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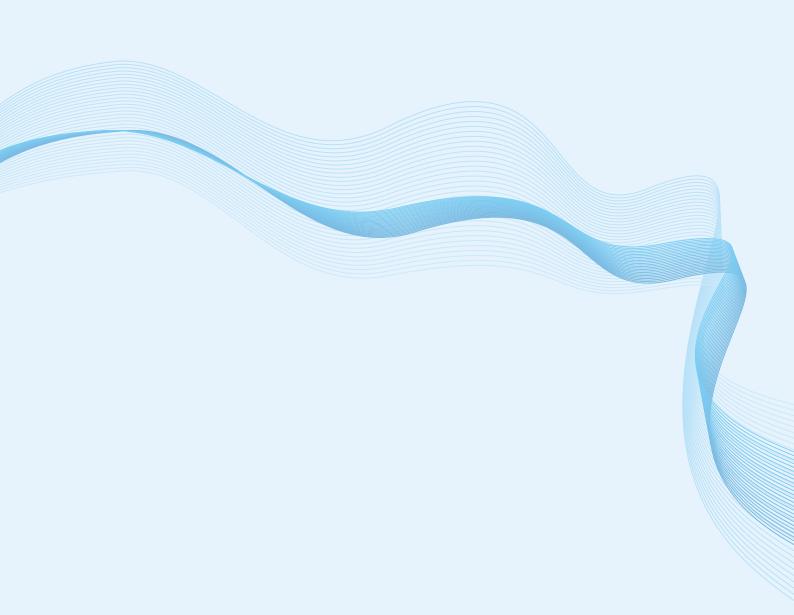
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Vienna, Austria April 2025



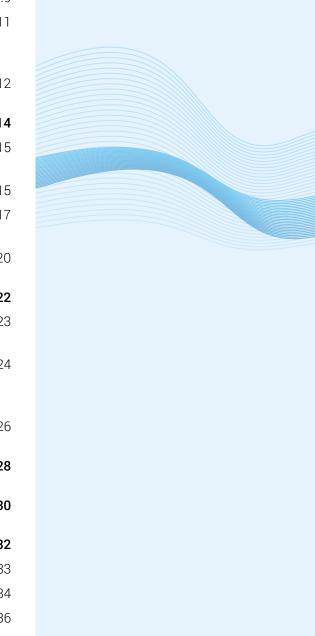


2024 ANNUAL REPORT



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FOREWORD

The Danube Water Program is one of the longest standing programmatic cooperations between Austria and the World Bank, significantly contributing to the Danube region through analytical work, policy support, flagship conferences, and capacity development programs.

In 2024, the Program achieved remarkable milestones, including hosting its largest conference, the Danube Water Forum in Brasov, Romania; celebrating the tenth edition of the KnowNow Webinar Series; reaching more than 650 utilities trained under the Danube Learning Partnership; and hosting a two-days capacity-building workshop and site visit helping to improve access to water services

for underserved rural populations. Additionally, several key analytical publications were finalized, such as a Regional Water Security Diagnostics.

As we look forward to 2025, the final year of Phase IV, we aim to build on the successes of 2024 by continuing to promote smart policies, strong utilities, and sustainable water and wastewater services in the Danube region. The upcoming flagship State of the Sector 2025 Update will provide valuable insights into the current state, remaining challenges and future prospects of the water sector.

We extend our gratitude to all partners, stakeholders, and participants who have contributed to the Program's success.

Elisabeth Gruber

Director of the Department for International Financial Institutions, Austrian Federal Ministry of Finance Winston Yu

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President, International Association of Water Service Companies in the Danube Region (IAWD)







WHY THIS PROGRAM?

Governments and water professionals in the Danube region face a double challenge of meeting their citizens' demand for universal, good quality, efficient, and financially sound or - in one word - sustainable water services, while catching up to the environmental requirements of the European Union acquis communautaire.

In order to support the countries of the Danube region in addressing their water-related challenges, the World Bank and the International Association of Water Service Companies in the Danube Region (IAWD) joined forces in 2013 to launch the **Danube** Water Program. Funded by the Austrian Ministry of Finance, the Program was set up with the objective to support institutional capacity building and the development of regulatory and policy instruments in the water supply and wastewater (WSS) sector of participating countries in the Danube region. The first phase of the Program was formally launched in 2013 in partnership with WSS line ministries, regulators, national water utility associations, and local government representatives of countries from South-East Europe. Given the strong demand for the Program's activities, three follow-up phases were

approved, in **2015 Phase II** put a focus on scaling up activities, in **2019 Phase III** expanded the scope of the program towards the broader Water Security agenda, and in **2022 Phase IV** set out to foster water security and resilient recovery, and to ensure the sustainability of Program activities.

The DWP supports smart policies, strong utilities, and sustainable water and sanitation services.

The Program is a policy and technical assistance program for water sector institutions and other sector stakeholders. The DWP promotes informed policy dialogue around the water sector challenges in the region and offers solutions; delivers comprehensive research and analytical work to fill the knowledge gaps; and aims to strengthen the technical and managerial capacity of sector national institutions and utilities. Program activities fall under three broad categories: analytical and advisory services; capacity development, and regional knowledge sharing.

The Program covers overall 16 countries, including eleven target countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Ukraine) and five participating countries (Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia, Slovenia). Target countries directly benefit from Program funding, while participating countries can participate in Program activities but not directly benefit from funding.





The Program is run jointly by the World Bank and the International Association of Water Service Companies in the Danube Region (IAWD).

