

# YOUNG WATER PROFESSIONALS DENMARK

**IWA** YOUNG WATER  
PROFESSIONALS  
the international water association DENMARK

**COPENHAGEN URBAN LAB**  
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Young Water Professionals Denmark (YWPDK) is a network for all water professionals working or studying within the field of water in Denmark under the age of 35 or with less than 5 years experience.

## 2018 ANNUAL REPORT







## EDITORIAL

2018 was another eventful year for the Young Water Professionals Denmark (YWPDK). With another successful conference attended by more than 50 young professionals from across the country, the second Copenhagen Urban Lab hosted by a unified water sector in Copenhagen and multiple activities across the country with and for our 400+ members.

Throughout the year, YWPDK represented the young water generation at key events in the Danish water sector, brought together our members on technical excursions, for panel debates, and social activities. Our Workforce of Tomorrow working group was especially active bringing together different generations to contemplate on a pathway for the Danish water sector in the future. The Capacity Building group co-hosted another successful Copenhagen Urban Lab, this time on storm surge, and many of our members met regularly to plan, network strategize and socialize.

2018 is also the year, where we see a shift in our representation in IWA involvement and IWA activities. I stepped down from the Emerging Water Leaders (EWL) Steering Committee in IWA and Thor Danielsen from our YWPDK CCSC stepped in. Nadia Lund, Thor Danielsen, Ines Breda and many other Danish YWPs participated in the IWA World Water Congress & Exhibition in Tokyo in 2018. The Danish delegation was the second largest at the conference!

In 2018 we also saw our efforts go into enhancing our local presence in key cities in Denmark, including Odense and Aarhus in close cooperation with our Regional Representatives. While our Copenhagen regional group is extremely active, the picture is different when we leave the capital area. In 2019

we will continue our efforts to broaden our presence and activity level outside the Copenhagen area and we hope to identify enthusiastic members, who would like to contribute to this process.

**YWPDK has a vision to build a more sustainable and resilient water agenda.** Sustainability and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have become a key focus for YWPDK. They are inherently nested in our vision and mission and have become the center for several of our initiatives and activities. YWPDK is committed to accelerate action towards attaining the SDGs, and will work even harder to place sustainability at the core of our operation..

Our event portfolio is already representing a solid basis for the legacy work leading up to **World Water Congress & Exhibition coming to Copenhagen in 2020 (IWA2020)**! We will continuously seek to align current and future initiatives to this milestone and in 2019, we will finally launch the IWA2020 YWPDK Task Force - open to all our members, who would wish to contribute!

In March, we will have our fifth YWPDK conference and our Annual General Assembly, this time jointly hosted by DANVA and Skanderborg Forsyning. We look forward to seeing as many members there, as possible.

I would like to give a special thank you to everyone who supports our network, to the regional representatives and all our active members, and to the hard-working board members of YWPDK and to our sponsors. I can't wait to see, what we will all achieve together in 2019!

*Trine Stausgaard Munk*  
YWPDK Chair

# 2018 TIMELINE



4th Annual Conference



Excursion to Kløvermarken  
pumpestationen



Copenhagen Urban Lab 2018



YWPK at Danva Yearly meeting



CCSC & RR strategy and team building  
days



Boat ride and dinner with the Urban Lab,  
HOFOR & Copenhagen Municipality



YWPK annual bike ride in Copenhagen



YWPK at Dansk Vand Conference



Workforce of tomorrow panel debate



Julehygge at Envidan



# WORLD WATER CONGRESS & EXHIBITION 2018 - TOKYO

Almost 10,000 participants from governments, utilities, academia, private companies, and international organizations came together in Tokyo at the World Water Congress and Exhibition to get a step further in solving the world's pressing water problems. In 2020 the conference will be held in Copenhagen with the overall topic "Water for Smart Liveable Cities". This could clearly be seen in the number of Danish delegates, as Denmark was the country with the most delegates after Japan and China.

