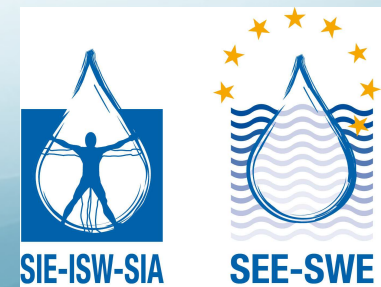




Youth act for water!

Florence Kohtz – WYPW Coordinator

Orhan Gazi Karatas – WYPW Parliamentarian





The International Secretariat for Water (ISW) and Solidarity Water Europe (SWE):

=> are convinced that youth need to be mobilised in water governance

=> organise « Youth Parliaments for Water » (concept: R. Jost).

3 aims:

1/ to enable youth to know more about water issues = Knowledge

2/ to enable youth to be involved in water debates and decisions = Advocacy

3/ to enable youth to take concrete projects on the field = Action

10 EYPW took place in Europe since 1999 on the Danube, Volga, Rhine and even Lake Sevan in Armenia in 2013.

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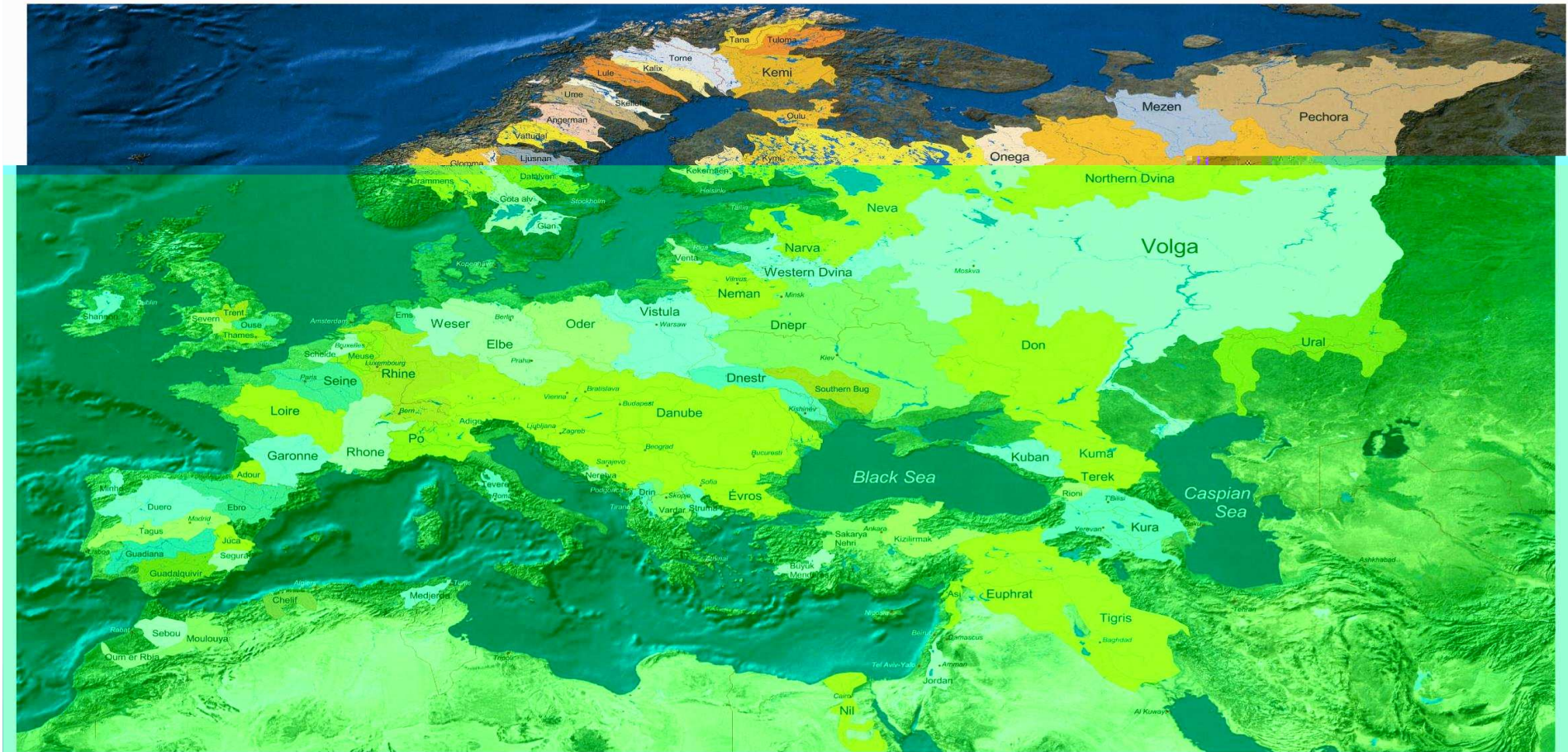




L'EUROPE DE L'EAU ET SES BASSINS

EUROPEAN INLAND WATERS AND RIVER BASINS

EUROPAS GEWÄSSER UND FLUSSGEBIETE



1000 0 1000 Kilometers

This Map shows major European and Middle Eastern Rivers with their basins.
Approximate value for River catchment areas is about 10,000 km².
Map in decimal degrees, not projected.



