

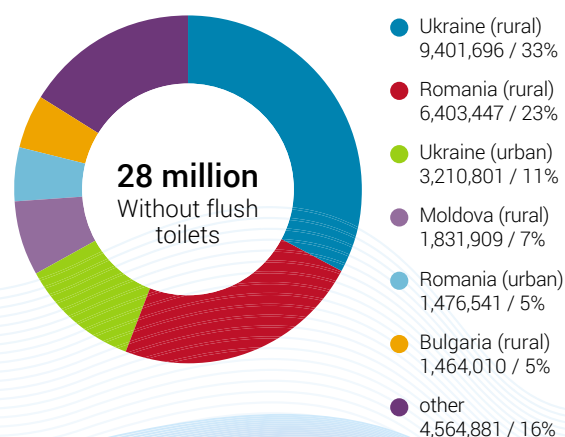
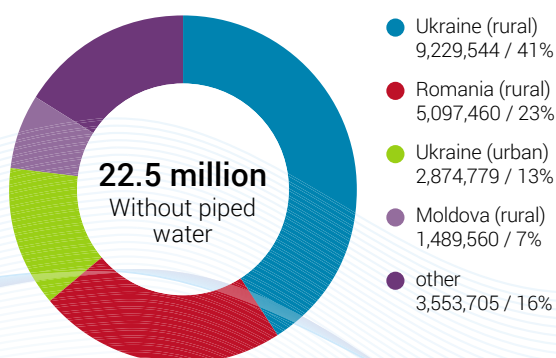
Smart policies, strong utilities, sustainable services

www.danube-water-program.org

WHY THIS PROGRAM?

Over 20 million people in the region do not have inhouse piped water or a flush toilet, with the poor, rural populations, and minorities overrepresented. Some service providers still struggle to provide continuous, potable water to their clients. Low tariffs and inefficient utility practices create challenges for the proper operation and maintenance of the existing infrastructure.

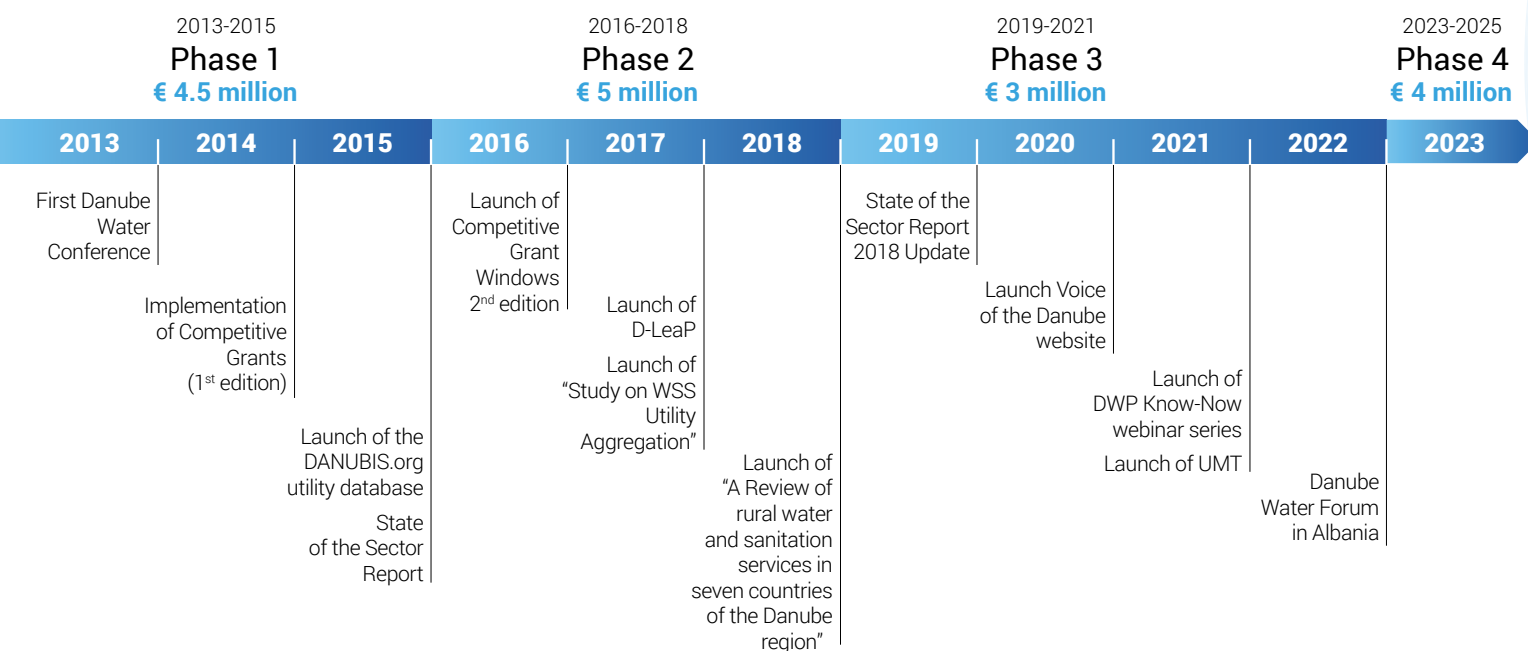
Thus, governments and water professionals in the Danube region face a double challenge of meeting their citizens' demand for universal, good quality, efficient, and financially sound or - in one word - sustainable water and wastewater services, while catching up to the environmental requirements of the European Union *acquis communautaire*.



