

Results of the 2013 Young Hydrologic Society (YHS) Online Survey

Summary

- 32 respondents, 41% female, from 17 different countries.
- 75% were PhD students and the most common study background was hydrology and engineering disciplines (28% each).
- 47% of respondents became aware of the YHS through the official EGU email, 22% from attending the 2013 EGU GA while 16% from the YHS LinkedIn group.
- Two of the most preferred events to be organized for young hydrologists at the 2014 EGU GA are short courses 1.) by an expert on a hydrological topic and 2.) on practical research skills.
- Most popular informal events to be organized are 1.) a place for young hydrologists to meet before or during the Sunday 2014 EGU GA icebreaker and 2.) a dinner and drinks reception during some weekday evening.
- Most people wanted the YHS website to be a place to find information on upcoming and past events organized for the hydrological community as well a place to find information on specific hydrological topics.
- LinkedIn was a good choice for the YHS social media platform as 72% of respondents wanted to use it.
- Over 70% would like important news as an emailed newsletter every few months.
- Almost 60% of young hydrologists would like to answer and ask questions in an online forum. 50% would like to share knowledge on their specialist topic for their peers to contact them. 41% would like to post hydrological news to the YHS online platform.
- Some individual suggestions included, establishing a platform or opportunities to contact and collaborate with other young scientists. Making the most isolated in hydrology aware of the YHS and its activities. The YHS could be the important connection between established national hydrological societies.

Results

The Young Hydrologic Society (YHS) carried out an anonymous online survey from June to August 2013 to find out more about the background of young hydrologists from around the world, their motivation to join the YHS and their hopes for the society. The preferences, ideas and suggestions collected will be used to improve current YHS activities. Below are the survey results from the 32 respondents that took part with the questions asked, tables and graphs in the Appendix.

On the demographics and background of survey participants, 41% were female. There was a diverse geographical distribution of people that took part with people from 17 different countries, covering all continents of the world. The majority were however from Europe with 22% Germany and 9% each from Netherlands and the UK. Most respondents were PhD students (75%) with those from industry/government/research making up 13%. There was some interest from postdocs (6%) but only one MSc student took part in the survey. The primary study background of people was hydrology and engineering disciplines (28% each) followed by Earth Science (12%), Geography (9%) and Mathematics (9%).

One important question was how society members first heard of the YHS. The valuable role of official European Geosciences Union (EGU) correspondence was highlighted with 47% of people being made aware of the YHS from the EGU email sent out. 22% found out about the society at the 2013 EGU General Assembly (GA) itself with 16% through the YHS LinkedIn page. No respondents were reached through the YHS website which highlights both the importance of social media (here LinkedIn) in reaching young hydrologists online and the need for increasing the visibility of the website.

Moving focus to the 2014 EGU GA there was a question aimed at gaining people's preferences for events for the YHS to organize (or help organize with the EGU). The two most popular events that young hydrologists

would like to see organized are short courses 1.) by an expert on a hydrological topic and 2.) on practical research skills (for example, writing papers/grant proposals, programming/statistics/modeling master classes). Also popular was a 'meet the expert hydrologist' session to discuss research challenges/future directions in hydrology. A field excursion to a hydrologically interesting site near Vienna the weekend before or after the EGU GA also received interest. On the more informal events for the YHS to organize, people liked the idea of meeting before or during the Sunday EGU GA icebreaker as well as organizing an informal dinner and drinks reception for young hydrologists in the evening time during the week of EGU GA.

The YHS has two online platforms, a LinkedIn group and a website. Question 7 and 8 were designed to gain feedback in order to focus and improve the current function of both these platforms. Most people wanted the website to be a place to find information on upcoming and past events organized for the hydrological community, such as conferences, workshops and summer courses. Also popular was a place to find information on specific hydrological topics. For example, links to relevant websites, online lectures and webinars. Providing an online forum for discussing issues relevant to young hydrologists and job vacancies were also suggested. The initial decision to choose LinkedIn as the main YHS social media platform is justified as 72% of respondents wanted to use it. Almost 60% wanted important news as an email newsletter every couple of months in addition to using LinkedIn. 13% of the respondents who did not want to use LinkedIn still wanted to receive an YHS newsletter.