The World Bank is a long-standing financial and technical partner of the water and wastewater services sector with several active projects and programs in the Danube region. The World Bank engages in an active dialogue with national and international institutions on challenges such as European integration, utility benchmarking, institutional reforms, and regulation.

IAWD, the International Association of Water Service Companies in the Danube Region, is an independent, nonprofit organization of water and wastewater utilities, national water utility associations, and other stakeholders engaging in the provision of safe and

reliable water services for all in the Danube region – an international cooperation network with a shared vision, a shared mission, and a shared approach. IAWD was established in 1993, after the fall of the iron curtain, and has recently celebrated 30 years of dedicated, professional work to improving the services of water supply and sewerage in the Danube River catchment area.

The Danube Water Program celebrated its 10-year anniversary in 2023. The past decade has been marked by efforts to support the strengthening of water sector policies, institutional capacities, and efficiency of water sector delivery, with a refined and updated focus throughout every phase of the program:

Phase I (2013-2015)

€ 4.5 Million

- First Danube Water Conference bringing together more than 130 participants from 19 countries
- Launch of competitive grants with 71 applications
- Creation of the DANUBIS.org utility database
- Design and rollout of capacity building programs on Energy Efficiency, Commercial Efficiency, and Asset Management
- A holistic State of the Sector assessment conducted and completed in 2015

Phase II

(2016-2018) **€ 5 Million**

- Second round of competitive grants, resulting in a total cumulative investment of €1 million
- Launch of the biggest capacity building initiative in the region: the Danube Learning Partnership (D-LeaP)
- Study on Water Supply and Sanitation Utility Aggregation
- Review of rural water and sanitation services in seven countries of the Danube region

Phase III

(2019-2022) **€ 3.5 Million**

- Broadened scope to encompass the greater water security agenda
- The State of the Sector Update was released
- Launch of the Voice of the Danube website and knowledge sharing community
- KnowNow Webinar series initiated
- Launch of the Utility Management Program

Phase IV

(2022-2025) € 4 Million

- First Danube Water Forum hosted physically in the region
- Water Security analytical work and stakeholder engagement
- Focused work on drought-related risks and resilience in the climate change context
- Addressing demands via continuation of activities under a broadened scope of the Program



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2024



January

D-LeaP Committee Council

Representatives of the D-LeaP Committee Council met in Vienna to conclude 2023 activities and plan 2024 deliveries.



February

IAWD/GWOPA Cooperation on WOP SEE

Water Operators Partnership Platform for Southeast Europe (WOP SEE) project kick-off



March

10th KnowNow

DWP celebrates the tenth edition of the KnowNow webinar series with "Make it Rain - Water Utility Financing in the Danube region"



April

Rural Water Service Delivery Workshop

Two days' workshop with presentations and field visit



May

Danube Water Forum

300+ people convened in Brasov Romania to discuss water sector innovations for a new climate reality



June

D-LeaP Energy Efficiency Program

Two training deliveries kicked off in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Bulgaria



July

D-LeaP Asset Management Program

Three Asset Management Hubs in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, and Albania/ Kosovo successfully delivered



August

IWA World Water Congress

Collaboration between New IBNET and Danube Water Program to bring together Benchmarking Data Pioneers



September

D-LeaP Utility Benchmarking Program

UBP Danube Hub online workshop for 2023 data collection



October

Ukraine UMT

Online delivery of tailored Utility Management Training for selected water utilities in Ukraine



Western Balkan Country Climate and Development Report (CCDR)

World Bank Western Balkan CCDR published with important inputs provided by the DWP



November

Utility Drought Risk Assessment

Water supply utilities drought risk assessment published on VoD



UMT Cycle concludes

Second UMT cycle concludes with 16 graduates



December

ECA Water Security Diagnostics

Regional WSD Report launched with highlevel event



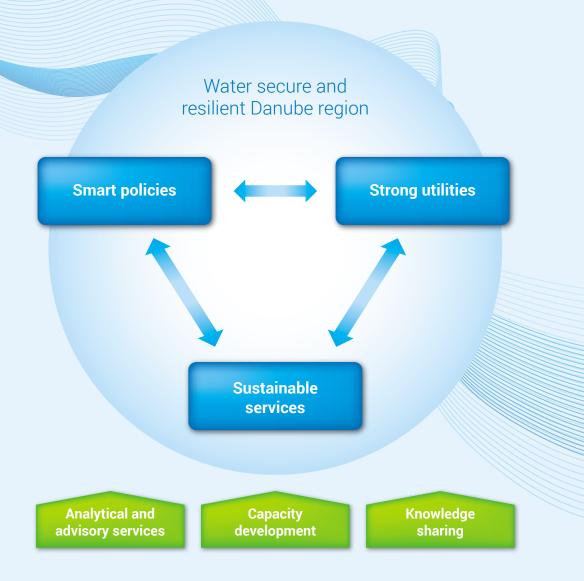
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The year 2024 allowed to make significant progress and move ahead with the implementation of Danube Water Program (DWP) activities under the ongoing 4th Phase titled "Water Security and Resilient Recovery of the Danube Region." Water sector support activities were continued, and new activities launched, based on discussions with water sector stakeholders in the region and the updated Workplan. Information on the progress made under the ongoing 4th Phase can be obtained from the Results Indicators Frameworks in the Annex.

