



Youth for Water and Climate Programme 2023-2024

Call for application*

Deadline to apply:
October 19th 2023

*This call is open to applicants from the following countries: France, Lithuania, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Greece and the Netherlands.



What is the Youth for Water and Climate Programme?

The Youth for Water and Climate Programme is a 8-month capacity-building program, led by the International Secretariat for Water - Solidarity Water Europe with the financial support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Agence de l'Eau Artois-Picardie. The tools, structure and content of the YWC programme were developed with a consortium of partners including the Global Water Partnership, Global Water Partnership - Central and Eastern Europe, cewas, Global Water Partnership Hungary and Good Planet Belgium.

In the water sector, indicators show that there are serious gaps in the workforce due to the shortage of human resources, differences in the skills required depending on the rural or urban environment, the lack of incentives for workers, and the lack of coordination between the needs of the industry and the offer of educational institutions.

The Youth for Water and Climate (YWC) Programme aims to address these gaps and equip youth to become leaders and entrepreneurs to address the challenges of sustainable management of water resources, build climate resilience and contribute to the achievement of the SDGs. Following the implementation of the pilot phase YWC Programme, 100% of participants secured a job or furthered their studies in the water & climate space.

This program targets young people, aged 18 - 30 years old and currently based in Europe, who wish to gain tools and knowledge and expand their network to pursue a career within the water and climate sector. This program also targets youth who wish to further strengthen their entrepreneurial water & climate project.

If this feels like you, read on - you could be our ideal candidate for the 2023-2024 YWC Programme!

Why should you join the YWC Programme?

The program will offer a participation in up to two international workshops, a mentorship opportunity, support in finding an internship, a community of practice and a complete online curriculum to support you in further developing your professional skills and/or entrepreneurial skills in the water and climate sector.

- **Learn and boost your skills**

As participant of the Youth for Water and Climate Programme, you will take part in at least one 5-day international seminar, the first one being organized in Strasbourg, France (from the 11th to the 15th of December 2023) . The tentative date set for the second in-person workshop is August 2024 (to be confirmed).

Through these international seminars, you'll benefit from a European vision of water-related issues, with insights specific to each mobility country, by meeting local players in the field and reflecting together on the sector's themes.

Finally, you'll enjoy personalized workshops in line with the key themes of the [YWC Curriculum](#). The YWC Curriculum is an open-source and freely available online course which will provide you with the tools and skills to face our planet's climate and water challenges.

The objective is also to provide you with cross-disciplinary leadership and methodological skills, so that you can apply your water & climate solutions in your professional career, or as an independent entrepreneur. Throughout the YWC Programme, you will be invited to complete the online curriculum at your own pace.

Here are the themes of the modules that will be covered:

- Take-up a career in the water & climate sector,
- Develop personal professional skills to become a great leader,
- Learn how to start an impactful business or plan your own project,
- Start a professional career in a water and climate organization.

- **Receive mentoring from experienced professionals**

During the entire program, you will be matched with a mentor, an experienced professional from the water and climate sector, with whom you shall connect at least once a month. He/she will give you personalized advice on your future career and share with you key insights regarding different career pathways in the water sector .

Throughout the program, you will receive guidance to maximize the impact of this relationship through the [Mentorship Guide](#) developed by the partners.

- **Join a wide community of practice**

Participating in this program will enable you to forge valuable connections and build your network through interactions with mentors, partners, and fellow water sector professionals. You will be invited to actively participate in an [online community of practice](#) with all mentors, partners, and young participants of the YWC Programme. The community of practice is a safe platform for collaboration and coordinated action, building leadership capacity, sharing of ideas, and improving the quality of knowledge and learning approaches. You will be invited to take ownership of this space and actively participate in its design and management.



Important dates

5th October 2023, 5:30 PM CEST	<u>Information session, virtual Q&A session</u>
19th October 2023	Deadline to apply
Early November 2023	Results of the application
11th to 15th December 2023	Workshop 1 (Strasbourg, France)
End of August 2024	Workshop 2 (Lithuania) (to be confirmed)

Throughout the program, monthly online activities will be organised through the community of practice. The agenda will be co-developed with the participants during the 1st mobility. Furthermore, the participants will also be invited to take leadership in organising their own meetings with their mentor.

