

DROPS OF THE FUTURE

Empowering the next generation for sustainable water, energy and food systems

YOUTH AND INCLUSIVE ENGAGEMENT IN THE WATER SECTOR

Why Youth Engagement Matters

Climate change and increasing pressure on water resources across the OSCE area heighten risks to security and stability, disproportionately affecting women and vulnerable groups.

Youth are among those most affected and key to solutions.

Meaningful youth engagement supports innovation, strengthens long-term sustainability and contributes to co-operative water governance.

Youth and Water Governance

1.9
BILLION
young people
worldwide

Among the most exposed to water scarcity, climate change and water-related risks.

Big Impact, Small Voice



Youth remain under-represented in water governance and decision-making, **despite being** major water users, innovators and community actors

From Risk to Resilience



Youth engagement = stronger water co-operation contributing to

Innovation & digital solutions
 More inclusive, sustainable governance

How We Engage

The OSCE engages youth and young professionals to promote **innovation, ownership and long-term sustainability** through:



Capacity building: training, seminars, mentorship and skills development.



Youth-focused events where participants co-design practical solutions and policy-oriented outputs.



Networking and knowledge sharing through regional and global platforms.



Partnerships

OSCE Engagement

Drops of the Future

Workshop Series on the Water-Energy-Food Nexus

FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE

Drops of the Future is a regional workshop series engaging young professionals from across Central Asia and beyond. It addresses climate-related risks through a Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Nexus approach and equips participants to assess challenges and manage competing demands for water.

Objectives

- ✓ Enhance knowledge on interconnected environmental challenges
- ✓ Foster regional cooperation and dialogue among youth
- ✓ Explore innovative solutions and explore collaboration

Key Highlights

- ✓ Interactive workshops & field visits
- ✓ Multi-stakeholder engagement
- ✓ Networking



This initiative is part of the Project **Women, Water Management and Conflict Prevention – Phase III.**

Impact at a Glance

150+ 

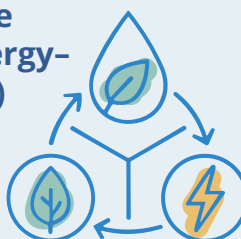
young professionals engaged

5 

countries represented

- ✓ Strengthened youth and women's networks
- ✓ Created a platform for future leadership and collaboration
- ✓ Enabled youth contributions to institutional and policy processes

What is the Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Nexus?



The **WEF Nexus** promotes **integrated planning and governance** to maximize synergies, manage trade-offs and strengthen

- ✓ **resource security**
- ✓ **sustainability and**
- ✓ **resilience**

moving beyond siloed decision-making.

Policy Contribution



Empowerment goes beyond capacity building. During the workshop series, young experts co-designed a joint on **Youth Declaration** shaping

Youth Declaration



the future of water, energy and food systems in Central Asia. The process helped translate youth priorities into policy-relevant inputs for OSCE dialogue.

Youth Declaration presented in 2025

- ✓ Co-designed by young professionals
- ✓ Shared with participating States at the Economic and Environmental Committee

Partnerships and Global Engagement

Who are the partners involved?

- UN FAO
- FAO Youth Assembly and development of the Youth Vision "Advancing Innovation in Water Management in Agriculture"
- Turkish Water Institute
- International Secretariat for Water
- The Stockholm International Water Institute
- The Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia
- Private Sector Companies

Youth networks and knowledge sharing

- ✓ Central Asia Youth for Water Network (CAY4W)
- ✓ World Youth Parliament for Water
- ✓ Water Youth Network
- ✓ Slow Food Youth Network
- ✓ Students and PhD researchers (e.g., Politecnico di Torino; German Kazakh University, and others)

Impact

- ✓ Youth perspectives integrated into global policy discussions
- ✓ Stronger links between regional youth initiatives and global process

Aligned With:



RESULTS AND IMPACT

The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the OSCE.

For more information contact: **Letizia Zuliani**
Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Letizia.Zuliani@osce.org