Source: State of the Sector 2015, World Bank

At the same time, the Water Framework Directive is being transposed into the legal and institutional frameworks of the countries of the region. Large investments for the upgrading or development of water and wastewater assets are being made, which create a further technical and financial burden on service providers.

To address these challenges, the World Bank and the International Association of Water Service Companies in the Danube River Catchment Area (IAWD) have partnered to launch the Danube Water Program, with a 17 million Euro, four-phased financing from the Government of Austria.



HOW DOES THE PROGRAM OPERATE?

The Danube Water Program supports smart policies, strong utilities and sustainable water and wastewater services in the Danube region by partnering with regional, national and local stakeholders, promoting an informed policy dialogue around the sector's challenges and strengthening the technical and managerial capacity of the sector's utilities and institutions.

The Program currently covers the water supply and sanitation sector in eleven target countries and five participating countries, which can join Program activities, but cannot directly benefit from Program funding.

In each country, the Program is targeted in particular at (i) water supply and wastewater sector policy makers and regulators; (ii) senior technical and managerial staff of water supply and wastewater utilities; and (iii) senior level staff from water supply and wastewater associations.

The Program activities fall under three broad categories: analytical and advisory services; capacity development, and knowledge sharing, in which the focus is on exchanging and sharing experiences and lessons among countries, institutions, and utility companies.



ANALYTICAL AND ADVISORY SERVICES

In 2015 a State of the Sector report was produced and made available as a comprehensive assessment of the situation in the water sector of all countries of the region, which has been updated in 2018. Three additional analytical pieces exploring status and trends in wastewater management, rural water supply and sanitation and agglomeration of utilities have been published.

In addition, regional and national advisory activities support specific policy dialogue and advice to WSS institutions about how to modernize the sector, often in parallel with existing World Bank engagements.



CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

In total, eight capacity building programs supporting several hundred utilities in thirteen countries have been undertaken within the region wide Danube Learning Partnership (D-LeaP) involving cooperation with the national water utility associations in twenty Hubs.



25

ToT events



128

Trainers trained



20

Hubs



13

Countries



8

Programs delivered



487

Utilities trained

KNOWLEDGE SHARING

The Danube Water Program provides a variety of mechanisms for water sector professionals to access and exchange information within and among countries in the region and beyond, including the access to the Voice of the Danube community, the annual conferences (Danube Water Conference and Danube Water Forum), the KnowNow webinar series, and regional events.



COMPETITIVE GRANTS WINDOW

Under phase 1 and 2 of the Program the Competitive Grants were designed to support innovative and creative ideas from organizations throughout the region to address challenges they are facing. Numerous local initiatives worth more than € 1,000,000 have been supported.



118

Applications



25

Projects



11

Countries



€ 1

Million

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