Three of YWPK's board members were represented at the conference: Trine as part of the Program Committee for the conference, Nadia from Water DTU pinpointing the progress of digitization in the water sector, and Thor was inaugurated for his seat on the Emerging Water Leaders Steering Committee representing the Young Water Professionals (YWP) in IWA –

congratulations to him for being elected!

The conference had up to 17 parallel tracks in each session, and a large variety of topics related to the water cycle were therefore discussed during the conference. However, especially two themes were highlighted again and again, irrespectively of the topic.

The first theme was the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. SDG6 is important not only in itself, but also in order to meet many of the other SDGs. Therefore it is particularly important that the global water sector comes together to reach SDG6 by 2030 – the IWA congress in Copenhagen in 2020 is a natural milestone to make status of our progress or lack thereof. Several successful





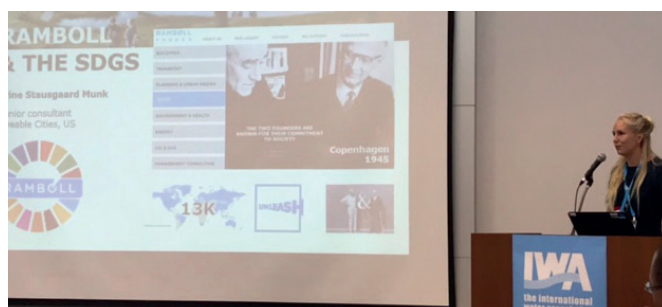
sessions on how to operationalize the SDGs in the water sector were led by YWPs, including the Sustainable Development Goals: Beyond Benchmarking and Business as Usual, which was organized by the IWA SDG Taskforce co-founded and -lead by Trine Stausgaard Munk.

The second recurring theme was YWPs. Again and again we heard from both the plenary speakers but also during the topic related presentations that the water sector counts on young people to take responsibility and help out both pinpointing and solving the problems that lie ahead of us. YWP Japan had organized a dinner which brought the young delegates together for inspiring discussions in an informal setting. The atmosphere was fun and relaxed (helped along by the sake tasting?). The connections and friendships formed across the YWPs will enable us to collectively have a stronger voice in the debate (though, a little bit hoarse after the karaoke at the end of the evening). The importance of involvement of YWPs was underlined by a series of workshops and presentations by, co-lead or

for YWPs at the conference, and it all culminated with a debate between YWPs at the stage during the closing ceremony of the conference.

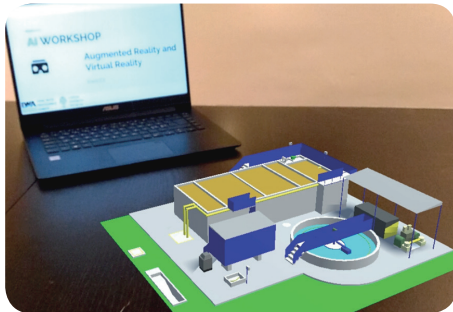
With Trine (and soon another Danish YWP) in the Program Committee for 2020, Thor in the Emerging Water Leaders Steering Committee and our shared work towards the conference in Copenhagen in 2020, we as YWPK will do our part in raising important issues, inspire collaborations and pose solutions to the pressing water-related problems of the world, and show that the YWPs are ready to take their part of the responsibility!

Do you have a great idea for a social event for the YWPs during the World Water Congress and Exhibition in Copenhagen in 2020? Or would you like to help arrange pre-conference events? Then send us an e-mail and become part of the YWP-DK IWA2020 team!



# 2018 FLAGSHIPS

## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENS (AI)



**A group focusing on understanding and responsible application of AI**

The first year of YWPDK's AI group was a big success and has even been recognized by DANVA, as one of the most promising initiatives of the year. In 2018 the group mainly focused on discussing examples of digitalization from around the world to elevate our

awareness and to inspire our home market to pursue digitalization projects. Guest lecturers joined the group and shared their knowledge about e.g. deep learning. In 2019 the group will reach out to major AI companies and develop its own prototypes.