The success of the online YHS platforms is in the active involvement of other young hydrologists. There was positive feedback regarding this from the survey as nearly 60% of people said they would like to ask and answer questions in an online forum. In addition 50% would like to share information on their specialist research topic/expertise such that other young hydrologists could interact and learn from. 41% would like to post news (for example, job vacancies, summer schools) to the YHS online platform. 31% would like to help to organize YHS events, such as conferences. This feedback will help improve the current function of the YHS online platform. It is clear that the possibility of a YHS newsletter needs to be discussed as well as enhancing opportunities for anyone who wants to contribute to YHS activities.

The final question was left completely open for participants to come up with feedback on current YHS activities or come up with new suggestions and ideas. Some of the responses included:

- The introduction of monthly online seminars highlighting various software tools or approaches to hydrology. Topics would, ideally, cover a wide range of topics from engineering hydrology to ecologically relevant hydrology.
- A section dedicated to any news related to hydrology, not only related to scientific world but even to industry and policy worlds. For example, hydrological aspects of building large hydropower dams, and the related consequences on society, economy and environment.
- One respondent said "I would like to have a possibility to contact other young scientists to find collaborators on different topics"
- Another said "It is important this society branch is opened up especially to those people who are most isolated in hydrology"
- One person noted that many individual countries, such as the UK, Germany etc. have well established hydrologic societies that organise events for young hydrologists, but said that the YHS could facilitate the networking between these societies and with other hydrologists across the world.

The YHS team are very appreciative to all those who participated. This feedback is excellent and will help improve the YHS.

From the YHS team,
Get connected, get inspired and get involved!

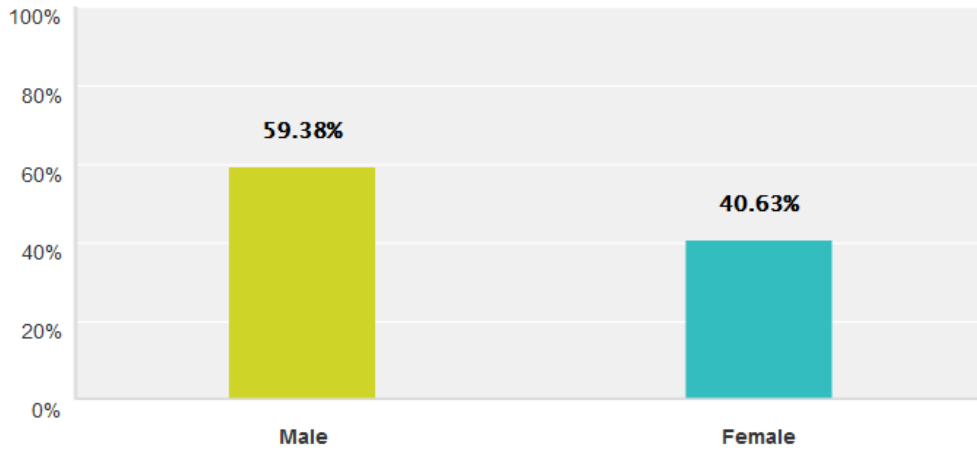


Appendix - Survey Questions and Results

Q1.

Are you male or female?