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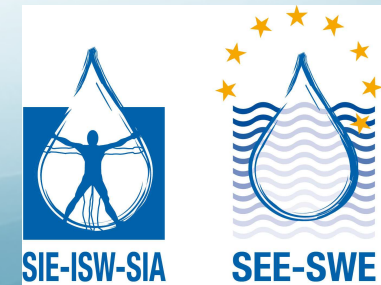


=> 2012: ISW and SWE went further with the organisation - in collaboration with the French Water Agency Artois-Picardie and other partners as the International Scheldt Commission of the [World Youth Parliament for Water \(WYPW\)](#)

=> The WYPW has an added value: the 80 parliamentarians from 71 countries in the world [committed in a common Declaration to take concrete actions at transboundary basins level in the next 3 years](#)

10 main transboundary basins: Central Africa, West Africa, Asia and Pacific Region, Great Asian Rivers, North America, South America, Danube and Black Sea, Mediterranean, Rhine and Baltic Sea, Central America and the Caribbean

10 concrete actions: public awareness, education, advocacy and networking (collective or individual)



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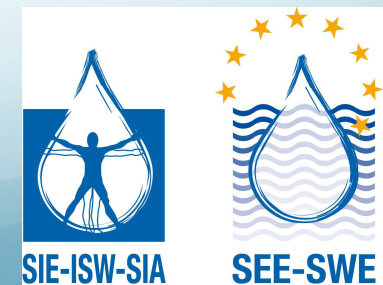


Articles 7-8-9 of the WYPW Declaration:

7. Solutions to water challenges must consider the particular needs and conditions within each water basin. To overcome water challenges, **solidarity and cooperation must be stimulated between leaders and youth to achieve a lasting impact.**

8. We understand that to achieve universal water access and sanitation, it is essential to promote and **increase cooperation between different actors, including youth, to improve local knowledge and innovation.**

9. Achieving good water governance must be a guiding principle in all initiatives. We define water governance as a set of rules and actions taken to manage water resources. Consequently, **good water governance is a set of actions that equitably distributes the benefits of water resources between society, the economy and the environment.**



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Examples of 3 actions taken at transboundary basins level:

Danube and Black Sea

«We, the youth of the Danube River Basin and Black Sea, commit to work towards **the promotion of public awareness on water issues** at the local and international level and to increase active involvement of youth by 2015. We will work with different stakeholders and organizations (such as schools, NGOs, and foundations), state bodies and local authorities to share information on local water issues»

Mediterranean

«We, the youth of the Mediterranean, commit to **create regional committees that are mandated to organize events and share knowledge**. The aim of the events is to increase awareness and change behavior towards managing water demand and the protection of water resources, depending on the reality and challenges within each country»

Rhine and Baltic Sea

«We, the youth of the Rhine and Baltic Sea basin, commit to introduce an **educational tool for water governance in school programs** to raise awareness among the youth in the river basins. After 30 hours of class study on water governance and river basins, a river basin passport will be awarded to the participants. With this **Blue passport***, borders will be replaced by those of the river basins in order to facilitate exchanges and to valorise the river basin»

**An initiative by INBO and the ISW*



Florence Kohtz – WYPW Coordinator

Orhan Gazi Karatas – WYPW Parliamentarian



We have the same objectives, as INBO mentions in the [World Pact for better basin management](#):

«The stakeholders of the [civil society](#) and the local authorities should be better associated and involved in the management of the basins where they live»

«Organizing [dialogue with the stakeholders](#) recognized in our basins and their [effective participation](#), to achieve a truly shared vision of the future, to identify the necessary agreements on priorities and the resources»

[INBO is clearly a reference for the WYPW in terms of water governance.](#)

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WYPW and INBO: How to work together?

1. To take part to INBO activities, for instance: contribution to your vision, declaration etc.
2. To be involved in river basin organisations for cooperation projects
3. To represent youth as observers in river basin organisations
4. To share network (local, regional, river basin and international level)
5. To share expertise (educational tools, advocacy, technical aspects etc.)

This call to INBO is not made because youth is the future but because **Youth is now already a key actor of the society.**
We need to be part now!

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