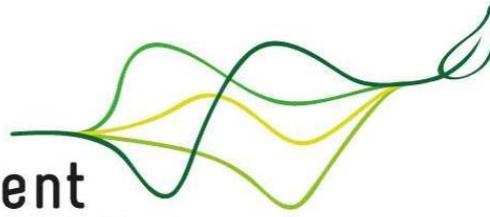


World Student
Environmental Network



Annual Report

2015/16

*“Diversity is our strength, difference is our goal, youth is our mojo,
happiness is our purpose, and sustainability is our path”*

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Contact

E-mail: info@wsen.org

Postal address: World Student Environmental Network (WSEN)
hosted by National Union of Students UK
Macadam House
275 Gray's Inn Road
London WC1X 8QB, United Kingdom

Editor:

Azadeh Zarekar

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1 New WSEN Structure (by Azadeh Zarekar)

The structure of the WSEN consists four main components: Executive Board members, General Assembly Representatives, Advisory Board and Alumni. EB members and GARs along with annual summit organizers form the International Committee aiming mainly at holding an annual global summit.

There are certain positions and working groups that are led by IC members:

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Communication and Website
- Outreach and Campaigns
- Alumni and Student Projects
- Summit Support

2 Elected International Committee members 2015/16 (by Azadeh Zarekar)

The 2nd General Assembly (GA) of WSEN was held during the 8th global summit hosted by Murdoch University in Perth, Western Australia. Delegates voted for 6 GA representatives and suggested Executive Board (EB) members.

EB members are the core body of the WSEN. The EB consists of experienced members and volunteers guiding the network and operating the regular activities of the WSEN.

GARs join the decision-making body of the WSEN after the Summit to enhance its creativity and strengthen its direct connection with student participants.

Together, the GA Representatives and the Executive Board constitute the decision-making body of the WSEN, called the International Committee.

The elected international committee members 2015/16 are as follows (in alphabetical order):

Executive Board:

- Andre Troost (South Africa)
- Azadeh Zarekar (Iran)
- Elodie d'Halluweyn (Belgium)
- Giorgina King (South Africa)
- Joseph Grainger Gasser (Switzerland/USA)
- Martin Bosak (Germany/ Netherlands)
- Wladyslaw Senn (Switzerland/ Scotland)

General Assembly Representatives:

- Casey Macfarlane (New Zealand)
- Dennis Pedrazas (Bolivia)
- Isabell Mema Rasch (Samoa)
- Leat Ahrony (Israel/ Taiwan)
- Marie Hubatova (Czech Republic)
- Nicola Rule (South Africa)

3 Finance (by Martin Bosak)

The WSEN bank account is administered by the National Union of Students (NUS) in the UK on behalf of the WSEN. This solution was agreed upon in order to reduce the administrative burden of formally opening a bank account in the UK where the WSEN headquarters are officially based, in the offices of the NUS again. For the next year the Executive Board needs to evaluate whether this is still a good solution after the Brexit vote.

During the past year, the WSEN has budgeted 2000€ on a new website. At the same time, we received a contribution from the Australian Summit Organizing Team (below in Australian Dollars) coming from the unspent money from their budget. This leads to the following balance:

Last year's balance:

3.538,79 EUR

Expected Expenses 2015/2016

2000 EUR

Revenue 2015/2016

2500 AUD = 1702, 86 EUR

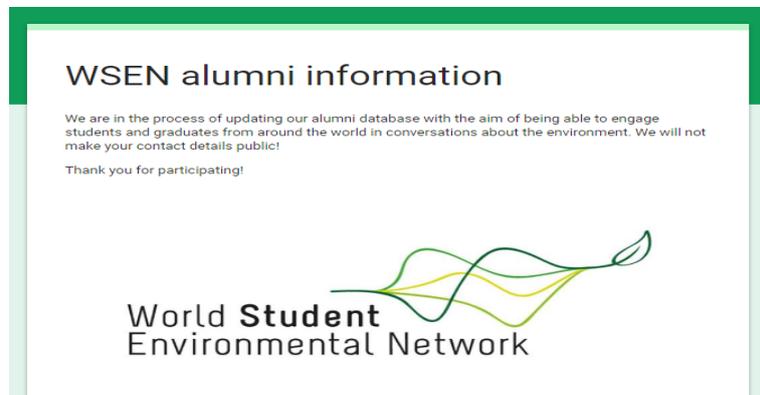
Expected Balance by end of year:

3241.65 EUR

4 Alumni and Student Projects (by Elodie d'Halluweyn and Nicola Rule)

The annual WSEN Global Summit provides an amazing opportunity for students to get involved in and learn about sustainable universities and environmental issues more broadly. 50 to 80 students gather for a week of inspiration, relationship-building and work on sustainable campus projects. However, it is important that a more lasting network is developed out of the relationships built at the summit, so that this work can continue. The WSEN Alumni portfolio aims to facilitate this network.

