

YWPK

2020

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 strategical focus areas are:

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

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



Copenhagen, Aarhus, Aalborg, Odense
January, 2021

Contact: info@ywp.dk

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

2020 was a challenging year for YWP Denmark, as it was for everyone affected by the pandemic. It was, however, not a quiet year. The activity level of the network was impressive. The driving members of the network kept morale high despite cancellations and last-minute adjustments as restrictions changed overnight.

The need for a professional network and knowledge-sharing did not vanish, as we had to keep social distancing. Young professionals were still in need of a place to connect with each other and experts in order to form the bonds that will support them through their careers.

Our Regional Groups have maintained an extraordinary engagement and motivation despite the difficult circumstances. The local anchoring and activity of YWPDK is central to the success of our network. During 2020 our Regional Groups managed to host webinars, technical tours and informal sessions in the face of adversity.

There is no YWPDK without the local face-to-face interactions between our members.

Water is often solved at the local level, although it often poses a global challenge. A strong local network is therefore central to the success of our members.

A popular saying goes; *think global, act local*. That is very true for the challenges posed by water.

That is why we want to make sure our members are closely linked to the IWA international community of water experts. Denmark has a lot of know-how and technology to offer the world, but we also have a lot to learn.

During 2020 we hosted many international webinars. The digital format allowed us to engage with leading international experts and present Danish solutions to a global audience. We furthermore engaged in numerous sessions with other YWP chapters to support their growth and learn ourselves.

I see it as a testimony to our hard work that we in 2020 received the BIOFOS Ressourcepris. That is the result of many years of hard work from several people who all have a share in this award.

I want to thank the Regional Representatives and their groups for the hard work and engagement. I also want to thank the board members for their commitment and many hours of contribution. Finally, I want to thank our sponsors. Without them we would not be able to keep our high standards.

We look forward to seeing all of you in 2021.

Thor Danielsen
YWPDK Chair



YWPK 2020 highlights

January 2020

Forsyningspolitisk Kompas
DI & Christiansborg, CPH



7th National Conference
VCS, Odense



DWF Conference



Regional Group Meeting
Copenhagen



Regional Group Meeting
Aarhus



Working in the water sector Webinar



Strategy Team Weekend Fyn



BIOFOS Ressource Pris



Water Cycle Webinar Series Episode 1-3

Project on tracking Covid-19 in wastewater from buildings

- HOFOR, Fors, DNASense, Eurofins og Orbicon/WSP
- Rodovre High School, National Hospital, WSP head office, HOFOR head office

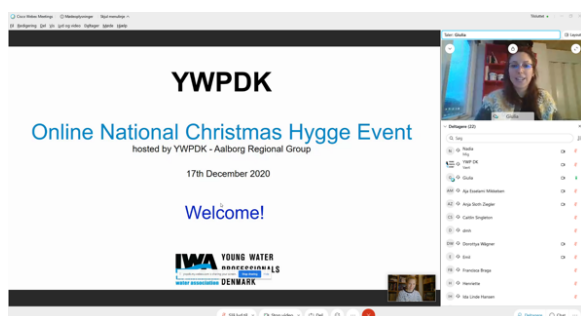
Closed user circuit

Household wastewater sampling

Total RNA extraction

SARS-CoV-2 detection

Christmas Hygge – Webinar Arranged by Aalborg RG



December 2020

YWPK and the IWA

The well-known saying *Water knows no administrative boundaries* is more relevant than ever. The risk report for 2020, published by The World Economic Forum, identifies water as central to the four biggest risks to the world economy. To tackle these challenges, we need to think globally. There is a need for global solutions implemented at the local level.

It is thus important that the good technology and knowledge available in Denmark can reach the global water community. We also need to acknowledge that we need global knowledge to improve our blue-green transition in Denmark.

By being an integrated part of the IWA, we ensure that we have access to a community of the brightest minds in the water sector. YWPK is thus able to connect Danish YWPs with leading international water experts and the newest knowledge.