The activities during the year were carried out within the following three main fields of action:

- Analytical and Advisory Services
- Capacity Building
- Knowledge Sharing

Analytical and advisory services continued to make valuable progress in 2024, both at the regional and national level. At the regional level, the State of the Sector 2025 (SoS 2025) update was launched, and outputs will include a regional report, as well as individual country notes for 11 the target countries. The SoS is the key regional analytical piece for the water supply and sanitation sector under the Danube Water Program. The SoS 2025 will review progress made over the past decade since the first





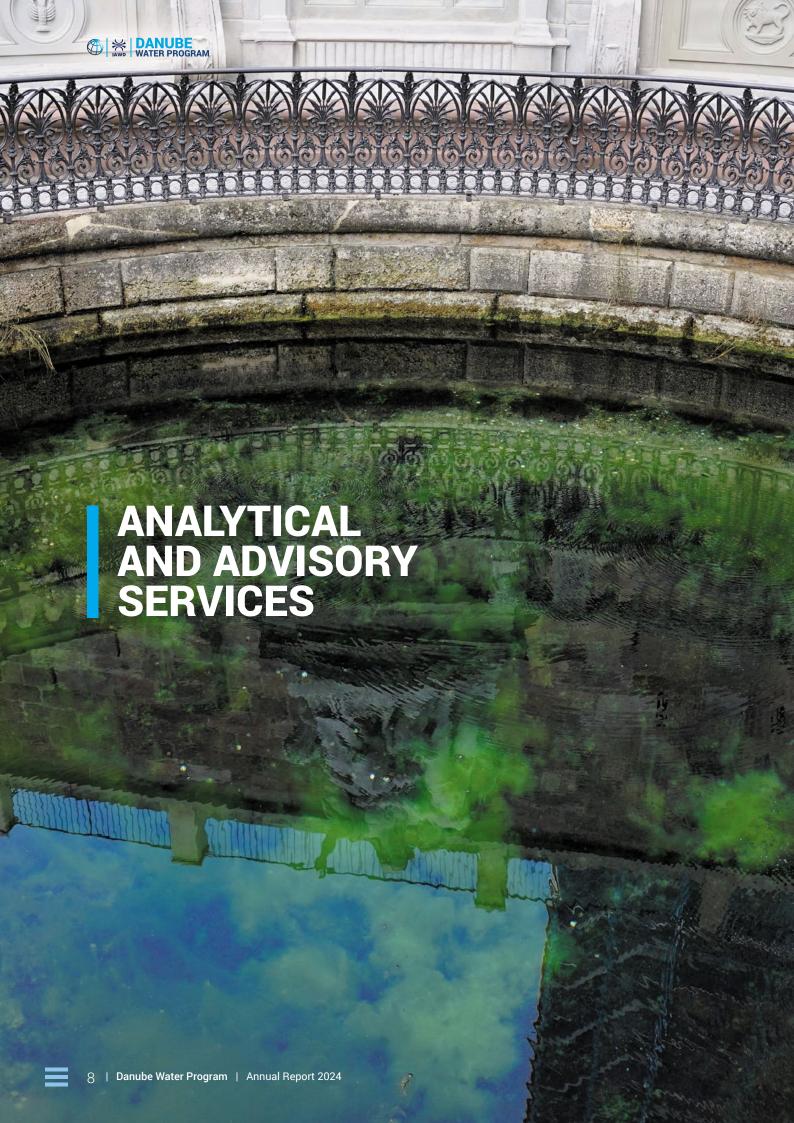
SoS 2015 and identify areas that need continued or renewed attention. These initial findings will serve as a key topic of the 2025 Danube Water Conference in Vienna in May. In addition 2024 saw the conclusion and dissemination of several other ongoing regional activities such as: the (i) Regional Water Security Diagnostics; (ii) Regional Drought Risk Assessments; (iii) Water supply utilities drought risk assessment; and the (iv) Country Climate and Development Report (CCDR) for the Western Balkan countries to which the Danube Water Program provided important contributions. At the national level, analytical and advisory activities included work on a Montenegro Sediment Assessment; a Montenegro Water Information System needs assessment; Moldova policy and regulatory support; and the conclusion of the Romania Drought Assessment.

Capacity development activities are primarily delivered under the Danube Learning Partnership (D-LeaP) and Reginal Workshops. 2024 was a very dynamic and positive year for D-LeaP due to the significant number of programs rolled out by the Hubs, the diversity of the programs, as well as the securing of additional support for implementation, e.g. from GWSP and RCDN+ (Regional Capacity Development Network). In 2024, 14 Hubs covering 13 countries have delivered seven programs with a total of 120 utilities trained. In addition, 2024 held

a workshop on Rural Water Services Delivery in the Danube Region. The in-person event was jointly delivered and in partnership with the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) and included both presentations and a site visit to rural water supply and sanitation infrastructure located in Lower Austria.

Knowledge sharing, communication, and outreach activities included the Voice of the Danube weekly digest and a growing community of users on the Voice of the Danube website and related Social Media channels. The 2024 Danube Water Forum was successfully organized in Brasov, Romania. Titled "Riding the wave: Water Sector Innovations for a new Climate Reality," the Forum set a new a record with 300+ registered participants from 19 different countries. The Program also continued with the popular "KnowNow" webinar series, delivering three events covering the topics of water utility financing; the effects of droughts on water supply; and naturebased solutions for storm water management.







