



YOUTH FOR THE RHINE

22 OCTOBER 2021
INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE
HYDROLOGY OF THE RHINE BASIN
WAGENINGEN

LUKE SOMERWILL, IHE DELFT

WHAT IS YOUTH FOR THE RHINE?

- A transboundary **youth-led initiative** intended to connect young, multidisciplinary professionals and students throughout the Rhine Basin to **co-create** ideas for **sustainable environmental actions and climate adaptation**
- Aims to inspire the international **Rhine committees**, the **European Commission**, and the **local authorities** in the Rhine Basin with new **multidisciplinary** perspectives

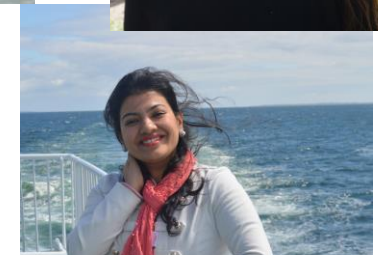
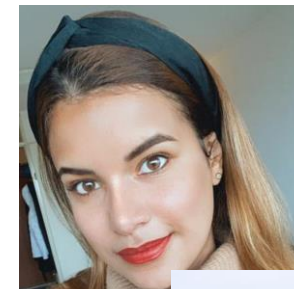
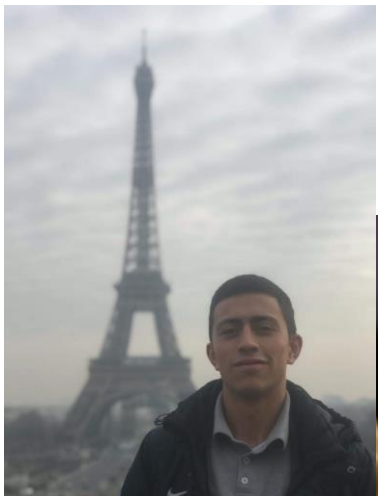


WHAT IS YOUTH FOR THE RHINE?

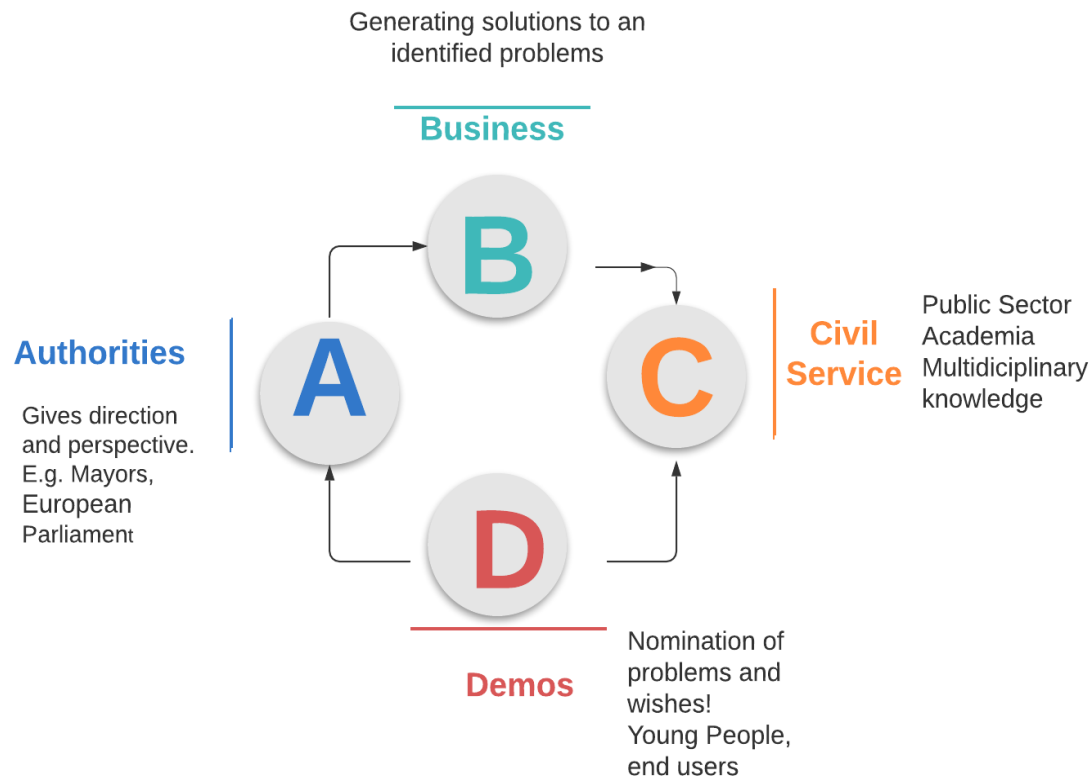
- The initial idea for the project was developed by the **Foundation Physics of Cooperation** and **Rijkswaterstaat**
- The project is now managed by **IHE Delft**, with over 70 members aged between 18-35, spread across the globe



