



Danube Water Program supports policy dialogue and capacity development to achieve Smart Policies, Strong Utilities, Sustainable Services in the water supply and wastewater sector in the Danube Region. The program is jointly run by the World Bank and IAWD, with funding from the Government of Austria.

NEWSLETTER / March 2017

PROGRAM NEWS

Roll-out of the Danube Learning Partnership (D-LeaP)

Important steps to roll-out the D-LeaP Capacity Building programs and the governing arrangements for D-LeaP have been taken in recent months. At a virtual meeting of the D-LeaP Partners on February 21, 2017 the nominations of the Chair and Deputy Chairperson have been opened. At the [2017 Danube Water Conference](#) in May the official launch of D-LeaP will be held and the first meeting of the Governing Committee will take place.

The Partners agreed to the launch of the proposed programs and the first Training of Trainers session for Energy Efficiency took place in Bulgaria. The Training of Trainers for Commercial Efficiency will start beginning April, as will the Asset Management Program which is being developed together with GIZ and the company Hydrocomp.

A new [website](#) for D-LeaP with updated information on program offerings and activities will be available soon.

News on Utility Benchmarking

The IAWD/DWP Utility Benchmarking Program will be strengthened and the orientation events and activities for 2017 will begin through the region in April and May. A commitment from EBC and IAWD to continuously support the [Utility Benchmarking program](#) under the Danube Water Program has been made that will build upon the success in the first three years of Benchmarking carried out together. The program which has been managed through Hubs in Ukraine, Bulgaria, former Yugoslavia and Kosovo and Albania will continue and be complemented through a specific offer for utilities to compare themselves with other utilities in a leading utilities of the region program that will be managed by IAWD.

A new timetable for orientation workshops in the Hubs has been developed (event will take place in April and May) and interested utilities are asked to contact their nearest Hub or IAWD ([Philip Weller](#)) for information on the program.

Progress on Association Strengthening Support Grants

To date nine National Water Utility Associations from the Danube region have begun using Association Strengthening Support Grants supported by the DWP. The Associations have completed the first step: development of the Business Plan which in four of the Associations has been completed and adopted by the respective Associations' Management Boards. Those Associations who have had already existing Business Plans are making the second step of this process: applying for the financial support for the activities defined in the Business Plan as priority ones which will further strengthen and improve the work of the Associations. Activities proposed are very diverse, but in line with long-term strategic objectives of each Association. If you would like to learn about the Association Strengthening Support process, please contact [Violeta Wolff](#).

IAWD NEWS

IAWD and IWA sign MoU

IAWD has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the International Water Association (IWA) to strengthen the cooperation between the two associations for mutual benefit. The agreement will be officially introduced in the frame of the [2017 Danube Water Conference](#) (17-18 May 2017).

New IAWD Membership Brochure and Members

As part of the efforts to improve the service to members and strengthen IAWD a [new membership brochure](#) has been produced to inform prospective members of the benefits and services of IAWD.

Within recent months IAWD has also been pleased to receive new membership applications from a number of utilities in the region and National Water Utility Associations who are joining IAWD as extraordinary members as part of the D-LeaP initiatives. The new members and extraordinary members will officially join the organization at the IAWD General Assembly on 19 May 2017.

PROGRAM EVENTS

2017 Danube Water Conference

The Danube Water Conference traditionally addresses European and Global Water challenges in delivering Water services. The [2017 Danube Water Conference](#) will deal with the "Challenges of Financing Water Services for Development". The Conference will bring together more than 150 senior water sector representatives from more than 15 countries to discuss the challenges associated with the financing of water services in the Danube region. The preliminary program can be found [here](#).

The 2017 Danube Water Conference will be held in conjunction with the [PI 2017 Conference](#) (May 15-17).

PI 2017 - Specialist Conference on Benchmarking and Performance Assessment

Every two years the IWA Benchmarking and Performance Assessment Specialist Group organises a conference to present experiences and learn about other benchmarking and assessment projects around the world. The PI 2017 Conference will be hosted by [IAWD](#) from 15 – 17 May 2017 in Vienna and will be held in conjunction with the Danube Water Conference 2017.

More on the [PI 2017 Conference](#) and the [Program](#).

Training of Trainers Event for Energy Efficiency

Beginning of March the first [Training of Trainers Event for Energy Efficiency](#) took place in Sofia, Bulgaria.

This event was the first of its kind in the frame of the Danube Learning Partnership and will be followed by the launch of the Energy Efficiency Programs in the respective Hubs.

Final workshop on Ukraine Benchmarking Project

The final seminar of the second Benchmarking project cycle was held on 16-17 January 2017 and attended by 3 representatives per each of the 14 participating utilities. [More Information](#)

EVENTS AND NEWS FROM THE REGION (More at DANUBIS.org)

Conference on Sustainability of Water Services in BiH

The Association for Water and Environmental Protection Sector "Aquasan Network in B&H", the Association "Vodovodi Republike Srpske" and the Association of the Employers of Utility

Companies in Federation of B&H organise a two-day conference on "Sustainability of Water Services in Bosnia and Herzegovina" on 5 and 6 April 2017 in Banja Luka. [More Information](#)

RENEXPO Water & Energy Western Balkans

RENEXPO Water & Energy Western Balkan is the biggest international trade fair and conference for renewable energy, environment, water and innovation. The next event will take place in Belgrade on 25-27 April 2017. [More Information](#)

9th Eastern European YWP Conference

The 9th Eastern European Young Water Professionals (YWP) Conference titled "Uniting Europe for Clean Water: Cross-Border Cooperations of Old, New and Candidate Countries of EU, for identifying problems, finding causes and solutions" will take place in Budapest on 24-27 May 2017. [More Information](#)



[Danube Water Program](#)