



International  
Association of Water  
Service Companies  
in the Danube Region

# IAWD – Activity Update

**KATERINA SCHILLING, HEAD OF SECRETARIAT**

# Our Members – The IAWD family

- **Founded in 1993** as an association according to Austrian law through a political leader's initiative
- **Prime association** of water and wastewater utilities in the Danube region
- IAWD has established a strong **network of cooperation** in the region's water sector



# Our Members – The IAWD family

- We believe in **Strength through Cooperation**, a strength that grows with every new member
- 57 members in 16 countries and growing
  - 30 Utilities
  - 11 Associations
  - 15 Corporates
  - 1 Research and Academia
- Our vision is **safe, reliable, affordable access to water services** for all in the Danube region

**U** Utility  
Members

30



New in 2024:

Bratislava Water Utility Company (Slovakia)  
Abwasserreinigung Oberengadin (Switzerland)  
KP "Vodovod" A.D. Gradiska (BiH)

**A** Association  
Members

11



**C** Corporate  
Members

16



New in 2024:

Hungarian Water  
Partnership (Hungary)  
Xylem Water  
Solutions Romania  
SRL (Romania)

Status: 12/2024

# IAWD Activities



**COMMUNICATING**



**CONNECTING**



**CAPACITATING**

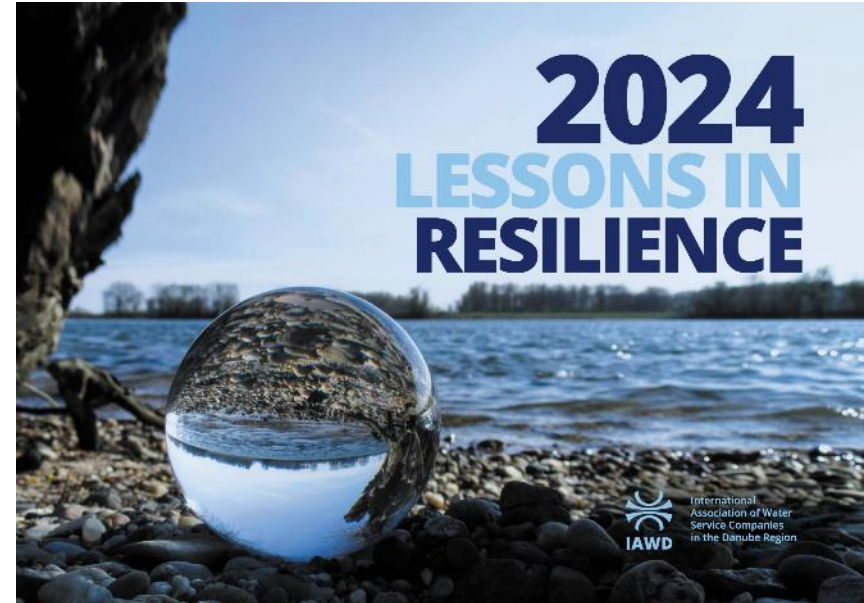


International  
Association of Water  
Service Companies  
in the Danube Region

# COMMUNICATE

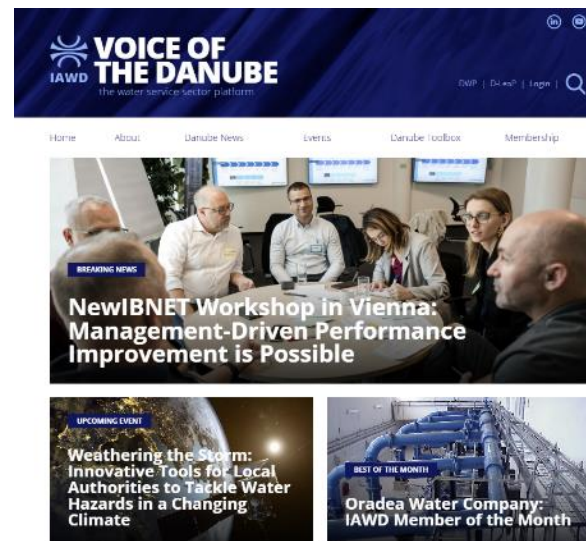
# 2024 Annual Review

- IAWD in numbers, pictures and stories
- Hot off the press



# Voice of the Danube community

- „**The Voice of the Danube**“ has a strong focus on digital communication
- **Voice of the Danube community** is growing
  - > 1000+ registered users
  - > 1800+ followers on LinkedIn



