



## Declaration

### **13<sup>th</sup> European Youth Parliament for Water**

#### **I. Introduction**

We, the young representatives from 17 European countries – Armenia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Kosovo, Latvia, Malta, Moldova, the Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Switzerland and Turkey – met in Burier, Switzerland, from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> of March 2016, in order to discuss the issues regarding ‘Managing the risk of water-related disasters. All the participants adopted the following declaration and would like to share it especially with:

- The National Parliaments of all the countries involved;
- The Environmental ministers and authorities in each country;
- The European Commissioner of Climate Action;
- The European Commissioner of Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries ;
- The Secretary General of the Council of Europe;
- The Chair of Intergroup on climate change, sustainable development and biodiversity ;
- EC Directorate-General for the Environment ;
- NGO’s involved in water governance and youth;
- Other stakeholders.

On behalf of the 13<sup>th</sup> European Youth Parliament for Water (EYPW), the 17 delegations would like to thank the organisers and Swiss authorities, especially Mr. Federal Councillor Didier Burkhalter, Minister of Foreign Affairs, for their support and for offering the opportunity to implement 10 water related projects.

#### **Water-Related Risks**

During the 13<sup>th</sup> EYPW the delegations identified common water related risks:

- Natural: Floods, Droughts, Landslides, Avalanches;
- Anthropological: Pollution, Climate change – related.



## II. Our Commitments

The delegates of the 13<sup>th</sup> EYPW believe that people's awareness is necessary to tackle water-related problems. In order to address the problems related to water disasters, the population should be well informed about local and global environmental problems. To achieve this, we commit ourselves to:

- Organise training activities with youth and children to raise awareness about:
  - How to reduce their water footprint
  - How not to pollute the environment in their country
  - How to protect the environment
  - What their role is in maintaining the natural environment
  - The water cycle
  - Water-related risks in their country
  - Climate change resilience
- Organise social media campaigns, such as photo contests, to raise awareness in innovative and creative ways such as hashtags for promoting the campaign
- Facilitate access to relevant and applicable information by:
  - Developing access points: mobile applications, websites, leaflets
  - Creating informational infographics or leaflets in local zones
  - Sharing hazard maps from institutions to citizens, however if no hazard maps exist, involve experts to create them
  - Helping during water-related disaster by collaborating with organisations that deal with such events
  - Sharing information about recent and future activities related to the EYPW or other water-related local and international events.



### **III. Conclusion**

We, members of the 13<sup>th</sup> European Youth Parliament for Water, are committed to implement our projects, to share our knowledge, experience and ideas, and to extend our outreach to other European countries, which did not participate in the previous water parliaments.

To conclude, we are committed to work together on a better future raising awareness and mobilizing our generation to take action.