In 2020 we hosted several webinars with international experts, where our members could gain access to the latest developments within their fields of expertise. We also want to assist them in gaining an international network by hosting more informal sessions with other YWP chapters, as we believe they will benefit from an international network through their entire career.

The new strategy of YWPK puts international collaboration as one of the key focus areas of the network.



We want to take a leading role in the IWA YWP community. We want to achieve this by having structured collaborations with other YWP chapters to help them grow and learn from them as well. By doing this we can be a part of giving other YWPs around the world a chance of building a valuable network, while also strengthening YWPK with new knowledge.

We want to take part in the central governance of the IWA. Inês Breda, of the YWPK Board, was elected to the Emerging Water Leaders Steering Committee, where she will be leading the group focused on Specialists Groups. Thor Danielsen served the prior term leading chapter coordination and is stepping down.

The COVID-19 pandemic of 2020 also showed the strength of the international YWP community and online platforms allowed us to connect with our international network. We were able to invite international YWPs to our events, as most of them were moved to online platforms. Still, we are looking forward to seeing everyone face to face,

6th YWPDK Conference

In March, just before Denmark was closed due to the spread of the coronavirus, YWPDK was able to host its national conference. The conference is the main highlight of any year, where members across the country get to network and share knowledge. They also get to influence the management of YWPDK at the general assembly hosted at the conference.

The 6th edition of the annual YWPDK conference took place March 5 and 6 at VandCenter Syd. The conference gathered nothing less than 65 young professionals from different countries and organizations covering water utilities, universities and consulting companies. However, the most relevant thing was that the conference gathered people with the same professional passion - WATER.

The overall theme of this conference was 'Future of Water'. A challenging but motivating topic that focused the two days of conference and most of the discussions between our members. The discussions were mainly generated by the two amazing workshops. The first day was highlighted by an inspirational workshop about 'digitalization', hosted by Miljøstyrelsen and Mia Holmbo Lind. The activity gave our members the chance to give input to the potential of digitalization in the water sector.

On the second day, Luca Mottadelli from DHI A/S, introduced a new topic, and tool, among our members:

design thinking. A thoughtful workshop that transported our members 10 years ahead to shape the challenges that the water sector will face and how they might be solved.

The absolute novelty of this edition was the screening of 'Brave Blue World'. A documentary focused on how innovative companies are trying to provide solutions worldwide to mitigate the water crisis. The screening gave the audience an optimistic picture of how humanity is adopting new technological innovations to manage water.



The screening was followed by an interesting panel discussion comprised by Wadim Baslow (Quercus Group, YWPDK), Peter Holme Jensen (CEO, Aquaporin), Per Henrik Nielsen (Project manager, VCS) and Aoife Kelleher (Assistant producer).

We also want to thank all the members how contributed with abstracts. The two technical sessions had a very high level with inspiring presentations.



Strategy 2023 – developing YWPDK

In 2020 we continued to work on our strategy towards 2023. The pandemic made our targets more difficult to meet, but we were able to take significant strides in our ambitions to strengthen our regional groups and set up structured international collaborations.

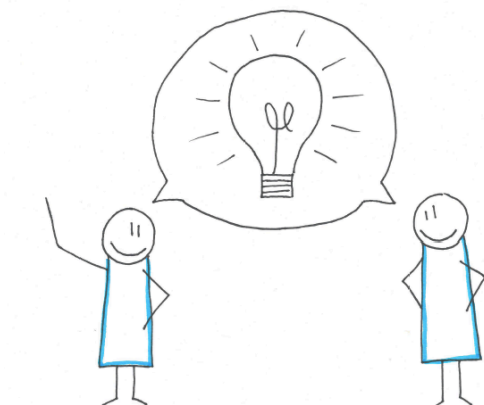
The process of creating a new strategy was initiated at a team weekend for all the leading members of YWPDK in 2019. In a summerhouse on Fyn, the group went through a series of exercises and drafted a strategy that will be used as a tool for steering the network through to 2023.

In 2020 we continued with the strategy formulation, by hosting a review, where we became even more precise in regards to our focus areas and the coherent actions needed to meet our goals for 2023.

