

2023 DANUBE WATER CONFERENCE

**Navigating Changing Waters: New ways to overcome
emerging challenges of the water sector in the Danube
region**

31 May – 2 June

Vienna, Austria

**Back-to-back with the UBP Danube Hub Workshop on 30 May and Business
Meetings on 31 May**



supported by:

 **Federal Ministry
Republic of Austria
Finance**

The Danube Water Program

The Danube Water Program (DWP) implemented by the World Bank and IAWD 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.

Danube Water Conference and Danube Water Forum

Since its start, the Danube Water Program has been working on the establishment of an international network of water sector institutions and experts, becoming a well-known resource for vitally needed capacity building, knowledge sharing, analytical and advisory services. In that context, the bi-annual Danube Water Conference (DWC) and Danube Water Forum (DWF) have become signature events for the Program and the Danube region and rotate on a yearly basis. While the DWC is hosted in Vienna (Austria), the DWF is organised in the region with the support of a strong partner. Both events serve as an international platform convening sector professionals from the Danube region and beyond to discuss the latest challenges and opportunities in the Danube region water sector.

Target Audience

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 regulatory agency platforms; representatives from river basin organizations; representatives from the EU, UNECE, GIZ, SDC, the World Bank and other bilateral donors and IFIs; Young Water Professionals; academia; private companies; NGOs, and others.

Context and objective

The Danube region's water sector is facing several challenges, including consequences of the recent global pandemic, energy and economic crises caused by the war in Ukraine, and the ever-increasing effects of climate change. Water and wastewater utilities are operating in a dynamic environment, where they must maintain high levels of service provision while dealing with rising energy costs and an aging workforce, all while investing in performance improvements.

The Danube Water Conference will focus on both existing and emerging obstacles of the region's water sector. Through sessions exploring best practice examples and interactive discussions aimed at identifying new solutions, the conference will seek to provide valuable

insights and innovative strategies to help ensure that the water sector in the Danube region continues to deliver high-quality service provision amidst a constantly changing environment. The conference's objective is to foster cooperation and knowledge exchange to tackle the emerging challenges faced by the Danube region's water sector.

Event's overview and Agenda

Business Meetings	Wednesday, 31 May			
	08:30 – 10:00	IAWD Board meeting		
	10:00 – 10:30	Coffee Break		
	10:30 – 12:00	IAWD General Assembly	IFI and Donors meeting	
	12:00 – 13:00	Lunch Break		
	13:00 – 15:00	D-LeaP Committee Council meeting	13:00 – 14:30	Regulators meeting
	15:00 – 16:00	Transfer to DWC venue		

2023 DWC	Wednesday, 31 May		
	15:30	Start of Registration	
	16:15 – 17:45	Setting the Scene: The sector’s challenges in a time of multiple crisis Format: Plenary Session	
	18:00	Welcome Reception	

2023 Danube Water Conference

Thursday, 1 June

08:00

DWC Registration

09:00 – 10:30

**Mission (im)possible:
Keeping up sustainable service delivery in an economically
turbulent environment**
Format: Plenary Session

10:30 – 11:15

Coffee Break

11:15 – 12:45

**The wider perspective:
Building a water secure sector in the face of the climate
emergency**
Format: Plenary Session

12:45 – 14:00

Lunch Break

14:00 – 15:30

**Hidden figures:
Attract and retain a diverse and engaged workforce**
Format: Plenary Session

15:30 – 16:15

Coffee Break

16:15 – 17:45

**Think outside the box:
New ways to overcome emerging challenges in the water sector**
Format: Roundtable Session

19:00

Conference Dinner

Friday, 2 June

09:00 – 10:00

Coffee & Poster
Format: Poster Session

10:00 – 11:30

**Communication & cooperation:
Joining forces for a water secure Danube region**
Format: Plenary Session

11:30 – 12:00

**Farewell & Good Bye:
2023 Danube Water Conference Closing**
Format: Plenary Session