

2019 Danube Water Conference

- Date/Time:** May 20-21, 2019 (with business meetings on May 22)
- Location:** Federal Academy of Finance, Vienna, Austria
- Participants:** Representatives from national institutions (ministries, regulators); national water and municipal associations, local government and utilities from the Danube region; representatives from regional utility and municipality associations; representatives from regulatory agency platforms, representatives from the European Commission, GIZ, SDC, ADA, EIB, EBRD, the World Bank and other multilateral agencies, Young Water Professionals, academia, private companies, and others. It is expected that at least 15 nationalities will be represented.

Preliminary Title: **Achieving resiliency in water and wastewater utilities in the Danube region**

Conference concept: Resiliency in water and wastewater utilities is becoming increasingly relevant globally and in the region in the context of inevitable climate change related shocks.

In this conference, the organizers focus on the concept of how an efficient, well-performing and capacitated sector not only results in the delivery of good quality services, but also in a sector that is inherently more resilient. The conference starts with a high-level keynote speech that sets the scene at the global and regional level for the conference. It then dives into the regional level by showcasing how the sector in the Danube region has evolved since 2015 and how capacity building initiatives are being translated into better performance levels. It then looks at the individuals that build the institutions and how staff considerations are important drivers of sector development. This is followed by an interactive session on how cooperation between academia, water utilities, municipalities and the private sector can foster resiliency.

The next morning is dedicated to a keynote speech providing an update on the evaluation process of the implementation of the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive, followed by a discussion on circular economy and technology selection for wastewater services. Subsequently, the conference focuses on financing needs and mechanisms to build a resilient water sector. This is followed by a session that decants the discussions held during the conference and introduces the topic of water security and the need to focus on the wider water sector, beyond water and sanitation services. The conference is finalized with a high-level panel discussion that highlights key messages to take home.

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Monday, May 20 <i>Venue: Federal Academy of Finance</i>	
08:00	<i>Registration</i>
09:00	<p style="text-align: center;">Opening session</p> <p>Welcome Words (Austrian Ministry of Finance, IAWD, World Bank, and other partners) and brief introduction to the 2019 Danube Water Conference topic and the event agenda as well as ice-breaker (electronic voting)</p>
09:45	<p style="text-align: center;">Keynote – Why do we need a resilient water sector?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Setting the scene at global and regional level for the conference topic</p>
10:30	Coffee Break
11:15	<p style="text-align: center;">Sector performance for resilient services</p> <p>Kick off the conference by introducing the 2018 State of the Sector (SoS) Report update, focusing on highlights of sector trends since 2015, areas where sector gaps still need to be addressed and how utility efficiency is linked with resilient water services.</p> <p>As D-LeaP was created to address the gaps identified in the first SoS report, the intention is to highlight results from utilities participating in D-LeaP programs, focusing on efficiency improvements that lead to better service quality.</p>
12:45	Lunch
14:00	<p style="text-align: center;">Managing talent for resilient services</p> <p>Given staff shortages as well as the emigration of skilled people in most countries of the region, this session will focus on resilient staffing. It will kick off with the latest theories for creating productive, effective and responsible working environments.</p> <p>The session will then showcase management actions to foster gender and age considerations in a number of water utilities that participated in an EDGE assessment in 2018. It will then focus on the Young Water Professionals initiative and its importance for a dynamic water sector and will conclude with an interactive discussion on the needs for Utility Management Training as basis for resilient staffing.</p>
15:30	Coffee Break
16:15	<p style="text-align: center;">Cooperation as important tool to achieve resilient water and wastewater services</p> <p>The intention of this session is to showcase how cooperation between utilities, universities, ministries, regulatory agencies, the private sector and municipalities are necessary to drive a resilient water sector. Academia has a role to play in targeting sector needs to develop their research portfolio and networks and to also build know-how in the country and in the industry.</p> <p>Water utilities and municipalities should provide opportunities for interactive dialogue with academia and research application. In addition, the private sector can act as an important driver of innovation.</p>
18:30	<p style="text-align: center;">Business reception and Conference Dinner</p> <p>The Business reception happening previous to the Conference Dinner will provide conference participants excellent networking opportunities among each other as well as with a selected number of companies working in the water sector in the region.</p>

Tuesday, May 21

Venue: Federal Academy of Finance

08:30	<p>Keynote - Evaluation and recast of EU water policies - status, challenges, lessons learned</p> <p>Update on the evaluation of the implementation of the Urban Wastewater Directive by a representative from the EU commission</p>
09:15	<p>How to achieve resilient wastewater treatment in the Danube region?</p> <p>As more and more countries in the region have to deal with the implementation of the UWWTD, this session will focus on related challenges and will also look into circular economy and reuse considerations, as well as into decentralized solutions for rural areas.</p>
10:45	<p>Coffee Break</p>
11:15	<p>Financing for resilient water infrastructure projects</p> <p>This session will provide an overview of funding needs in the sector resulting from different studies carried out in the regions, such as the OECD report on water sector funding needs and the State of the Sector update. It will also present case studies from IFI investments on what works and does not work in regard to investment projects and innovative financing mechanisms. It will also include an interactive online survey to foster new ideas among the audience.</p>
12:45	<p>Lunch</p>
14:00	<p>Water security</p> <p>This session will allow for discussions under an extended scope in order to address the countries' challenges in a broader water security context going beyond water services. The aim is to generate interest and gain feedback for this important component of the next phase of the Danube Water Program.</p>
15:30	<p>Coffee Break</p>
16:15	<p>Key messages for resilient service provision and water security in the Danube region</p>
17:00	<p>End of Conference</p>
19:00	<p>Utility CEO Dinner (by invitation only)</p>

Business Meetings

Wednesday, May 22 <i>Venue: Federal Academy of Finance</i>			
08:30/09:00	IAWD Board Meeting (starting at 08:30)	Regulators Meeting (starting at 08:30)	Danube Meeting (starting at 09:00)
10:30	Coffee Break		
11:00	IAWD General Assembly* - for designated members only		
12:00	IAWD General Assembly* - open to all participants		
13:00	D-LeaP Committee Council Meeting*	YWP workshop*	
15:00	End of Business Meetings		

*Lunch and coffee will be provided during the meetings