



## Annual Report

Young Water Professionals Denmark (YWPDK) is a member-driven network for young professionals within the Danish water sector. Established in 2014 and growing ever since, YWPDK provides a platform for our members to connect, learn, share and do, and strategically seeks to contribute a young voice to the debate, discourse and political agenda within and beyond the water sector. Our strategic focus areas are:

- Professional networking for young water professionals
- Knowledge sharing
- Exploration of new trends shaping the water sector
- Education

YWPDK foremost thrives with and through its members' engagement and activities. The members of our board and the regional representatives work in this spirit.

Young Water Professionals Denmark supported by

**RAMBOLL**

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**NIRAS**

**kamstrup**

 **EnviDan**



**IWA**  
the international  
water association

Copenhagen, Aarhus, Aalborg, Odense  
January 2020

Contact: [info@ywp.dk](mailto:info@ywp.dk)

# CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

2019 was the year when Young Water Professionals Denmark (YWPDK) took another considerable step in the development of our network to become increasingly professional. We are working on documenting our internal processes, making changes to the sponsorship program, establishing regional groups, and making it easier for members to become increasingly active within the network.

In 2019 we were lucky to have Freya Mosbæk step up as regional representative of Aalborg. Freya has alongside Emil Thomsen and Kirsten Prisum led our network on the regional level and ensured that we have been an active network in the major cities with technical tours, knowledge sharing, and networking events for young professionals. Next year we will put even more focus on the regional level, where we believe that we can add more value.

This year we developed our international involvement even further. We partnered with our fellow Nordic YWP chapters to co-create content for the IWA World Water Congress and Exhibition in Copenhagen in 2020. We are furthermore engaged with the South African, UK and German chapters, as we believe the future lies within international knowledge sharing and collaboration. The highlight of our international involvement in 2019 was the IWA YWP conference in Toronto with more than 300 delegates. YWPDK played

a central role in the conference where we addressed our focus points of research to practice, the workforce of tomorrow and global YWP chapter knowledge exchange.

The national conference was one of the highlights of the year. More than 50 YWPs participated and we were very happy to see our fellow Norwegian YWPs join the conference and contribute to the program. We are looking forward to the conference and our general assembly in 2020, which will be hosted by VCS on March 5-6. I look forward to seeing many of you there and hope that you will apply for the open positions as regional representative and as board member.

**The IWA 2020 conference in Copenhagen will be a milestone for the Danish water sector. YWPDK will influence the themes covered by our key focus areas and make sure that YWPs will be an integral part of the conference**

I am sure that we will be successful at the IWA World Water Congress and Exhibition 2020. With Nadia Lund, Ines Breda and Trine Stausgaard Munk heavily involved in the planning and with great support from the active members in the IWA 2020 task force.

This year, the founder and previous chair Trine Stausgaard Munk stepped down. This signaled a complete generation shift in the management

of the network. I would like to thank Trine for her years of leading the network since she helped found it in 2014.

I look forward to continuing the journey with YWPDK as chair and grow our network alongside all the talented people in the organization. I would like to thank everyone that contribute to make YWPDK the great and inspiring network it is today. I would especially like to show my appreciation to all the hard-working active members that help drive and lead our network. You are contributing to a better water sector and to a world where water is wisely managed.



Thor Danielsen  
YWPDK Chair

**“YWPDK has  
helped me create  
and expand my net-  
work both nationally  
and internationally.  
Network is important  
to face the chal-  
lenges of the future”**

Niels Malmlose Askjær,  
Vand Center Syd,  
Project Director, Former YWP

# YWPAK 2019 highlights

January 2019

## National conference



## Visit at Aalborg Forsyning and water technical museum



## DANVA INITIATIVPRIS



## New board



## Meeting in Aarhus





Urban Lab and boat ride in  
Copenhagen



Workshop on BlockChain in  
Copenhagen



'Workforce of Tomorrow'  
workshop at NORDIWA



YWP workshop at Dansk  
Vand



Julehygge at Rambøll in  
Copenhagen



December 2019

# YWPKD around the world

As young water professionals, we know that water knows no boundaries and water issues are global issues. The expertise and knowhow on how to solve issues posed by climate change, pollution and urbanization can be found around the world.

According to the UN, 715 million people are still lacking access to basic drinking water services, and 701 million people are still forced to practice open defecation. This is a situation that we simply cannot accept and must assist in solving. At the same time, the existing infrastructure of the developed world is under increased pressure due to ageing, urbanization and climate change. There is thus a huge task for the future water professionals in making sure that we achieve the ambitions of the SDGs and retrofit and upgrade our existing infrastructure in a sustainable manner.

