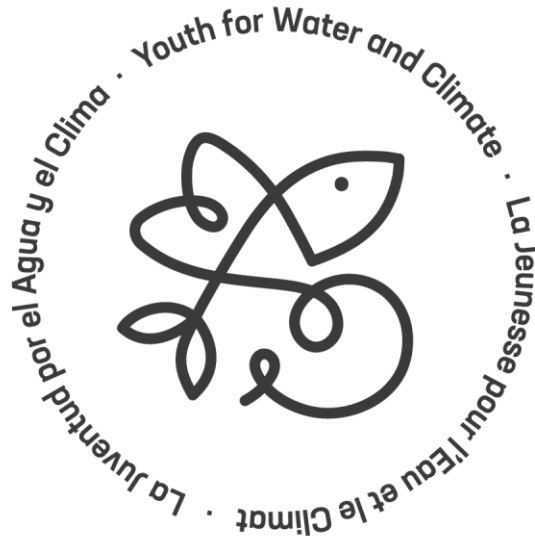




Youth for Water and Climate
La Jeunesse pour l'Eau et le Climat
La Juventud por el Agua y el Clima



Youth for Water and Climate

A global platform to support youth projects engaging with water and climate challenges

#YWC

Presented by:



WHAT IS THIS PLATFORM?

The Youth for Water and Climate Platform (YWC) is first and foremost a forum for exchanges and collaboration between organizations involved in the water and / or climate change sector and youth. This Platform seeks to support young people in their projects on water and climate, by promoting opportunities for collaboration between organizations and youth. The digital component of the platform aims to concretise collaborations by connecting youth projects and organizations from all sectors (public, private, NGO, academic...) with technical and financial resources to support them. With quality assurance criteria and several practical tools, young people aged 18 to 35 from all over the world learn how to develop quality projects, that are reviewed, labeled and approved by the Platform's partners. Organizations wishing to collaborate with young project holders of the digital platform will be assured to be supporting reliable projects.

Background

Youth have huge potential for innovation, and their voices must be heard and considered. The Global Water Partnership (GWP) Chair and the Secretary General of the Office Franco Québécois pour la Jeunesse (OFQJ) came to this conclusion in 2015, during the presentation of the “Youth for Water and Climate” initiative. Building on this conviction, GWP, OFQJ, International Secretariat for Water (ISW-SWE), AgroParisTech University, World Youth Parliament for Water (WYPW), Water Youth Network (WYN) and other youth networks supported youth in issuing a White Paper. The document includes more than 50 recommendations based on field consultations from over 20 countries on all continents, and an open workshop during COY 11. The Spanish, English and French versions of the White Paper were presented to government officials in several countries, including to the Presidency of COP 21, represented by former French Minister Ségolène Royal. This strong will turned into a commitment made within the “Paris Pact” on Water.

Youth from many countries started implementing ground-level actions immediately after COP 21. These efforts were captured in this new “global partnership for youth”. The results of their actions are now available on a dedicated web portal, Youth for Water and Climate (#YWC).

Little more than a year later, we have learned several key lessons from YWC. 1) Youth have a lot to contribute to the global effort towards a more climate-resilient planet; 2) youth have higher capacities than they are often given credit for, and 3) partners at all levels, from local to global, have expressed great enthusiasm for the initiative and would like to see it develop and continue.

Based on this growing momentum, #YWC's ambition is to further empower youth so that they are equipped to fully realize their potential and lead the way in addressing the challenges of

sustainable management of water resources, and climate change mitigation in a changing world. Thus was born the Youth for Water and Climate Platform, a place for collaboration between young people with innovative ideas and organizations active in the water sector, climate change, the environment and much more.

Goal

To enhance youth contributions to the 2030 Agenda by scaling up the implementation of the COP 21 White Paper recommendations, and supporting the development of youth-led initiatives such as youth entrepreneurship.

Objectives

1. To support youth by promoting their contribution to global SDGs and climate agendas
2. To support youth by turning their ideas and proposals into bankable projects, in collaboration with program partners at country, regional and global levels.
3. To facilitate fundraising for youth-led projects through various mechanisms.

Partners

#YWC will partner with youth networks at global - WYPX, WYN, regional - Central America Youth Network etc. and country levels - Bangladesh, Uganda etc.

Initially led by a few organizations - such as GWP, OFQJ and the ISW-SWE, the initiative has been joined by several others that are convinced that the youth-owned process can allow for real upscaling.

A list of partners will be updated regularly on the website.

Everyone who is willing to contribute can join the movement. Refer to the YWC website for more information.

