

This newsletter updates subscribed readers on the activities financed by the Danube Water Program

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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 / September 2017

PROGRAM NEWS

Danube Regional Benchmarking Hub - Call for Registrations

The newly established Danube Regional Benchmarking Initiative will complement the current system of regional hubs for carrying out Benchmarking in national language and at national/local level by expanding the program to offer participation in a leading utilities initiative at the Danube regional level. The new Danube Region Hub is managed by IAWD with the support of the newly assigned Hub coordinator Aleksandar Kristic.

Call for registration is now open until 16 October 2017. Interested utilities should contact Philip Weller weller@iawd.at to register. The benchmarking exercise under the Danube HUB, using 2016 data, will start in mid October 2017 and finish in May 2018, with a working dinner for utility leaders in Vienna, focusing on performance improvement of participating utilities. [More Information](#)

Update on the Asset Management Program

The [Asset Management Program](#), which is jointly operated by IAWD and GIZ under D-LeaP, provides technical assistance, software and capacity building to a selected group of up to 70 water utilities from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Macedonia and Montenegro to perform a full range of Asset Management activities in the utility. AQUASAN for Bosnia and Herzegovina and UTVSI for Serbia, Macedonia and Montenegro, are providing these services to the participating utilities.

On 19 September 2017, the Public Utility ViK Kotor organized the Asset Management Talks in the Kotor Municipal Hall (Bizanti Palace) and presented together with ViK Cetinje presented the

experience of their participation on the project “Asset Management – Advisory services to water utilities in South East Europe”. [More Information](#)

Ukraine utilities visit bavarian colleagues

In the framework of the partnership project between the Ukraine Water Utility Association and the Bavarian Environmental Agency ukrainian utilities participated in a study tour to Germany in September 2017 to learn more about utility and water management from german companies and government officials. [More Information](#)

Evaluation of the Danube Water Program has started

The World Bank, with full support from the Danube Water Program (DWP) Steering Committee has commissioned the external evaluation of the program after carrying out a competitive selection where more than 14 candidates participated. The selected candidate combines a unique set of skills in program evaluation, familiarity with the water sector and knowledge of the region. The external evaluation will review the progress against the results outlined in the DWP Work Plan, particularly toward meeting its overarching objective of supporting institutional capacity building and the development of regulatory and policy instruments in the water supply and wastewater sector in participating countries in the Danube region. The review will also offer an opportunity to reflect on lessons learned and consider ways to strengthen the program in the short- and medium-term, in particular vis-à-vis the design of a potential third phase of the Program. The evaluation is expected to be finalized by December 2017, with stakeholder interviews and surveys to take place in October 2017.

IAWD NEWS

Roundtable Meeting of Danube Region Water Utility Associations

The Roundtable Meeting of Danube Region Water Utility Associations took place on 14 September 2017 in Vienna. The objective of the meeting was (i) to jointly assess the status of D-LeaP implementation and understand challenges of implementation, (ii) to jointly define necessary interventions to improve the implementation and (iii) to enable exchange of Hubs' experience and best practices and knowledge.

The review of the current status of D-LeaP and meeting objectives was followed by a moderated discussion on the status of implementation. [More Information](#)

PROGRAM EVENTS

International Workshop on Wastewater Management in the Danube river Basin

The ICPDR in cooperation with IAWD and the World Bank organizes the "International Workshop on Wastewater Management in the Danube river Basin", which will take place on 28-29 November 2017 in Bucharest, Romania. The event is hosted by the National Administration "Romanian Waters" and supported by the Danube Water Program, the EUSDR PA4, the Global Water Partnership, the EIB, both Directorates General ENV and JRC of the European Commission. [More Information](#)

Water Exhibition and Forum 2017

The Association for Water Technology and Sanitary Engineering (UTVSI) with the support of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia, the Waterworks and Sewerage Association of Serbia, IAWD, the Danube Water Program and DVGW organizes the Water Exhibition and Forum in Belgrade, Serbia on 15-17 November 2017. [More Information](#)

5th Balkans Joint Conference and Exhibition "Wastewater Challenge"

The Water and Wastewater Works Association of Kosovo (SHUKOS) and the Water Supply and Sewerage Association of Albania (SHUKALB) jointly organize the 5th Balkans Joint Conference and Exhibition to be held on 1-3 November in Pristina, Kosovo, at the Emerald Hotel. The main theme of the Conference is "Wastewater Challenge". [More Information](#)

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

Current issues in water supply and sewage

The Croatian Water and Wastewater Association organizes its annual international professional and business conference "Current issues in water supply and sewage", which will take place this year on 4-8 October 2017 in Vodice, Croatia. [More Information](#)

23rd Slovene Water Days 2017

The Slovene Water Days organised by the Slovenian Water Association will take place on 5-6 October 2017 in Portoroz, Slovenia for the 23rd time. [More Information](#)

6th Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region

The 6th Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region, jointly organised by Hungary (current Presidency of the EUSDR), the European Commission and the Danube Transnational Programme, will take place on 18-19 October 2017 in Budapest.

Under the title 'A secure, connected and prospering Danube Region', the Forum will emphasise the different challenges related to, and perspectives of, energy security, transportation development, clean connectivity issues and financing opportunities. The key question to answer will be how to best transform political commitments into operational policies and measures. [More Information](#)

IWA Water and Development Congress and Exhibition 2017

The IWA Water and Development Congress & Exhibition will take place on 13-16 November 2017 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The IWA Water and Development Congress & Exhibition is a biennial event that gathers the leading water professionals with a focus in development solutions. [More Information](#)

Training Course on Introduction to Water Utility Regulation

The Energy Regulators Regional Association (ERRA) organizes a Training Course on "Introduction to Water Utility Regulation" on 13-17 November 2017 in Budapest, Hungary. The course features 5 days dedicated to the core responsibilities and activities of water utility regulatory authorities with regard to the oversight of the regulated utilities, principles and practices of tariff setting, performance benchmarking, and new developments in the regulation of the sector. [More Information](#)



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