The primary work of the Alumni portfolio is to provide opportunities for the alumni to connect. Mostly, this is done through social media platforms including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Linked-In. Post-summit surveys were also done for the 2015 delegates, to try and keep track of the projects they are involved at their universities, and to get a sense of what they got out of the experience of attending a summit. The Alumni portfolio also involved maintaining the database of alumni who have attended WSEN summits so that we can maintain contact with them. Finally, we also tried to encourage some of the 2015 delegates to write a bit about their experiences of being involved in student environmental initiatives in their countries, and to share this with the alumni network through the WSEN newsletter.



To effectively combat climate change and other global environmental problems, we need global solutions and to forge global connections. The WSEN Alumni network is a great opportunity to grow these connections and create links all around the world.

5 External Communication (by Andre Troost)

Facebook

The WSEN Facebook page is available at <https://web.facebook.com/wstudentenet/>. As of 7 June 2016, the page had 2542 likes, a 22% increase from 2083 likes on 7 June

2015. The topics that are shared on the page range from environmental news, to WSEN related events and content that assists with campus sustainability projects.



Instagram

An Instagram account was established in October 2015. By 7 June 2016, the account had 51 followers. It is the aim to increase the follower base in the coming year.

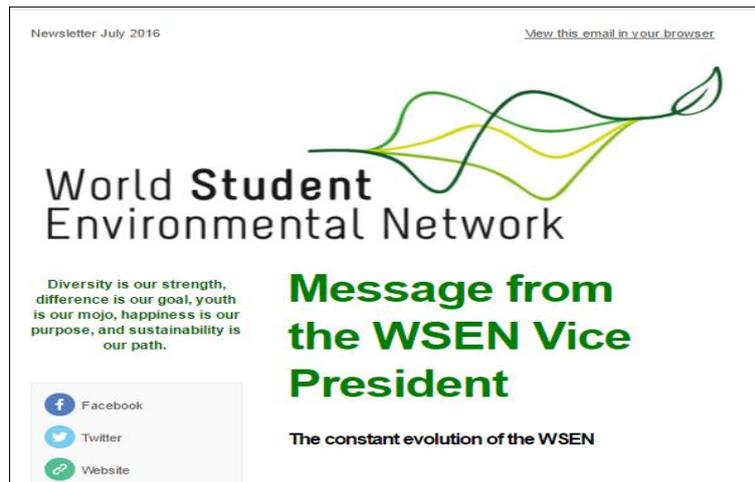


Newsletters

Two newsletters were sent out in addition to a call for future hosts of the WSEN Global Summit as well as a notice of the 2016 WSEN Global Summit crowdfunding campaign. The newsletter subscriber list currently has 571 subscribers. Newsletters covered topics ranging from WSEN alumni sustainability projects, updates from the WSEN

International Committee and updates from the 2016 Global Summit organizers. The Mailchimp platform is used to distribute the newsletters. The latest newsletter is available here:

<http://us10.campaign-archive1.com/?u=5b94c7fb530cc23b27019f531&id=e58b66da1e>



Twitter

The Twitter account is linked to the Facebook account, so all Facebook posts appear on the Twitter account. By 7 June 2016, the account had 357 followers.

LinkedIn

WSEN has also recently expanded to the LinkedIn platform. This is a part of our effort to expand the WSEN as a professional network, as well as a student one. We hope to be able to reflect the hard work of those who have participated in summits and projects by allowing them to showcase this better on this professional public platform. The account currently has 95 followers.

Website

The official website of the WSEN is available at www.wsen.org. Currently, plans are underway to redesign the website in order to facilitate an easier update process. We are also switching servers and making it easier for our network to connect through the upgrades.

6 Future Host (by Joseph G. Gasser)

Every year the WSEN IC endeavors to find one or several universities to host the next WSEN Global Summit. In 2015 the summit was awarded to the universities of Keel and Sussex for the 2016 edition.

Due to the withdrawal of the selected organizer in 2016 we are not able to announce the 2017 WSEN Global Summit Future Hosts at this time. However we are pleased to confirm that the first ever WSEN Regional Summit will take place in Cochabamba Bolivia. This event will take place in February 2017 and be held in Spanish.

The search for a 2017 WSEN Global host is still under way. We are calling for applicants throughout the network and posting invitations on social media. We will also be asking the delegate of the 2016 Global Summit to submit applications in order to secure an organizer for next years.