## COPENHAGEN URBAN LAB 2018

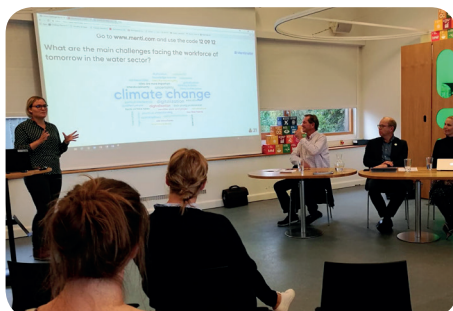


**The 2018 Copenhagen Urban Lab was the second lab leading up to the IWA2020, introducing young professionals to the nordic planning approach**

A hyper-diverse group of 8 talented young professionals from across the world spent 10 days in Copenhagen in working closely with the City of Copenhagen to develop a toolbox for inclusive and sustainable storm surge planning and a concept for storm

surge protection for Amager Strand. Outcomes were presented to key stakeholders and documented in an "Executive Summary". The lab was hosted by Ramboll and co-funded by HOFOR, YWPDK, Kamstrup and Vand i Byer.

## EDUCATION & CAREER



**An effort to map the water sector actors was initiated and the idea of an YWPDK Water Education Promotion Program (WEPP) developed**

Climate change, digitalization, automatization, urbanization, and demographical changes all affect the water sector and will change the way we operate in the future. But are we ready for the challenges ahead? How do we prepare the workforce for the

challenges of tomorrow and how do we attract young talents to work in our water sector? We address this topic through workshops, panel debates, articles and by promoting the water sector at all educational levels.

## OUTREACH



**YWPDK hosted an international workshop and was represented at several events to expand the international involvement of the network**

The outreach of YWPDK to other young water professional networks in the Baltic region accelerates towards the IWA World Water Congress 2020 in Copenhagen. The outreach program aims to connect young water profes-

sionals from different countries with YWPDK to leverage the legacy of the congress. Building lasting relationships in the region will be key to solving water related issues on a large scale.



# GET INVOLVED!



**AI GROUP**  
Jan-Michael Blum  
ai@ywp.dk

*We are looking forward to great discussions, interesting guest speakers, new applications, promising prototypes and much more! Want to join?*



**CAPACITY BUILDING**  
Trine Stausgaard Munk  
iwa2020@ywp.dk

*We are currently preparing for the Copenhagen Urban Lab 2019 - focusing on heat! Want to be involved in the planning?*



**EDUCATION**  
Thor Danielsen  
education@ywp.dk

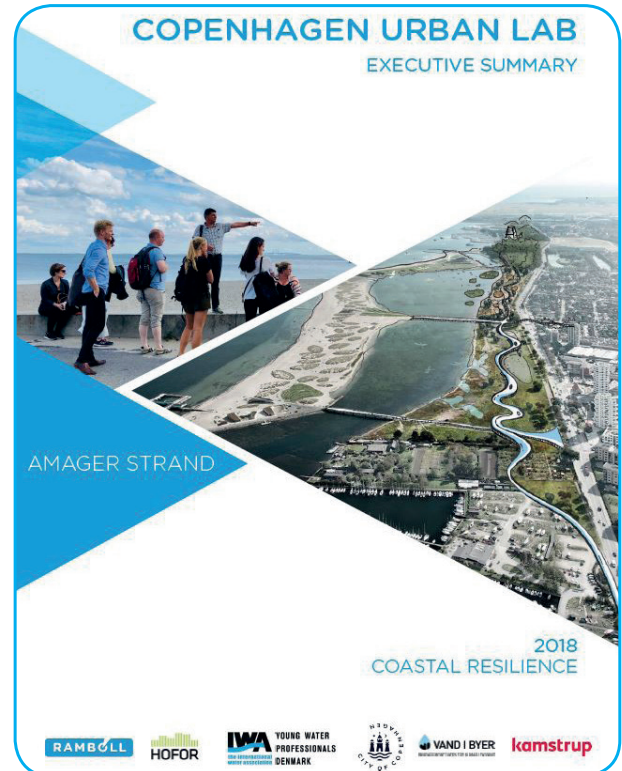
*We are exploring what skills will be in high demand in years to come. Do you want to ensure that you are up to date with the latest trends?*



**OUTREACH**  
Jan-Michael Blum  
outreach@ywp.dk

*If you are interested in building meaningful alliances across organizations within and beyond Denmark, please feel free to contact us - the group is just formalizing!*

There are several ways to get involved in YWPDK, depending on your interests, the network needs and your level of commitment. Right now the four groups to the left are active. If you have a good idea for a group or would like to join on, please feel free to contact us.