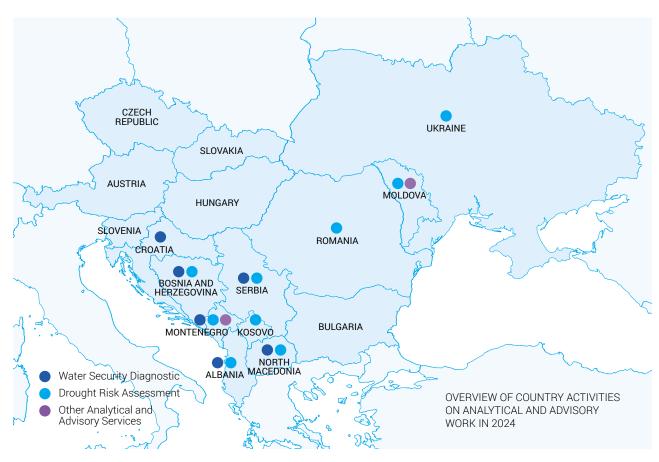
Analytical and Advisory services under the Danube Water Program aim to develop new and/or consolidate existing knowledge to improve understanding of challenges and emerging opportunities for the water sector in the Danube region. These activities aim to engage in an informed policy dialogue and to provide advice on reform agendas to water sector stakeholders and decision makers in the countries of the region. The analytical and advisory services provided in the frame in the year 2024 were delivered at the regional and national level.

REGIONAL ANALYTICAL AND ADVISORY SERVICES

In 2024 several important regional reports were concluded and disseminated, making space for the launch of the State of the Sector 2025 update. These included: the (i) Regional Water Security Diagnostics; (ii) Regional Drought Risk Assessments; (iii) Water supply utilities drought risk assessment; and the (iv) Country Climate

and Development Report (CCDR) for the Western Balkan countries. Further details regarding these reports are summarized below:

• State of the Sector (SoS) - Update 2025: The SoS is the key regional analytical piece for the water supply and sanitation (WSS) sector under the Danube Water Program. Work on the SoS - Update 2025 was launched in 2024. 10 years following the publication of the first SoS in 2015, the scope of the report includes an update on access, performance, financing and organization of WSS services in the Danube region. The SoS 2025 will extend beyond previous editions, with a detailed PIR (Policy-Institutions-Regulations) assessment for target countries in cooperation with the Centre of Excellence (CoE). Furthermore, it will include an analysis of utility management practices in cooperation with NewIBNET, a workforce and gender assessment, as well as integration of key findings on climate change and droughts, and related risks for the WSS sector. The output will include a regional report, as well as individual country notes for 11 the target countries. Draft findings are planned to be presented and discussed at the Danube Water Conference in May 2025. The SoS report is planned to be completed in the second half of 2025.

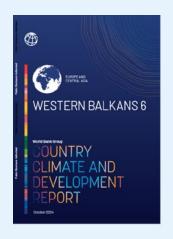




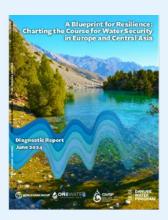
- Water Security Diagnostics: The objective of this activity was to develop a regional overview and to identify key current and future challenges around water security to inform a focused policy dialogue with Danube countries towards building a water secure world for the people, economy and the environment. The approach followed different levels and depths of assessments. Five countries of the Danube region were selected for in-depth assessments in the frame of the initiative, including Croatia, Serbia, Albania, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina, where also two stakeholder consultation workshops have been conducted per country. The result of this work serves as analytical basis for discussions on updated Country Partnership Frameworks, specific support needs and accompanying analytical pieces. Lighter assessments for other countries in the ECA region, as well as on regional narratives, have been concluded. The development of the assessments was completed in spring 2024. The ECA Regional Report was launched in December 2024 (see Insight: Water Security Diagnostics for more details).
- Regional Drought Assessments: One of the activities conducted by the European Commission in the frame of the European Drought Observatory for Resilience and Adaptation project (EDORA) included the modelling and assessment of drought risks for EU Member States to improve drought resilience and adaptation throughout the EU. The objective of the Regional Drought Risk Assessment was to extend the assessments to the non-EU countries in the region, leading to harmonized results based on the established pan-European methodology in the frame

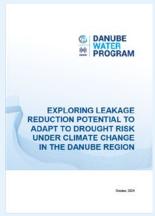
of EDORA. The assessments were completed in the first half of 2024 and results fed into the development of the regional Country Climate and Development Report (CCDR) for the Western Balkan countries conducted by the World Bank, which was published in October 2024. Complementary assessments on existing drought risk management plans and policies have been completed in June 2024. The results fed into a regional synthesis report on droughts prepared by the ICPDR, which was presented and discussed by ICPDR Expert and Task Groups, and the report endorsed in December 2024. The assessment forms an important basis for discussions and decisions on future actions on drought risk management and resilience in the Danube region.

• Water supply utilities drought risk assessment: Water utilities are key agents in the delivery of safe, reliable, and affordable water supply. Droughtinduced disruptions to critical water supply services can pose a risk to service delivery. This activity supported data collection from water supply utilities and employed a framework, developed at Oxford University, for quantifying in greater detail present day and future drought risk at a utility scale in the Danube region. 28 water utilities from 8 countries in the Danube region participated in the assessment. The results were presented and discussed at the Danube Water Forum in May 2024 in Brasov, Romania, as well as at the DWP KnowNow webinar "Drying Pipes: Navigating the Impact of Water Scarcity and Droughts on Water Supply" in October 2024. The results are compiled in a report, which was shared with the participating utilities, and published in November 2024.











