

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



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 / December 2017

### PROGRAM NEWS

### Season's Greetings



We - the team of the Danube Water Program - would like to express our appreciation to all our supporters. Thank you for a very successful year!

We wish you pleasant holidays and send you the best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year!

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### A Modern Utility, a Diverse Workforce - Participate now in a utility workforce assessment



**female talents.**

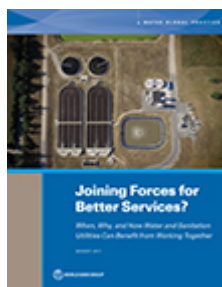
The Danube Water Program and the World Bank are looking for **champion water and wastewater (WSS) utility companies** in the Danube region which are **interested in offering a balanced and inclusive workplace and equitable opportunities for young and**

**female talents.** As part of the collaboration, **a globally acknowledged strategic partner will provide expert advice and knowledge to help partner utilities come up with an action plan that addresses the needs of your utility.** The exercise will be based on a gender diagnostic, informed by your utility HR-statistics, utility and national policies, and an employee survey.

Your utility results and action plan will remain confidential and participation is **free of costs**. Take this opportunity and register [here](#). It will only take one minute and you will be contacted for further information. [More Information](#)

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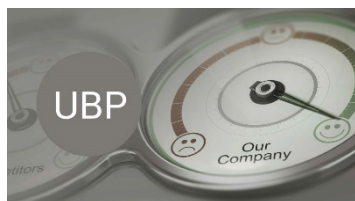
## Toolkit on the Aggregation of Water Supply and Sanitation Utilities released by the World Bank



The World Bank published in July 2017 its **analytical piece on aggregation of water and sanitation services** "[Joining Forces for Better Services : When, Why, and How Water and Sanitation Utilities Can Benefit from Working Together](#)". The study, **initially supported by the Danube Water Program**, was then merged with a global study led by the World Bank's Water Supply and Sanitation Services Global Solutions Group, as part of the analysis of the global challenge of building sustainable urban utilities. The **report and accompanying toolkit** highlight the various policy outcomes that can be expected from a successful aggregation, such as improved performance, lower costs, or solidarity between user categories. [More Information](#)  
For some reflections on the preparation of this report also read David Michaud's [blog post](#).

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## Update on the Danube Regional Benchmarking Initiative



The newly established **Danube Hub**, which will complement the current system of national/subregional Hubs by expanding the program to offer utility benchmarking at the Danube regional level, is managed by IAWD with the support of the newly assigned Hub coordinator Aleksandar Kestic in the framework of the Danube Learning Partnership.

Until now 13 utilities in total have joined the Danube Hub, including utilities from Albania (Vlora), Bosnia and Herzegovina (Banja Luka, Bijeljina, Bosanska Krupa, Tuzla, Velika Kladuša), Croatia (Koprivnica), Hungary (Szeged), Kosovo (Pristina), Montenegro (Regional waterworks of Montenegro coastal area), Romania (Satu Mare), Serbia (Novi Sad, Subotica). Benchmarking teams from these utilities will participate in the **International Benchmarking Workshop** scheduled for **22-23 March 2018 in Montenegro**.

**Registration** to the Danube Hub is **still open** open until further notice, although utilities which apply before the end of 2017 will be able to use full benefits offered to participants in the Danube Hub. Interested utilities, but also stakeholders wishing to support the activity, can apply for participation or express their interest by contacting [thedanubehub@d-leap.org](mailto:thedanubehub@d-leap.org). [More Information](#)

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## Water Safety Planning Curriculum ready for launch



The Technical Partner (Consortium Infraprotect, Energie AG Wasser, Vienna Water and ÖVGW) for the D-LeaP Program on Water Safety Planning and Crisis Management has prepared a **comprehensive curriculum for the delivery of the program focused on risk and crisis management in**

**water operations.**

The preliminary contents of this course were presented in Belgrade on November 16 during the [2017 Water Forum](#) where **positive feedback** was received. Discussions are ongoing with partner associations in Serbia, Kosovo, Macedonia and BiH for their potential participation as a Hub for the delivery of the course in 2018. Click [here](#) to view the presentation!

