

Young Water Professionals in Portugal

In partnership with the OECD Studies on Water: Stakeholder Engagement for Inclusive Water Governance

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Organisation: Portuguese Association of Water and Wastewater Services (APDA)

Country: Portugal

Level of government: Central government

Sector: Environmental protection

Type:

Launched in: 2013

Overall development time: 1 year(s) 3 month(s)

Link to the innovation's website

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Description

In 2013, the Portuguese Association of Water and Wastewater Services (APDA) launched the “Young Water Professionals” group with the aim to develop the capacities of young professionals under the age of 35, to train young professionals and prepare future generations of leaders and technicians in various fields of knowledge, helping them to meet the growing challenges facing the water sector at present and in the future, to transfer new approaches to the problems of the sector to a wide range of professional, academic and geographic diversity, and to share knowledge, experiences and best practices.

APDA is a non-profit association that represents and defends the interests of stakeholders responsible for water supply and waste water. APDA is intended to be an indispensable partner in the formulation and implementation of policies for the water sector at national and international levels. It aims to foster initiatives that encourage the cooperation of individuals and corporate bodies interested in improving their technical, economic, financial, legal and administrative knowledge, and the creation of appropriate means for resolving the existing problems within the water supply and waste water systems.

Why the innovation was developed

- With the purpose of increasing the development of the capacities and skills of young professionals of the water sector and all who would intends to be, APDA, attentive to international and national dynamics of this sector created a Young Water Professionals (YWP's) Group within its structure in October 2013.
- Founded in 1988, APDA – Portuguese Association of Water and Wastewater Services is the most representative Portuguese association of water and waste water services, with collective and individual members, covering the whole country. APDA is a non-profit association that represents and defends the interests of all stakeholders responsible for water supply and waste water.
- To increase training of young professionals in the water sector.
- To help ensure adequate preparation of future generations of leaders and technicians in various fields of knowledge, helping them meet the growing challenges facing the water sector now and in the future.
- To gather young professionals who are carriers of knowledge and interest in developing new approaches to the problems in the water sector, taking advantage of their professional, academic and geographic diversity.
- To share knowledge, experiences and best practices, and benefit from participation in a group of high competence at various levels (professional and academic).
- To establish relationships and partnerships with similar groups that are or could be created at the international level, in particular those from Portuguese-speaking countries as well as international organizations such as the International Water Association (IWA).
- To promote an internship program for undergraduate and graduate students related to the water sector.
- Young people from various professional sectors.

Results

Results not available yet

- To develop YWP's capacities and skills to address the challenges that water sector faces, now and in the future, at various scales (from local to global) and at different levels of intervention.
- The long-term goals are to ensure adequate preparation of new generations of leaders and technicians in several areas of knowledge, helping them to meet the growing challenges facing the water sector in the present and in the future.
- The purpose of the Young Water Professionals Group is to enhance professional training of young water professionals of the water sector and all who would come to be a part of the group.
- Another important goal in the future is to establish partnerships with national and international groups of young professionals and to develop the YWP Portuguese chapter.
- In the short-term, the main focus has been on the development of a report that tries to apply the new theory of Nudges with telemetry systems, and understand the state-of-the-art of Nudges in the water sector.
- We believe that innovation and creativity are some of the main values of their institutional culture. Additionally, this group of young water professionals is starting to develop a newsletter, expected to be launched in 2016, with the aim to share information with water community and public, as well as enhance the community of young professionals in the water sector.

Development

Design

The Portuguese YWP's Group was coordinated by APDA – Portuguese Association of Water and Waste water Services and it is open to all of Portuguese Civil Society. All Portuguese YWP's (under 35 years old) can join this group.

Testing

- There were no methods used to test the innovation.
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Implementation

Tools used:

- Young Water Professionals is still in an initial stage, mainly focused on the growth of its organizational structure and the number of members, on the promotion and development of its goals in the water sector in general, and for young water professionals in particular.
- The main tools used so far are social networks: Website: www.apda.pt Facebook: www.facebook.com/apda.pt; www.facebook.com/nucleo.jopa Twitter: https://twitter.com/nucleo_jopa LinkedIn: <https://pt.linkedin.com/pub/jopa-núcleo-de-jovens-profissionais-da-água/b1/58b/92b/en>.

Resources used:

- The financial resources used to support the development, implementation and evaluation of the Young Water Professionals are mainly from APDA, although other funding will be needed to help support its activities in the future.
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Challenges and solutions

- To guarantee the presence and appropriate involvement in the meetings/projects of all YWP's that registered themselves in APDA YWP's Group.

Lessons Learned

Lessons Learned

- APDA YWP's Group is still in a consolidation and development stage, so there are not much lessons learnt, but we hope to achieve them in a near future.
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Conditions for success

- The effective engagement of YWP's and their clear perception of the advantages of taking part of this process.
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Other information

Other countries (and regions) can create mechanisms and develop organisms and structures (or use the existing ones) to accommodate YWP's Groups. For more information, visit: <https://pt.linkedin.com/pub/jopa-núcleo-de-jovens-profissionais-da-água/b1/58b/92b/en>.