**"We will be the
main independent
network for young
water profession-
als in Denmark"**

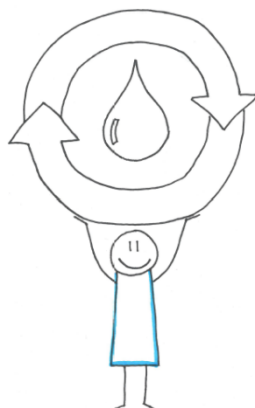
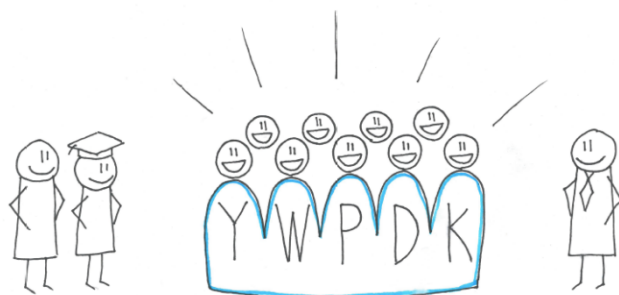
Strategy 2023 - vision

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

Regional Groups

There is no YWPDK without the local face-to-face interactions between our members. Our Regional Groups give YWPDK the local anchor and empowers our members by giving them a platform to influence the network and be active.



International Collaboration

As an active part of IWA, it is in the DNA of YWPDK to be a part of the international community of water professionals. We strive to provide a link to the international water world for our members.



Recruitment

It is crucial for new graduates to feel a sense of community within the sector and find their place. We strive to provide the best onboarding for new members to engage them quickly and to be present at universities.



IWA 2022

The pandemic has caused a two-year postponement of the world water congress. YWPDK has taken a leading role in ensuring the success of the conference and its relevance to YWPs.



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 become 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 to hear more about the different opportunities, check the website and social media for upcoming events, or contact your local regional representative.

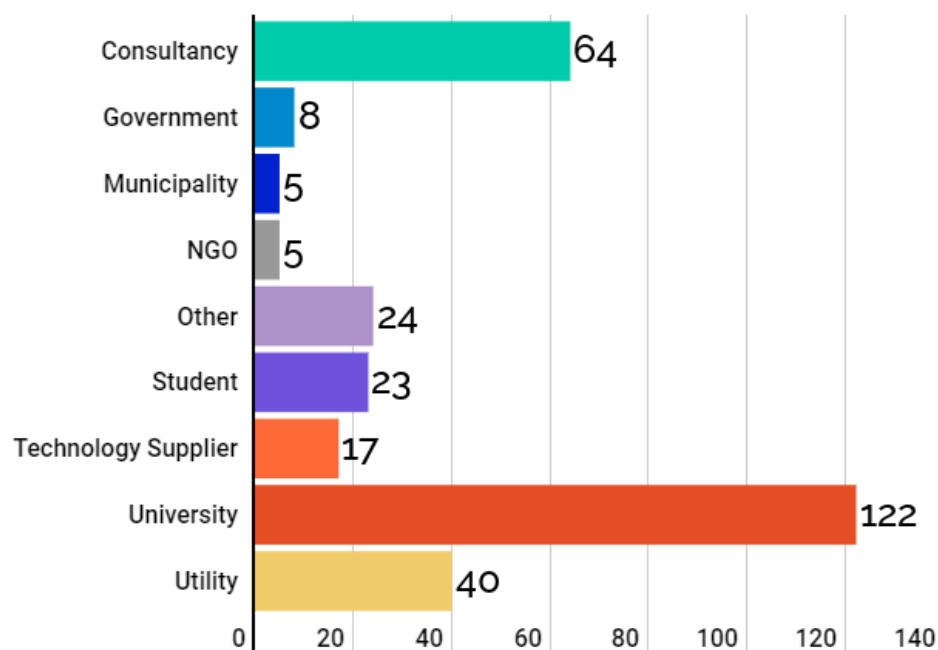
Official positions in YWPK are also open to anyone. These are occupied on yearly elections held at the general assembly at the national conference. A call for applications is sent out at least a month prior to the general assembly.