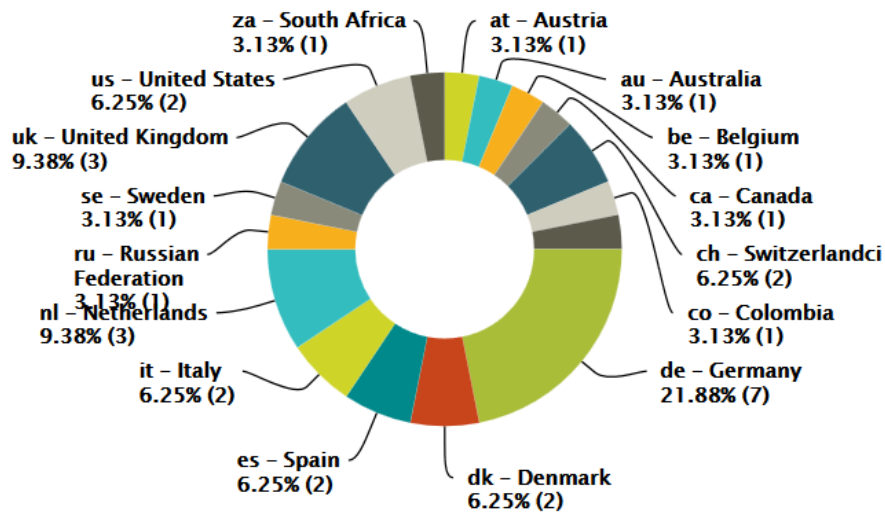
Answered: 32 Skipped: 0



Q2.

What country is your current University/Institute/Company situated?

Answered: 32 Skipped: 0

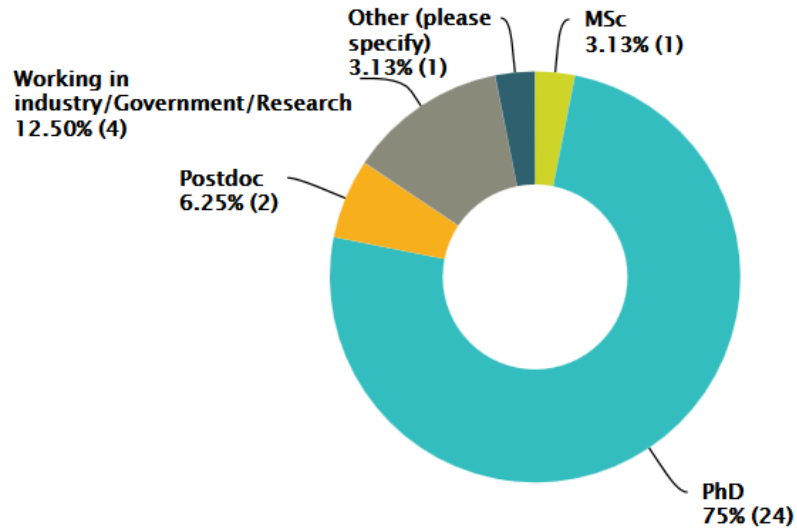


Other responses: Also have the name of institutions/universities of 21 respondents (not shown here)

Q3.

What stage of your career are you in?

Answered: 32 Skipped: 0

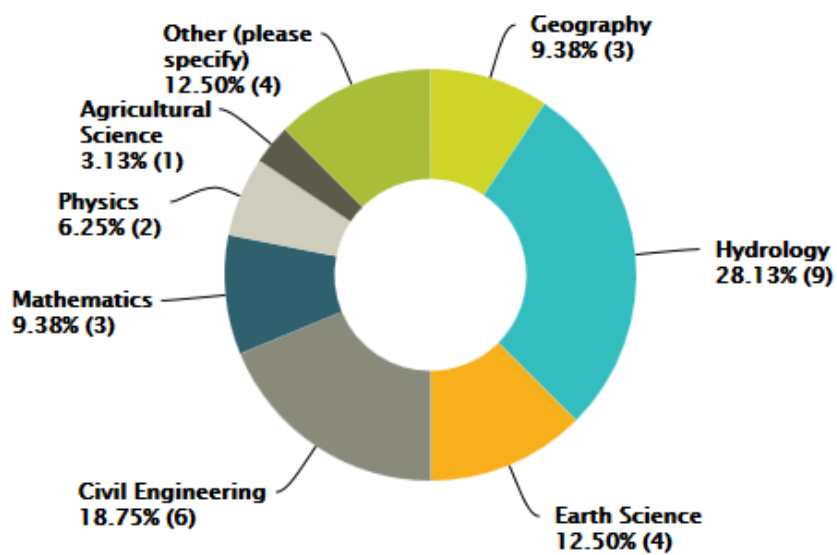


Other responses: Lecturer (1)

Q4.

