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New English name of IAWD and a new Board Member

At the General Assembly in May the IAWD Members approved the decision of the IAWD Board to change the English name of IAWD to **International Association of Water Service Companies in the Danube River Catchment Area** to reflect the expanding scope of the association from water supply to wastewater. The german name of IAWD remains the same.

At this General Assembly, Lyubomir Filipov from Sofiyska Voda, was elected as a new Board member for the period up to the end 2021. The IAWD Board members warmly welcomed Lyubomir Filipov and is looking forward to working together with him on the development of the IAWD strategy and governance structure for the years to come.



Lyubomir Filipov

„Danube region was and continues to be a key part of Europe, carrying out innovation and forward thinking. I firmly believe that IAWD activities support a lot that process. I am very pleased that my company and myself are part of this organization and hope to contribute with my work for IAWD's further development and expansion.“

New Members join 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

VHOS a.s., Czech Republic

Supporting members

s:can Messtechnik GmbH, Austria
Barthauer Software GmbH, Germany
Frisoli S.R.L, Italy

Update on the Danube Water Program Team

We welcome Raimund Mair as new Program Leader of the Danube Water Program.



Raimund Mair

Patricia Lopez will move to Washington D.C., but remains part of the DWP team. Finally, DWP Program Analyst Elvira Broeks will leave the team in August to take a position in the World Bank Headquarter in Washington D.C. We wish her all the best for her new position.

Delegation of the Public Water Utility JP Vodovod - Kanalizacija Ljubljana visits IAWD and Vienna Water

In the course of the two-day Joint Final Project Conference of the two projects “Proline-CE” and “Camaro-D” IAWD invited a delegation of the PWU JP Vodovod – Kanalizacija Ljubljana to visit various facilities of Vienna Water. Both IAWD (through Vienna Water) and PWU Ljubljana are partners of the above mentioned projects. The President of IAWD, Walter Kling, led the delegation and informed on technical issues of Vienna Water and the developments and initiatives of IAWD.



D-LeaP Committee Council Meeting

On the last day of the Danube Water Conference, May 22, the members of the D-LeaP Committee Council (Water Utility Association Members of IAWD) met to discuss the progress in implementation of D-LeaP Capacity Building programs and future activities under the D-LeaP umbrella. The meeting, chaired by Committee Chairperson, Sandi Zulic heard a report on the progress achieved to date which has included 12 Hubs being established and over 100 Utilities participating in the programs and over 80,000 Euros in fees being collected from participants. The discussion also took place on potential new programs including a planned Utility Management Training Program. Additionally the World Bank hopes to assist D-LeaP by providing a refinement of the Access to Financing Program that had previously been offered as a Pilot.



The Committee Council decided to postpone the formal adoption of a Work Plan and Financial plan till fall of 2019 when complete reports on the financial aspects of D-LeaP delivery and future actions become clearer. Participants expressed overall positive views about D-LeaP delivery but noted that additional support and investment is needed to secure an even stronger commitment to continual strengthening of uptake of D-LeaP programs.

Danube Water Program PHASE 3

The formal adoption and funding commitment from the Ministry of Finance of Austria for the Phase 3 of the Danube Water Program was achieved at the end of 2018 and a Grant Agreement for 1.4 million Euro of support for activities managed by IAWD was achieved early in the new year. The funding under the DWP is targeted at ensuring financial sustainability of key activities managed by IAWD – including the Danube Water Conference,

D-LeaP curriculum and activities, including Utility Benchmarking and continued strengthening of Water Utility Associations and the Danubis.org information portal. The funding allows IAWD to maintain the existing staffing for activities and continue efforts to solidify the financial viability of these key activities over the next 3 years.

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Second Danube Hub workshop took place in Subotica

The 2nd Danube Hub benchmarking workshop took place on 27 February to 1 March 2019 in Subotica, Serbia, back to back with the conference „Joining forces toward better services“.

The event was organized by IAWD in cooperation with the City of Subotica and PUC Waterworks and Sewerage Subotica, a member utility of IAWD. The gathering was attended by approx. 90 participants from the leading water and sewerage companies from Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Hungary, Romania, Slovenia and Serbia, the benchmarking Hubs coordinators for Bulgaria, Ukraine and the Danube region, national water utility associations as well as representatives of IAWD, the Association of Local Self-Governments of South East Europe (NALAS), the Association of Public Water Companies of Europe (Aqua Publica Europea - APE), the Belgrade Faculty of Civil Engineering, Imperial College London and TCC-Danubius. In addition, the event was supported by a number of private companies such as Barthauer Software GmbH from Braunschweig, Germany, JIE-Engineering doo from Belgrade, EnPlus d.o.o. from Belgrade, Petrol d.d. from Ljubljana, Qubiqo d.o.o. from Sofia from Bulgaria and regional RENEXPO fair and conferences.