Rijkswaterstaat
Ministerie van Infrastructuur en Milieu



CLIMATE INNOVATION THROUGH CO-CREATION



- When in a complex societal situation all four **basic societal energies A, B, C and D are present** – with a fusion of their contributions the outcome will be concrete innovations with societal impact.
- In the **'Youth for the Rhine'**, our work starts with the **'D'**, which are young end-users of the water system. The next step is to connect to the **'ABC'** counterparts.

THE WATER QUALITY PILOT PROJECT

Youth for the Rhine Water Quality Survey

Objective: To understand how water quality impacts and is perceived by the youth in the Rhine River Basin. These results will be used to identify where knowledge gaps exist and to identify the youth perspective on water quality management options that can be shared with decision makers in the basin.

Target Audience: Youth (<35 years) who reside within the Rhine River Basin. Demographic information will be included at the end to enable a comparison across regions, sectors, and ages.

Survey:

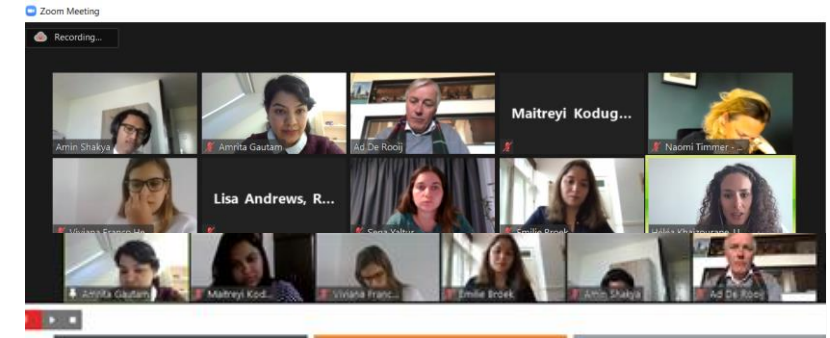
This survey will help to identify how youth perceive water quality within the Rhine River basin. Please keep in mind there are no right or wrong answers. We are interested in your opinion surrounding the Rhine River.



- Develop and support a shared understanding of water quality impacts on youth
- Promote multidisciplinary knowledge to address issues and elevate the voices of youth
 - Distribution of a survey to understand how water quality impacts and is perceived by youth
 - Support of art initiatives
 - Supplemental data collection
 - Educational outreach campaigns

THE ONLINE YOUTH CONSULTATION

- Connect youth across the Rhine Basin and empower them to identify their priorities and views on issues related to climate change and the Water-Food-Energy nexus
- Activities:
 - Host different activities targeting young people in the Rhine Basin to collect their perceptions
 - Work through the ABCD Model of co-creation, to engage various stakeholders in the discussion between the different components of the model
 - Building towards future activities and youth consultations in the next phases of the project



NEED OF THE HOUR – YOUTH LED INITIATIVES

Understanding	Understanding the sufferings and the solutions	
Involving	Involving Youth voices from ideation to implementation	
Innovation	Providing healthy environment and interactive space for innovation	
Valuing	Valuing Water Initiative and The role of Youth Inclusion	
Preserving	Preser	



Gamified Workshop on

WATER QUALITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE MOBILIZING YOUTH FOR WATER AND CLIMATE ACTION



This workshop aims to provide a hands-on experience for youth to analyze problems and curate solutions to tackle climate change.

