

DECEMBER 2019

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## New Member joins IAWD

In continuation of IAWD's intention to enlarge our network by a number of new members, IAWD is very pleased to announce that the following joined IAWD:

### Ordinary member

**Vodovod A.D. Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina**



## D-LeaP Committee Council Meeting

The Danube Learning Partnership (D-LeaP), which is established as a committee of IAWD, convened this year's second D-LeaP Committee Council meeting in parallel with the IAWD Roundtable of Danube region national water utility associations in November in Vienna.

In the frame of the meeting the D-LeaP Annual Reports 2018 and

2019 as well as the D-LeaP Work Plan 2020 was presented to and acknowledged by the Committee Council members. In addition, the future D-LeaP developments for 2020 were discussed with a specific emphasis on creating additional financial resources for launching of Hubs and program delivery.



## IAWD organized at pre-conference workshop at Eastern European YWP Conference

IAWD participated in this year's Eastern European YWP Conference held in Prague in October by organizing the pre-conference workshop "Introduction to utility benchmarking".

The workshop introduced utility benchmarking as an important tool for performance improvement of a utility. It focused on water utility

benchmarking types and initiatives relevant for Eastern Europe, including practical work on utility benchmarking analysis based on key performance indicators publicly available at [DANUBIS.org](http://DANUBIS.org) and IBNet websites, which are both supported by the Danube Water Program and the World Bank.

## Ukrainian study trip to Bavaria organised by Ukrainian UBP Hub



The Ukrainian UBP Hub, which is operated by the Danube Water Centre, traditionally organizes a study trip to Bavaria in the course of the Benchmarking project delivered by the hub.

On 7-13 September 2019, representatives from 15 Ukrainian water enterprises were able to join the study trip on “Wastewater Management and Potable Water Supply”, which is supported by the Project “Technologietransfer Wasser” (TTW) of the Ministry of the Environment and Consumer Protection of Bavaria.

On September 10, an official “Day of Ukraine in Bavaria” was organized at the Ministry of the Environment and Consumer Protection of Bavaria

in Munich. The participants were introduced to the internal structure of the Ministry, the main aspects of water management in Bavaria, requirements for municipal wastewater discharge, the implementation of EU 91/271/EEC, as well as the demands of a sustainable water supply including the legal basics and standards.

In addition, representatives of five Ukrainian water supply and sewerage utilities made presentations about the experience of implementing investment projects and planned prospective projects in their respective enterprises.

Furthermore, participants visited a variety of drinking water and wastewater facilities in Bavaria and exchanged knowledge on novel methodologies in the sector.

All participants received an official certificate from the Ministry of the Environment and Consumer Rights Protection for their participation in the Seminar on “Wastewater Management and Potable Water Supply”.

Further information: <https://www.d-leap.org/d-leap/news/113/1/details/ukrainian-study-trip-to-bavaria/>

## 20<sup>th</sup> IWA – International Symposium on Health-Related Water Microbiology, 15 – 20 September 2019, Vienna, Austria

The 20<sup>th</sup> symposium of the IWA Specialist Group Health-Related Water Microbiology, organized by ICC Water & Health and the Austrian Society for Hygiene, Microbiology and Preventive Medicine in Vienna (Campus University of Vienna), was a great success.

More than 400 colleagues from 45 countries actively participated in the high-quality scientific program, which consisted of 73 lectures, 260 posters, five workshops, two of them in cooperation with the WHO and three field trips. The high number of young participants was particularly pleasing, namely 130 Young Water Professionals (YWP) aged up to 35. Highlights included an excellent opening lecture by Prof. Erika Jensen-Jarolim (ONE HEALTH: understanding allergy or immune tolerance in humans and animals) and a prominently cast panel discussion on the UN Sustainable Development Goal 6 (Water and Sanitation), organized by the YWPs Austria.

A welcome reception at the University Brewery, an enjoyable evening at a Heurigen in Neustift, a YWP Pub-Quiz evening and a festive dinner at the Vienna City Hall rounded off the successful event. The event was supported by the City of Vienna (Vienna Water) who were happy about the numerous positive feedback on the symposium. The program and the reports can be viewed on the congress website: [www.hrwm.eu](http://www.hrwm.eu)



## IAWD Participation at the International River Symposium

In the week of October 19-23, the International River Symposium was held in Brisbane, Australia with active participation of IAWD-President, Walter Kling and Philip Weller, Head of the IAWD-Technical Secretariat. The Conference was convened with a focus on “Resilient Rivers” and involved presentations from a number of important water professionals from throughout the world and workshops on issues connected with ensuring that rivers remain healthy and resilient and able to support important services including water supply.

