

JULY 2017

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IAWD welcomes new Members

It is the intention of IAWD to enlarge our network by a number of new members. A special focus on Waterworks Associations within the D-LeaP Program of IAWD raised this membership segment significantly.

In the first half year of 2017 nine Waterworks associations joined as extraordinary members and four Water Utilities joined IAWD as ordinary members.

Water Utilities

A.D. Vodovod i Kanalizacija Bijeljina

Bijeljina/Bosnia and Herzegovina

Waterworks of Szeged

Szeged/Hungary

Regionalni Vodovod Crnogorsko Primorje

Budva/Montenegro

Sofiyska voda JSC

Sofia/Bulgaria

Waterworks Associations

Water Supply and Sewerage Association of Albania (SHUKALB)

Albania

Austrian Gas and Water Association (OVGW)

Austria

Aquasan Network

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Bulgarian Water Association (BWA)

Bulgaria

Water and Wastewater Works Association of Kosovo (SHUKOS)

Kosovo

Association of public service providers (ADKOM)

Macedonia

Waterworks Association of Montenegro (UVCVG)

Montenegro

Romanian Water Association (ARA)

Romania

Association for Water Technology and Sanitary Engineering (UTVSI)

Serbia

Supporting Member

Siemens AG

Austria



f.l.t.r.: Silviu Latescu (ARA-R), Jane Vrteski (ADKOM), Elisabeta Poci (SHUKALB), Manfred Eisenhut (OVGW), Abdullah Derguti (SHUKOS), Vesna Muslic (Aquasan Network), Ivan Ivanov (BWA) Milos Raznatovic (UVCVG), Mirjana Bekic (WASS), Goran Jevric (Regionalni Vodovod Crnogorsko Primorje, Budva), Darko Mitric, A.D. Vodovod i Kanalizacija Bijeljina)

First Committee Council Meeting, 19 May 2017 in Vienna

The Danube Learning Partnership (D-LeaP) is a regional, integrated and sustainable capacity building initiative of national water utility associations and IAWD to provide a comprehensive curriculum to the staff of water supply and sanitation utilities located in the Danube region. D-LeaP is legally formed as a committee of IAWD with governance from national water utility associations.

The first official meeting of the newly established D-LeaP Committee Council was held in the frame of the Danube Water Conference on 19 May 2017. The twelve national water utility associations being present received an update on the status of the D-LeaP Programs.



To formally establish the D-LeaP Committee Council, the selection of a Chairperson and a Deputy Chairperson had to take place. Sandi Zulic of AQUASAN Network in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Elisabeta Poci of SHUKALB in Albania were successfully selected as Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson, respectively.

For further information on D-LeaP and the national Hubs delivering the capacity building Programs offered, please visit the D-LeaP website www.d-leap.org.



Sandi Zulic, Chairperson of D-LeaP Committee Council

"It is a privilege and honor to be elected as a chairperson of the D-LeaP Committee Council. I will do my best to use the opportunity and integrate other programs into D-LeaP umbrella, but also incorporate D-LeaP training programs into regional initiatives.

I strongly believe that D-LeaP will contribute to institutional strengthening and capacity building of local governance units and public utility companies in the Danube River Basin."

Elisabeta Poci, Deputy Chairperson of D-LeaP Committee Council

"I see D-LeaP as a unique initiative that provides relatively small Associations, with limited capacities, in the Danube River Catchment Area, the opportunity to have a connection with a Regional Association (IAWD) that has the potential to provide an "umbrella" of capacity development programs that could not be cost-effectively developed and delivered solely at the national level. In addition, D-LeaP is structured such that it is directed by the beneficiaries (National Associations) and therefore it ensures "ownership" by the beneficiaries, which is essential for program sustainability."



2017 IAWD - Danube Water Conference

The fifth edition of the Danube Water Conference took place on 17-18 May 2017 and was organized back to back with the IWA Specialist Group Conference on Benchmarking and Performance Assessment (www.iwa-pi2017.org).

The Danube Water Conference convened more than 200 water professionals from 24 countries in the region and beyond. The conference titled “Addressing the Challenges of Financing Water Services for Development” was focusing on an overview of how to finance and address the challenges and service gaps regarding the implementation of the EU Water Agenda as well as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that were identified in previous conferences.

Two high-level keynote speakers set the scene for the two-days conference, Mr. Guang Zhe Chen (Senior Director for Water in the World Bank) reported on new pathways in the financing of water services, e.g. commercial and private financing, to achieve the ambitious SDGs (e.g. the financial gap in the Danube region amounts to 2.6 Billion Euros). Mr. Peter Gammeltoft (President of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River – ICPDR) talked about

the needs to invest in capacity building in the region to make better use of the existing EU funding instruments.

The following sessions dealt with Strategic Investment Planning, Innovative Financing Mechanisms, Financing Wastewater Treatment Infrastructure and Operation, Provision of Water and Sanitation Services in Rural Areas, Business Planning for Water Utilities to guarantee sustainable operation and Perspectives of Financing dealing with diverse financing mechanisms from the perspective of various stakeholders.

Further highlights include a Training on “Key Concepts in Water Utility Financing” organized by the World Bank, and a workshop on the “Role of Local Governments in planning investments and improving performance of WSS services” organized by NALAS, the Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe.

For further information on the conference including the presentations, pictures and the conference report, please visit www.danube-water-program.org.



BiH now part of the DANUBIS DCM

The Association of Municipalities and Cities of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Water Utility Association of Republic of Srpska, the Association of the Employers of Utility Companies in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and IAWD have signed the DANUBIS DCM (Data Collection and Management) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the frame of the 2017 DWC.

