

# Introduction to IAWD

# IAWD – Who we are

- **Founded in 1993** as an association according to Austrian law
- **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
- IAWD has utility, association and institutional members in 16 countries



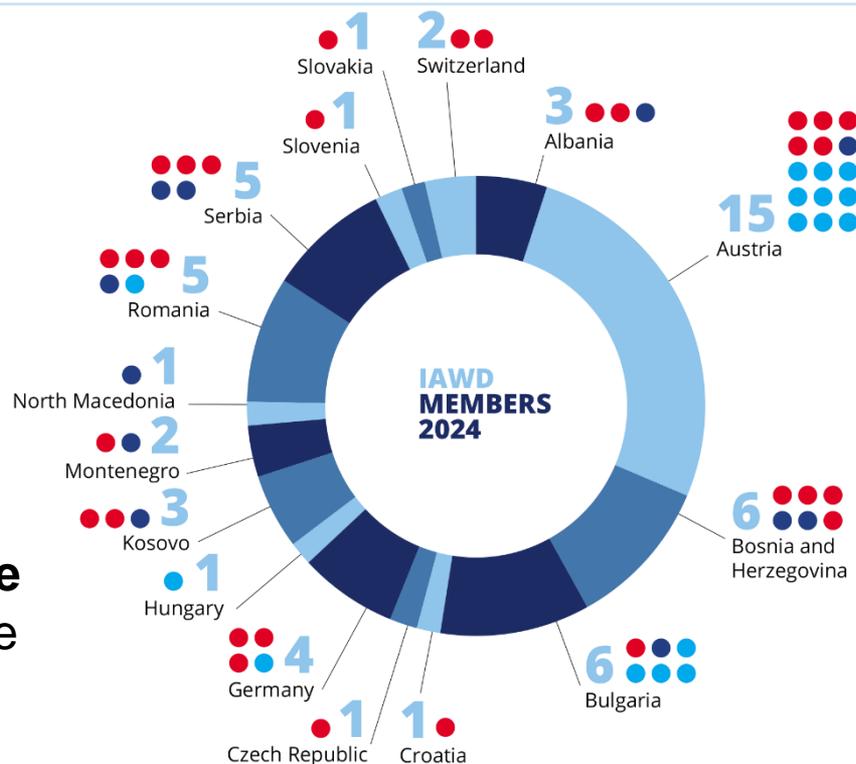
# 1993 – Founding IAWD

Inauguration meeting in Vienna: A political leader's initiative

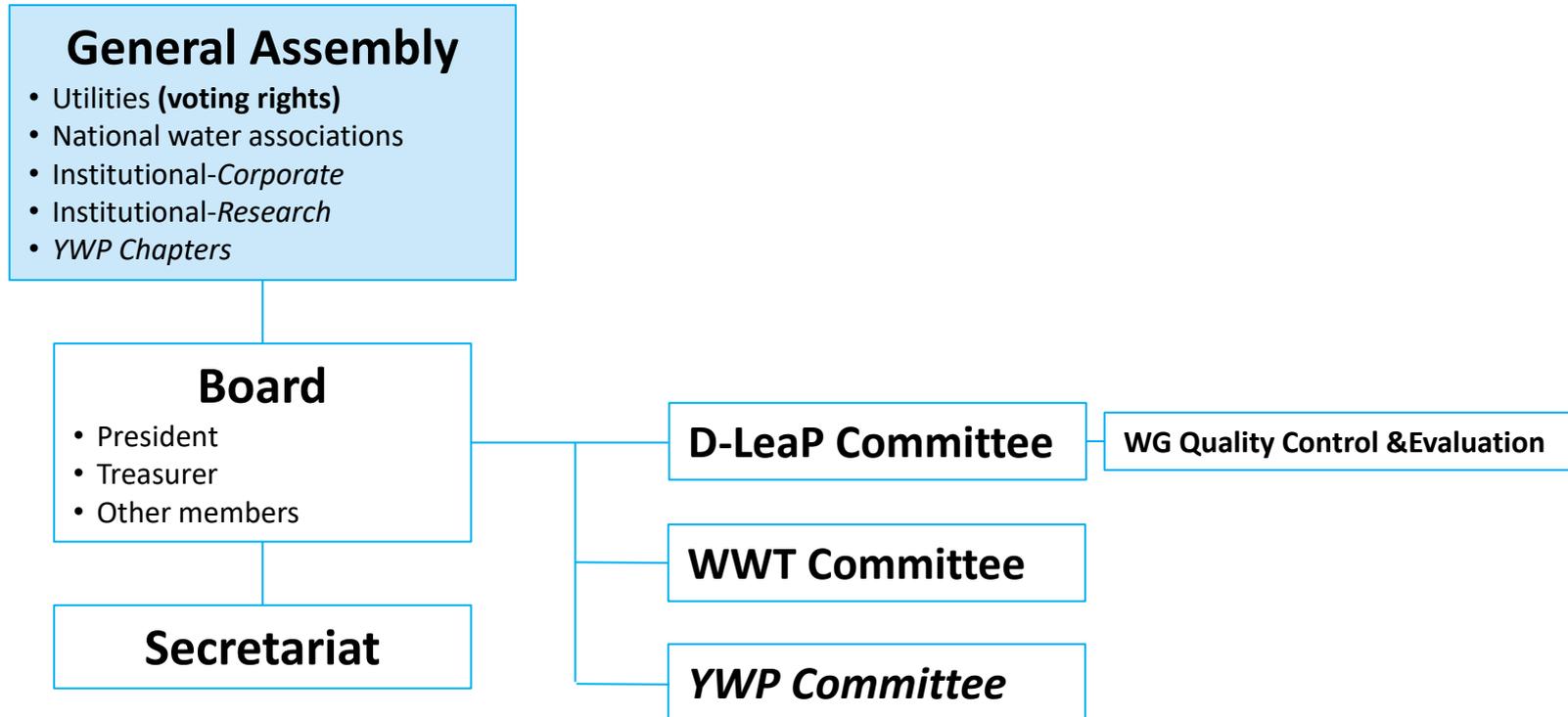


# IAWD – Who we are

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



# IAWD Governance



# The IAWD Secretariat

- IAWD's activities are implemented by the Secretariat based in Vienna and hosted in the World Bank premises
- Team in place:



Walter Kling  
Executive President



Katerina Schilling  
Head of Secretariat



Elisabeta Poci  
Association  
Development  
Manager



Pietro Antonio La  
Vena  
Project Manager



Antonia Püspök  
Community Manager



Ana Badhofer  
Partnership &  
Engagement Officer

# The Danube Water Program (DWP)

- Since 2013 implementation of the **Danube Water Program (DWP)** jointly with the **World Bank** aiming at smart policies, strong utilities and sustainable services (17 million € in total)
- Main donor: Austria  Federal Ministry  
Republic of Austria  
Finance
- Regional program, covering 16 countries (11 target and 5 participating countries)
- Objective: Building a **Resilient and Water Secure Danube region**
- Bank- and Recipient (IAWD) executed activities



# IAWD Membership Services and Activities



## COMMUNICATING

to keep you  
