

# 2022 DANUBE WATER FORUM

**Energizing the Water Sector in the Danube region**

**28 - 29 June 2022**

**Tirana, Albania**

**Back-to-back with Business Meetings on 28 June  
and the Conference on “The Benchmarking and Asset Management Nexus –  
Key tools for Regulators and Decision Makers” on 30 June 2022**



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## **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 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**

Austerity can come with an unforeseen price tag: increasing energy tariffs hit the water sector everywhere in the Danube region, and they are especially painful if investments have not yet taken place on measures to improve energy efficiency.

Energy, as for other sectors, is also essential for the water sector, driving water service delivery through pumping, treatment of freshwater before consumption, as well as treatment before discharge into the environment. Energy tariffs, generally considered as

affordable over the past decades, provided only limited incentives for water utilities to focus on an increase of energy efficiency and hence the reduction of energy consumption. This situation is about to change since energy costs have recently surged and costs for electricity and gas have multiplied in the beginning of 2022. Inefficient operations of utilities put additional financial constraints on water service providers to ensure the operation, maintenance, and replacement of the aging infrastructure.

However, for a majority of water and wastewater utilities, investments in energy efficiency can generate the highest return on investment. Electricity costs for water production, distribution, and treatment contribute significantly to operating costs, ranging in many countries from around 30% to 80% of non-labor operating costs of water and wastewater utilities. This although opportunities for the reduction of energy consumption are estimated between 20-50%, with a return on investment in 1-5 years. Improving energy efficiency in utilities can therefore lead to significantly lower energy costs and reduced vulnerability to energy tariff increases. Combined with measures like the reduction of water losses, measures to improve the performance of the water services sector can therefore contribute to both adaptation as well as mitigation to the impacts of climate change, as well as increasing the resilience of the sector overall.

The Danube Water Forum will provide an opportunity to shed light on the linkage between energy and water from different angles, recent developments in the energy market and its effects on utilities in the region, innovative technologies, financing, and the creation of an enabling environment for modernization and reform.

## Event's overview and Agenda

<b>Business Meetings</b>	<b>Tuesday, 28 June</b>	
	<b>08:45 – 10:15</b>	<b>IAWD Board meeting</b>
	<b>10:15 – 10:30</b>	<i>Coffee Break</i>
	<b>10:30 – 12:00</b>	<b>IAWD General Assembly</b>
	<b>12:00 – 13:00</b>	<i>Lunch Break</i>
	<b>13:00 – 15:30</b>	<b>D-LeaP Committee Council meeting</b>
		<b>Regulators meeting</b>

<b>2022 Danube Water Forum</b>	<b>Tuesday, 28 June</b>	
	<b>15:00</b>	<i>DWF Registration</i>
	<b>16:30 – 18:00</b>	<b>2022 DWF Opening Session: Water and Energy in Europe</b>
	<b>18:00 – 20:00</b>	<b>2022 DWF Welcome Reception and Cocktail</b>
	<b>Wednesday, 29 June</b>	
	<b>08:00</b>	<i>DWF Registration</i>
	<b>09:00 – 10:30</b>	<b>Setting the Scene: The Energy Market and Effects on Utilities in the Danube region</b>
	<b>10:30 – 11:00</b>	<i>Coffee Break</i>
	<b>11:00 – 12:30</b>	<b>Innovative technologies for saving and producing energy in the water service sector</b>
	<b>12:30 – 13:30</b>	<i>Lunch Break</i>
	<b>13:30 – 15:00</b>	<b>Financing energy related measures in the water service sector</b>
	<b>15:00 – 15:30</b>	<i>Coffee Break</i>
	<b>15:30 – 17:00</b>	<b>Creating an enabling environment to energize the water sector: capacity building, policy, and regulation</b>
	<b>17:00 – 17:30</b>	<b>2022 Danube Water Forum: Closing Session</b>
	<b>19:00</b>	<b>Joint Conference Dinner</b>