Below the overall organization of YWPDK within IWA and internally in the network is illustrated. As shown, members can participate in the activity groups, act as regional representative (RR) or sit on the board (CCSC).

## YWPDK ORGANIZATION



# OUR MEMBERS



*I believe that overcoming barriers between the different fields in the water sector is key for finding holistic solutions and for creating synergies. We work with the water cycle – that should also be the narrative in our sector: a circular mindset.*

Jan-Michael Blum,  
Engineer  
Envidan

*The monthly member profiles help illustrate the diversity in our member base*

*Honestly, I am not too fascinated about the technical stuff – what triggers my curiosity is how we can improve the structures and systems of how we do things.*

Mathias Thuborg  
Anthropologist  
Frederiksberg Gartner- og Vejservice



## **CCSC member , 2014-2019**

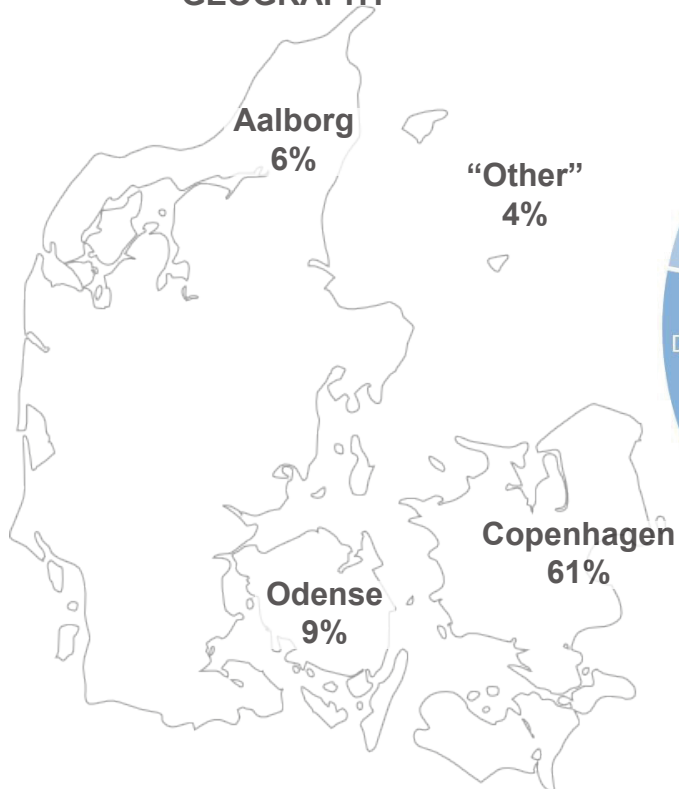
*Being part of YWPK has expanded my network both nationally and internationally. I am proud of what we have built and how the voices of YWPs have spread and are increasingly heard. It underlines how important all parties are in developing a joint future. YWPK now has strong foundation for continued success the coming years, but it will still require everyone to chip in. I would like to thank YWPK for the exciting journey we have shared the last 5 years and I wish YWPK all the best for the future!*