We aim to be an active part of the global water community through the International Water Association and other organizations. We do this by co-organizing, contributing, and participating in global knowledge sharing events. We want to inspire as well as get inspired and help solve the issues related to water.

2019 was a year in which we were especially active internationally. We participated in the IWA International



YWP conference in Toronto, Canada. Here we helped frame and discuss the issues of bringing research to practice faster, how the workforce of tomorrow will look like in the water sector, and how to build resilient cities.

We also joined a Danish delegation to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, where Nadia Lund from YWPKD gave a keynote presentation on how to involve YWPs in solving the pressing water issues. We furthermore met with Malaysian representatives and talked about how to set up a YWP chapter in the country – a testament to the progress of our network and our ambitions in supporting YWPs globally.

We have taken a leading role in the IWA Emerging Water Leaders program by heading the chapter coordination initiative, which seeks to bring together YWP chapter representatives and share knowledge on how to run a chapter on a national level and create collaborations.

Collaborating with other chapters is also something that we take seriously and pursue. We therefore sent

a representative to Trondheim to discuss collaboration with the Norwegian chapters. We furthermore organized a workshop at NORDIWA with the Finnish YWPs. In 2020 we will be going to the YWP UK conference in Cardiff and contribute with a workshop.

Working internationally will be a prerequisite to succeed in the water sector in the near future.

## 5<sup>th</sup> YWPDK Conference

The 5<sup>th</sup> YWPDK conference took place from March 7-8, 2019, in Skanderborg, and we had such a great time. The program was packed with interesting content and plenty of time for socializing. The second day of the conference happened to be on the international Women's Day, and, as Helle Katrine Andersen from DANVA pointed out, the gender distribution of YWPDK's members shows that we in the future will see a positive development in the number of females present on the boards in the Danish water sector! Thanks to everyone who participated and contributed to two inspiring days – and especially to the organizing team who made it all possible. We would also like to give a special thanks to our two hosts: Skanderborg Forsyning at AquaGlobe and DANVA. Thanks for hosting us and sharing your knowledge.

Our working group on artificial intelligence had organized an amazing

workshop together with our Norwegian sister organization, VA Yngre. We thought the idea about pitching our worst, crazy solutions to water management issues and evolving them into something great was an excellent way to open up our minds to new ideas. We did not end up with ready-to-use solutions, but that was not the point of the workshop. The workshop's purpose was to be innovative and think further than "but we used to do...", and there were definitely many ideas, which with a slight alteration could, and hopefully will, be part of the future's water management. We furthermore got the chance to apply our newly obtained drawing skills, and we were all convinced that the drawing helped us in the process of evolving our ideas.



We spent some time during the conference talking about what we would like the network to be – for all of us. A university, a place for social gatherings, a place for field trips, a place for knowledge sharing, or...? A quick Google search on "network definition" shows that a network is "a



group or system of interconnected people or things". Even though the board will definitely take the feedback we got into account when planning the next year, we also need you to help us make the network a fun and inspiring place and to spread the word so others can also benefit from our amazing network. Let us know if there is anything that you want to help develop and plan and we will assist you. Our regional groups are a great place to start if you want to be more involved within YPWPK.

## Strategy 2023 – developing YWPDK

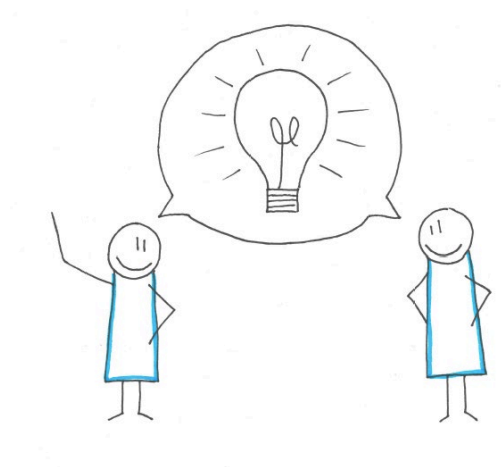
2019 was the year that we created a new strategy for the network. A renewal was needed as we continuously grow in engagement, expectations and activity level. We need a common direction and a common approach to the development of our network.

The process of creating a new strategy was initiated at a team weekend for all the leading members of YWPDK. In a summerhouse on Fyn the group went through a series of exercises and drafted a strategy that will be used as a tool for steering the network through to 2023.

