

## 2016 Danube Water Conference: Addressing the double challenge

Vienna, May 2016

- Date/Time:** May 12-13, 2016 (with pre-meetings on May 11)
- Location:** NH Danube Hotel, Vienna, Austria
- Purpose/focus:** In May last year, the 2015 Danube Water Conference concluded that countries in the region faced a double challenge of achieving the European *acquis communautaire*, while also addressing broader sector shortcomings. This year's conference will discuss how government and non-government actors at national and local level can leverage the EU accession process in ways that also help them address this double challenge.
- Participants:** Representatives from national institutions (Ministries, regulators); national water and municipal associations, local government and utilities from the Danube region; representatives from regional utility (IAWD) and municipality (NALAS) associations; representatives from the European Commission and financing and technical institutions; guests from other countries.

Country representatives (15 countries, approx. 7 per country)	110
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Line Ministry(ies), incl. representatives from IPA/water departments</li> <li>• Regulatory agencies</li> <li>• National utility association and Municipal Association</li> <li>• Key utilities representatives</li> <li>• Key municipal representatives</li> </ul>	
Other countries' invitees	10
Speakers ( <i>*most speakers will be chosen from participants</i> )	10
<b>Total sector stakeholders</b>	<b>130</b>
Financiers (Austrian, German, Swiss)	5
Other inst. actors (European Commission etc.)	5
IAWD/ NALAS	10
GIZ/ORF	5
World Bank	5
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>160</b>

- Sponsorship:** The Conference is supported by the Austrian, German and Swiss Governments

## May 11 Pre-Meetings (by invitation only)

**Overview:** The May 11 pre-meetings will be dedicated to specific audiences and specific topics, as highlighted in the program below. Most of the events are restricted to the targeted audience and not open to general participants. Separate invitations will be issued in parallel with the general Conference invitation for those convened for those sessions.

<b>Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup></b> <i>Venue: NH Danube</i>			
9:00	<b>IAWD General Assembly (including board meeting)</b>	<b>GIZ Non-Revenue Water Project regional conference</b>	
12:30	<i>lunch</i>		
14:00	<b>Waterworks Associations &amp; Regional Training Partnership meeting</b>	<i>Continued:</i> <b>GIZ Non-Revenue Water Project regional conference</b>	<b>Regulatory Agencies' meeting</b>
16:00		<b>DANUBIS Steering Group</b>	
19:00	<b>Mayors' networking session and dinner</b>	<b>Policy Makers networking dinner</b>	

## 2016 Danube Water Conference

**Overview:** The conference will start with a plenary morning with keynote speeches from senior representatives of the European Commission and the World Bank, followed by two panels reflecting on the situation in the region. The afternoon will be devoted to thinking about two important building blocks to address the double challenge: institutions and information. On Friday morning, two specific examples of the double challenge will be discussed: wastewater management, linking to the EU acquis; and Non-Revenue Water Management, an example of broader sector challenges. The last afternoon will be devoted to a feedback from the sessions, general panel and closing.

<b>Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup></b> <i>Venue: NH Danube Hotel</i>	
9:00	<b>Opening session</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome Words (Austrian Ministry of Finances, IAWD, GIZ, World Bank)</li> <li>• Brief introduction to the 2016 Danube Water Conference and the event agenda</li> <li>• Participants ice-breaker (electronic voting and quick introduction)</li> </ul>
9:45	<b>Keynote panel: Leveraging EU accession</b> <i>EU accession process, an opportunity to also address the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening keynote speech by senior EU and World Bank officials</li> <li>• Panel discussion: EU accession – an opportunity to address sector challenges and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals?</li> </ul>
10:45	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11:15	<b>The double challenge in practice: the experience of Bulgaria</b> <i>What has Bulgaria done right and wrong, on its long EU accession road?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation on overview of Bulgarian water sector structure and history</li> <li>• Panel discussion with senior representatives from ministries, regulator, utility companies and local governments</li> <li>• Discussion with the audience</li> </ul>
12:30	<i>Lunch, beginning of country group discussions</i>