NATIONAL ANALYTICAL AND ADVISORY SERVICES

In addition to regional assessments, the following national level analytical and advisory services were implemented in 2024:



Montenegro Sediment Assessment:

Uncontrolled gravel excavation from rivers in Montenegro led to negative impacts on the strategic karstic water source for the coastal area, with a reduction of the discharge to one third from the original flow and hence threatening the coastal water supply for the country. Funded by the GWSP sediment facility, co-funding was provided from the DWP for technical assistance for a sediment assessment in Montenegro and the elaboration of recommendations and an action plan addressing strategic aspects, and the most urgent infrastructure needs to address the issues. The results of the work have been presented to water sector decision makers in Montenegro in June 2024. The outcomes also fed into the development of the new Country Partnership Framework (CPF) between Montenegro and the World Bank, which was approved in September 2024, outlining water as one of the key topical areas. Work is currently ongoing on the development of a potential new World Bank water operation in Montenegro to support the sector.



Montenegro Water Information System needs assessment: In April 2024, a study visit was organized with DWP support for experts from Montenegro to the Water Agency in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which is running the Water Information System (WIS), to share experiences and lessons learned. It was agreed to continue with the cooperation and to provide support in two steps. An individual consultant to support the Montenegro Water Administration will be hired to prepare a Terms of Reference for support via a consultancy company which will target missing parts of the WIS in Montenegro. Implementation of the

consultancy will be the second step. It is expected that all activities will be finalized by the end of 2025.



Moldova Policy and Regulatory support:

The objective of this support activity was to assess the degree of needs for adjustments of the policy and regulatory framework of the Republic of Moldova in the water supply and sanitation sector to meet the requirements of the Acquis Communautaire of the European Union. Implementation of the "Assessment of the degree of implementation of the Water Supply and Sanitation Strategy 2014-2030 achievements/failures/impediments" started in June 2024, and was completed by end 2024. The final version of the report was delivered, reviewed and approved by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development as final beneficiary, and the State Chancellery.



Romania Drought Assessment: Romania is amongst the countries which was most severely hit by the 2022 droughts. Building on the work conducted at EU level, the activity included the preparation of an inventory of the damages of the 2022 drought in the country to obtain a comprehensive picture of the economic, social, and environmental impact of droughts. Furthermore, a deepdive assessment based on the EDORA methodology, and a drought vulnerability assessment and analysis of climate change effects, has been conducted. The work also included an assessment of current drought risk management practices in Romania, and the development of recommendations and guidance to improve drought management approaches in the country. Following the organization of a Drought Risk Conference in October 2023 in Bucharest, the assessments, recommendations and accompanying report have been finalized and shared with the Romanian authorities in November 2024.

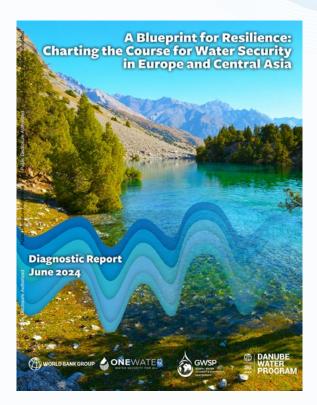




INSIGHT:

A BLUEPRINT FOR RESILIENCE: CHARTING THE COURSE FOR WATER SECURITY IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

In 2024, the World Bank released the landmark report "A Blueprint for Resilience: Charting the Course for Water Security in Europe and Central Asia." This comprehensive publication, financed by the Global Water Security & Sanitation Partnership (GWSP) and the Danube Water Program (DWP), offers critical insights and actionable recommendations for addressing the region's pressing water security challenges. As part of the DWP's commitment to fostering knowledge sharing and informed decisionmaking, the report underscores the importance of aligning regional efforts with global waterrelated Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



A BLUEPRINT FOR RESILIENCE: CHARTING THE COURSE FOR WATER SECURITY IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA - DIAGNOSTIC REPORT

Read 💷 🏻



The Regional Context

Europe and Central Asia (ECA) face a unique convergence of water-related risks. These include increasing variability in water availability due to climate change, aging infrastructure, and gaps in water governance frameworks. The report emphasizes that achieving water security in the ECA region is not only essential for public health and environmental sustainability but also for economic growth and climate resilience.

Key Findings

The report identifies several critical gaps in water supply, sanitation, and resilience to waterrelated hazards:

- Access Gaps: Millions in the region still lack access to safe and reliable water services. disproportionately affecting rural and marginalized communities.
- Flood and Drought Risks: Over the past decades, the region has witnessed a rise in the frequency and severity of floods and droughts, resulting in significant economic losses and social disruptions.
- Investment Needs: Achieving water security will require substantial investments, estimated in the tens of billions of dollars. These resources are needed to modernize infrastructure, strengthen institutions, and implement nature-based solutions.

Implications for the Danube Region

For the Danube region, which is one of the main transboundary basins of the ECA water landscape, the report's findings resonate strongly. The Danube Water Program has been instrumental in promoting regional cooperation, capacity building, and policy reform to enhance water management. The report's emphasis on integrated approaches aligns with DWP's ongoing efforts to:

 Promote Transboundary Collaboration: Building on frameworks like the EU Water Framework Directive, the report highlights



the importance of coordinated river basin management across national borders.

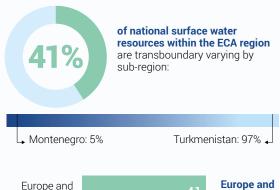
- Support Policy, Institution, and Regulation (PIR) Reforms: Strengthening governance structures remains a cornerstone for achieving water security.
- Enable Investment Mobilization: Leveraging DWP's role as a convener, the findings reinforce the need for sustained financial commitment to address infrastructure and resilience gaps.