# CONNECT



# Danube Water Conference/ Forum

- **Danube Water Conference** was launched in 2013 as annual event (until 2019), since 2020 bi-annual event with **Danube Water Forum** in the region in even years
- Offers a **platform for regional and cross-disciplinary dialogue on WSS sector challenges** and solutions
- Latest DWF was held on 29-30 May 2024
  - Record number of 300+ participants
  - Strong involvement of YWP
- Latest DWC on 14 – 16 May in Vienna back-to-back with YWP Day, UBP Danube Hub Workshop and IAWD General Assembly



# DWP KnowNow webinar series



International  
Association of Water  
Service Companies  
in the Danube Region

## MAKE IT RAIN WATER UTILITY FINANCING IN THE DANUBE REGION

Read  
more  
here:



### Ms. Patricia Lopez

Senior Water Specialist,  
World Bank, USA  
(Presenter & Moderator)



### Ms. Vesna Muslic

President, Aquasan Network BiH,  
Bosnia and Herzegovina  
(Panelist)



### Mr. Lyubomir Filipov

Director Strategic Partnerships and  
Regulation, Sofia Water, Bulgaria  
(Panelist)



### Mr. Ladislav Tolmaci

Erste Group, Austria  
(Panelist)

## DRYING PIPES NAVIGATING THE IMPACT OF WATER SCARCITY AND DROUGHTS ON WATER SUPPLY

Read  
more  
here:



### Ms. Olivia Becher

Researcher at Oxford University,  
United Kingdom  
(Presenter)



### Mr. Efthymios Lytras

Deputy Director of Corporate  
Strategy and Innovation, Athens  
Water and Sewerage Company,  
Greece (Presenter)



### Mr. Daniel Craia

General Manager Assistant,  
Aquatim S.A., Romania  
(Panelist)



### Mr. Raimund Mair

Senior Water Resources  
Management Specialist,  
World Bank, Austria  
(Moderator)

## TAMING THE RAIN NATURE BASED SOLUTIONS FOR STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Read  
more  
here:



### Mr. Florian Kretschmer

Senior Scientist, BOKU University,  
Austria  
(Presenter)



### Ms. Cemre Erbil

Istanbul Water and Sewerage  
Administration (ISKI), Turkey  
(Presenter)



### Ms. Tatjana Uzelac

CEO, Starum, Croatia  
(Presenter)



### Mr. Franck Perru

Syndicat des Eaux et de  
l'Assainissement Alsace-Moselle  
(SDEA), France (Presenter)



### Ms. Katerina Schilling

Head of Secretariat,  
IAWD, Austria  
(Moderator)



### Mr. Milo Fiasconaro

Executive Director,  
Aqua Publica Europea, Belgium  
(Moderator)



Jointly with APE

# Young Water Professionals

- IAWD based on an **MoU with IWA** supports the YWP in the Danube region and facilitates the dialogue between the YWP chapters
- Establishment of **YWP committee** and integration of YWP in IAWD's governance structure
- **Engage YWP** at early stage to tackle the lack of qualified staff in the region
- Seeking partnerships with donors/financiers to **support YWP activities**:
  - Dedicated workshops and integration at the annual regional events
  - Development of targeted activities for YWP



# YWP Tackling Crises

- Dedicated YWP Day prior to 2025 DWC with 32 YWP from 12 countries in the region



08:00 – 08:30	Arrival
08:30 – 09:00	Welcome & Icebreaker
09:00 – 09:30	Keynote by Hélène Masliah-Gilkarov from ICPDR
09:30 – 10:00	Input for Interactive Session I
10:15 – 12:00	Interactive Session Hazard Identification
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch
13:00 – 13:30	Keynote by Jakob Denk from EVN Wasser
13:30 – 17:15	Crisis Management Game by Christian Plohberger (Protectum Solutions)
17:15 – 17:30	Wrap-up
18:30 – open end	Powerpoint Karaoke at the „Highlander“



# Voice of the Youth

- 8 YWP from 6 Western Balkan countries
  - 2 in person workshop
  - monthly guided exchanges
  - 2 conference sessions organised
  - 1 position paper was presented at 2025 DWC



# Engaging with Europe



- MoU with Aqua Publica Europea
- IAWD became a Corporate Member of the **European Water Association (EWA)**
- IFAT Engagement:
  - EWA Research Member Meeting
  - Blue stage panel “Invest in Water – Invest in Security”
  - EWA Session on “Water Qualification in Europe – the challenge ahead” to present D-LeaP
- Participation at EWA Spring Conference (May 2025)

# CAPACITATE

# D-LeaP Achievements



- D-LeaP Committee Council met twice in January and May to coordinate the implementation of trainings in 2024