SHARING THE MESSAGES OF THE YOUTH - HIGHLIGHTS

■ UNECE Water Convention (MOP-9)

- Side event: Youth/civil society in transboundary waters
- Intervention at closing ceremony advocating for the role of youth




Recording

Key recommendations

- Use of bottom-up approach as mechanism to address water issues affecting young people.
- Establish demystification initiatives connecting water and climate change issues with the influence in policy-making.
- Work actively with other NGOs focused on the water sector and other sustainability spaces incl: climate change adaptation, food security and energy.
- Commit to promoting internal youth candidates for external representation opportunities in dialogues with policymakers & the public sector.
- Connect young end-users to empower them to take action on water challenges.
- Engage multiple stakeholders, discuss potential solutions.

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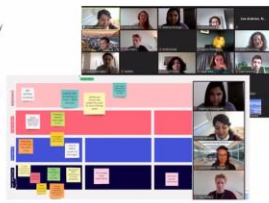
■ Stockholm World Water Week

- Youth Engagement: Why it matters and how to do it
- Capacity for governing water security risk and uncertainty


Recording

TAILORED APPROACHES FOR TRANSBOUNDARY SYSTEMS

- Primary goal: to elevate youth voices in a transboundary basin
- Engaging with and gathering the perspectives of youth
 - Water quality surveys
- Supporting awareness raising for targeted engagement and accountability
 - Water quality outreach
- Building transboundary coalitions and a platform for exchange
 - Dialogue platforms, next workshop planned for October 2021.



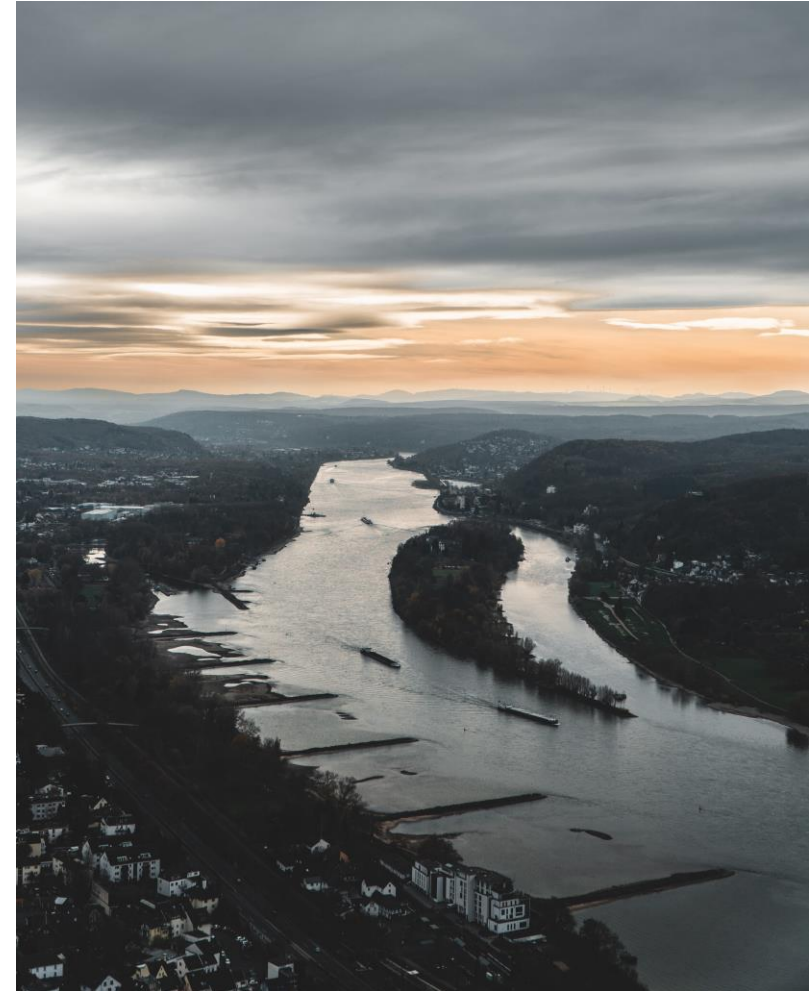
Youth in the Rhine



DISCUSSION

Three key questions:

- How are the youth (of all ages) and their perspectives currently involved in your work?
- How would you like to involve them? What could they add?
- What are the barriers to achieving this?



