

ICPDR **IKSD**

International Commission
for the Protection
of the Danube River



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**DANUBE
WATER
PROGRAM**



THE LAST MILE: RURAL WATER SERVICES DELIVERY IN THE DANUBE REGION

**RURAL WATER
SERVICES WORKSHOP**
APRIL 17-18, 2024

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II. SESSION OVERVIEW

17 April 2024: Day 1 – Workshop	
13:30	Session 1: Setting the scene – Rural water service delivery in the Danube Region Presentation of status overview, EU framework requirements, and findings and recommendations from advisory and analytical works
14:55	<i>Coffee Break</i>
15:15	Session 2: The enabling environment – approaches to rural water services provision at national level (legal, financial, regulatory) Presentation of rural water services management experiences from individual countries, including policy and regulatory-related challenges
16:10	Session 3: Panel Discussion – The future of rural water services management
17:15	Session 4: Wrap-up and closing
17:55	<i>Close of Day 1</i>

18 April 2024: Day 2 – Site Visit	
	<i>The objective of the field trip is to visit different rural water service delivery schemes in Austria, including both water supply and wastewater management systems</i>
8:30	<i>Departure from World Bank Offices – by bus</i>
10:00	Site Visit 1
13:00	<i>Lunch</i>
15:00	Site Visit 2
20:00	<i>Return to Vienna</i>

III. THE ORGANIZERS

1. World Bank Danube Water Program

The World Bank / IAWD 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 informed policy dialogue around the sector's challenges and strengthening the technical and managerial capacity of the sector's utilities and institutions.

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*. To address this double challenge, the World Bank and the International Association of Water Service Companies in the Danube River Catchment Area (IAWD) have partnered in the frame of the Danube Water Program, with financing from the Government of Austria.

Evolution of the Danube Water Program

The Danube Water Program was formally launched in May 2013 in partnership with line ministries, regulators, waterworks associations, and local government representatives of a dozen countries in South-East Europe. Given the strong demand for the Program's activities, three follow-up phases were approved, in **2015 Phase II** put a focus on scaling up activities, in **2019 Phase III** expanded the scope of the program towards the broader Water Security agenda, and in **2022 Phase IV** set out to foster water security and resilient recovery, and to ensure the sustainability of Program activities.

www.danube-water-program.org

www.iawd.at

2. International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR)

The International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) works to ensure the sustainable and equitable use of waters in the Danube River Basin. The work of the ICPDR is based on the Danube River Protection Convention (DRPC), the major legal instrument for cooperation and transboundary water management in the Danube River Basin.

The ICPDR addresses the entire Danube River Basin, comprising 19 countries, making it the most international river basin in the world. Including more than 300 tributaries and connected groundwater resources too, this makes the ICPDR one of the largest and most active international river basin management commissions in the world.

In 2000, the ICPDR contracting parties nominated the ICPDR as the platform for the implementation of all transboundary aspects of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) and development of the International Danube River Basin Management Plans.

The goals of the ICPDR

Three key elements of the ICPDR's management plans provide the three pillars of action that are needed for the Danube to achieve: i) a Cleaner Danube – this means reducing pollution from settlements, industry and agriculture; ii) a Healthier Danube – this means protecting rivers as ecosystems that provide a living environment for aquatic animals and plants, as well as services for people such as drinking water and recreation; and iii) a Safer Danube – this means a safer environment for people to live without the fear of major flood damage.

www.icpdr.org

IV. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17TH

1. Setting the Scene – Rural water service delivery in the Danube Region

Date: Wednesday, April 17th
Time: 13:30 to 14:55
Location: Online and World Bank Offices, Room 1-31
Chairs: Mr. Stjepan Gabric, World Bank and Mr. Adam Kovacs, ICPDR

Context and objective

Presentation of status overview, existing EU framework and requirements, findings and recommendations from advisory and analytical works on the topic of rural water services delivery.

Session structure

Time		Content	Speaker
13:30	5'	Welcome and introduction to the event	Stjepan Gabric , Senior Water Resource Management Specialist, World Bank, Austria, and Adam Kovacs , Technical Expert on Pollution Control, ICPDR
13:35	15'	Overview of Status and organization of rural water service management in Danube region	Günter Langergraber , Institute for Sanitary Engineering and Water Pollution Control, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU)
13:50	10'	EU water legislation and relevance for rural water services provision and management in rural areas	Mr. Johannes Lohaus , Secretary General, European Water Association
14:00	10'	Data from the Danube: water services provision – the rural/urban difference	Adam Kovacs , Technical Expert on Pollution Control, ICPDR
14:10	10'	An introduction to WHO's updated Guidelines and sanitary inspection tools for small water supplies	Jennifer De France , Team leader, drinking-water quality and safety, World Health Organization
14:20	10'	Approaches and lessons on water service provision in rural areas – in the Danube and beyond	Susanna Smets , Senior Water Supply and Sanitation Specialist, World Bank,
14:30	25'	Q&A	Moderated by Stjepan Gabric and Adam Kovacs

2. The enabling environment: approaches to water service provision at national level (legal, financial, regulatory)

Date: Wednesday, April 17th
Time: 15:15 – 16:10
Location: Online and World Bank Offices, Room 1-31
Chair: Mr. Adam Kovacs

Context and objective

Presentation of rural water services management experiences from individual countries, including policy and regulatory-related challenges.