**"We will be  
the main inde-  
pendent net-  
work for young  
water profes-  
sionals in Den-  
mark"**

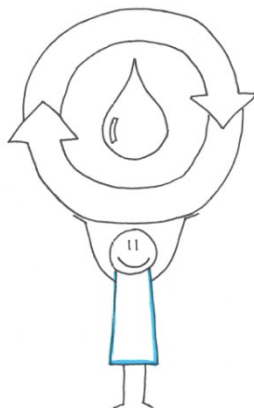
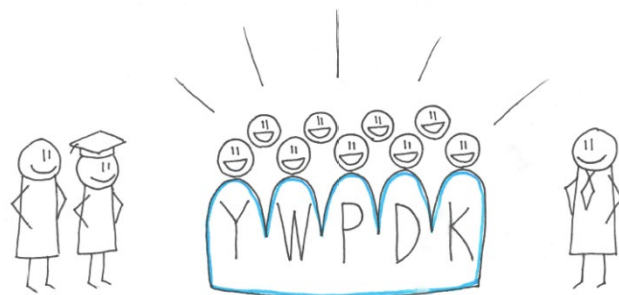
# Strategy 2023 - vision

The vision of Young Water Professionals consists of three points.



We will provide a relevant source of input on the water agenda, facilitate knowledge sharing, exploration of new trends, and testing of ideas for young water professionals through our **network and activities.**

YWPDK will be recognized for its **excellence & professionalism** by both young and seniors in the Danish water sector.



We will have strong **representation** by all professions in the water sector and across the largest cities of Denmark (Copenhagen, Aarhus, Odense and Aalborg).

# Focus areas

## Digitalization

The focus area of digitalization focuses on emerging digital technologies and trends in the water sector. Questions like "What is Blockchain?" and "Which applications are relevant for the water sector" have been explored.



## Urban Lab

The Urban Lab is a legacy initiative from YWPDK planned in collaboration with many stakeholders. The lab illustrates the strength of interdisciplinary international YWP solutions to the most pressing urban water related issues.



## Workforce of Tomorrow

The mega trends shaping the world will also change the water sector. How do we make sure that we have the relevant skills to tackle the challenges coming our way? How will these changes affect the water sector?



## Research to Practice

The time it takes to implement new research solutions is currently too long. YWPDK wants to find ways to bridge the gap between research and practice to make sure new solutions can add value quicker.



# How to get involved

Becoming a member is free of charge and open to anyone at, or below, the age of 35 or with less than 5 years of experience in the water sector.

YWPK is always looking for new members to join our network and contribute to the planning of activities. Go to the website at <http://ywp.dk/membership/> to sign up and be an official member of YWPK.

We are also looking for active members to get involved in planning events or the national conference, or even to work on the website. We recommend that you contact us at [info@ywp.dk](mailto:info@ywp.dk) to hear more about the different opportunities, check the website and social media for upcoming events, or contact your local regional representative.

Official positions in YWPK are also open to anyone. These are occupied on yearly elections held at the general assembly at the national conference. A call for applications is sent out at least a month prior to the general assembly.