UPCOMING YOUTH FOR THE RHINE ACTIVITIES

“Sketching the Future of the Rhine Basin”

28 October 2021, 16:00 – 17:30



Registration open:
<https://www.youthfortherhine.org/yrannualworkshop>

“Water Challenges in the Rhine Basin: Inter-relations between climate change and water quality”

8 November 2021, 16:00 – 18:00



Registration opening soon!

INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE?

Our website

- <https://www.youthfortherhine.org/>

Find us on Social Media

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Youth-for-the-Rhine-103575948301026>
- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/youth-for-the-rhine/>
- Twitter: @for_Rhine
- Instagram: youthfortherhine

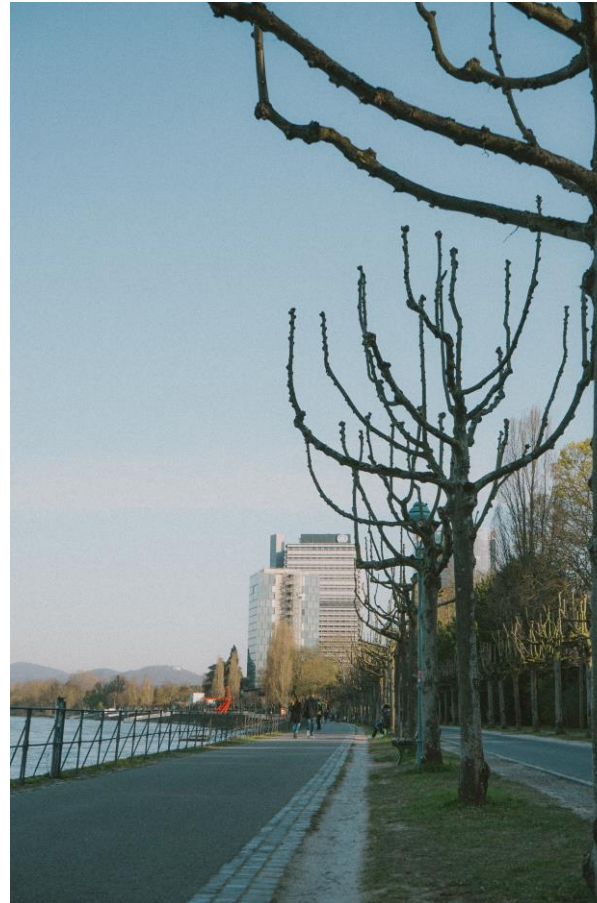
Join Us

- Contact us: youthfortherhine@gmail.com

CURRENT YOUTH FOR THE RHINE ACTIVITIES

- Photo and Art Exhibition – My Rhine, My Story
- What stories do the youth have to tell about the Rhine River? This photo competition seeks to unearth some of the hidden perspectives of the Rhine and share them with the world!

“For me the Rhine is a connection with the outside, natural world, it allows me to understand and care about the health of the planet...while linking me with people from the rest of Europe”