What are the participation criteria?

- You are between 18-30 years old
- Currently living in one of these countries: France, Romania, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Hungary, the Netherlands and Greece.
- Studying, working and/or volunteering in a field related to water and climate
- Strong commitment and interest for water and climate related issues (national, regional or international level)
- Significant motivation to take part in the program & availability to take part in all the program activities.
- Must be able to communicate in English
- Must have access to Internet
- Be fully available for the first mobility organized in Strasbourg from 11th to 15th December 2023

What are the fees and costs?

The fees and costs related to the workshops will be covered by the organizers :

- International transportation (economy class seats)
- Basic shared accommodation
- Local transportation
- Activities and program expenses
- A lump sum of 20 euros per day for meals will be provided, in addition to a welcome and departure meal

Covered by the participants:

- Insurance (mandatory)
- Visa process (if applicable)
- Other personal expenses

How can I apply?

To apply, you must submit the application form as well as a short 2 min video presentation and a 200-word essay.

[Access the form](#)

Or, copy paste the link in your browser :

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdPSNLTwLb9_i-xTkpHs-i5j6-5Y6LR0Yae0IYJIYZRjJzj6g/viewform?usp=sf_link

The deadline to apply is October 19th 2023, 11:59 PM CEST.

Questions?

For any questions, please contact Clément DOLISI, European office Coordinator at ISW-SWE : cdolisi@see-swe.org OR participate to our online Q&A session

Who is the organizer?

- **Solidarity Water Europe (SWE) / International Secretariat for Water (ISW)**

Solidarity Water Europe (SWE) is an NGO based in Strasbourg, France which was founded in 1998. SWE's mission is to catalyze the vectors of change that contribute to the establishment of sustainable water governance, universal access to water and sanitation and the advancement of water as a factor of peace and cooperation in Europe. Solidarity Water Europe (SWE) forms a movement with the International Secretariat for Water (ISW) - based in Montreal (Canada) - bringing together citizens and organizations who are committed advocates for water.

The International Secretariat for Water (ISW) is a non-governmental organisation founded in 1990 in Montreal, Canada. The ISW envisions a world in which water is equitably accessible to all, fostering the empowerment of local actors as well as cooperation between borders, generations, and institutions. ISW's mission is to initiate and facilitate actions that contribute to positive systemic changes in the framework of water governance from the local to the global level and to the empowerment of actors involved in the water sector.

Q&A

I am a working student, which already takes up a lot of my time. Can I still take part in the program?

Yes, of course, you can still take part in the program, which is organised in a hybrid format (online/ presential).

What is the estimated time commitment per week for this program?

You follow the courses and modules at your own pace, giving you a certain amount of autonomy in your learning. Nevertheless, we estimate a weekly commitment of 2-3 hours for the entire duration of the programme in addition to the in-person workshops.

What jobs and internships have former participants gained access to as a result of this program?

The former participants gained access to a wide range of jobs and internships. Alumni of the programme are now working as engineers in water agencies, project manager, researchers in the water sector, etc.

How much does the program cost?

The program will cover all costs related to international transportation and accomodation for the in-person workshops. We ask that you cover the costs related to insurance and visa processes (if required).

What level of expertise in the water or climate sector is required to take part in the program?

It is not necessary to have a high level of expertise in the water or climate sector to be eligible. Netherless, we are looking for participants that have a strong interest in developing a career in this field.

How many participants will take part in the programme?

20 applicants will be selected.

Q&A

Who are the contributors and what are their areas of expertise?

Contributors to the programme may include water agencies, civil society organizations as well as local, national or international institutions.

What documents do I need to apply?

To apply, just follow the Google Form link we've provided.

Is the program evaluated/graded?

The program is not graded, but a personal skills assessment is made at the end to assess your progress. You will also receive an official certificate.

When will the results of the application be published?

The application period closes on October, 19th. The final results will be published early November and will be sent to you by e-mail.