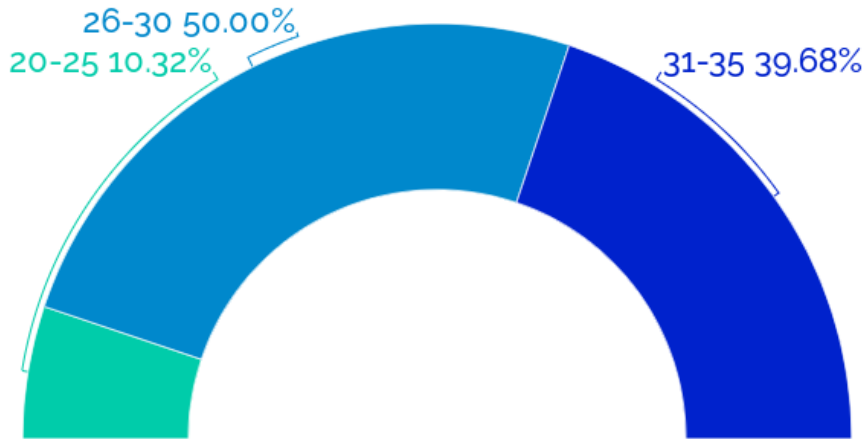


Our members



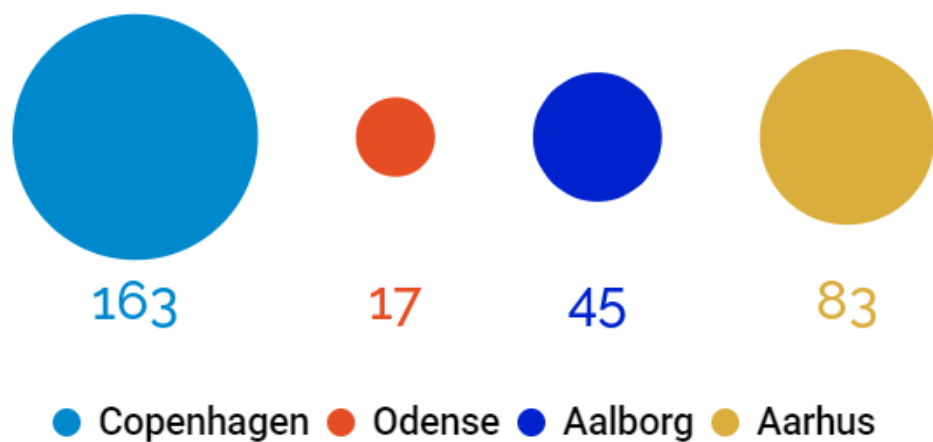
Where do the YWPDK members work?





**How young
are YWPDK
members?**

**Where are the
YWPDK mem-
bers primarily
active?**



In which fields do YWPDK members pro- vide expertise?



● Drinking water ● Management and regulation ● Other
● Wastewater/Stormwater ● Water Resources

**We cover the entire
water sector
through the diversity
of our members**



Data: YWPDK membership
Graphic: Infogram

YWPK 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 YWPK.

The country chapter steering committee



Chair

Thor Danielsen

HOFOR A/S



Treasurer

Ines L. Breda

Silhorko Eurowater



Secretary

Nerea Uri- Carreño

VCS / DTU



Member Engagement

Nadia Lund

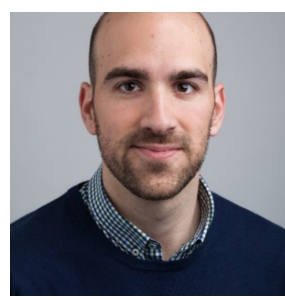
EnviDan



Member Engagement

Emil Thomsen

COWI



International

Luis Román

Krüger I Veolia

The YWPDK regional representatives



Copenhagen

Per Nobel

NovoZymes



Aarhus

Lisbeth Christensen

Teknologisk Institut



Aalborg

Freya Mosbæk

Aalborg Forsyning

**“YWPDK has helped me
create and expand
my network
both nationally
and internationally.
Network is important
to face the challenges
of the future”**

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

