

# WAVEMAKERS UNITED WIN PITCH-A-THON!!!

Odwa Ntsika Mtembu & Johan Oost

## The three key stakeholders involved in launching the International Wavemaker Academy

### Wetskills Foundation

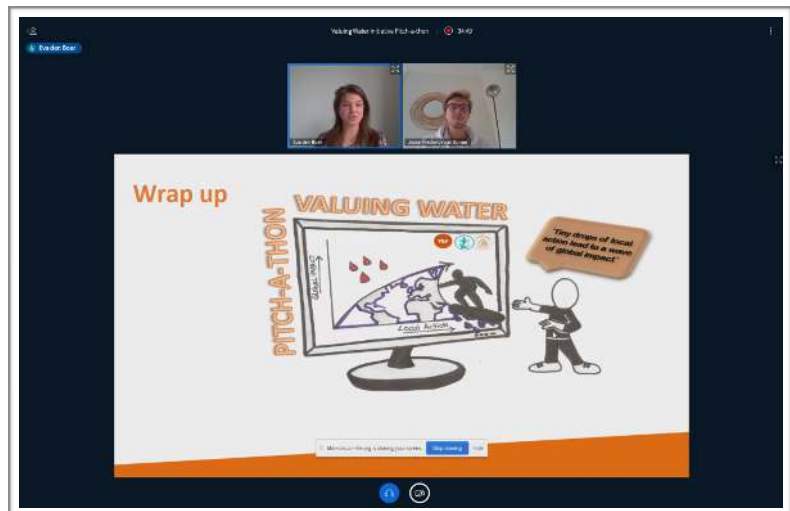
Wetskills uses a new way of authentic learning and international networking for students and young professionals with a passion for water. The Wetskills network currently reaches over 850 young professionals from 23 countries.

### Dutch Wavemakers

DWM consists of a community of young water and energy ambassadors which are trained and certified water sport talents and students enrolled in water and energy related studies

### Young Expert Programme

YEP offers opportunities for young professionals, as well as for the Dutch water, agrofood and renewable energy sectors. Young professionals get a chance to gain work experience in an international environment.



*Eva and Jason presenting on behalf of the Wavemakers United team during the pitch-a-thon.*

### The Valuing Water Initiative Pitch-a-thon

Since July 2020, Wetskills, Young Expert Programme (YEP) and the Dutch Wavemakers (DWM) have been working together on securing funding for their International Wavemaker Academy expected to be launch in 2021. After digitally submitting their project pitch via a three minute video; the team was selected as one of the four finalists to keep working on their idea, prepare a pitch and a presentation for the final round on 13 October 2020 where project ideas were assessed by a jury panel of experts and the public. During this preparation period, each team was assigned a mentor and the Wavemakers United were mentored by Pieter van Der Zaag: Professor of Integrated Water Resources Management at IHE Delft, Netherlands.



*The virtual pitch by Eva and Jason during the Pitch-a-thon included showcasing impressions of the International Wavemaker Academy through sharing some insights (video) from Sjoske and Ntsika.*

## Wavemakers United Team

Wavemakers United is a project initiated by the Dutch Wavemakers, where a group of passionate students, young professionals and athletes are aiming to create an International Wavemaker Academy for youngsters with a Talent for water. The team members are:

- Eva den Boer,  
Student. DWM
- Sjoske Tuinstra,  
Athlete.  
YEP & DWM
- Odwa Ntsika Mtembu,  
Young professional.  
Wetskills & SA Wavemakers
- Rein Smeets  
Student. DWM
- Jason Fredrick van Eunen  
Young Professional. DWM

*"Tiny drops of local action lead to a wave of global impact"*

The pitch was centred around coming up with an innovative project that address local to global water challenges and how best can we value water today. As the winning team, Wavemakers United won 5,000 EUR from the NL IHP-HWRP Committee to implement their project.

Wetskills Foundation is a proud key stakeholder of this global initiative which is a collaboration between Wetskills, DWM and YEP. Mr Odwa Ntsika Mtembu is the Wetskills representative for the soon to be launched International Wavemaker Academy. Congratulations to the Wavemakers United team and we wish them well for this project.

## The Team

Multifunctional  
Young professionals  
Passion for water



To learn more about the Pitch-a-thon and youth as champions for valuing water, visit this [link](#) by the Netherlands National IHP-HWRP Committee.

*More updates about the academy will be made available online and through the social media accounts of Wetskills, DWM and YEP.*