



**EUSDR PRIORITY AREA 4 - WATER
QUALITY
29TH STEERING GROUP MEETING**

3-4 JUNE 2025, BRATISLAVA

DANURELY-WS

DANUBE REGION'S YOUTH
LEADERSHIP IN ENSURING
RESILIENCE THROUGH A
PROACTIVE APPROACH IN
WATER SECTOR

ALŽBETA SOCHÁŇOVÁ

GLOBAL WATER PARTNERSHIP
CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

Who is DANURELY – WS ?

Organization	Country	Type
Global Water Partnership Central and Eastern Europe	Slovakia	LP
Water Research Institute	Slovakia	PP
University of Belgrade – Faculty of Transport and Traffic Engineering	Serbia	PP
Ludovika University of Public Service	Hungary	PP
International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River	Austria	AP
Danube Rectors' Conference	Austria	AP
International Sava River Basin Commission	Croatia	AP
Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Serbia	Serbia	AP
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade	Hungary	AP
Comenius University Bratislava (Faculty of Natural Sciences)	Slovakia	AP
Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic	Slovakia	AP

DANURELY-WS - Project Basic Information

Funding Source

- Co-funded by **Interreg Danube Region Programme** (80%) – Seed facility call

Partnership

- Lead Partner: **Global Water Partnership Central and Eastern Europe (GWP CEE)**
- Project Partners: **Water Research Institute (Slovakia), University of Belgrade (Serbia), Ludovika University of Public Service (Hungary)**
- Associated Partners: **ICPDR, Danube Rectors' Conference, International Sava River Basin Commission, relevant ministries and academic institutions**

Challenge: Lack of youth involvement in water governance & resilience strategies.

Objective: Strengthen youth leadership, build fundraising capacity, set ground for new funding possibility

Approach: Cross-sectoral collaboration, training programs, webinars, roundtables and engagement platforms to connect youth with decision-makers.

Expected Impact: Increased youth participation in water governance, enhanced capacity for policy influence, and long-term sustainability through leadership development.

Target audience: youth 18-35, organisations working with youth

Project Main Objectives

"To empower and engage youth in water management in the Danube region by fostering collaboration and networking, strengthening fundraising capacities, addressing key water challenges, learning about youth needs, and co-design youth water community."

How?

- Come up with **fresh and exciting ideas** for youth leadership,
- Train capacities, understand needs, provide tools...
- Develop **elements for main project proposal** and map suitable funding opportunities



Expected Results and Existing Cooperations

Expected Results:

- Increased youth participation in decision-making.
- Establishment of a lasting network of young leaders in water governance.
- Development of practical tools and methodologies for water management.

Benefits for Future Partners:

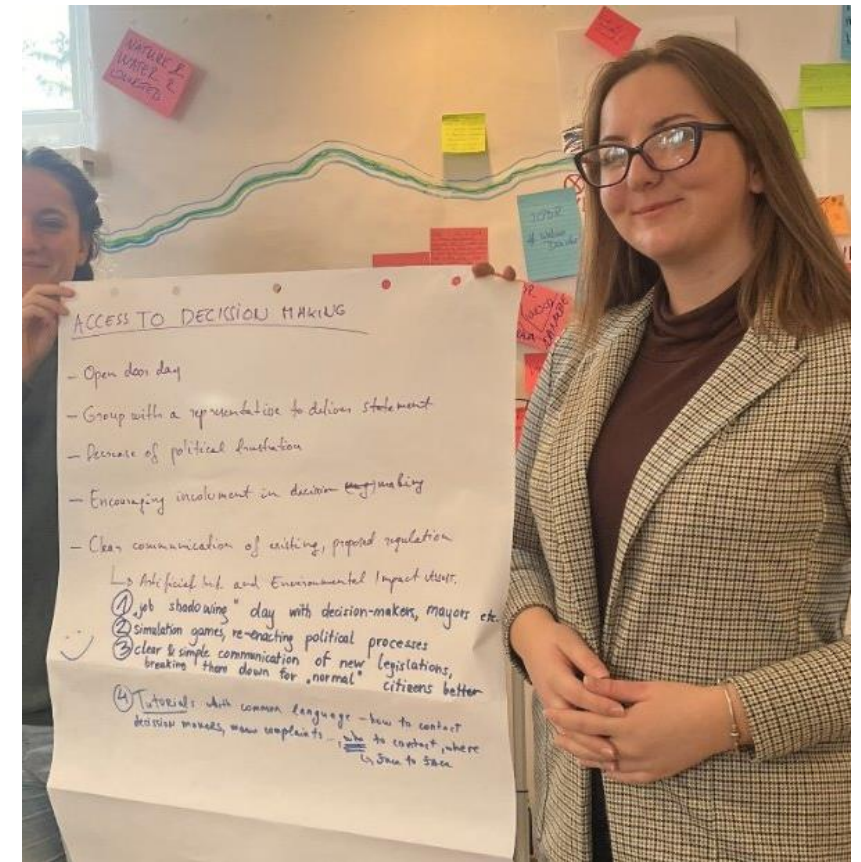
- Innovative approaches and best practices that can be adapted to other projects.