Walter Kling participated in a high-level panel on the conflicting uses and responsibilities for water management and provided insights from the perspective of a utility and city administration on the issues of importance to these sectors. The panel discussion highlighted the need for cooperation and dialogue between diverse river basin and water users.

The River Symposium highlight is the awarding of the International Thiess Riverprize at a Gala evening attended by numerous local and international dignitaries. The James River in USA was the winner of the 20 Anniversary Riverprize for the efforts to completely restore and rehabilitate a major river in central USA. The Danube River and the institution responsible for governmental coordination, the ICPDR, won the prize in 2007 and ICPDR Executive Secretary, Ivan Zavadsky, attended the Symposium and presented the success of the Danube in a workshop session. Discussions were held during the Symposium about the potential for holding the 2022 International River Symposium in Vienna. A decision from the Board of IRF will be made later this year or early 2020.

## IAWD present at Joint Balkans Conference, Priština, Kosovo

On 6 – 8 November 2019, SHUKALB in partnership with SHUKOS organized the 7<sup>th</sup> Balkans Joint Conference and Exhibition, titled “Water for All”, in Priština, Kosovo. This year’s event marked its highest participation in the history of the conference, with a record of over 550 participants coming from 16 different countries throughout the Balkans, Europe and beyond.

Prior to the start of the opening ceremony, on 6 November, several pre-conference events were organized to include the Young Water Professionals Forum from Kosovo and Albania “Young Water Professionals Education Towards Career Development”, the special Meeting on “Test-Based Certification Program”, and the Regional Benchmarking Workshop of the Utility Benchmarking Program for Kosovo and Albania HUB.

IAWD and the Danube Water Program were represented at the Conference by Philip Weller, IAWD, and Patricia Lopez of the World Bank. Both Patricia and Philip provided keynote presentations on central aspects of the Danube Water Program – the State of the Sector and Achieving Water Security respectively. Additionally, Alexander Krstic, the Coordinator of the Danube Hub

delivering the Utility Benchmarking Program, was present and together with Philip Weller participated in a dedicated session on Benchmarking and improving Utility Performance.

The conference again reached its goal to stimulate the dialogue between different stakeholders and offer opportunities for water professionals, policy makers, and business professionals from the sector to discuss issues of concern, exchange information, and share their experiences in an effort to help the further development of the water supply and wastewater sector in the greater Balkan Region.



f.l.t.r.: Abdullah Derguti, Philip Weller, Muhamet Suliqi



## IAWD participating in Club IWA, Vienna, Austria

This year's Club IWA "SDG 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation" of the Austrian IWA National Committee was entirely dedicated to the UN Sustainability Goals. Like every year, the Club began with a tasty get-together that left ample space for a well-established activity: networking.

The importance of the SDGs for Austria was highlighted in three papers by Günter Langergraber (University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna), Ernst Überreiter (Federal Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism) and Katerina Schilling (IAWD). This was followed by a presentation of the YWP Katalin Demeter

and Christian Loderer, who gave a summary of a panel discussion on SDG 6 held on the occasion of the IWA-Health-Related Water Microbiology Conference this autumn in Vienna.



## Final seminar of the Ukrainian UBP Hub successfully delivered

The International Seminar of the V Cycle of Utility Benchmarking Program in Ukraine, which is the final event of the Ukrainian UBP Hub, was held on 4-6 December 2019.

In the course of the seminar, the 15 utilities participating in the Benchmarking project received their final reports and certificates of participation. The event included the discussion of the results of the Benchmarking projects, a presentation of NEFCO activities in the Ukrainian water sector and case studies representing best practices in

Ukrainian utilities. The second day of the event was dedicated to the experience exchange with international experts.



## SAVE THE DATE

### Danube Water Forum

27 – 29 April 2020 in Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina

### 13<sup>th</sup> IWA Specialised Conference of Large Wastewater Treatment Plants

10 - 15 May 2020 in Vienna, Austria

### 4<sup>th</sup> Regional IWA Diffuse Pollution Conference

14 – 17 September 2020 in Vienna, Austria



*Merry Christmas from the IAWD-Team. Sincere thanks for your commitment we wish you and your family heartwarming relaxing fantastic Christmas holidays.*

