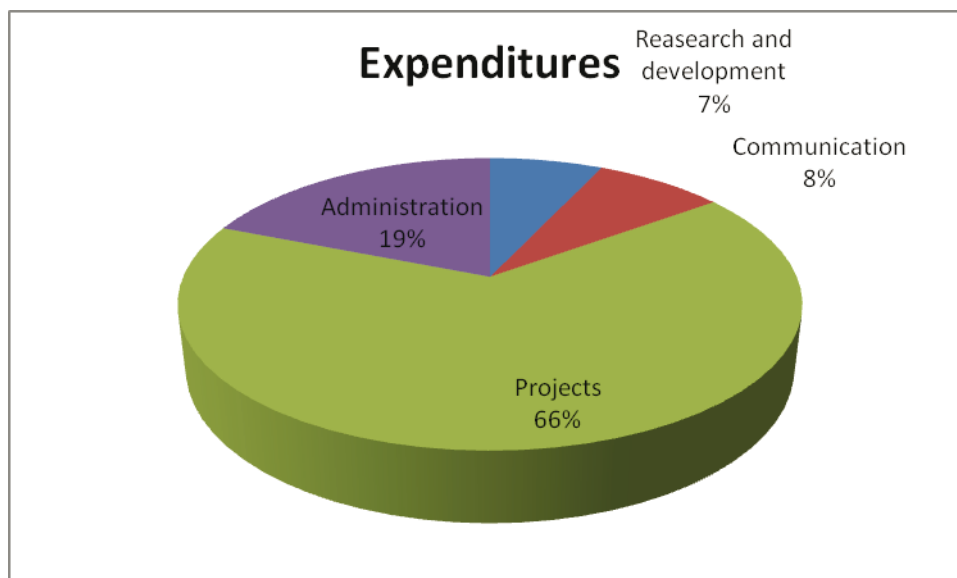
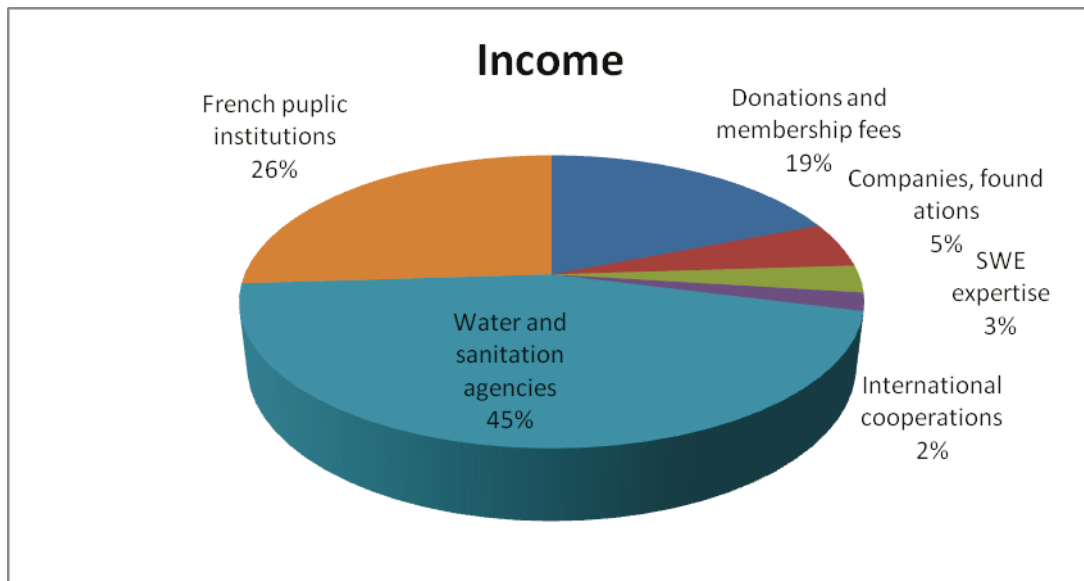
The balance sheet shows a total income of €297 510 and a total expenditure of €314 399, hence a deficit of €16 889.

7.2 Income and expenditure 2010

Public subsidies represent 73% of income. These come mostly (26%) from French public institutions (ministries, regional and local authorities etc.) and water and sanitation agencies (SIAAP, Rhin-Meuse, Artois-Picardie and Seine-Normandy Water Agencies), which provide 45%. The remaining 2% comes from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

Private funds represent 24% of income (donations, membership fees, private companies, foundations)

Finally, SWE has been remunerated for services provided, representing around 3%.



7.3 Thank you to our Donors!

Without the help of our donors, SWE would not have been able to run all these programmes. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all those who faithfully support us, and thank you to those who have joined SWE this year... and we hope to welcome more new partners next year!

French Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development, Transport and Housing

Rhin-Meuse Water Agency

Artois-Picardie Water Agency

Seine-Normandy Water Agency

Swiss Agency Development and Cooperation

Alsace Regional Council

Bas-Rhin General Council

Inter-departmental Union for Sanitation in the Paris Region (SIAAP)

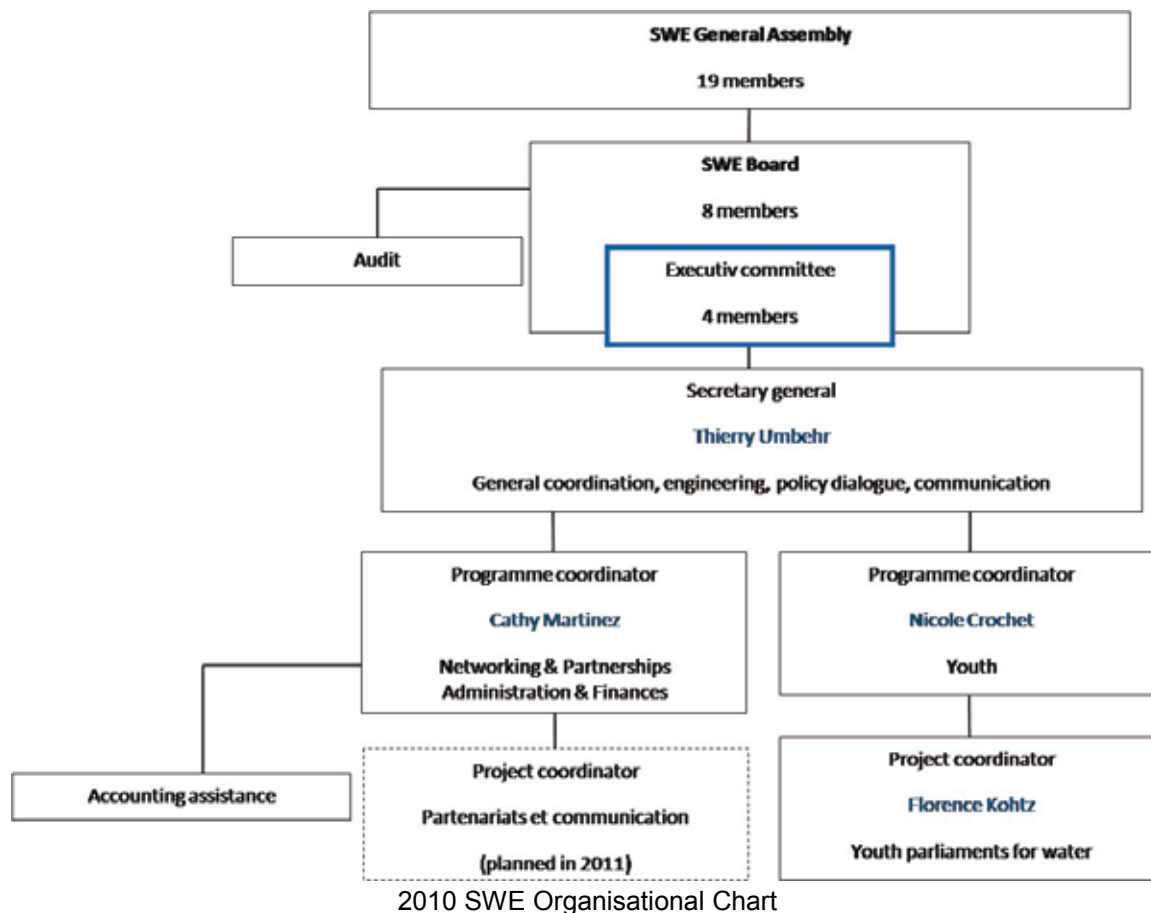
Fondation Hippocrène

Fondation de France

The *Association Intercommunales pour le Démergement et l'Épuration des Communes de la Province de Liège* (covering flood management and sanitation in Liège Province) (AIDE), Belgium

8. 2010 Administration and Organisation

8.1 Organisational Chart



A dynamic team manages SWE projects, grouped into in three programmes: “Youth”, “Moldova” and “Networking and Partnerships”. This new organisational structure has improved SWE’s visibility and has led to more targeted and sustainable commitments in the different sectors.



The SWE Team

The Board in 2010 is made up of:

President

Victor Ruffy

Former Swiss National Councillor and former President of the commission on Political Issues of the Parliamentary Assembly and former Vice-President of the Environmental Commission of the Council of Europe, Switzerland

Vice-President

Raymond Jost

Founder of SWE and of the International Secretariat for Water, and President of the Water Sages, Canada

Treasurer

Antonella Cagnolati

Director of the Congress of the local and regional authorities of the Council of Europe, France

Secretary

Annick Waller

Retired Engineer, France

Members

Bernard Barraqué

Director of Research, CNRS, LATTs, France

Pierre-Marie Grondin

Director, Programme Solidarité Eau (pS-Eau), France

Roger Lanoue

President of the International Secretariat for Water, Canada

Pierre-Frédéric Ténière-Buchot

Governor of the World Water Council, France



8.2 Outlook

The decentralised cooperation sector is currently changing, and for the better, in particular from SWE's perspective. Not only are supporters of the Oudin law (1% for solidarity) being very encouraging and this innovative financing mechanism proving successful, but there is also an increasing interest from stakeholders to bring the focus back to Europe, particularly in the poorest countries.

The 6th World Water Forum will be held in France. So SWE has ahead of it a year of hard work, of preparation, promotion and advocacy to bring their key subjects onto the political and financial stage in Europe and to step up cooperation between West and East in the water and sanitation sector.

Water Solidarity Europe is committed to meeting these challenges with serenity and conviction, knowing that its approach drives sustainable and participatory management of water and thus contributes to the Millennium Development Goals (MDG).





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