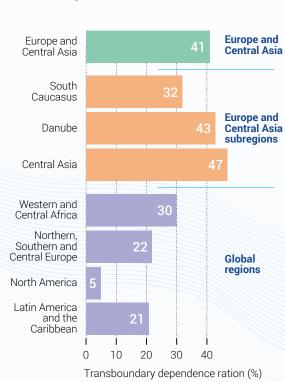
Looking Ahead

The "Blueprint for Resilience" serves as both a wake-up call and a roadmap for the ECA region. By drawing on the report's analysis and recommendations, the Danube Water Program can further its mission to empower water sector stakeholders and drive impactful reforms. As we look to the future, fostering knowledge exchange and aligning resources with identified priorities will be pivotal in transforming the region's water security landscape.

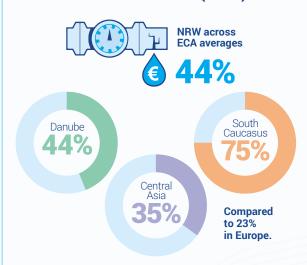
The ECA Water Security Report is not just a document-it is a call to action for policymakers, practitioners, and development partners to collaborate in creating a resilient and watersecure future for all.

Transboundary dependence

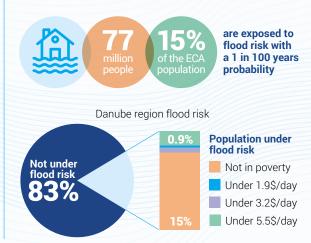




NON revenue water (NRW)



Flood risk, exposure and callanges





CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES





Capacity building is another main pillar of Danube Water Program activities and aims to build capacity of the water sector in the Danube region at different levels from utility companies and their management to local government representatives, regulatory agencies, and ministries.

REGIONAL WORKSHOPS

Over the past years, several regional capacity building and training activities have been conducted, including the most recent workshop in April 2024 organized jointly with ICPDR on the topic of Rural Water Services Delivery in the Danube Region which included both presentations and a site visit to water supply and sanitation infrastructure in Lower Austria. A workshop report was published on the event page on the Voice of the Danube (further information can be found in INSIGHT: Rural Water Services Delivery Workshop). Additional events under discussion include a Regulators Workshop planned for 2025, which is under preparation in cooperation with the Association of European Water Regulators (WAREG).

WATER UTILITY **PERFORMANCE INDICATOR DATA COLLECTION AND BENCHMARKING**

The aim of performance indicator (PI) data collection and benchmarking activities under the Danube Water Program is (i) to achieve national PI data collection in each supported country; and (ii) to offer the D-LeaP Utility Benchmarking Program (UBP) for every country in an appropriate form. The activities regarding national PI data collection and utility benchmarking are managed on a complementary level by the World Bank and IAWD. The software solution of the DANUBIS Data Collection and Management Platform (DANUBIS DCM) has been updated and remains fully functional and stable for continued use by countries until 2029.

Performance indicator data collection and benchmarking activities

Support for PI data collection and benchmarking activities under the DWP has evolved over time and is currently focused on assisting national PI data collection and the preparation of benchmarking reports in selected countries of interest. Those are primarily countries that have established water utility benchmarking systems during previous phases and are presently working on strengthening them.

In Serbia, the DWP supports the Association for Water Technology and Sanitary Engineering (UTVSI), in water utility data collection, analysis, and the preparation of a national benchmarking report in cooperation with the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure. The latest benchmarking report prepared with DWP support is the benchmarking report with data from the year 2023, which has been completed in November 2024 for publication by the Ministry. Support to Serbia's benchmarking activities has been gradually reduced over several years and will effectively be finished with the 2024 data collection and analysis assistance. This has resulted in a structured transition that should enable Serbia to continue with benchmarking relying on its own resources in the future.

Thanks to DWP support, resulting in improved capacities for benchmarking, several countries, including Montenegro and North Macedonia, are now capable of continuing with benchmarking of the water utility sector on their own and do not require further outside support.

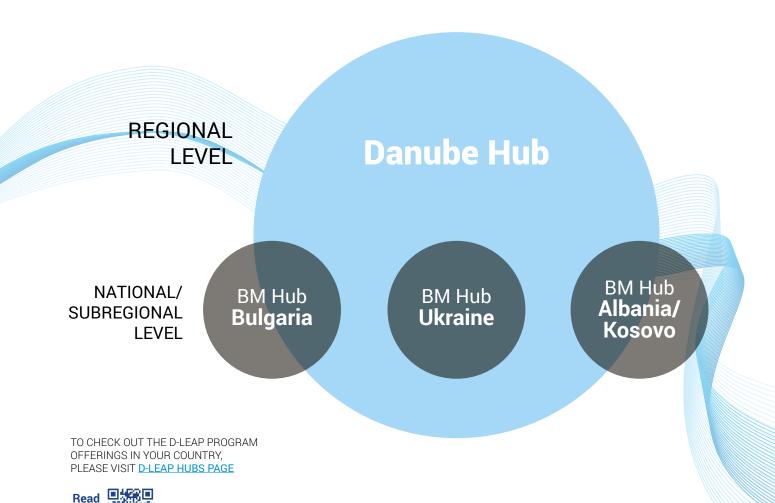
The Utility Benchmarking Program (UBP) is one of the Foundation Programs of the Danube Learning Partnership. This Program helps participating utilities and staff to establish their own diagnostic of high-impact issues affecting the performance of their utility companies by benchmarking their utility performance against other similar companies and international benchmarks and facilitating dialogue among practitioners on good practices.





Hubs are the visible face of the Danube Learning Partnership (D-LeaP) for active participants, as they have the primary capacity building delivery responsibility. Hubs are primarily established by national water utility associations and wellperforming utility companies but can also be professional associations or academic institutions.