Niels Malmose Askjær  
Engineer  
VandCenter Syd

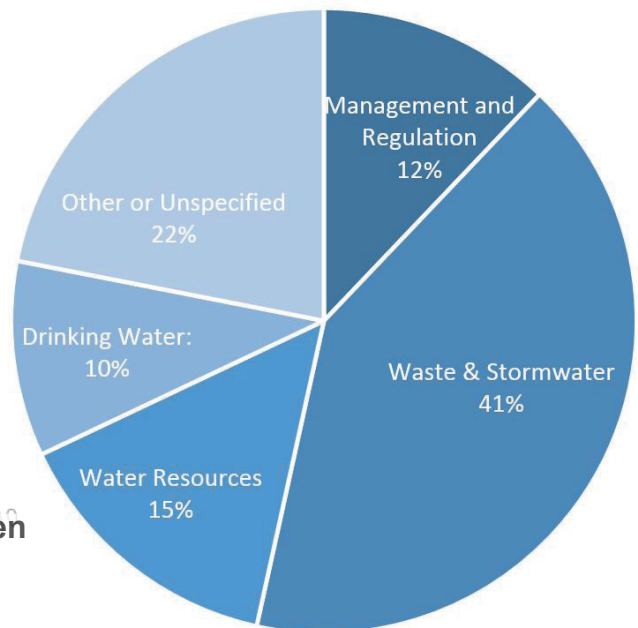




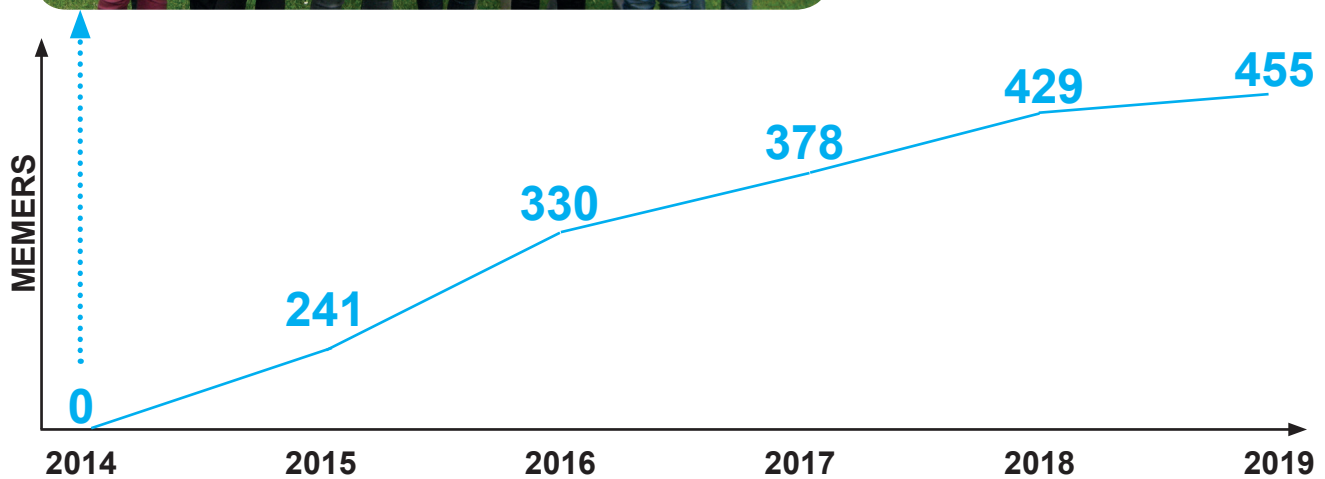
## GEOGRAPHY



## FIELDS



## NGO/Interest org 1%



# YWPDK BACKBONE

The essence of the network is the members! However, the network would not function without a solid and structured backbone. The Country Chapter Steering Committee (CCSC) is in charge of the overall development, management and maintenance of the network. The Regional Representatives (RR) en-

sure, that network is active regionally and provides the local management of the network and member engagement. Both functions are essential to the successful development of YWP-DK!

