



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.

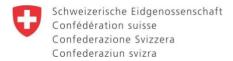
Country representatives (15 countries, approx. 7 per country)	110
• Line Ministry(ies), incl. representatives from IPA/water departments	
Regulatory agencies	
National utility association and Municipal Association	
Key utilities representatives	
Key municipal representatives	
Other countries' invitees	10
Speakers (*most speakers will be chosen from participants)	10
Total sector stakeholders	130
Financiers (Austrian, German, Swiss)	5
Other inst. actors (European Commission etc.)	5
IAWD/ NALAS	10
GIZ/ORF	5
World Bank	5
Grand Total	160

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.

Wednesday, May 11 th Venue: NH Danube				
9:00	IAWD General Assembly (including board meeting)	GIZ Non-Reve Project regional		
12:30	lunch			
14:00	Waterworks Associations & Regional Training	Continu GIZ Non-Reve Project regional	nue Water	Regulatory Agencies' meeting
16:00	Partnership meeting	DA	ANUBIS Steerin	ng Group
19:00	Mayors' networking session and dinner		Policy Make	ers networking dinner

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.

	Thursday, May 12 th Venue: NH Danube Hotel	
9:00	Opening session	
	 Welcome Words (Austrian Ministry of Finances, IAWD, GIZ, World Bank) Brief introduction to the 2016 Danube Water Conference and the event agenda Participants ice-breaker (electronic voting and quick introduction) 	
9:45	Keynote panel: Leveraging EU accession	
	 EU accession process, an opportunity to also address the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals? Opening keynote speech by senior EU and World Bank officials Panel discussion: EU accession – an opportunity to address sector challenges and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals? 	
10:45	Coffee Break	
11:15	The double challenge in practice: the experience of Bulgaria What has Bulgaria done right and wrong, on its long EU accession road? Presentation on overview of Bulgarian water sector structure and history Panel discussion with senior representatives from ministries, regulator, utility companies and local governments Discussion with the audience	
12:30	Lunch, beginning of country group discussions	

14:00	Addressing the double challenge: creating an enabling environment		
	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.		
	Institutions	Information	
	Getting utility governance right: Does it really matter?	From data to results: How can we use information better?	
	 Overview presentation on actors and models of utility governance Concrete examples of innovative governance models Panel discussion on the role of various actors Audience discussions and main conclusions 	 Overview presentations on the use of data to inform decisions at local and national level Concrete examples of innovative use of data and information Panel discussion Audience discussions and main conclusions 	
15:15	Coffee Break		
15:45	Continued: Institutions	Continued: Information	
17:00	 What are you missing out? Speed Networking and Ideas Fair / cocktail reception Some of the other IAWD, GIZ and World Bank partners get a chance to present their activities. Cocktail is served. Session starts with six 5-10' / 10 slides presentations on interesting ideas, followed by more informal discussions around a cocktail. 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. 		
19:30	Dinner Reception (no pre-dinner cocktail)		

Friday, May 13 th Venue: NH Danube Hotel				
9:00	Keynote: The double challenge in practice – the example of Dresden			
	 The remarkable history of turning around water and wastewater services in Dresden Presentation followed by a brief Q&A session 			
9:30	Addressing the double challenge: one example from each side			
	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.			
	Non-Revenue Water	Sustainable wastewater management		
	Not (just) a technical issue?	An elusive quest in the EU context?		
	 Conceptual presentation on NRW management and experiences Concrete examples of NRW management approaches at local and national levels Panel discussion on the role of various actors Audience discussions and main conclusions 	 Overview presentation of the wastewater management situation in the region Examples from selected countries within and beyond the Danube region Panel discussion on the challenges of sustainable wastewater management Audience discussions and main conclusions 		
10:45	Coffee break			
11:15	Continued:	Continued:		
	Non-Revenue Water	Wastewater Management		
12:30	Lunch - Continued Country Group discussions			
14:00	Technical sessions and country groups: what have we learned, and what not?			
	 Rapporteurs from each technical session share key outcomes of their session Brief reporting from country groups work Audience discussion and voting on Conference take-aways 			
15:15	Wrap-up and Conclusions			
	 Panel: Key take-away's from senior representatives from the region and beyond Wrap-up and evaluation Conclusion and closing 			
16:00	End of Conference			