7 Preparation of the General Assembly 2016 (by Azadeh Zarekar)

The first and second International Committee of the WSEN were elected at Stellenbosch University in 2014 and at Murdoch University in 2015 and each served the WSEN for a one-year period. The new International Committee will be elected at Keele University in 2016 and will continue to work on WSEN issues for the coming year – 2016/17 – until the next WSEN Global Summit in 2017. It should be mentioned that this year at 2016 summit, general assembly representatives will be selected regionally; i.e., delegates will be grouped by geographical regions and discuss the main topics and challenges of their region. Coming up with solutions and ideas for improving WSEN in the region, one person will be suggested as the representatives to take the lead of implementing plans and projects.

8 2016 Summit organization mentoring

The organization of the yearly WSEN Global Summit is a long-term planning process. As in previous years, the organizers of the WSEN Global Summit 2016 and the International Committee of the WSEN worked closely together to make this year's WSEN Global Summit an inspiring, memorable and long-lasting event. Over the course of the last year the International Committee assisted the 2016 WSEN organisation committee by providing contact details of universities of the WSEN network, templates for official letters and process management well as access to the knowledge base of the organizers of the eight previous WSEN Global Summits. Since the members of the International Committee are distributed all over the world the biweekly Skype meetings were crucial for sharing information and planning the next

steps in preparation of the WSEN Global Summit 2016 co-hosting by University of Sussex and Keele University in United Kingdom.

9 Outreach and Campaigns (by Wladyslaw Senn)

A pilot campaign was run on Facebook in December 2015 during the COP 21 in Paris, in collaboration with André from WSEN Communication. The target was to post at least once a day an interesting view or analysis regarding the proceedings of the conference or more generally about the topic of climate change, to create more awareness and stir discussions about this 'hot' topic.

Part of the richness of the WSEN is precisely its diversity of people participating, with different views of the world and of sustainability that can learn from each other. After this first pilot, ideas are sought to develop further online interaction through topic-specific campaigns.

Efforts are also put into strengthening existing partnerships with sister organisations:

→ **National Union of Students (UK)**

- Host of the headquarters of the WSEN since 2014, providing us with administrative support
- Partner and main architect of the Students Organising for Sustainability (SOS) platform
- > www.nus.org.uk/sustainability

→ **Oikos International**, students for sustainability in economics and management

- Partner since 2013 on the development of the impact canvas (student project development tool)
- Student network interconnected with that of the WSEN
- sharing opportunities through our respective online channels (jobs, research, surveys, non-formal trainings, mobilisation actions)
- > www.oikos-international.org

→ **Students Organizing for Sustainability (SOS) platform**

- International outreach and exchange platform with other student & youth sustainability organizations
- created in 2015 with the WSEN as part of the founding members
- Leadership and moderation by NUS UK.
- > sosnetwork.groupsite.com

→ **The Green Program (by Giorgina King)**

The Green Program and the WSEN has made strives in connecting. We are looking into formalizing our partnership. In the meantime, the connection with the Green Program has led to some of their students attending the summit in the UK this year, resulting in the first students from the United States attending in many years. We have also been promoting the Green Program's work through our social media, and vice versa.

10 Measuring Our Impact (by Giorgina King)

Much has happened in the WSEN over the last year in formalizing our structure and how we go about the work that we do. We believe in our vision and mission as the WSEN, and hope to expand upon our impact in the future. As a result, we have been putting in place more formal ways of being able to measure this. Our social media, our summit, campaigns, partnerships, and the projects conducted by our delegates are where our impact lies.

Our summit and the projects are the stronghold of the work that is currently being done. We have put together a measurement system that will record the projects from hereon, measure the type of projects, the impact they are having, and gather feedback from the implementers. The work being done on these projects on campuses and in the surrounding communities is important, and the lessons learnt are vital in being able to learn from each other on the path ahead.

This is one step we are making towards having a more open knowledge sharing network. We aim to share best practices, failures (because we often learn the most from these), and skeletons of projects that will be able to then be adapted to different campuses, with the insider knowledge of those who implement them.

However, it is difficult to understand the impact of the network of a whole. Stories such as that of Andre Troost, who traveled across the globe meeting up with past delegates and volunteers after the 2014 summit go to show that much of the work that is being done is in unmeasurable connectivity across the globe. Although it is difficult to measure this, we are attempting to keep track of all that is going on by getting feedback and collecting stories from past volunteers, organizers, and delegates as they move across the world and expand upon these connections.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any feedback, wish to share a project form many years ago, wish to share your story, or have any advice for fellow sustainability lovers in our network.