

WSEN Newsletter

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What's new this Summer 2015?

It has been nearly a year that for the first time ever the WSEN members elected a WSEN Executive Board and GA Representatives. In the last twelve months, the elected WSEN Executive Board members, the GA Representatives and other international volunteers worked hard to develop further the WSEN on its way to a worldwide student lead organisation connecting and supporting students around the globe who are striving for a more sustainable society on their university campuses and their surrounding neighborhoods and cities. You can read about the various activities that happened during the last year in the annual report which is available on our homepage. In April, some of the European WSEN Inter-

national Committee (IC) members came together to work on WSEN related issues for a weekend in Brussels. The former Executive Board member Elise hosted the four IC members in her charming flat in the center of vibrant Brussels. After the meeting, we published a storify-article reporting about this productive weekend.

From July 3rd to 12th, the annual WSEN elections will take part. Delegates, Volunteers, and Organisers of the WSEN Summits 2012, 2013, and 2014 will have the chance to elect the Executive Board 2015/16. This years delegates will not only have the right to vote for (or against) the Executive Board, but also run themselves for GA Representative 2015/16

and also elect six of the candidates. In addition, all voters have the chance to vote for (or against) the proposed amendments of the WSEN legal statutes. The daily work in the last 12 months with the WSEN legal statutes showed us that some amendments are necessary to make life easier for the WSEN IC. If you have the right to vote, and your email address has changed since you have participated for the last time in a WSEN Summit, please contact us at election2015@wsen.org.

Author
Klara Winkler
Executive Board Member

WSEN International Committee said YES



The IC at a sustainability course initiated by YES. (Pic: Shema Ganza Steve)

Four of WSEN IC members attended a two-week course program by Youth Encounter on Sustainability

(YES) in February 2015 in Switzerland. Three of them share their experiences and emphasize the inspiration

they've got at this international and multi-disciplinary event for youth.

World Student Environmental Network (WSEN) – Diversity is our strength, difference is our goal, youth is our mojo, happiness is our purpose, and sustainability is our path.

Azadeh Zarekar (WSEN GARep 2014/15)

WSEN and YES are only two of many international events that seek to gather, train and empower youth from various nations to emphasize the fact that we face a sustainability challenge on the Earth but that we are able to overcome this situation by changing our approaches

and behaviors and young people are the agent of this change.

Elodie d'Halluweyn (2014 WSEN delegate)

I am so glad of receiving the opportunity to attend WSEN 2014 in South Africa and YES course in Switzerland: I shared visions, emotions, realities, hopes, willing and

motivations with others students. I learned a lot not only about myself about other people.

Jelieth Muthoni (WSEN GAR 2014/15)

WSEN and YES are special movements that create a network between the youth who have the goal of achieving sustainability in our mother planet. These

are my most special experience in the two events: interacting with people full of diversity and having similar objectives. It's my great joy to see more people, movements join together to hit the goal of sustainability.

Author

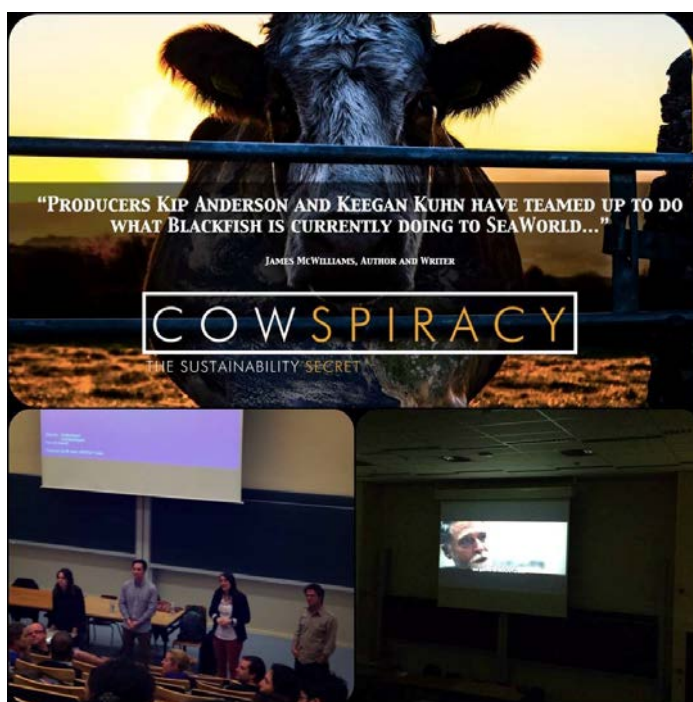
Azadeh Zarekar
GA Representative 2014

Cowspiracy

Végétik is a Belgian NGO that performs work of scientific referencing, to inform and sensitize the population about the impacts of consumption of animal protein. We analyze the environmental aspects, the aspects on health, welfare and animal ethics, and also questions of distribution and access to natural resources.