14:00	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Addressing the double challenge: creating an enabling environment</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Following the debate on the importance of financing and regulation at the 2015 Danube Water Conference, this year's Conference will discuss whether more informed decisions by stronger institutions can contribute to better sector outcomes.</i></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center; vertical-align: top;"> <p><b>Institutions</b></p> <p><i>Getting utility governance right: Does it really matter?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview presentation on actors and models of utility governance</li> <li>• Concrete examples of innovative governance models</li> <li>• Panel discussion on the role of various actors</li> <li>• Audience discussions and main conclusions</li> </ul> </td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center; vertical-align: top;"> <p><b>Information</b></p> <p><i>From data to results: How can we use information better?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview presentations on the use of data to inform decisions at local and national level</li> <li>• Concrete examples of innovative use of data and information</li> <li>• Panel discussion</li> <li>• Audience discussions and main conclusions</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </table>		<p><b>Institutions</b></p> <p><i>Getting utility governance right: Does it really matter?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview presentation on actors and models of utility governance</li> <li>• Concrete examples of innovative governance models</li> <li>• Panel discussion on the role of various actors</li> <li>• Audience discussions and main conclusions</li> </ul>	<p><b>Information</b></p> <p><i>From data to results: How can we use information better?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview presentations on the use of data to inform decisions at local and national level</li> <li>• Concrete examples of innovative use of data and information</li> <li>• Panel discussion</li> <li>• Audience discussions and main conclusions</li> </ul>
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17:00	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>What are you missing out?</b> <b>Speed Networking and Ideas Fair / cocktail reception</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some of the other IAWD, GIZ and World Bank partners get a chance to present their activities. Cocktail is served.</li> <li>• Session starts with six 5-10' / 10 slides presentations on interesting ideas, followed by more informal discussions around a cocktail.</li> <li>• Topics to be presented: NALAS e-academy, Local Leaders in SEE, Urban Partnership Program, Young Water Professionals, D-LeaP, the Danube Learning Partnership for water services.</li> </ul>			
19:30	<b>Dinner Reception (no pre-dinner cocktail)</b>			

<b>Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup></b> <i>Venue: NH Danube Hotel</i>			
9:00	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Keynote: The double challenge in practice – the example of Dresden</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>The remarkable history of turning around water and wastewater services in Dresden</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation followed by a brief Q&amp;A session</li> </ul>		
9:30	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Addressing the double challenge: one example from each side</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>The parallel sessions will focus on two complex examples of the double challenge, the management of wastewater following the EU acquis; and the improvement in Non-Revenue Water practices, a remaining sector shortcoming in most countries.</i></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Non-Revenue Water</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Not (just) a technical issue?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conceptual presentation on NRW management and experiences</li> <li>• Concrete examples of NRW management approaches at local and national levels</li> <li>• Panel discussion on the role of various actors</li> <li>• Audience discussions and main conclusions</li> </ul> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sustainable wastewater management</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>An elusive quest in the EU context?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview presentation of the wastewater management situation in the region</li> <li>• Examples from selected countries within and beyond the Danube region</li> <li>• Panel discussion on the challenges of sustainable wastewater management</li> <li>• Audience discussions and main conclusions</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </table>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Non-Revenue Water</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Not (just) a technical issue?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conceptual presentation on NRW management and experiences</li> <li>• Concrete examples of NRW management approaches at local and national levels</li> <li>• Panel discussion on the role of various actors</li> <li>• Audience discussions and main conclusions</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sustainable wastewater management</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>An elusive quest in the EU context?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview presentation of the wastewater management situation in the region</li> <li>• Examples from selected countries within and beyond the Danube region</li> <li>• Panel discussion on the challenges of sustainable wastewater management</li> <li>• Audience discussions and main conclusions</li> </ul>
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12:30	<i>Lunch - Continued Country Group discussions</i>		
14:00	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Technical sessions and country groups: what have we learned, and what not?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rapporteurs from each technical session share key outcomes of their session</li> <li>• Brief reporting from country groups work</li> <li>• Audience discussion and voting on Conference take-aways</li> </ul>		
15:15	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Wrap-up and Conclusions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Panel: Key take-away's from senior representatives from the region and beyond</li> <li>• Wrap-up and evaluation</li> <li>• Conclusion and closing</li> </ul>		
16:00	<i>End of Conference</i>		