One highlight of the event was the signing of a Partnership Agreement by four utilities and their municipalities, i.e. Subotica, Bijeljina, Novi Sad and Szeged, all of them participating in the Danube Hub operated under the D-LeaP Utility Benchmarking Program and three of them being IAWD members (Subotica, Bijeljina and Szeged).

Within the Agreement the signing parties commit to partner in the field of communal water management to exchange knowledge and experiences about good practices to

- raise awareness of current and future users
- strengthen capacities of local authorities and water and sewage companies
- improve operational performance
- achieve an integrated management of infrastructure and assets and
- improve cooperation with service users and other stakeholders

The Agreement has been signed in the presence of representatives of IAWD and NALAS.

IAWD and NALAS as regional networks and strategic partners encourage and commend this initiative and positive example of cooperation between the local governments and public utilities in the water and sanitation sector.



f.l.t.r.: Sugár György, Ivana Stanišić, Timea Horvat, Zoltán Istókovichs

IWA Strategic Council meets in Vienna



IAWD President (as well as IWA Austria President) Walter Kling invited the IWA Strategic Council to hold this year's first meeting in the World Bank office in Vienna beginning of March.

The first day was dedicated to the internal IWA agenda, IAWD together with the World Bank used the opportunity on the second day to organize a common meeting to introduce the activities carried out under the Danube Water Program (DWP).

Patricia Lopez, DWP Team Task Leader of the World Bank, as well as Simon Ellis, Program Leader for Sustainable Development in the World Bank, highlighted the state of the water sector in the Danube region („State of the Sector Report, sos.danubis.org), the work of the World Bank in the DWP as well as other programs carried out on the Western Balkan.

Walter Kling and Katerina Schilling presented the work of IAWD, above all under the Danube Learning Partnership, as well as under the MoU with IWA focusing on the YWP chapters in the region.

In the afternoon, David Michaud, Practice Manager of the World Bank's Global Water Practice joined the meeting virtually and introduced the global activities of the World Bank in the water sector.

Finally, the IWA initiative on Basin Connected Cities as well as the new theme within the DWP around water security were introduced and potential synergies were explored.

Walter Kling, IAWD President with Daniel Nolasco



IAWD signs MoU with Global Water Partnership CEE



On 15 February 2019, Global Water Partnership Central and Eastern Europe (GWP CEE) and IAWD signed a Memorandum of Understanding. The Memorandum of Understanding is an excellent opportunity to complement the expertise and partnerships that the two organizations have built in their networks.

Both organizations have extensive networks of partners/members, with which they work, and which could benefit from mutual experience and knowledge sharing. The missions of GWP CEE and IAWD are complementary, with GWP CEE focusing on advocacy for integrated water resources management and IAWD on sustainable development of water supply and sanitation services.

GWP CEE and IAWD agreed to strengthen a cooperation in knowledge sharing and capacity building activities. Both organizations have a strong commitment to youth and will continue working further towards more active involvement of young water professionals in water governance. Another area of mutual interest is the support of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) processes in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe that will engage both networks of partners/members.

With IAWD's extensive technology and engineering expertise, and GWP CEE's water governance and stakeholder engagement knowledge, both organizations plan to join forces in identifying possibilities for joint project proposals to ensure a better water resource management in the region.

IAWD cooperates with DEX Summerschool

Together with DEX (Deutscher Expertenrat, www.expertenrat.org), which is a cooperation between well-known university professors as well as industry working in the water sector, IAWD was able to support three registrations in the upcoming 2019 DEX Summerschool to be held on June 30 – July 5, 2019 in Rottenbach/Austria at the premises of the DEX member VTA, a globally successful Austrian company that sets new standards in wastewater and environmental technologies (<http://www.vta.cc/en/Home>). The 2019 program follows the strategy of maintaining basic lectures enriched with new topic of interest. All teachers are internationally well recognised academics from Austria and Germany with long term scientific and practical experience in the field of their lectures and beyond. This year's course will cover experiences and practical aspects for the design and operation of sewer systems and wastewater treatment plants, laboratory work on

determining sludge parameters and microscopy, sludge treatment and disposal, anaerobic treatment and membrane technology as well as dynamic simulation and energy management of waste water treatment plants.

www.expertenrat.org/summerschool



f.l.t.r.: Viktoria Iskova, Ukraine; David Czako, Hungary; Enola Bejko, Albania