Examples of planned activities

1. **Supporting youth in the development of project ideas and proposals by building on the strengths of involved partners and sharing experiences.**
 - a. Encouraging project development through annual and biannual competitions (regional, through Regional Water Partnerships, and global).
 - b. Developing a process for quality assurance with set criteria. Labelling projects once they meet those criteria.
 - c. Creating templates for project development, reporting and monitoring.
 - d. Establishing a help desk to support and finalize project documents. The help desk will comprise relevant documents, chat functions etc., based on existing

processes implemented by some of the partners (Water Youth Network, International Foundation for Science).

- e. Using the helpdesk to develop a community of youth in active practice. This will also be helpful in strengthening their networks. Youth networks are well experienced in this.
- f. Creating a bank of feasible projects with tools for implementation.

2. Facilitating fundraising for youth-led projects through various mechanisms

- a. Streamlining and liaising communications between young entrepreneurs and supporters
- b. Allocation of small grants through competitions and calls
- c. Easily accessible crowdfunding tool
- d. Using communication/marketing tools and promoting initiatives at various events, in order to become a preferred gatekeeper for interested donors.
- e. Creating an official brand label to market projects. It must be consistent and cohesive. Some marketing activities can include:
 - i. Publishing a webpage for each project implemented.
 - ii. Sharing a short video introduction/testimony of the project from project leaders.
 - iii. Helping youth with project promotion at conferences/events.
 - iv. Creating a list of places and organizations that offer additional funding and opportunities.

- 3. **Setting up transparent governance/management practices with involved partners**, creating synergies among existing structures and organizations rather than giving birth to additional ones.

Expected Results

- 1. Youth-led projects of a high quality in terms of technical specifications, efficiency, monitoring, evaluation, and job creation potential, developed by youth in various countries and contributing to address water and climate-related challenges.
- 2. Funds leveraged for youth-led projects.
- 3. Strengthening of a global partnership for youth focused on addressing climate and water related issues, and acknowledged as a key contributor to the achievement of SDGs and Paris Agreement.

Governance

The YWC Platform is supported by **three pillars** and a **governance structure**. The pillars assure the technical, communication and financial aspects of the Platform, while the governance structure assures the functioning of the pillars and steers the decision process.

The governance structure is composed of three sub-structures:

1) The Forum: composed of the supporter of the YWC Platform (through the Declaration of support);

2) The Consortium: made of the Forum's most active organizations, that invest in the development of the Platform (expertise, financial or in kind support). The Consortium is currently composed of 12 members from various regions including international organisations, NGO, youth networks and academic institutions;

3) the Secretariat: responsible for the progress and follow-up on the concrete actions. The Secretariat is named by the Consortium and is re-elected every 3 years. The first Secretariat is composed of the main partners, the Global Water Partnership, the International Secretariat for Water and AgroParisTech university.



- TECHNICAL PILLAR

The technical pillar takes care of the LEARN section. This means that this pillar works on building solid learning tools (including the project templates), setting up the Quality Assurance system and reviewing the projects. This pillar is also in charge of the technical assistance requests of the help desk.

- COMMUNICATION PILLAR

It is through this pillar that the global communication strategy of YWC is developed. In addition, developing the digital platform and managing the YWC newsletter, social media accounts and general information requests made through the website.

- FINANCIAL PILLAR

The financial aspects of the YWC Platform are taken care of by this pillar. This means: seeking funding opportunities for both the platform itself and for youth projects, as well as looking for new supporters to join. Overall, this pillar ensures the general cohesion of financial procedures and executes the financial decisions of the Consortium.

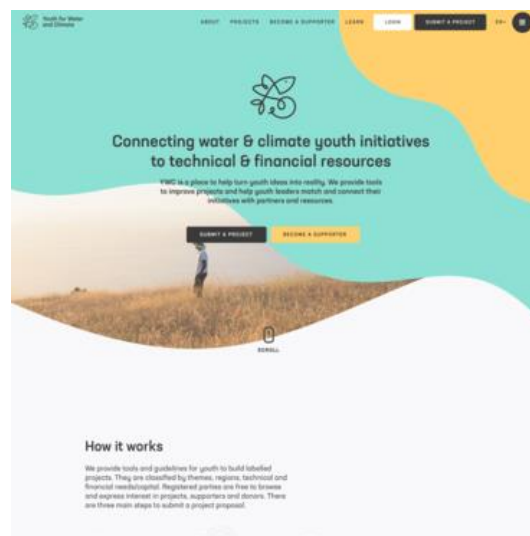
Advantages

This Platform breaks from established convention and positively regards the contribution of young people to the goals of sustainable development and the implementation of the Paris Agreement. Because every effort counts, and we tend not to assign much credibility to the efforts of young people, the business model proposed by the YWC Platform is innovative and allows organizations to expand their efforts by supporting quality initiatives.

