

#EU
GREEN
WEEK

**WASTEWATER AS A RESOURCE:
REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON
SEWAGE SLUDGE MANAGEMENT
AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

**ONLINE
20 June 2025**

to register: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/D1iFvIm5Rg2qaTtejndHBA>



I. OPENING

10:00 – 10:10

Introduction of the event and relevance of sludge management in the Danube Region
Zsuzsanna Kocsis-Kupper, EU Strategy for the Danube Region, Water Quality Priority Area
Adam Kovacs, International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River

Setting the scene

10:10 – 10:30

KEYNOTE: Overview of the European legislation related to sludge management
Sylvie Grajales, European Commission, Directorate-General for Environment

II. Sewage sludge management in Europe and in the Danube Region

10:30 – 10:45

Sludge management: challenges and opportunities
Lukas EGLE, European Commission, Joint Research Centre (TBC)



Interreg Programme
Danube Region



Co-funded by
the European Union



10:45 – 11:00

Sewage sludge management in the Danube Region-overview

Attila Fürstand, TRENECON Consulting and Planning Ltd

11:00 – 11:15

Managing sludge from an EU country perspective (Hungary)

Károly Kovács, Hungarian Water Association

10:15 – 11:30

Managing sludge from a non-EU country perspective (Bosnia-Herzegovina)

Maja Colovic-Daul, DEKONTA

11:30 – 11:50

Coffee break

III. Utility experiences

11:50 – 12:00

Bosnia-Herzegovina: Alma Džubur, Sarajevo WWTP

12:00 – 12:10

Croatia: Wanda Plačko, Zagreb WWTP

12:10 – 12:20

Germany: Sven Vogt, Augsburg WWTP

12:20 – 12:30

Romania: Monica Isacu, Timisoara WWTP

12:30 – 12:40

Slovakia: Lucia Šperňáková, Liptovský Mikuláš WWTP

12:30 – 12:40

Slovenia: Špela Železnikar, Ajdovščina WWTP

Closing words

12:40 – 12:50

Zsuzsanna Kocsis-Kupper and Adam Kovacs

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Background

Recognizing the significance of the issue of sewage sludge management that has been steadily growing in the Danube Region, the [EU Strategy for the Danube Region, Priority Area Water Quality](#) (EUSDR PA4), supported by the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade initiated the elaboration of a [study](#) on sewage sludge treatment and recovery in the Danube Region in 2024, updating and complementing a previous report that was developed in 2020.

The study was carried out by TRENECON Consulting and Planning Ltd, finalized in November 2024, and it was discussed thoroughly with experts and organizations in the Danube Region and within the frame of the Steering Group of EUSDR PA4 as well. A comprehensive overview is provided on the practice and legislation of the Danube countries, the best practices, and difficulties of sewage sludge management. The study further identifies the major problems and provides recommendations for future steps to be taken.

While some countries have specific sludge management and recovery strategies, others manage sludge in line with the criteria set out in their water and sewage management strategies. There are differences in the administrative backgrounds, the focus and the applied techniques however common points in management exist and targets common in nature are derived from the EC legislation and strategies. Regardless of the embeddedness of countries actions into EU legislation, sludge can be considered an important resource and, at the same time, a risk for the environment in all EUSDR countries concerning soil and water quality as well as human and livestock health.

Considering the [New Circular Economy Action Plan](#), the issue of sludge is specifically important as it has high energy content and contains several materials, notably phosphorus, that are important input materials for the chemical industry and agriculture. The recast of the [Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive](#) also encourages sludge and resource recovery and requires to make wastewater treatment plants energy-neutral.

In light of the conclusions from the above-mentioned sludge management study, the Priority Area Water Quality in cooperation with the International Commission of the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) [calls for an online workshop on SEWAGE SLUDGE MANAGEMENT AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN THE DANUBE REGION](#) on 20 June 2025.

Objectives

The main aim of the workshop is to discuss the situation of sewage sludge management in Europe, primarily in the Danube countries but with an overview to the situation of other regions as well, and to extract relevant messages for national policy makers and experts. Primary target group for the event is sewage sludge and wastewater experts, policy makers and water management professionals from the Danube Region. Members of relevant EUSDR Steering Groups are also welcomed to join the discussion.

The workshop that will be held in a virtual format would feature presentations about the relevant EU legislation considering recent policy updates, the latest scientific and technological progress, the sewage sludge management in different countries; and the technologies applied at various utilities including recovery and reuse of resources/water/energy.