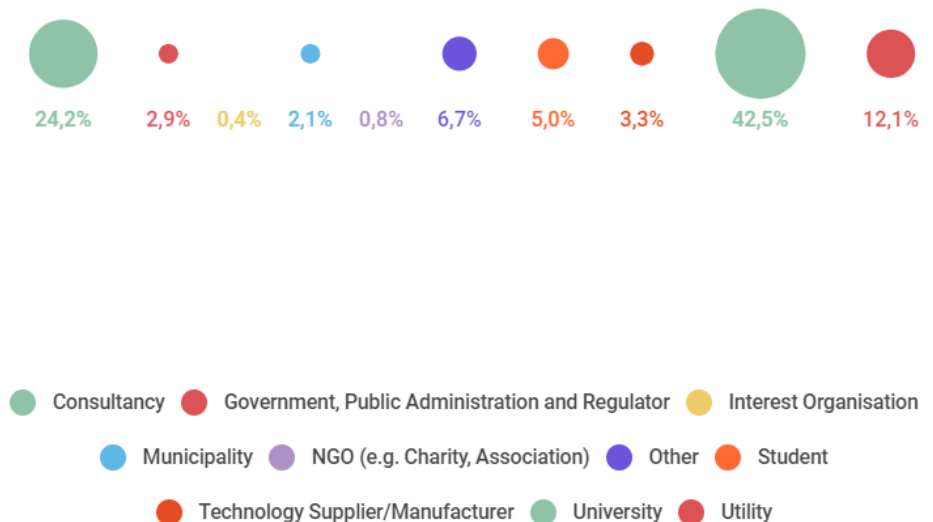


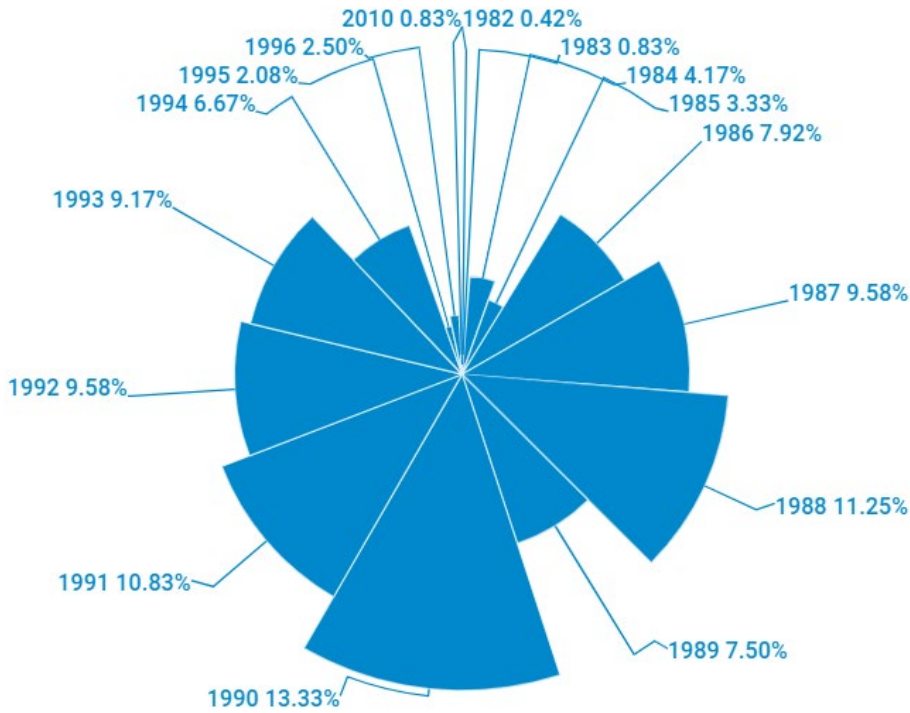


# Our members



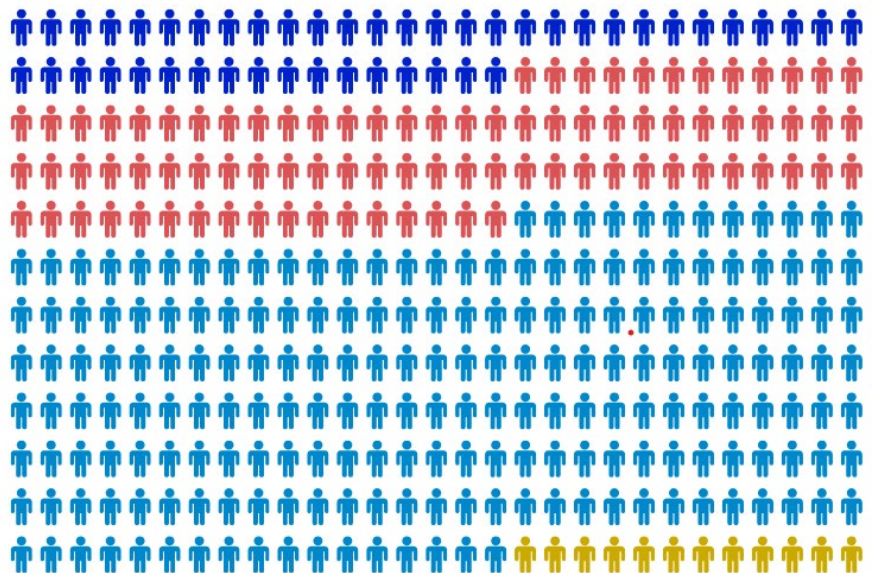
## Where do the YWPDK members work?