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## Final Conference on Competitive Grant project awarded to Sofiyska Voda JCS organised in Bulgaria

On 11 December 2017, Sofiyska Voda JSC and the Bulgarian Water Association organised the final conference of the [Competitive Grant Project "Improvement of the Asset Management in Sofiyska Voda JSC through Elaboration of a New Assets Valuation Methodology"](#), which was managed by IAWD with financial support from the Danube Water Program. [More Information](#)

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## Thank you for participating in the evaluation of the Danube Water Program



The World Bank, with full support from the Danube Water Program (DWP) Steering Committee has commissioned the external evaluation of the program, which is expected to be finalized by December 2017. **We want to thank all our partners and clients who were willing to spent their valuable time on conducting**

**interviews and surveys related to the evaluation.**

### IAWD NEWS

## Joining forces to offer sustainable solutions for wastewater management in the Danube River Basin



The first **International Workshop on Wastewater Management in the Danube river Basin** took place from 28 to 29 November 2017 in Bucharest, Romania.

The Workshop was co-organised by the ICPDR, IAWD and the World Bank. This joint initiative answers a need by the countries of the Danube River Basin to specifically address the multi-dimensional problem of wastewater management in the Danube River Basin. [More Information](#)

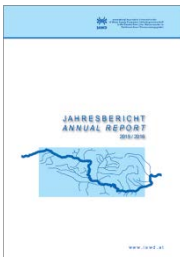
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## RCDN Activities to begin in 2018

In November the kickoff meeting of the Project Advisory Board of the Regional Capacity Development Network (RCDN) project took place and adopted a work plan for capacity building activities in the water sector in six countries of the Western Balkans (Albania, BiH, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia) starting in early 2018. The project funded by the Swiss and German governments is focused on the activities supporting the capacity of utilities and the municipal governments who own the water infrastructure. The Project Advisory Board is made up of representatives of Local Government Associations and Water Utility Associations from the six countries. The project will be managed by a Project Implementation team from IAWD, NALAS and AQUASAN and synergies and complimentary initiatives on capacity building to those under the DWP will be organized. [More Information](#)

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## IAWD Annual Report 2015/2016



The 2015/2016 Annual Report was completed in time for the General Assembly in autumn of this year. The Technical-Scientific Advisory Committee captured the data in the context of the IAWD monitoring program, which includes physical-chemical and microbiological/hygienic parameters from the region.

With the 2015/2016 Annual Report, IAWD again provides a comprehensive overview of its ongoing activities and fields of work. The Annual Report can be downloaded from the [IAWD Webpage \(www.iawd.at\)](http://www.iawd.at) or obtained by contacting the IAWD Secretariat ([office@iawd.at](mailto:office@iawd.at)).

### PROGRAM EVENTS

## 2018 Danube Water Conference - Save the Date

The 2018 Danube Water Conference will be held on 2-4 May 2018 in Vienna. Please save the date to join us at this water sector networking event in the Danube region.

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## Final Workshop of Ukraine Utility Benchmarking Project

The final workshop of the Ukraine Utility Benchmarking Project presenting the results of the third Benchmarking cycle will take place on 17-19 January, 2018. [More Information](#)

EVENTS AND NEWS FROM THE REGION (More at [DANUBIS.org](http://DANUBIS.org))

## 6th EWA/JSWA/WEF Joint Conference "Resilience of the Water Sector"

The 6th EWA/JSWA/WEF Joint Conference "Resilience of the Water Sector", organized by EWA (European Water Association) JSWA (Japan Sewage Works Association), WEF (Water Environment Federation) in cooperation with IFAT - Messe München, will be held on 15-18 May 2018 in Munich, Germany. [More Information](#)

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## 14th WAREG General Assembly

The General Assembly of the European Water Regulators (WAREG) will be held on 30-31 January 2018 in Ghent, Belgium. [More Information](#)



[Danube Water Program](#)