In 2024, virtual UBP Hub Coordinators meetings were held in January, March, May and September to discuss the status of the Hubs as well as the ongoing delivery. At this stage, three Hubs are active, i.e. the Bulgarian Hub, the Albania/Kosovo Hub and the regional Danube Hub. The Ukrainian Hub is currently on hold due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. In 2024, all three active Hubs are fully integrated into the D-LeaP scheme, the respective Hub Agreements have been developed accordingly, and data collection has been concluded. The Danube Hub's concluding workshop of the 2023 cycle took place on May 28-29, 2024, back-to-back with the 2024 Danube Water Forum in Brasov, Romania. Starting with the new 2025 cycle of the Danube Hub the program was modified to cater more to individual needs of the participating utilities, also involving their utility management, i.e. through offering an additional service of Decision-Makers-Reports and tailored feedback together with the Final Benchmarking Report. Through intensified recruitment measures new utilities are being onboarded.





THE DANUBE LEARNING **PARTNERSHIP (D-LEAP)**

Our Vision

A Danube region, where all citizens enjoy sustainable water and wastewater services.

Our Mission

To offer to participating utility companies and sector professionals, through our national partners, a sustainable and comprehensive set of learning and capacity building programs aimed at providing reliable, high-quality and efficient water and wastewater services to all.

D-LeaP was designed as 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 and wastewater utilities located in the Danube region and in local languages.

Overall, 2024 has been a very dynamic and positive year for D-LeaP due to the significant number of programs rolled out by the Hubs, the diversity of the programs, as well as the securing of additional support for implementation, e.g. from GWSP and RCDN+. In 2024, 14 Hubs covering 13 countries have delivered seven programs with a total of 120 utilities trained.

Foundation Program Offering:

Foundation programs are the entry point to a continuous improvement cycle and help participating utilities and staff to establish their own diagnostic of high-impact issues affecting the performance of their utility companies. These programs rely on the power of benchmarking utility performance against other similar companies and facilitating dialogue among practitioners on good practices.



Utility Benchmarking Program



Utility Management Training

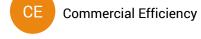




Technical Program Offering:

Once utilities and staff have identified the main issues affecting their performance, they can choose from a range of technical programs covering the main utility management topics. These programs do not only provide training on the solutions to those challenges but also help utility staff to prepare concrete action or investment plans to address those challenges.

EE Energy Efficiency



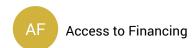






Implementation Program Offering:

A combination of lack of financing as well as insufficient operating and contractual capacity often means utilities are unable to implement the solutions they have developed. The implementation program offering helps utilities to develop a set of implementation tools.





26 ToT events



138
Trainers trained



21 Hubs



14 Countries



Programs delivered

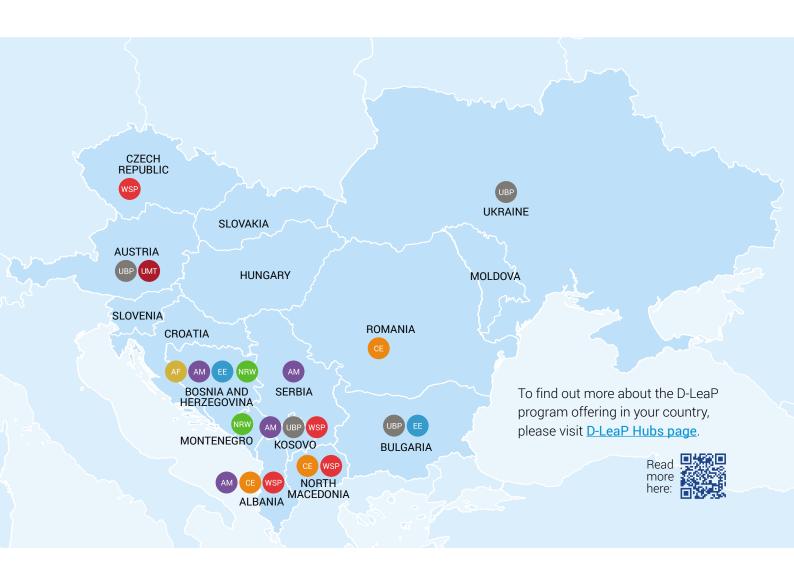


658Utilities trained

D-LEAP DELIVERY SINCE THE START OF IMPLEMENTATION IN 2017

D-LEAP DELIVERY IN 2024	FOUNDATION PROGRAMS UBP UMT		TECHNICAL AND IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMS EE CE AM NRW WSP AF		SUM
	ACTUAL	PLANNED	ACTUAL	PLANNED	ACTUAL
Number of delivering Hubs	4	4	10	13	14
Countries covered by D-LeaP offer	13	13	7	8	13
Trainers trained	0	0	0	0	0
Training of Trainers events conducted	0	0	0	0	1
Programs delivered	2	2	5	6	7
Utilities trained	48	44	72	83	120







D-LEAP DELIVERY 2018 - 2024



INSIGHT: THE LAST MILE: RURAL WATER SERVICE DELIVERY IN THE DANUBE REGION

The World Bank and ICPDR organized a successful workshop in April 2024, focusing on rural water service delivery in the Danube region. This session featured expert presentations on policy context, technical solutions, and real-life examples from countries like Austria, Slovakia, and Croatia. The program addressed both rural wastewater management and water supply challenges providing a comprehensive approach to ensuring efficient, affordable, and sustainable water services in rural areas. The event marked a continuation of a successful series, inspired by the 2021 virtual workshop, which explored ways to bridge the rural water access gap.



