



2017 Danube Water Conference

CHALLENGES OF FINANCING WATER SERVICES FOR DEVELOPMENT



CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Proposed concept: The conference starts with a plenary session with high-level panel, keynote speeches to set the scene for the conference. These will be followed by high energy “ignite” presentations on key topics and examples of innovative ways to finance the water supply and sanitation investment gap in the region. The remaining of the afternoon is devoted to a “deep dive” into financing strategies including the 3Ts (tariffs, taxes and transfers) model. The next morning is dedicated to an interactive session on key concepts in water utility financing and how to structure finance to sustainably achieve service targets. This is followed by parallel discussions on service delivery models and financing challenges in rural water service provision and financing challenges of wastewater infrastructure and its operation. The conference participants regroup for a plenary sessions on business planning followed by a panel discussion bringing different perspectives to the financing challenge. The conference is concluded with a presentation of key “take-aways” from the sessions and countries.

Wednesday, May 17 <i>Venue: Courtyard Marriott</i>	
12:00	<i>Joint Lunch with participants of the IWA – Pi Conference</i>
13:00	<p>Opening session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome Words (TBC: IAWD, Austrian Ministry of Finance, World Bank, GIZ, NALAS) • Brief introduction to the 2017 Danube Water Conference and the event agenda • Participants ice-breaker (electronic voting and quick introduction)
13:45	<p>Keynote presentations</p> <p><i>Challenges in Financing Water Services for Development</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening keynote speech by senior World Bank representative from Global Water Practice. Focus is on the financing challenges associated with meeting the sustainable development goal on water • Second keynote speech by senior EU representative. Focus on investment and on capacity building needs in the Danube Region • Open discussion on presentations

Wednesday, May 17 <i>Venue: Courtyard Marriott</i>	
14:45	Coffee Break
15:15	<p align="center">Strategic Financial Planning for WSS Sector</p> <p align="center"><i>Making a more efficient and effective use of existing financial resources</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding Sources and Financing to the sector – the three 3Ts • Case study from Albania • Panel discussion with representatives of financial institutions
16:15	<p align="center">Innovative Financing Mechanisms</p> <p align="center"><i>Examples of innovative mechanisms and tools to secure capital financing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five ignite presentations¹ on a range of topics exploring innovative financing solutions including the leveraging of domestic and international private and commercial finance • Panel discussion with presenters and other invitees
19:30	Conference Dinner

Thursday, May 18 <i>Venue: Courtyard Marriott</i>		
09:00	<p>Key Concepts in Water Utility Financing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key concepts of financial sustainability • Uses, sources and providers of funds for utilities • Reasonable cost of service and revenue requirements <p>Interactive session/Practical Case Study: How to structure finance to sustain and achieve service targets?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application of key financial concepts • Water utility financial strategy case study • Financial diagnostic and targets • Available sources of funding and financing 	<p>Local governments' role in planning investments and improving performance of WSS services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tools for informed investment decisions in WSS services • Performance based contracting between municipalities and water public utilities for better local services.
11:00	Coffee break	
11:30	<p>Rural water and sanitation services – institutional and financial arrangements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State of the sector in a selection of countries in the Danube region • Country case studies: decentralization reforms, integration of rural services, achieving universal coverage • Panel discussion 	<p>Financing wastewater infrastructure and its operation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial challenges and sustainability of operating new wastewater treatment (WWT) facilities • Perspectives from EU candidate countries • Private sector involvement through BOT contracts

¹ Presenters get 20 slides, which automatically advance every 15 seconds. The result is a fast and fun presentation which lasts just 5 minutes.

Thursday, May 18 <i>Venue: Courtyard Marriott</i>		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Panel discussion
13:00	Lunch	
14:00	Business Planning for Utility Companies <i>Addressing financial challenges through Business Planning</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short presentations on business planning from various perspectives: regulators, utilities, municipalities and customers Practical example from Macedonia Discussion with participants 	
15:30	Coffee break	
16:00	Perspectives on Financing <i>Water services financing, what do utilities, municipalities and regulators say?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation on the roles of different actors for the financing of utilities. Panel discussion with representatives from the government, regulator, municipal government and utilities Discussion on the financing of capacity building Lessons learned 	
17:30	Closing session and Closing Panel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Panel: Key take-away from senior representatives from the region and beyond Wrap-up and evaluation 	
18:30	End of Conference	

Friday, May 19 th Venue: Courtyard Marriott				
Business Meetings (by invitation only)				
08:00	IAWD Board Meeting		Danubis.org Breakfast Meeting	
09:00	IAWD General Assembly	Regulator’s meeting	NALAS General Assembly	Young Water Professionals Workshop
10:00				
11:00	Coffee break			
11:30	Waterworks Association meeting / Danube Learning Partnership Kick-Off		NALAS General Assembly	Young Water Professionals Workshop
12:30	RCDN Kick-Off Meeting			
14:00	End of Business Meetings			