informed:



## CONNECTING

you with the Danube  
region's water sector:



## CAPACITATING

you on the  
professional level:

# COMMUNICATE

# Voice of the Danube community

- In 2020, IAWD has re-launched its web presence as „**The Voice of the Danube**“ with a strong focus on digital communication
- Voice of the Danube community of practice is growing
  - > 1000+ registered users
  - > 1540+ followers on LinkedIn
- Just Add Water Website to raise awareness among consumers



**Water is life.  
It is as simple  
as that.**



**Happy Danube Day!**  
from, the DWP team

**Happy Danube Day! Your Danube Water Program Team**



## Danube news



07 Jun 2023



04 Jun 2023



05 May 2023



17 May 2023

# 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 edition was held on 29-30 May 2024
  - Record number of 300+ participants
  - Strong involvement of YWP



# 2024 DWF Impressions



# DWP KnowNow webinar series

- Resulted out of the Covid-19 webinar series
- Short and crisp 75 min webinars on up-to-date topics
- Format allows to **grow a multinational audience**
- 10 editions so far
- Nr 11. (Droughts) and Nr. 12 (Stormwater) planned for 2024



## DWP KNOWNOW WEBINARS



**10**  
Webinars



**1000+**  
Participants



**41**  
Countries reached

# CAPACITATE

# Danube Learning Partnership (D-LeaP)



- DWP Phase 1 revealed an **unmet demand for high quality capacity building** programs
- D-LeaP was launched in 2017 based on the request of the **Roundtable of national water (utility) associations**