Everyone benefits. Young people learn to develop and implement professional-quality projects with the help of recognized organizations, and organizations have the opportunity to pass the torch to tomorrow's leaders.

Organizations wishing to engage their employees as experts in a corporate social responsibility program are welcome to do so. Mentoring opportunities are part of the collaborative toolkit that the Platform wants to offer to young leaders.

The digital Platform

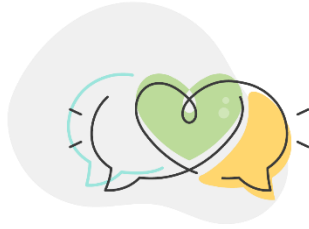


The digital component of this Platform is currently under development and will be officially launched at the 2018 World Water Forum in Brasilia. It will be available in English, French and Spanish. The Platform will enable young project leaders to find the tools to develop high-quality projects, organizations and experts wishing to support young people in their projects can peruse labeled projects that have been vetted. More specifically, the Platform responds to the following technical and financial needs:

- **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE** involves all the advice and expertise needed to help young people implement their projects. This can be mentoring or exchanging knowledge.
- **FINANCIAL SUPPORT** helps youth reach their financial target for project implementation.

A different business model

Youth



Supporters

The particularity of the platform is that it allows young people and organizations, who we refer to as supporters, to collaborate with each other directly based on targeted needs.

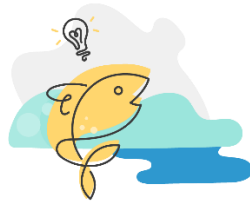
Based on the White Paper “A Paris For Water”, submitted projects will be categorized according to four main categories:

- 1) Water & Health
- 2) Water & Agriculture
- 3) Water & Climate Hazards
- 4) Sharing Water

Within these categories, we can address several subthemes: the SDGs, access to water, irrigation, renewable energy, forestry, ecosystem conservation, education, poverty, economic development, etc. The idea is to illustrate the cross-cutting aspect of water issues and to involve as many sectors as possible in youth projects.

- YOUNG PEOPLE

Young project leaders have to go through several stages to submit a project. They must first be aware of quality assurance criteria during project preparation. If they have questions or need additional information, they can refer to the “Learn” section which will provide them with reference documents, tips and tricks to bring their project up to a professional standard. If some specific questions remain, they will have the option to contact a resource person (part of the Platform's partner team) for individualized support.



Once the project is ready for submission, youth can click on “**Submit a Project**” and follow the instructions to complete the online form. Project leaders will be able to create a profile for their project, indicating all the necessary information (description, objectives, expected results, type of support desired, etc.). They will also be able to link to the crowdfunding platform and add a

description of the project leaders. At this stage, projects undergo a review process to obtain the quality assurance label. If information is missing or if the project requires modifications, the project manager is notified and can rework the project until the label is obtained. Once this occurs, the project is published. It's time to go take a look at the supporters of the platform and find the perfect partner!



- SUPPORTERS

Organizations and individual experts who want to support young people through the YWC Platform can click on **"Become a supporter"** to fill out a form. All organizations or experts interested in helping youth project managers are invited to become supporters. Such as:

- Public or private organizations
- Companies
- Development agencies
- Governments
- Financial institutions
- Experts
- Academic institutions
- Professors
- Etc.

Supporters help young project leaders implement labeled projects in their communities. All YWC Platform projects meet quality assurance criteria and contribute to the achievement of the SDGs and the Paris Agreement. By supporting youth projects, they empower young people to be the innovative leaders the world needs today.

Supporters' profiles are deliberately limited to a general description of the organization and/or expert, along with basic contact information (i.e. the organization's website and public social networks). No personal information will be included on supporter profiles, in order to minimize unrelated solicitation. Once the profile is complete, supporters will be able to search the bank of projects for those they are interested in, and will be able to refine their search via keywords, geographical preferences, themes, etc.

Users can signal their interest in projects by clicking on the **"Support this project"** tab. Once the interest is expressed, the young project leaders can reciprocate the interest. When interest is mutual, it's a match! The supporter and the project leader can then enter into communication and start their collaboration according to the needs of the project and what the supporter can offer. In both cases, a young person or a supporter can decline the interest of a user anonymously.



Future event

March 2018 - Launch of the Youth Platform for Water and Climate at the 8th World Water Forum in Brasilia. Information will follow on the launch event.

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