What is your principle study background for your hydrological career?

Answered: 32 Skipped: 0

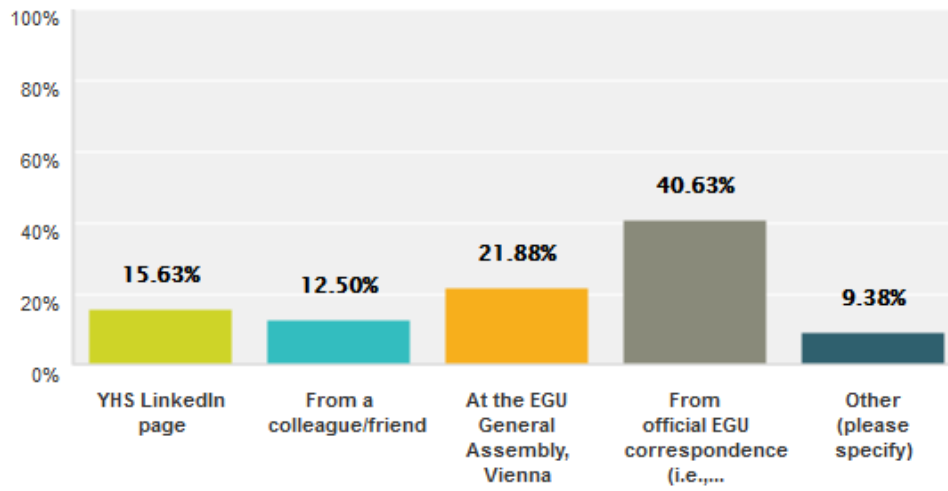


Other responses: Agricultural Engineering (1), Environmental Science (1) and Environmental Engineering (2)

Q5.

How did you hear about the existence of the YHS?

Answered: 32 Skipped: 0



Other responses: E-mail via EGU Executive (2) and initiator (1)

Q6. Can you indicate what events the YHS can organize around next years' European Geosciences Union (EGU) General Assembly in Vienna that interest you most? (please indicate up to 5 most wanted event types)

Answer Choices	Responses
Informal get-together on the Sunday (before or during the EGU icebreaker)	40.63% 13
Informal lunch some day during the EGU (weekday)	12.50% 4
Informal dinner or drinks some evening during the EGU (weekday)	43.75% 14
Informal get-together after the EGU (Weekend after the EGU (Sat/Sunday))	0% 0
Special "Day-to-day research problems" session	25% 8
Short course by expert on a hydrological topic	65.63% 21
Short course on some practical skill (e.g., writing papers, writing proposals, supervising student, GIS analysis, remote sensing for hydrology or some analysis software / programming language)	59.38% 19
Short course by hydrological professional from industry	31.25% 10
Meet the expert session, where students can discuss their problems/ideas with a senior hydrologist in their field	40.63% 13
Meet the 'upcoming guru' session where one or more successful young scientist provide coaching based on their experience with a Q&A session afterwards	21.88% 7
Session on planning your scientific career	25% 8
Session on funding opportunities for young scientists	25% 8
Field excursion to some hydrologically interesting site near Vienna, the weekend before or after the 2014 EGU General Assembly	31.25% 10
Total Respondents: 32	

Comments (0)

Q7. Can you indicate what kind of content you would like to find on the YHS website? (please indicate up to 3 you are most interested in). For inspiration, you can have a look at the website (<http://www.younghs.com>) where already some first ideas have been implemented.