The DANUBIS DCM platform is a web-based interface allowing “managing institutions” in each country to collect, validate, analyze, manage and share utility performance data and indicators within their country. It is fully customizable including the list of variables and indicators, language, frequency of data collection, data sharing mechanisms etc (www.danubis-dcm.org).

With Bosnia and Herzegovina signing the MoU, five countries in total are already participating in the DANUBIS DCM with one more considering to join.



f.l.t.r.: Gordana Glogovac; Walter Kling; Edin Kekic; Patricia Lopez; Vesna Hajdarovic Travljanin



Vienna

Following the signed MoU between IWA and IAWD this conference in Vienna was the first to showcase the new formally approved partnership. The conference brought the international expertise from the IWA-SG on Benchmarking and Performance Assessment to link-up with delegates from the Danube region. In particular the joint session on Danube related topics was a big success and well received from the audience.

Up to 110 delegates as participants were welcomed to this conference with 36 oral presentations. The content focused on various topics such as:

- Definition and establishment of performance assessment systems
- Performance assessment and benchmarking in Low and Medium Income Countries
- Water loss assessment and benchmarking
- Performance assessment and benchmarking for wastewater treatment plants and sewerage
- Benchmarking and performance assessment as tools for financial institutions
- National Benchmarking and Performance Assessment Projects
- BPA as a support for Infrastructure Asset Management



Diane D'Arras, IWA President at the opening

IWA President Mrs. Diane D'Arras visited the IWA event and was also a participant to the opening of the Danube Water conference 2017. In addition to the Pi-Conference Young Water Professionals from the region visited the conference and organized a separate YWP-workshop to grow this network of young professionals in the region.

The role of IAWD as a regional platform which brings different international knowledge to the region was very well noticed from all participants. Both organisations, IWA and IAWD are prepared to continue the cooperation in the Danube region together with other know-how partners and institutions.

Regional Capacity Development Network (RCDN) for Water and Sanitation Services

Kick-off meeting, 19 May 2017 in Vienna



ASSOCIATION
"AQUASAN"
Network in B&H



International Association
of Water Supply Companies
in the Danube River
Catchment Area



Municipalities and water utilities often request from their national associations support through the provision of capacity development measures, i.e. formal skills training. Some of the associations of the water utilities and the municipalities in the different countries do offer skills training courses. However, quality and range of offers vary significantly and are strongly linked to the capacities of the associations themselves. Capacity development (CD) measures are mostly add-ons to externally financed infrastructure projects. Thus, they are in general limited to the supported water utilities or municipalities and over a limited period of time.

In order to address this problem, a four-year project was designed to establish a self-sustaining RCDN for water and sanitation services. The project is jointly

financed by the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) and the German Federal Ministry of Economic cooperation (BMZ).

The project will enable 16 associations of municipalities and water utilities, as well as the regional organisations NALAS and IAWD, to facilitate and coordinate CD initiatives in the region and to support delivery of CD measures.

The kick-off meeting of the Regional Capacity Development Network (RCDN) for Water and Sanitation Services took place in the frame of the 2017 Danube Water Conference on 19 May 2017.

The Project Implementation Team (PIT) consisting of Aquasan Network (BiH), IAWD and NALAS presented the shared vision for RCDN, the objectives as well as the next actions.

Further development of the cooperation with GIZ



giz Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

IAWD was invited by GIZ to cooperate in a project evaluating market options for four selected potential products: 1) NRW Advisory Services, 2) Asset Management (AM) Advisory Services, 3) Decision support system for investment planning in Water Supply System - WSS (DSSIP), and 4) Danube Water Conference (DWC). Market research studies were conducted in two phases: 1) quantitative and 2) qualitative, aiming at gathering comprehensive data for development of economically sustainable and demand-oriented products for the improvement of municipal services in the SEE water sectors.

IAWD as the product owner of the Danube Water Conference (DWC) is responsible for this component of the project. The other product owners are Aquasan (NRW), UTSVI (AM) and NALAS (DSSIP).

Milestones of this project are five workshops in which survey techniques, SWOT Analysis, business planning and bilateral training were prepared. A draft business plan for the DWC is scheduled for the end of September 2017 for the DWC and the other products. The project end is scheduled for the end of October 2017.

Joint exhibition booth IAWD - OVGW

Again IAWD and OVGW joined forces this year to maintain a presentation booth at the bi-annual event „Wasser Berlin“ 2017. The event was used to conduct a meeting with the leaders of IAWR, RIWA and AWBR. The challenging development of these river catchment associations for waterworks were discussed and possible future activities evaluated. There is general re-cognition of all associations on the successful development of the Danube Water Program in our region. The Danube is seen as the most active one compared to the other river Associations.

At the Wasser Berlin the associations jointly presented the Position of the **coalition partners of the European River Memorandum** which was communicated to the European Commission.

This position paper is available on our webpage www.iawd.at.



INVITATION for all IAWD Members to the 25. General Assembly of IAWD on 15 September 2017, 09.00 - 13.00 h in Vienna

Venue: Alte Schiebekammer of Vienna Water
1150 Vienna, Meiselstraße 20/Eduard-Straße 20

The IAWD - General Assembly is divided into two parts: Association Business Topics and the Members Forum. Part I with overall association business and Part II will offer the opportunity to learn about programs maintained by IAWD and to join the discussion on developing these activities further. Leading representatives of the project activities are available to discuss with interested IAWD Members.

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