## D-LEAP ACTIVITIES 2024



**14**

Hubs



**13**

Active  
countries



**120**

Utilities  
trained



**7**

Programs  
delivered



# Utility to Utility – WOP SEE

- New cooperation with GWOPA to establish a Water Operators Platform (WOP) in Southeastern Europe (SEE)
- Proposal for ADA under preparation
- Identification of additional sources jointly with GWOPA
- Full integration of WOP SEE in D-LeaP is anticipated





International  
Association of Water  
Service Companies  
in the Danube Region

# PROJECTS

# Successful project applications

- **Successful application** under GWOPA, UN Habitat for Project “Establishing a Water Operator Partnerships Platform in South-Eastern Europe”
- **Successful application** under World Bank for project “NewIBNET: Communication and Outreach Services”
- **Successful application** under Global Water Security and Sanitation Partnership (GWSP) for YWP Scholarship for UMT
- **Successful application** under Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) for an online UMT delivered in Ukraine “Ukraine Sectoral Deep Dives”
- **Successful application** under a consortium together with Hydrophil, Tender NEAR/SKP/2022/EA-RP/0174, for Project "Further support in the implementation of the reforms in the water sector" North Macedonia
- **Successful Application** under Interreg Danube in large consortium of organizations for Project “D-CLEAN: Improving Water Quality in the Danube River Basin: Nature-Based Solutions for Sustainable Wastewater and Stormwater Management in Small Settlements”





- **D-CLEAN:** Improving Water Quality in the Danube River Basin - Nature-Based Solutions for Sustainable Wastewater and Stormwater Management in Small Settlements
- **Total Budget:** 2,1 Mio € (incl. 20% cost-sharing)
- **IAWD Budget:** 219,000€ (incl. 20% cost-sharing)
- **Period:** 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2028
- **Consortium:** 10 Partners in total, plus 11 Associate Strategic Partners

# Project Partners



- **Lead Partner:** Global Water Partnership Central Eastern Europe
- University of Ljubljana
- University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna
- Limnos Company for Applied Ecology Ltd
- Regional Development Agency Srem
- National Administration “Romanian Waters”
- Romanian Water Association
- Medimurske Waters
- Middle Tisza District Water Directorate
- IAWD



# Project Objective

- D-CLEAN aims to address the pressing issue of **wastewater and stormwater pollution** in the **small settlements** in Danube River Basin by **rising awareness, building capacity**, and identifying, testing and **showcasing practical solutions**
- aim is to improve water quality within the DRB by promoting the use of **sustainable WW and SW management practices resilient to climate change** and providing stakeholders with the necessary tools



# D-CLEAN Structure

## SO1

**Analyzing needs and challenges of WW and SW management in DRB to prioritize sustainable solutions**  
(April 2025 – June 2026)

Activity 1.1: Analysis of regional status quo

Activity 1.2: Zoom-in on pilot areas

Activity 1.3: Identification of Stakeholder needs

Activity 1.4: Prioritization of sustainable WW and SW solutions



1. Cross- Sectoral Cooperation in sustainable WW and SW management

## SO2

**Enhancing capacity of stakeholders: technical and conceptual understanding of sustainable WW**  
(June 2025 – March 2028)

Activity 2.1: Development of training materials for co-design

Activity 2.2: Training of stakeholders in WW and SW management

Activity 2.3: Co-design testing of decentralized solutions in pilot areas

Activity 2.4: Developing transnational roadmap for WW/SW implementation



2. Implementation of Pilot Actions  
3. Roadmap for Experts and Practitioner

## SO3

**Mainstreaming SW and WW in the region - improved policies and Knowledge Transfer**  
(April 2026-March 2028)

Activity 3.1: Establishing policy dialogs; analysis of policy needs, challenges

Activity 3.2: Develop climate change-adapted regional WW and SW management strategy for small settlements

Activity 3.3: Transnational Knowledge Hub on Sustainable WW and SW for the Danube Region



4. Transnational strategy for Sustainable WW and SW management in DRB

- Overall responsibility for **project communication** (incl. Website, newsletter, social media, promotional material, webinars etc)
- Organisation of **Kick-off meeting** on 10-11 June in Vienna
- In addition co-lead for the following activities:
  - 1.3 Identification of **Stakeholder** needs
  - 3.2 Develop climate change-adapted **regional WW and SW management strategy** for small settlements
  - 3.3 Transnational **Knowledge Hub** on Sustainable WW and SW for the Danube Region





International  
Association of Water  
Service Companies  
in the Danube Region

# Thank you!



[www.iawd.at](http://www.iawd.at)  
[office@iawd.at](mailto:office@iawd.at)