Answer Choices	Responses
Information about upcoming and past events that YHS organizes	43.75% 14
Information about upcoming and past events that are organized by/for the hydrological community (conferences, workshops, summer courses etc.)	68.75% 22
Information about job vacancies	34.38% 11
Information on specific hydrological topics (e.g., links to websites, lectures, webinars etc.)	62.50% 20
Blog posts on interesting hydrological topics (e.g., climate change, literature search, measuring techniques, new software tools etc.)	25% 8
Provide an online platform for fun activities (e.g., funny news flashes, photos, videos etc.)	3.13% 1
Provide an online forum for discussing issues relevant to young hydrologists	46.88% 15
Total Respondents: 32	

[Comments \(1\)](#)

Comments: One person said they would like "info on Foundation knowledge - basics of modelling, programming, matrix algebra, time series analysis. Essentially lectures/posts/forums/powerpoints on analytical methods and maybe even field methods"

7/17/2013 2:45 PM

Q8. Would you be interested in using LinkedIn to stay in touch with YHS activities and news from your peers?

Answer Choices	Responses
Yes, I want to use LinkedIn, but please also send important news as an email newsletter every couple of months	59.38% 19
Yes, I want to use LinkedIn and use this platform as the only source of YHS related news	12.50% 4
No, I will check the website if I want YHS related news	6.25% 2
No, I do not want to connect to LinkedIn, but would be interested in receiving frequent emails (monthly) about YHS related news	6.25% 2
No, I do not want to connect to LinkedIn, but would be interested in receiving infrequent (2-4 times per year) emails about YHS related news	12.50% 4
No, but the idea is nice. Please think about using another medium, for example Google groups, Facebook, Academia.edu, ResearchGate (please specify your alternative in box below with any other suggestions you may have)	3.13% 1
Total	32

[Comments \(1\)](#)

Comments: One person suggested using twitter

Q9. The YHS is for and run by young hydrologists. It is therefore important that enough young scientists actively contribute. Could you please specify what kind of contribution you would like to make?

Answer Choices	Responses
I would like to post news (for example job vacancies, summer schools etc.) to the YHS platform for sharing with my peers	40.63% 13
I would like to ask questions in an online forum	56.25% 18
I would like to answer questions from my peers in an online forum	59.38% 19
I would like to share some information on my specialism/discipline such that other peers can contact me	50% 16
I would like to share my experience and provide relevant information on the website (e.g., links to lectures)	43.75% 14
I would like to have fun with my peers, online (e.g., share funny stories, pictures, videos etc.)	12.50% 4
I would like to help organizing the online platform (for example editing/moderating forums, structuring the hyperlinks repository etc.)	12.50% 4
I would like to write a small bog entry about a topic that I think is relevant to the community	18.75% 6
I would like to advertise myself on the YHS platform (for example your blog, measuring technique, software tool)	15.63% 5
I would like to help organize YHS activities at for example a conference.	31.25% 10
I will not contribute, but would like to keep in touch with the society for news (e.g., job vacancies, conferences etc.)	12.50% 4

Total Respondents: 32

Comments (0)

Q10. Your ideas/opinions/suggestions are important for this 'bottom up' society! Its success will depend on your active involvement. if you have any ideas/opinions/suggestions please share them below (This is anonymous):

- Answered: 6
- Skipped: 26 (this question was not made mandatory)

Monthly online seminars highlighting various software tools or approaches to hydrology would be useful. Topics would, ideally, cover a range of topics from engineering hydrology to ecologically relevant hydrology.

7/12/2013 2:47 PM

I think that it would be interesting to have a section dedicated to any news related to hydrology, not only related to the scientific world but even to industry and policy worlds. For example, hydrological aspects of building large hydropower dams, and the related consequences on society, economy and environment.

7/12/2013 2:39 PM

I would like to have a possibility to contact other young scientists to find collaborators on different topics.

7/6/2013 11:52 AM

Also always glad to give information to our NSA overlords.

7/5/2013 3:42 PM

It is important this society branch is opened up especially to those people who are most isolated in hydrology. At EGU half of the audience seemed to be from Delft where there is clearly a support network already in place. Those people who are maybe the only one in hydrology require more support and may not know others or upcoming events for example

7/5/2013 3:37 PM

In the UK there is the British Hydrological Society with national meetings and conferences in which young career hydrologists attend and present. In addition, there is an Early Career Hydrologist's Event every year. The Young Hydrologic Society would then provide other ways and means of communicating the rest of the year and with people in other countries and research areas.

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