Youth for the Rhine

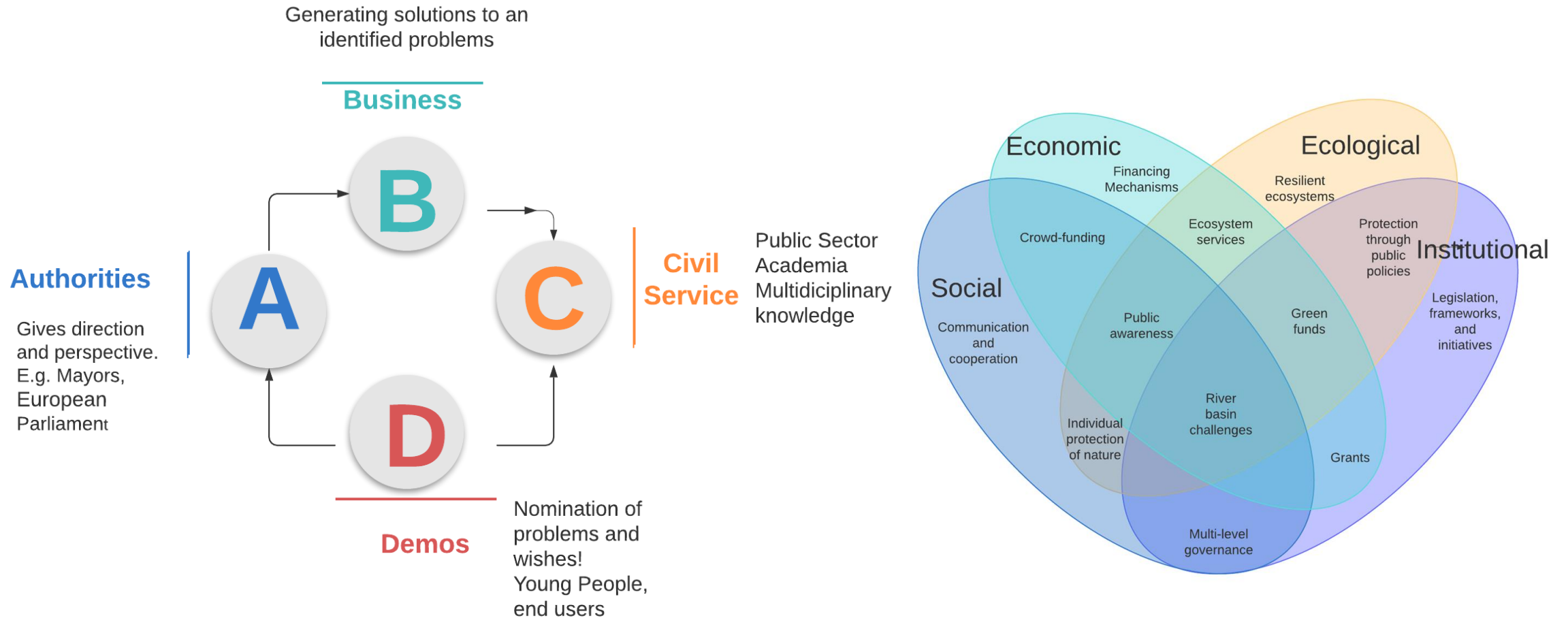
MY RHINE, MY STORY

PHOTO CONTEST

Everyone who sees or lives within the Rhine basin has their own connection and story to tell about the area.

WE ARE ALL EYES AND EARS FOR YOUR EXPERIENCES!

CLIMATE INNOVATION THROUGH CO-CREATION



YOUTH FOR THE RHINE – WAYS OF WORKING

- Youth for the Rhine is made up of over 70 international members, spread across 4 sub-committees:

Pilot Project

Online Youth Consultation

Communication and
Outreach

Fundraising and
Partnerships

COMMUNICATION & OUTREACH

- Amplifying the voice of the project via:
 - Social media
 - Webinars
 - Project website



 Youth for the Rhine

Webinar on

**ENCOURAGING YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN
CLIMATE ADAPTATION: EUROPEAN YOUTH IN
ACTION**



This webinar aims to create an active dialogue around mobilizing youth in water and climate action.

29TH APRIL
at 17:00 - 18:30 CET

REGISTER FOR THE WEBINAR AT:
<http://bit.ly/YfRwebinarApril2021>

FUNDRAISING & PARTNERSHIPS

- Build partnerships with external organisations and public institutions
 - Ensure that the voice of the youth is heard in public institutions
- Securing the long term financing of the project, beyond the first phase