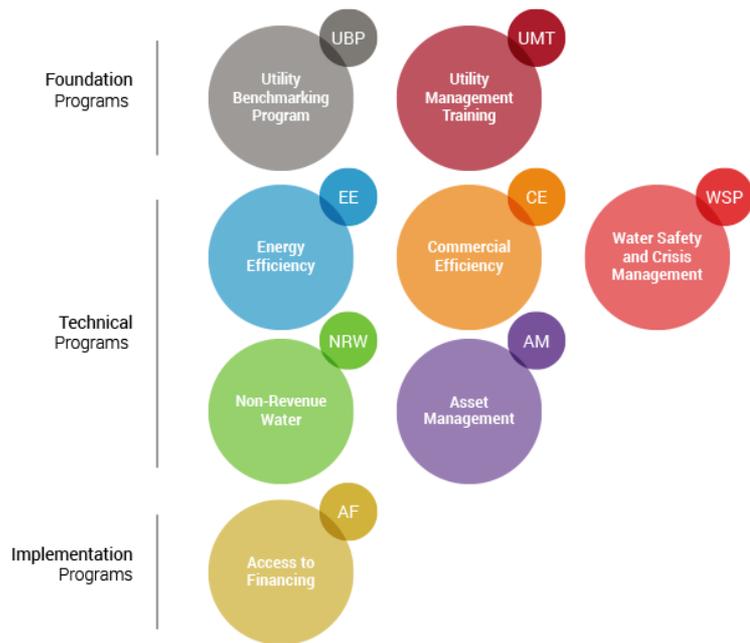
D-LeaP represents a **unique game changing model** to address the capacity building needs of professional staff working in the water service sector

# How does D-LeaP operate?

- D-LeaP uses the **know-how of private sector** to develop training programs at the regional level
- D-LeaP strengthens the national water associations by **training local experts** to deliver the programs on national level in local language
- D-LeaP is based on the collection of participation fees to allow for **sustainability**
- D-LeaP builds on a governance model that provides a **shared ownership** among the national water associations, that are implementing the programs



# D-LeaP Programs and results



# Trainings under the Danube Hub

- IAWD operates the Danube Hub under the Danube Learning Partnership to deliver two programs on Danube regional level:
  - Utility Benchmarking Program (UBP) 
  - Utility Management Training (UMT) 

# Project Work

- Establishment of a Water Operator's Platform in South East Europe (WOP – SEE), project under **GWOPA, UN Habitat**
- NewIBNET, **World Bank**
- Utility Management Crash Course in the frame of “Ukraine Sectoral Deep Dives (Water Supply and Sanitation Services)” Project, **World Bank**
- Fostering water and sanitation service provision in the Western Balkans through capacity development and cooperation by maximizing synergies between RCDN and D-LeaP, **SECO and BMZ**
- 2 Interreg project applications, **EU**
  - Danube Region Programme Second Call for Proposals, Interreg, Danube Transnational Programme, consortium led by GWP
  - Interreg Euro-MED 5th call, consortium led by NALAS



# YWP related Activities

- Revision of Statutes to include a **new membership category for YWP**
- To be launched **establishment of a YWP Committee** with representatives from the YWP Chapters
- A **representative of the YWP Committee**, to join the **IARD Board** (without voting rights)
- **Ongoing support and engagement** of YWP through:
  - **Active role at the DWC/ DWF** (co-moderator/ speaker/ poster presenter)
  - **Peer exchange** activities among the YWPs in the region
  - Secured **financial support** through the Federal Ministry of Austria, Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management & the Regional Capacity Development Network (RCDN+)
  - **Ongoing MoU with IWA** to coordinate and support the YWP activities in the Danube region



# Building Partnerships

- Challenges such as climate crisis do not stop at borders, thus **partnerships** with other institutions active in the region are essential to **multiply IAWD's voice** as well as to grow its outreach
- IAWD aims at strengthening its activities related to **advocacy and lobbying** in the region but also towards the EU level

 Federal Ministry  
Republic of Austria  
Finance



 Federal Ministry  
Republic of Austria  
Agriculture, Forestry, Regions  
and Water Management



 **Stadt  
Wien** | Wiener Wasser



 **WORLD BANK GROUP**

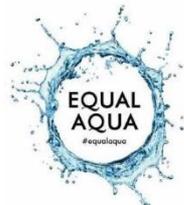


  
**german  
cooperation**  
DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT



 **Global Water  
Partnership**  
Central and Eastern Europe

**ICPDR IKSD**  
International Commission  
for the Protection  
of the Danube River  
Internationale Kommission  
zum Schutz der Donau



**UTILITY OF THE FUTURE  
CENTER OF EXCELLENCE**



**GWOPA**  
Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance

