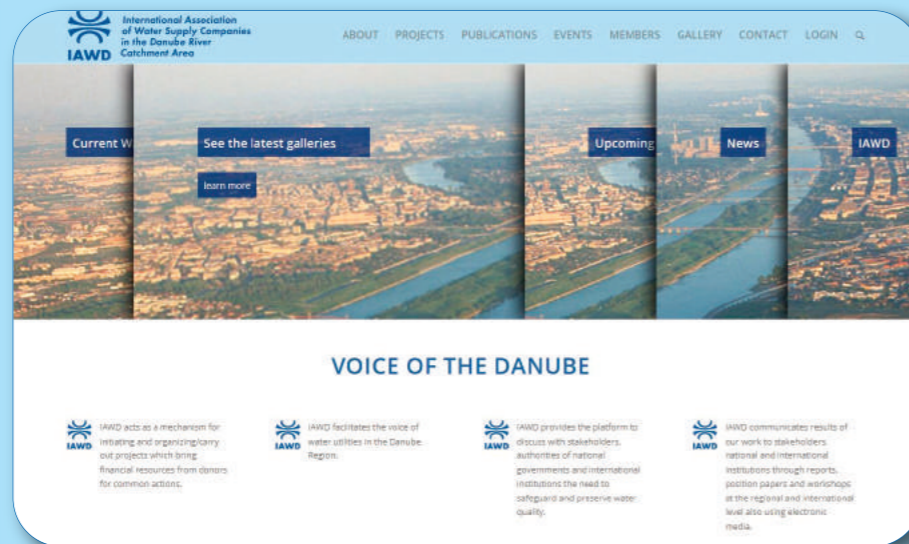


Relaunch of the webpage of IAWD

With the Worldbank aim to strengthen the activities of IAWD in the Danube region and the financial support of the GIZ Grant „Regional Dialogue Platform“ the team of IAWD succeeded to establish the relaunch of the IAWD webpage.

This information platform will grow its contents with the input of IAWD members, partner organisations and interested individuals in the near future.

Check the available information on www.iawd.at and give us your feedback or your request for further information.



NEWSLETTER



January - June 2016

www.iawd.at

Meetings 2017 - Save the date

25. General Assembly	19 May 2017	Vienna
Danube Water Conference	17 – 19 May 2017	Vienna
IWA – Performance Indicators Conference	15 – 17 May 2017	Vienna

Dear Colleagues,
on behalf of the IAWD team, I would like to wish you a quiet and recreative summer 2016!

Dipl.-Ing. Walter Kling
Secretary General of IAWD

IAWD - Office

Address: IAWD, c/o Vienna Water, Grabnergasse 4 - 6, A-1060 Vienna
President: Dipl.-Ing. Vladimir Tausanovic • Secretary General: Dipl.-Ing. Walter Kling
Office: Katherine Wagner • Phone: +43 1 599 59-31002 (Kling), -31070 (Wagner)
Fax: +43 1 599 59 7311 • E-mail: Kling: kling@iawd.at, Wagner: office@iawd.at • Internet: www.iawd.at

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New Members joined IAWD

At the General Assembly in May IAWD welcomed three new members to the organisation: Compania Apa Brasov SA and Apaserv Satu Mare in Romania and Vodovod Subotica in Serbia. Each of these utilities are active members of their national associations and have been active in improvements to their operation as well as engaged in international activities. In joining IAWD General Manager Danutiu Stegorean of Apaserv pledged "to contribute resources and expertise to the successful development of regional collaboration with other water companies in the Danube area". Subotica has demonstrated its commitment to cooperation by agreeing to participate in a Water Operator Partnership together with long-time IAWD member Budapest Waterworks. Darius Bör from Apaserv Satu Mare said "IAWD serves as the dynamic knowledge hub for water utilities to establish their own foothold".



Darius Bör - Apaserv Satu Mare/Romania, Teodor Popa - Director of Finance Compania Apa Brasov SA/Romania, Valeria Toth Godo - CEO Waterworks Subotica, Walter Kling, IAWD - Secretary General and Vladimir Tausanovic, IAWD - President

In addition to new utility members IAWD is also very pleased to have a new extraordinary membership from the Austrian Water Association (ÖVGW). Also the General Secretary of the Hungarian Water Association MaViz attended the General Assembly of IAWD in May and expressed that the "delegation was very satisfied and we are very committed to be involved in the work of IAWD as an upcoming extraordinary member."

Launch of UN-Habitat and IAWD Cooperation



Csaba Haranghy, CEO Waterworks Budapest; Walter Kling, IAWD - Secretary General; Jose Luis Martin Bordes, GWOPA - Programme Officer; Vladimir Tausanovic, IAWD - President

In March 2016 a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between IAWD and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) through the Global Water Operator's Partnerships Alliance (GWOPA) to establish Water Operators' Partnerships (WOPs) in the Danube region. The aim is to develop new opportunities for IAWD and its members, improve the service quality in the region with the support of UN.

The first WOP was launched in April 2016 between Budapest Waterworks and the Waterworks of Subotica in Serbia - a new IAWD member. A WOP last for 14 months and can subsequently be extended.

Budapest Waterworks, the mentor in this program has already gathered much expertise in peer-to-peer support during the (profit-oriented) globalisation initiative launched by the Hungarian government. The non-profit-oriented WOP is now drawing benefit from this expertise. Csaba Haranghy, Head of Budapest Waterworks and Vice-President of IAWD, explains the interests of his enterprise in the WOP. „A particularly positive aspect is that we are able to maintain a high level motivation among our staff. After many decades, work tends to become a routine, and it is always good to have some change! At the same time, we get an insight into other international aspects of our so fallen water world. Last but not least, the mentor also learns from the mentee“.

Memorandum of Understanding signed between IAWD and NALAS



Naim Ismajli, NALAS - President and Walter Kling, IAWD - Secretary General

During the 11. NALAS (Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe) General Assembly, held in Pristina on 14 and 15 April 2016, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between NALAS and IAWD. "I am happy that I was able to attend NALAS conference yesterday and learn about the challenges of local governments in the Region when it comes to investments. We are here to join actions, develop capacities and improve services to citizens", said Mr. Walter Kling on behalf of IAWD.

In the past several years, with the support of the GIZ Open Regional Funds - Modernisation of Municipal Services, NALAS has been working intensively to improve the conditions in the water and waste water sector, supporting municipalities to provide well managed, good quality and sustainable water services to their citizens. During this process, we have met a valuable partner, IAWD, and have started an exchange of knowledge and expertise, being aware that municipalities and their integral part, the public utilities, must work closely together in improving the services and planning investments. Today, by signing the MoU, we are bringing the existing cooperation with IAWD at a next level", said Mayor Naim Ismajli, the new NALAS President.

European River Symposium and Prize 2016

As part of the European River Symposium held in Vienna on 2-4 March 2016, the candidate of the prestigious European Riverprize was announced. The Segura River in Spain was selected for the effective restoration conducted over the past 30 years. Through advanced wastewater schemes and water reclamation, the Segura River Project managed to transform the heavily-polluted watercourse resembling an open sewer into a healthy, vibrant river. The award and trophy were presented at a Gala Dinner by invitation of the Mayor of Vienna at the Vienna City Hall. Two other awarded finalists presented their river restoration projects; the River Trent in the United Kingdom and the Aragon River in Spain.



"I sincerely would like to thank the International RiverFoundation for an award that reinforces our commitment to continue working in the restoration of the Segura River. The European Riverprize also encourages us to join the IRF's admirable international task of river recovery and offer our experience with the hope of helping others"
Miguel-Angel Rodenas, President, Segura River Basin Authority

The European River Symposium included presentations, working groups and panel discussions on a wide range of topics related to river management, such as hydropower, tourism, flood protection, water quality and the role of partnerships in river management.

Danube Water Conference 2016



„Addressing the Double Challenge“ was the motto of the Danube Water Conference 2016. The term „double challenge“ refers to deficiencies in the implementation of EU legislation and in the water sector itself.

The “double challenge” for states in the Danube Region and the Western Balkans was already fully recognised by stakeholders during the Danube Water Conference 2015, which also took place in Vienna. The Danube Water Program (DWP), which is run in a partnership between the International Association of Water Supply Companies in the Danube River Catchment Area (IAWD) and the World Bank, aims to build capacities for national water associations and utilities. It triggered many positive developments in its first three-year phase, but certain fields of action need to be further advanced in order to secure these achievements.

developments in its first three-year phase, but certain fields of action need to be further advanced in order to secure these achievements.

In the course of this capacity building process, also new ideas were created. The second challenge is to implement the entire EU legislation (“acquis communautaire”) in the context of a possible EU accession of additional SEE states. Existing deficiencies, such as in national environmental legislation, moreover have the potential to diminish the success of the water utilities. The recognition of this double challenge ultimately paved the ground for a second phase of the DWP until 2018. Five million euros in funding are provided by the Austrian Ministry of Finance.

The aim of the Danube Water Conference 2016 (12 - 13 May) was to specify the “double challenge” and discuss the first potential measures. At the same time, it was the first political mega-event in the second phase of the DWP to set the path for future work with the utilities. 180 experts had followed the invitation to the Vienna event. Among the participants were European, national, regional and local government representatives, town, city and municipality association representatives, financial institution and regulatory agency representatives, senior water and wastewater utility executives and – last but not least – many “Young Water Professionals” (an IWA initiative to promote young professionals) from the entire region.

Competitive Grants Award Process

13 applications from 47 received have been chosen to be further evaluated and negotiations will begin to receive a Competitive Grant financed from the Danube Water Program.

The grant awards (up to 50,000 Euro) will be provided to applicants from 10 different countries. The list of the projects chosen to be further evaluated as well as additional information can be downloaded as pdf from the DWP website.

Call for Grants for Strengthening Water Utility Associations Opened

The call for grants for strengthening the National Water and Wastewater Associations is now open and applications for funding (from each National Association) can be received up to the end of September 2016. The grants are focused on implementing elements of the Association business plans and for those associations without a business plan helping them prepare one and carry out needed activities.

The Call for Applications can be found on the DWP website.