Session structure

Time		Content	Speaker
15:15	5'	Introduction	Mr. Adam Kovacs , Technical Expert on Pollution Control, ICPDR
15:20	10'	Austrian experience in rural water service provision	Florian Maringer , Managing Director, OÖeWasser
15:30	10'	Slovakia experience in rural water service provision	Marianna Nagy Czölderová , Head of Wastewater Department and Researcher, Water Research Institute
15:40	10'	Croatia experience in rural water service provision	Stjepan Gabric , Senior Water Resource Management Specialist, World Bank
15:50	10'	Czechia experience in rural water service provision	Tomáš Gremlica , Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic
16:00	10'	Experience from Latin America – Chile and Brazil	Malva Baskovich , Senior Water Supply and Sanitation Specialist, World Bank

3. Panel Discussion – The future of rural water services management

Date: Wednesday, April 17th
Time: 16:10 to 17:15
Location: Online and World Bank Offices, Room 1-31
Chair: Mr. Stjepan Gabric

Context and objective

Panelists will be the presenters from the previous two sessions, plus present participants involved in rural water services issues, who will respond to questions from the participants and WB/ICPDR, with focus on access, quality and sustainability of rural services provision.

Session structure

Time		Content	Speaker
16:10	5'	Introduction	Stjepan Gabric , Senior Water Supply and Sanitation Specialist, World Bank
16:15	15'	Opening remarks	Marianna Nagy Czölderová (Slovakia) Tomáš Gremlica (Czechia) Florian Maringer (Austria) Corina Cosmina Boscornea (Romania)
16:30	45'	Panel Discussion	Panelists and Audience, moderated by Stjepan Gabric , Senior Water Supply and Sanitation Specialist, World Bank

4. Wrap-up and Closing

Date: Wednesday, April 17th
Time: 17:15 – 17:55
Location: Online and World Bank Offices, Room 1-31
Chair: Ms. Kathia Havens

Context and objective

This session will allow to summarize the key take home messages, draw conclusions, reflect on the lessons learned and identify potential future actions.

Session structure

Time		Content	Speaker
17:15	5'	Introduction	Ms. Kathia Havens , Program Analyst, World Bank
17:20	15'	Summary and Conclusions	Günter Langergraber , Institute for Sanitary Engineering and Water Pollution Control, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU)
17:35	10'	Introduction to Day 2 – Site Visit	Günter Langergraber , Institute for Sanitary Engineering and Water Pollution Control, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU)
17:45	10'	Closing of workshop	Stjepan Gabric , Senior Water Resource Management Specialist, World Bank, and Adam Kovacs , Technical Expert on Pollution Control, ICPDR
17:55		Close of Day 1	

V. THURSDAY APRIL 18TH

5. Site Visit

Date: Thursday, April 18th
Time: 8:30 to 20:00
Location: Lower Austria

Context and objective

The objective of the field visit will be to visit two different rural water service delivery schemes in Austria, including both water supply and wastewater management schemes.

Time	Content
8:30	Departure by bus from Vienna (location of departure will be disclosed during the day 1)
10:00 – 13:00	Site visit part one Oberndorf/Melk (Niederösterreich), focus on rural wastewater
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
15:00 – 17:00	Site visit part two – Scheibbsbach water supply
18:00	Dinner
20:00	Return to Vienna

VI. WORKSHOP SUPPORTERS

The organization of the 2021 Rural Wastewater Treatment Workshop has been made possible through institutional support from:

 Federal Ministry
Republic of Austria
Finance

VII. LOGISTICAL DETAILS

Registration

Please register yourself to participate in the 2024 Rural Water Services Delivery Workshop using the [Registration link](#). Those who register will receive connection details via email.

Webex

The 2024 Rural Water Services Delivery Workshop will be brought to you by Webex.

GDPR Disclaimer

The event will be fully recorded. We reserve the right to use the recording for publication on our websites (iawd.at, danube-water-program.org, d-leap.org, worldbank.org), and social media channels. By participating in the event, you agree to the disclaimer above.

For further information, please download the data privacy statement of IAWD on our website: www.iawd.at

Contacts

In case of any questions with regard to logistics of your participation, please contact the organizers via email:

- ▶ World Bank: Kathia Havens: khavens@worldbank.org