## COUNTRY CHAPTER STEERING COMMITTEE (CCSC)



**Chair**  
Trine Stausgaard Munk  
Rambøll



**Secretary**  
Nadia Schou Lund  
DTU



**Treasurer**  
Niels Malmose Askjær  
VandCenter Syd



**Education**  
Thor Danielsen  
HOFORI



**Communication**  
Wadim Baslow  
Quercus Group

## REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES (RR)



**Odense**  
Marc Vands  
Rambøll



**Copenhagen**  
Kirsten Prismo  
Orbicon



**Aarhus**  
Emil Aagaard Thomsen  
COWI

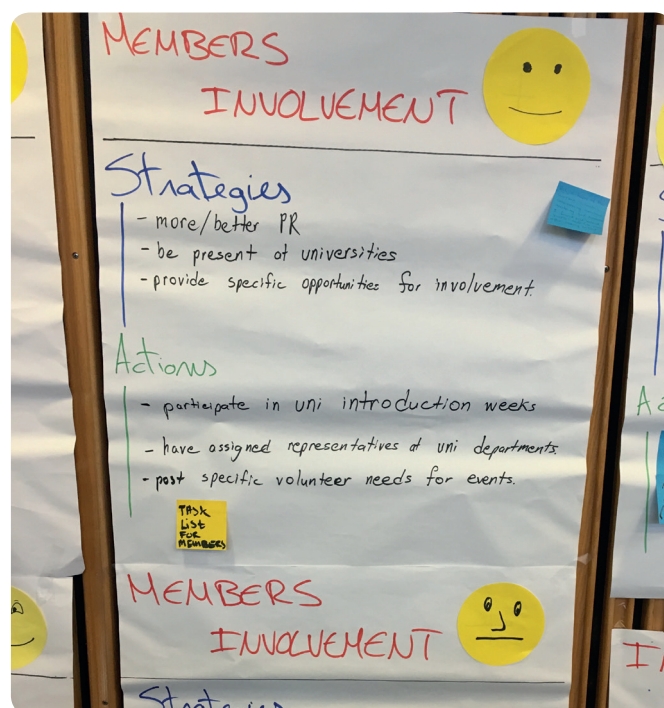


## YWPDK CONFERENCE & GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The 4th YWPDK Conference 2018 with about 40 participants took place on March 8-9 and was co-hosted by Kalundborg and Frederiksberg Forsyning. While advances in wastewater treatment and drinking water production were the focus in Kalundborg on day 1, climate change adaptation was the main theme of day 2 in Frederiksberg. The program included several technical tours to Kalundborg wastewater treatment plant with its unique ozonation and heat pump capacity, to Denmark's only surface water production plant Tissø II and to Lindevangsparken climate change adaptation project in Frederiksberg. The conference participants also trained their soft-skills by attending the workshop "The power of story-telling" and, furthermore, had the opportunity to share their own projects and research with other young water professionals during pitching sessions. The program was accompanied by time for networking and the interaction peaked in the social event on Thursday night. A unique feature of YWPDK conferences is that the participants are actively involved in shaping the program and outcome of the conference so that the experience is tailored to their needs. The conference was, therefore, very well received and caused positive feedback – not only from the participants, but also from our hosts.

Once a year YWPDK holds its General Assembly, which was embedded in the first day of the conference on March 8, 2018. YWPDK looked back on a successful year 2017 and also looked forward to the year 2018 and – indeed – 2020, when Copenhagen will host the IWA World Water Congress. It was outlined how YWPDK can contribute with its different workgroups to the legacy of the congress. During the General

Assembly we also welcomed Nadia Lund and Wadim Baslow to the board, who were unanimously voted into office by YWPDK members. Trine Stausgaard Munk was also re-elected to the board. Additionally, we are very happy to announce a new regional representative in Aarhus: Emil Aagaard Thomsen steps-up to strengthen the Aarhus chapter. Many thanks to all volunteers, who shape YWPDK and make it a unique network in the water sector!





## SPONSORS

Our work would not be possible without the continued support from our sponsors. We would like to thank them for believing in our missions and vision, and for assisting us in developing the network and providing opportunities for our members.

RAMBOLL

NIRXAS

COWI

kamstrup

AVR

KRÜGER  VEOLIA



*"In order to solve complex problems, we need diverse perspectives - the Copenhagen Urban Lab brought together young multi-disciplinary professionals from across the globe to tackle storm surge, one of the greatest challenges in the history of mankind."*

Urban Lab 2018