



Committed to Civil Society and Young Water Leaders



Region
Global

Partners
International Secretariat for Water (ISW) - Solidarity Water Europe (SWE)

Background information

ISW-SWE envisions a world where everyone has access to a safe, sustainable source of water and sanitation. To achieve this, an innovative, multi-stakeholder approach is crucial.

Project objectives

An active and empowered civil society and youth for water and sanitation induce changes in policy-making, and contribute to sustainable and peaceful water governance for the benefit of all, in particular the disadvantaged.

Beneficiaries

Citizens, Youth, Disadvantaged populations, Civil society organizations, Institutional actors, Decision-makers (including private sector), Authorities at all levels.

Budget

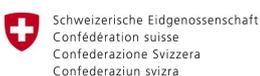
CHF 1,900,000

Duration

01.2019 - 12.2023

Contact

Global Programme Water
water@eda.admin.ch



Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

The International Secretariat for Water (ISW) - Solidarity Water Europe (SWE) supports and empowers civil society and youth to be active, recognised and credible stakeholders in decision-making around water and sanitation. It is recognised for its holistic and participatory approach involving wide networks of partners, including numerous Swiss-based organisations. The SDC contribution aims to strengthen the strategic partnership with ISW-SWE in order to remain an efficient and innovative advocate for civil society and youth.

Citizens and young people are heavily and directly affected by the challenges our world is facing, and they have the most to lose when it comes to the prospect of a peaceful and sustainable future. However, effective civil society involvement, including youth engagement, is challenging because of the mindset of decision-makers, and institutions being more comfortable doing «business-as-usual». As the time for actions is pressing, it has never been more important to have a recognised and credible civil society - including youth - with strong outreach.

The overall goal of ISW-SWE is the following: An active and empowered civil society and youth for water and sanitation induce changes in policy-making, and contribute to sustainable and peaceful water governance for the benefit of all, in particular the disadvantaged.

The water challenges our world is facing compel ISW-SWE to **be engaged at all levels with a concerted effort from all stakeholders** to converge towards common objectives. Water must be put above all else while the preservation of the resource is a shared duty – for water, actions exceeding the policies of a country need to be taken. In that regard, civil society and youth have a crucial role to play.

ISW-SWE outcomes for 2019-2023

- Civil society and youth have increased their innovation capacity, knowledge and are empowered drivers of change.
- Local voices - including civil society and youth - are recognised, credible and have a strong, disruptive outreach in the water sector and beyond.
- Relevant decision-makers are influenced to integrate a holistic approach for sustainable & peaceful water governance.

- Vulnerable and disadvantaged populations have improved their living conditions through water-related field projects in their communities.

ISW-SWE intervention approach

To contribute to sustainable and peaceful water governance for the benefit of all, in particular the disadvantaged, ISW-SWE approaches rely on different strategies that adapt to the particular conditions in every region, in order to grasp the window of opportunity that allows the disruption of unsustainable policies and interventions.

ISW-SWE is empowering civil society and youth, **with a particular attention to those having the potential to contribute to making a change**, increasing the well-being of the most vulnerable people and influencing relevant decision-makers to integrate a holistic approach for sustainable and peaceful water governance. Through its interventions, ISW-SWE aims to work with people from diverse socio-economic backgrounds to ensure a balanced representation and give those groups the opportunity to meet and exchange.

The central characteristics of ISW-SWE interventions are: collaboration, consultations and partnerships while **working systematically with / through networks, coalitions and partners**.

Youth Movement for Water

In the spirit of the youth movement for water, the ISW-SWE youth strategy is based on strong and diverse partnerships, and is coordinated with other organisations actively engaging with young people in the water sector. ISW-SWE has strong collaborations with youth-led organizations and networks, which can involve providing operational or programmatic support, working together on activities or sharing information. ISW-SWE launched and supports the **World Youth Parliament for Water (WYPW)** and the **European Youth Parliament for Water (EYPW)**. This movement of passionate young people from 80+ countries effects change at all levels: from local communities, where they implement concrete actions, to the UN General Assembly, where they advocate for youth participation.

Additional information:
www.sie-isw.org