Cooperations & synergies:

- EUSDR, Danube Strategy Point, ICPDR, Danube Rectors' Conference, International Sava River Basin Commission, Danube Youth Council, ministries, and academic institutions.

Benefits of Synergy:

- Sharing experiences, mutual inspiration, and expanding partnerships for future projects.



Project activities

Recent Activities:

- Bratislava Roundtable (November 26-27, 2024):

Focused on empowering future water leaders, youth perspectives in governance, fundraising workshops, and interactive solution-building.

Supported by EUSDR PA4 and PA7 - Thank you! 😊

- Kick-off meeting: Introduction of the Community of Practice (CoP) platform - Discover the IWRM Action Hub: **iwrmactionhub.org**

- Survey conducted: Mapping youth needs in water management.
- As part of the DANURELY-WS project, we kicked off a series of three engaging webinars this spring.

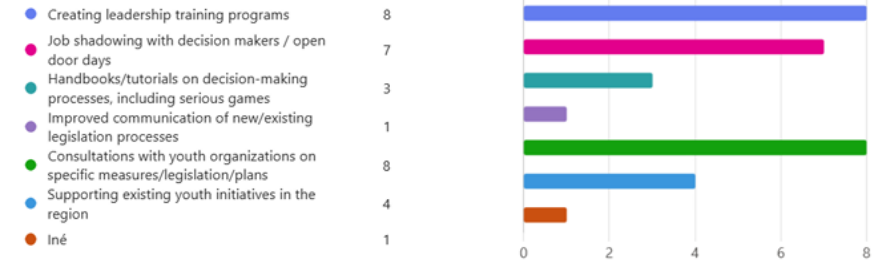


Youth Needs in Water Management – Insights from Danurely-WS Survey

- Meaningful involvement in decision-making
- Better connection between education and practice
- Employment and career development opportunities
- More interactivity and mentoring
- Greater diversity and support for disadvantaged youth

16. How can access to decision-makers be improved?
(Select the two most relevant solutions)

[Ďalšie podrobnosti](#)



Engaging Webinars

Youth, Innovation & Water in the Danube Region

As part of the DANURELY-WS project, we launched a dynamic webinar series focused on youth, water quality, and sustainable river transport.

Webinar Highlights:

- Youth Involvement in Water Quality**
 2 April 2025
 → Focus on how young people can actively contribute to improving water quality.
 Organized by the Water Research Institute (VUVH)
- Managing Water Resources in a Changing Climate**
 22 April 2025
 → Role of strong institutions and communication in water governance.
 Hosted with University of Belgrade
- Flowing Forward: Youth for Sustainable River Transport**
 14 May 2025
 → How can we make river transport more appealing to young people and build a sustainable future on our waterways?
 Organized by the **Faculty of Transport and Traffic Engineering, University of Belgrade (FTTE)**. Expert voices from Germany, Austria, and Serbia + Danube Youth Council

Watch the recordings online on our website:

www.gwp.org/en/GWP-CEE/WE-ACT/Projects/danurely/



Meet our speakers



Cyril Alias
Scientific Researcher at Dep. of Logistics & Transportation

Development Centre for Ship Technology and Transport Systems, Duisburg, Germany



Saša Jovanović, PhD
Expert for shipping and ports

IC consulenti Zivitechniker GesmbH, Wien, Austria



Anita Abodi
Research and Teaching assistant at the Department for waterborne transportation

Faculty of Transport and Traffic Engineering, University of Belgrade Serbia



Irene Schnait
Project Officer at Danube Strategy Point

EUSDR – European Union Strategy for Danube Region
DYC – Danube Youth Council



Conclusion and Possibilities for Future Cooperation (Offers/Needs)

Summary:

DANURELY-WS has set the ground to strengthen youth participation in water governance and to create opportunities for leadership development.

What we offer:

- Expertise and experience in water management.
- Proven best practices and innovative approaches to youth engagement and fundraising.
- A strong network of partners and stakeholders.

What is needed:

- Expansion of activities and new collaboration opportunities.
- Additional funding and policy support from institutions.

Future Collaboration Opportunities:

- Joint applications for future funding and grant opportunities.
- Co-organization of further workshops, webinars, and networking events.
- Exchange of expertise and application of innovative solutions in other regions.
- We would like to apply for Interreg Danube call 3 as an opportunity to expand the scope and maximize the impact



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