As coordinator of *Végétik Bruxelles*, the Brussels cell of *Végétik*, I organize different activities: information stalls, conferences, cookery courses, participation in demonstrations or events, but also consultancy work or lobbying at the institutional and political level.

In this context, I organized the screening of the documentary *Cowspiracy*, followed by a debate.



Cowspiracy is an interesting 2014 film exploring the impact of animal agriculture on the environment,

investigating the policies of environmental organizations on this topic. Especially addressed to

those concerned with environmental issues.

Livestock is responsible for 18% of greenhouse gas emissions, is more than all the sectors of transport combined. It is the leading cause of deforestation of the Amazon rain forest; it is a major cause of pollution and fresh water consumption, etc. However, the large international Environmental Protection NGOs don't really talk about this topic. Between environmental and political analysis, *Cowspiracy* highlights some realities that we are deliberately hidden from.

Author

Elodied'Halluweyn
www.vegetik.org

WSEN Summit 2015 Final Update

With just some days to go before the 2015 WSEN Global Summit "*Reconnecting with Nature*" kicks off, things are certainly ramping up here at Murdoch. The organising committee has been working very hard over the past nine months trying to

pull everything together and I know all of us are more than a little relieved to see the finish line in sight.

We now have our international delegates locked in and are in the process finalising our local delegates as well. The

program is just about completed and we will be looking forward to releasing this within the next week, so the delegates can start getting excited for this wonderful event. I am also happy to report that we are now very close to reaching our target budget and with a

few other funding sources still to come in this should readily be achievable. We have one final week left on our crowdfunding campaign so if anyone would like to donate please do so here: [https://chuffed.org/project/world-student-environmental-network-summit-](https://chuffed.org/project/world-student-environmental-network-summit)

reconnecting-with-nature

We are now in the process of outlining the logistical arrangements for the event, and getting our team of volunteers together to help make this event a success. Our community event the Forgotten Earth: Reconnecting with Nature Fair is also shaping up to be a really integral component of the Summit and we are looking forward to opening the ideas of WSEN to the wider community. If you are interested in finding out more about this event, please check out this link: <https://www.facebook.com/events/978485972185569/>



Organising Committee Australia

We will be looking forward to meeting all of the delegates and welcoming you to Perth!

Author

Troy Treeby
Organising Committee Australia

The WSEN General Assembly 2015 in Australia

The 2nd WSEN General Assembly (GA) will take place during this year's WSEN Global Summit at Murdoch University, Australia. At the GA, the

mandate of the current International Committee is transferred to the new members, which are elected prior to the WSEN Global Summit. The online election is carried out between the 3rd- 12th of July. WSEN Alumni and this year's delegates Summit are eligible to vote for the new Executive Board. In addition, the delegates will

vote for their representation in the International Committee though the election of six General Assembly Representatives. Besides the elected decision-body the new International Committee will be informed by the Advisory Board, the 2016 Global Summit Organisers and student representatives of Doshisha University. The

new International Board will remain in office until the next General Assembly at the WSEN Global Summit 2016, which will be co-hosted by the University of Keele and the University of Sussex, United Kingdom.

About us

"The WSEN connects and supports students from all over the world who are striving to be incubators of the positive change needed for sustainability to be actively practised in all aspects of society."

ADDRESS
World Student
Environmental Network
c/o National Union of
Students UK, Macadam
House, 279 Gray's Inn
Road, London, United
Kingdom, WC1X 8Q8.

FACEBOOK:
[facebook.com/worldsenet](https://www.facebook.com/worldsenet)
TWITTER
[@worldsenet](https://twitter.com/worldsenet)

E-MAIL
newsletter@wsen.org

For the latest information, follow us on Twitter and facebook

WSEN Alumni Working group reports

The Alumni Working Group of the WSEN aims at keeping the participating delegates of the WSEN Global Summits connected and provides them with the opportunity to learn, share and spread project ideas after the summits. There is a WSEN Alumni Group on LinkedIn where former delegates and summit organizers are in constant contact and can discuss their ideas. Members of this group will also be kept

updated about WSEN internal programs and news.

This WG also intends to support and monitor the progress of proposed sustainability projects at the WSEN Global Summits. So an online survey has been launched in 2014 through which former delegates are asked about the status of implementing their project, the challenges they face and the support they need

from their university or the WSEN. The received responses by June 2015 have been analyzed and the results will be published as the Alumni Report 2014/15. The outputs of this survey help the WSEN team to have a realistic idea of the effectiveness of the summits and improve its future plans.

Author

Azadeh Zarekar
GA Representative 2014

We are always looking for **student lead sustainability projects** – if you know a project or did one with friends or yourself, let us know and help to inspire the World Student Environmental Network! Mail a short report to newsletter@wsen.org