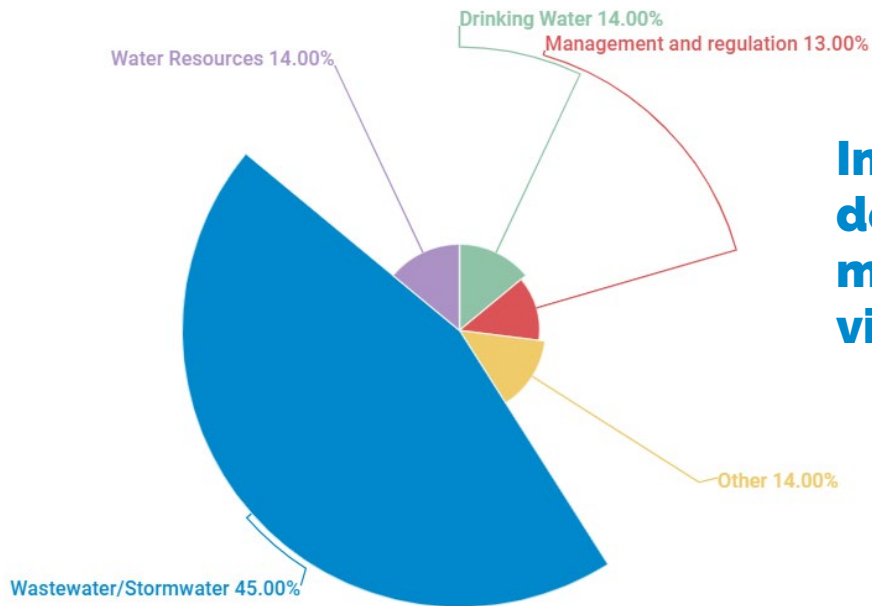


**How young  
are YWPDK  
members?**

**Where are  
the YWPDK  
members  
primarily  
active?**

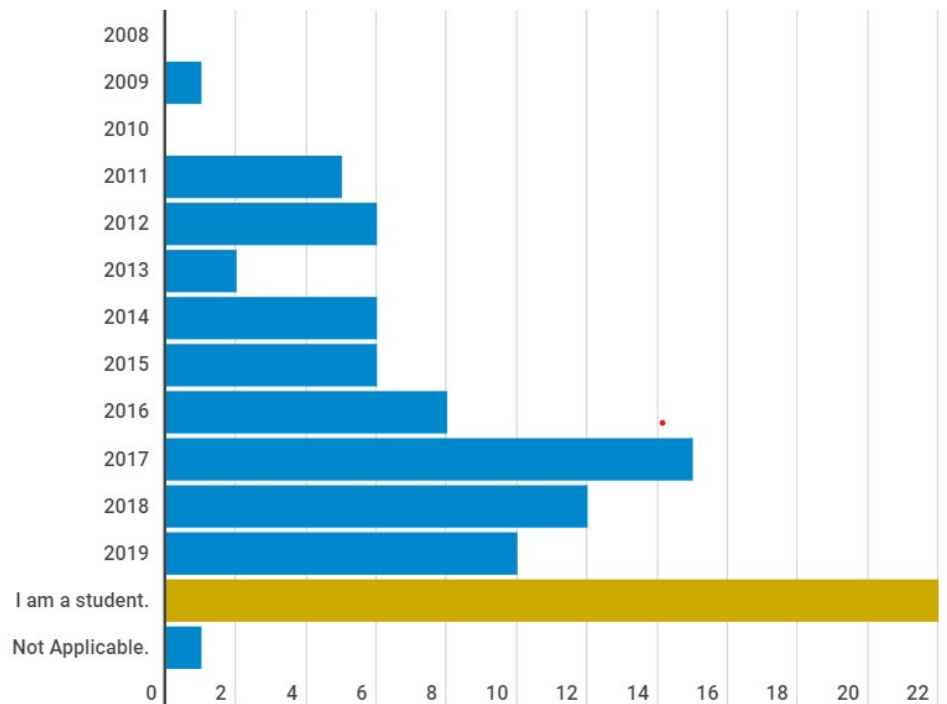


● Aalborg ● Aarhus ● Copenhagen ● Odense



**In which fields do YWPDK members provide expertise?**

**When did YWPDK members enter the workforce?**



Data: YWPDK membership  
Graphic: Infogram

# YWPAK Governance

The essence of the network are the members! However, the network would not function without a solid and structured backbone. The country chapter steering committee is in charge of the overall development, management and maintenance of the network. The regional representatives ensures that the network is active regionally and provides the local management of the network and member engagement. Both functions are essential to the successful development of YWPAK.

## The country chapter steering committee



Chair

**Thor Danielsen**

HOFOR A/S



Treasurer

**Ines L. Breda**

Silhorko Eurowater



Secretary

**Nera U. Carreño**

VCS / DTU



Member Engagement

**Nadia Lund**

EnviDan



Urban Lab

**Trine S. Munk**

Rambøll



Communication

**Wadim Baslow**

Quercus Group



## The YWPDK regional representatives



Copenhagen

**Kirsten Prismo**

Copenhagen Municipality



Aarhus

**Emil Thomsen**

COWI



Aalborg

**Freya Mosbæk**

Aalborg Forsyning

