



Wetskills-United Kingdom 2017

Press release #1

Wetskills for the first time in the United Kingdom

Between the 30th of March and the 12th of April, the first British Wetskills Water Challenge will take place in United Kingdom (UK). During the event in Bath, 13 students and young professionals from the UK, Belgium, Israel and The Netherlands will work together in teams to come up with out-of-the-box concepts for actual water related cases, posed by British and Dutch case owners. The Water Innovation & Research Centre of the University of Bath (WIRC@Bath) is hosting the event.

Cross-sectoral collaboration for facing water challenges

Wetskills and all participants are happy with the support received from multiple stakeholders across the wider water sector, which enables the event to take place. The Institute of Mathematical Innovation (IMI) and the Alumni Fund of the University of Bath, together with Wessex Water Services Ltd support the event, recognising the value of the Wetskills event and its potential to promote collaboration among young professionals. Wetskills will foster partnerships across Europe, by empowering knowledge and cultural exchange between Dutch and British authorities and organisations.

Cases

Four case owners can expect out-of-the box concept by the team of students and young professional from the water sector. The Municipality of Delfland submitted a case about flood management. The case of the Water Innovation & Research Centre (WIRC@Bath) focuses on solutions for improving the resilience of the City of Bath using the City BluePrint concept. The case of European Water Traineeship focuses on the creation of a programme for and definition the European Young Water Professionals. The Municipality of Westland submitted a case about public engagement for effective water management in rural areas.

Intensive program

On March 31st the event will be officially opened with the so-called *BrainHurricane*: an interactive brainstorming event where the mixed teams will learn more about their cases and case owners. Through a special speed-date session with several British, Dutch and international experts from the water industry and academia, the teams get the opportunity to collect information and inspiration.



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The teams will present their concepts with a pitch and a poster presentation session during the 18th UK-IWA Young Water Professionals conference, hosted at the University of Bath. A jury will decide the winning team during the event. The winning team will be announced during the Gala Dinner of 18th UK-IWA Young Water Professionals conference.

About Wetskills

The Wetskills Water Challenge is a two-weeks pressure-cooker program for students and young professionals with a passion for water from all over the world. In transdisciplinary and transcultural teams they work together on water-related challenges. Their challenge: *develop innovative and out-of-the-box solution for water challenges in a fast-changing world.* The challenges are real life and local cases from companies and (governmental) organisations from the water sector.

Wetskills was firstly organised in 2010 and became an independent Foundation in 2015. Since 2010, 23 Wetskills events have been organised worldwide, in 16 different countries. More than 450 participants and 100 universities and organisations were involved. The Challenges take place worldwide, usually during international water related events, expert meetings or trade missions.

More information:

If you want to publish about this event, the organisation can tailor your wishes. This also includes interviews, visit during the programme (like BrainHurricane and/or Finals). Please, contact the people below.

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Overview of Study Cases

Overview of the cases

Case 1: Temporary water (un)safety

Case owner: Hoogheemraadschap van Delfland

Delfland examines its dikes to assess if they technically comply to the normative safety standards. Sometimes the assessment results are below the safety requirements and reinforcement is required. The time between the (below standard) results and the improvements can take years largely due to the variety of stakeholder interests. Delfland needs a strategy and location specific solutions for the below standard dikes in this period to ensure safety for the inhabitants in the low-lands.

Case 2: Implementing City BluePrint of Bath

Case owner: Water Innovation Research Centre of the University of Bath & WaterShare (KWR Watercycle Research Institute)

The City BluePrint is an objective tool to provide an overview of the water management of cities and the governance capacity to implement changes for improvement. In Europe and worldwide many cities have been assessed with interesting results and insights. In this case the City BluePrint will be developed for the City of Bath. The team is challenged to think in ways what the case owners can do more with the outcomes of this City BluePrint of Bath.

Case 3: Impactful cooperation between Young Water Professionals in Europe

Case owner: European Water Traineeship

“We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them” (Albert Einstein). Even as more or less developed region in the World, Europe faces many water challenges: Droughts, Flood events, Climate changes, Pollution. As Albert Einstein mentioned: we need creative concepts to solve these challenges. Young Water Professionals (YWP) in Europe are ready to take these water challenges, but what is a European YWP? How can YWPs overcome the challenges of cross-boundary corporation in Europe and work together in a more systematic way?



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Case 4: Citizens, businesses and government in action for a waterproof Westland

Case owner: Westland Municipality

Westland is characterized by a patchwork of interlaced horticultural and residential functions. During intensive rainfall, the water system cannot drain the water quickly enough, resulting in increased water levels and flood risk. Till now the policy is to use the available storage capacity of the water system. However, researches have shown that the storage capacity in the area has reached its limits. That is why we search for additional measures to retain water instead of draining the water: In cooperation with all stakeholders!