

# Youth for Water and Peace Workshop in Georgia completed



## YOUTH FOR WATER AND PEACE

Connecting Kura-Araks River Basin Youth for Water and Peace  
WORKSHOP : 14-18 July, 2022 - Batumi, Georgia

Youth for Water and Peace project is the first joint initiative for peacebuilding through the water between the youth of the Kura-Araks River basin because nature does not have boundaries, and environmentally conscious societies and cooperative attitudes are vital to solving global problems and re-build peace between the nations. The Project was initiated and implemented by Country Water Partnership Armenia and European Youth Parliament for Water. It is funded by the US Department of State Public Diplomacy Section Grant, with the following partners:



The Project will be implemented with the following organizations; Hydropolitics Association of Turkey, AUA Acopian Center for the Environment, Country Water Partnership of Georgia, Foundation Caucasus Environment, Izolda Matchutadze's Lab, Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University, Department of Biology, Economist Impact.



## **The goal of the Project**

Develop long-lasting cooperation on sustainable water management and river ecosystem protection between the youth of the Kura-Araks River basin, from Armenia, Turkey and Georgia, through the establishment of "Kura-Araks Youth Network" and to foster the process of reconciliation through local small-scale initiatives.

Country Water Partnership Armenia, partnering with the European Youth Parliament for Water, Oregon State University (TBC), Hydropolitics Association of Turkey, Country Water Partnership of Georgia, Foundation Caucasus Environment, Izolda Matchutadze's Lab (Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University, Department of Biology) will gather the youth from Armenia, Turkey and Georgia around the principle of Youth for Water and Peace. The Project will focus to:

1. Organize a Workshop on "Connecting Kura-Ara(k)s River Basin Youth for Water and Peace".



2. Create Kura-Araks Youth Network to establish long-lasting cooperation between the participants and implement local small-scale initiatives.





3. Develop a board game and communication platforms on social media for further activities.



## WORKSHOP

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### Agenda of the workshop

1. Lectures by the experts on river and watershed, groundwater, ecosystem conservation, good water management practices, water diplomacy and negotiation, peacebuilding and youth participation.





2. Study visit to Kolkheti National Park, group tour where the participants will do joint monitoring of water quality in the Black Sea, with the Earth Echo Water Challenge Test Kits.



3. Role-playing simulation game on water conservation, with the roles of different stakeholders. The aim is to practice negotiation skills around a natural resource and understand different parties' needs.



4. Blue Peace Index (BPI) based Assessment for Kura-Araks River basin, guided and facilitated by the youth of the European Youth Parliament for Water.







5. Elaboration of the text of the Common Declaration and launch of the Kura-Araks Youth Network. The Network will promote youth cooperation and facilitate communication between stakeholders across borders.



















**As a result of the Project, the young water professionals from Armenia, Turkey and Georgia will have:**

1. Common "Kura-Ara(k)s Youth Network", with webpage and Bluebook blog, and communication platforms on social media for further youth engagement, sharing stories, and raising awareness on sustainable water use.
2. Better negotiation skills, and knowledge of water diplomacy, thanks to role-playing simulation game and Kura-Ara(k)s river basin assessment with Blue Peace Index. The youth will join the Blue Peace movement.
3. The board game "Common borders, Common Rivers" was translated into three country languages.
4. Better communication and continuous cooperation between youth from 3 countries may contribute to peace building and conflict resolution and push governments to search for win-win solutions.
5. Awareness-raising videos on water and nature conservation.



## **MENTORS AND EXPERTS FROM TURKEY**



**DURSUN YILDIZ**

**Expert - Head of Hydropolitics  
Association**

**KEMAL JALOUQA**

**Expert from Hydropolitics  
Association**





YOUTH DELEGATION FROM TURKEY

DR.FULYA  
AYDIN  
KANDEMİR

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HYDROPOLITICS ASSOCIATION &  
AKDENİZ UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT OF  
SPACE SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGIES  
(GRADUATED FROM EGE UNIVERSITY)



MSc.  
ONUR  
ÖZKAN

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INONU UNIVERSITY,  
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL  
SCIENCE AND PUBLIC  
ADMINISTRATION

# MSc. ZEHR SAKARYA

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KIRIKKALE UNIVERSITY,  
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL  
RELATIONS



# MSc. FATMA ÇAKIR

---

SELÇUK UNIVERSITY,  
DEPARTMENT OF  
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS





## MSc. HAKAN GÜLER

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EGE UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT  
OF GEOGRAPHY

## MSc. MEHMET ŞAMİL GÜNEŞ

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YILDIZ TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS





The U.S. Embassy in Armenia



# YOUTH FOR WATER AND PEACE

CONNECTING KURA-ARAKS  
RIVER BASIN YOUTH FOR  
WATER AND PEACE WORKSHOP

14-18 JULY 2022 - BATUMI / GEORGIA

