

Results of the 6th IWA YWP Eastern European Conference Istanbul Turkey, May 2014

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In 2014 young researchers dedicated professionally to water sector enjoyed a very important event for their career. IWA YWP Eastern European Conference opened its gates for the 6th time bringing together international young and senior professionals involved in the quest of finding feasible solutions for present and future challenges of the water sector. In order to promote the principle of the sustainability approach, this goal represents nowadays a recognized emergency and young water professionals are the primary receptors.

Following the 5th event (Kiev, Ukraine), in 2014 the Conference took place in Istanbul, Turkey - a country which favored easy access for all participants from Europe (and CIS countries) (as no visa was necessary). Istanbul turned out to be not only a proper meeting place but also a very interesting cultural city with rich history. Thus, after interesting professional discussions participants had the chance to enjoy a wonderful trip in Istanbul, a city that preserves the legacy of its past while looking forward to a modern future.



*6th IWA YWP Eastern European Conference
“East meets West” Istanbul, Turkey*

The 6th IWA YWP Conference

had a special edition: *“East meets West”* proposing to encourage the experience exchange between young researchers from the entire Europe. As a result, at the Conference attended around 170 participants from more than 30 countries (such as: Germany, Serbia, Ireland, Ukraine, Russia, The Netherlands, Czech Republic, Poland, Bulgaria, Finland, Estonia, Romania, Sweden, Hungary, etc.).



At the Conference were presented around 170 participants from Europe and another countries

The Conference was more international this year, welcoming also participants from other countries such as: Tunisia, Egypt, Korea, Colombia, Thailand, Singapore, USA, etc.

All platform presentations were organized in four wide sections covering almost the entire aspects of water sector: *Water Management, New Technologies in Drinking Water Treatment and Supply, New Technologies in Wastewater Treatment and New Technologies in Industrial Wastewater Treatment.*

As a result, during the event, the presentations of young water professionals showed their particular professional interest to contribute to the know how development in the water sector by improving the performances of existing technologies or developing innovative technologies for water sector, which represents viable alternatives (from economic, social and/or ecological point of view) for current applied technologies.

Due to the wide range of topics the event covered numerous and varied interesting platform presentations and posters (around 150 research papers) which were addressed to the following

aspects in water research: the description of the particularities of aquatic ecosystems health in different countries, the negative effects induced by water pollution, water management solutions, new tools developed for the improvement of the water monitoring programs, new technologies for water (micro)pollutants removal, advantages and drawbacks of current applied technologies, examples of mathematical modelling, etc.



Questions session

The variety of covered topics represented a good opportunity for each participant to identify his priority area of interest and at the same time to acknowledge the most debated subjects in the water sector nowadays. Participants could widen their perspective on the challenges of the water sector worldwide and discover solutions and other professionals with similar interests. Question session, coffee-breaks and lunch time offered also the opportunity



Posters session

for collaboration, experience exchange, debates, advices, poster analysis, etc. Participation in the Conference offered also the opportunity to publish the results in IWA journals: *Water Science and Technology* or *Water Science and Technology: Water Supply*. Another advantage promoted by the Conference represented the possibility to build networks between young water professionals' country chapters. This represented a good opportunity for developing an international young water professional group.

As in previous IWA YWP Eastern European Conferences, this edition included also a special session of *Discussion between Young and Senior Water Professionals* designed to encourage dialogue and know-how transfer and which offered to young water professionals the opportunity to be advised by highly experienced researchers and entrepreneurs in their career within the water sector. Therefore, the Conference represented not only a possibility to



Discussion between young and senior water professionals (Ashok Vaseashta)

disseminate scientific results, to update information from different water sector areas, but at the same time a possibility to influence the current practices (regulations, monitoring programs, technologies for water and wastewater treatment, waste sludge valorization, etc.) and to improve them. Senior researchers provided also useful tips and tricks to young water professionals about the importance and means to transfer the knowledge to market sector.

During the closing ceremony were presented the awards for the best platform and poster presentation.



Award for the best poster presentation: Franciszek Idzkowski (Poland)

Selection of the winners was a great challenge for the jury as all papers were interesting and many of the platform and poster presentations were of great quality. However, the decision took into consideration the following criteria: the relevance of the selected research topic, the importance of the results, compliance with the conference requirements regarding the poster/platform presentation templates and the way of the results dissemination. The best poster presentation was awarded to *Franciszek Idzkowski* from Poland (representing Institute of Applied Ecology, Warsaw University of Technology) with the poster: “*The needs and opportunities of waste water reuse*” while the best platform presentation was awarded to *Olga Tiron* from Romania (representing the National Research and Development Institute for Industrial Ecology – ECOIND) with the presentation: “*Activated algae*

granules for wastewater treatment”. The winners received a voucher to participate at the 7th IWA YWP Conference with no registration fee.

The 7th IWA YWP Conference (17-19 September, Belgrade, Serbia) will take place based on the success obtained through the previous events. Many of the participants enjoyed previous

editions of IWA YWP Conferences for at least two times and it is a proof of the fact that this kind of Conferences have a significant impact on young water researches through: career (at national level or abroad) and network development, opportunity to share science, to debate your choices, to make your results known and to sustain your ideas. We strongly encourage young water professional to disseminate their results, because each idea can be an important step forward in water sector.

We believe in your capacity to implement and develop new ideas for water sector in order to ensure a safe future!

Enjoy IWA YWP Conferences!