Rural wastewater management presents a significant challenge across the Danube region, with small communities often grappling with inadequate infrastructure and insufficient resources. Many rural areas rely on outdated wastewater systems, which contribute to



surface water contamination and lack robust design standards for small wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs). At the same time, ensuring a reliable and safe water supply is critical. Many communities face difficulties with water sourcing, distribution, and quality control, making it essential to prioritize simple, costeffective, and low-maintenance technologies alongside comprehensive capacity-building for local operators and owners.

Relevance

This discussion comes at a critical time, as the green and digital transitions position Europe toward a sustainable future—with goals to create green jobs and ensure resilience. However, attention to smaller agglomerations remains





essential to prevent environmental objectives from being jeopardized, especially concerning river water bodies under the Water Framework Directive (WFD). To bridge the urban-rural gap, innovative strategies must focus on localized solutions that decouple technology from service levels, empowering rural communities through tailored investments, public participation, and integrated approaches to both wastewater management and water supply.

Field Trip

To provide participants with a tangible example of community-managed rural water solutions, an informative field trip was organized. Günter Langergraber from the Institute for Sanitary Engineering and Water Pollution Control at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, led the group on visits to small wastewater treatment plants and a local water supply facility in rural Austria. This dual visit showcased how communities can effectively manage both wastewater and water supply systems—each member contributing to system maintenance, fee collection, and operational oversight. The field trip generated genuine excitement among participants, sparking enthusiastic responses about the potential for community-driven water service delivery.



Adam KOVACS **Technical Expert** - Pollution Control, ICPDR

"This has been a great opportunity to raise awareness to pressing challenges Danube countries are facing. These workshops are highly beneficial for experts and professionals working in the water sector."

There was genuine excitement among the participants to see how a community can effectively manage a small wastewater treatment plant. Everyone within the community takes their part. Some are responsible for the cleaning and supervision others for the collection of the fees.

Without a doubt, the experience sparked enthusiastic responses from the participants.





KNOWLEDGE SHARING





Knowledge sharing is the third main pillar of the Danube Water Program and aims to create opportunities for water sector professionals to access and exchange information within and among countries in the region and beyond. A variety of options are offered including major annual conferences, study tours, online webinars, and workshops.

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

The Program's signature event: **Danube Water Conference and Danube Water Forum**

The bi-annual 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 organized in the region with the support of a partner institution. 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. The cross-sectoral and intercountry dialogue created by this annual gathering has been instrumental to create a sense of community, to help professionals in the sector to build and maintain relationships, and to understand the emerging needs and concerns of the water sector and beyond.

2024 Danube Water Forum

The 2024 Danube Water Forum "Riding the Wave: Water Sector Innovations for a New Climate Reality" was convened in May, in the city of Brasov, Romania. Water and climate change are inextricably linked. The Forum focused on the impact of a changing climate on the region's water sector with sessions exploring recent developments and their effects on utilities and highlighting best practice examples how to face them. The Forum set a new record with 302 registered participants from 19 different countries, representing national and local governments, regulatory agencies, water utilities, international financing institutions and professional associations as well as academia. In addition, a dedicated group of Young Water Professionals actively contributed to the Forum.

For more information on the Danube Water Forum, please see the INSIGHT: Danube Water Forum -How the regional setting and local partners make a difference.



KEY FACTS AND FIGURES OF THE 2024 DWF





Regulator Roundtable Discussions

Regulatory Roundtable Discussions are regularly organized back-to-back with the Danube Water Conference / Forum, the last one on May 29 in Brasov. The objective is to bring together representatives from national regulatory agencies and related bodies from the Danube region, to share information among themselves about the most recent water service regulation developments in each country, strengthen contacts between regulators, and exchange relevant experiences to maintain a community of regulatory practitioners. These discussions are often prepared and delivered in cooperation with the Association of European Water Regulators (WAREG). Building on the established cooperation with WAREG, the plan is to upgrade and potentially formalize this collaboration for the benefit of further strengthening water utility regulatory capacities in the region. As the next step in developing this relationship, WAREG and the World Bank (under DWP) are organizing a dedicated regulatory event scheduled for May 2025.



COMMUNICATION, OUTREACH AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING

In 2024, both World Bank and IAWD teams continued working to increase Program visibility. The Voice of the Danube (VoD) website has been well received and, as of 2024, has **46,166** page views, **8,400** first visits and has been accessed from **148** countries.

Housed within the VoD, the **DANUBIS.org Water Platform** has become the largest and most complete repository of resources for and about water and wastewater services in the Danube region and still attracts a growing number of users, with more than 500 page views in 2024.



In addition to the VoD, the Danube Water Program maintains a strong social media presence with over 1600 followers on LinkedIn.

After showing great success due to high interest, the Program team continued to organize webinars covering relevant topics on demand, via the "DWP KnowNow Series" which was launched in 2021. Each KnowNow spans 75 minutes with a key expert presentation on a timely topic in the region followed by a panel discussion and Q&A.

DWP KnowNow Series

In the year 2024, three DWP KnowNow webinars were delivered, covering the following topics: water utility financing; the effects of droughts on water supply; and nature based solutions for storm water management. Each of the webinars attracted between 60 and 90 participants. The team agreed to focus on wastewater management and treatment as potential topics for a webinar series in the course of 2025. A detailed concept will be developed by the end of 2024.



MAKE IT RAIN Water Utility Financing in the Danube Region



Ms. Patricia Lopez Senior Water Specialist, World Bank, USA (Presenter & Moderator)



Ms. Vesna Muslic President, Aguasan Network BiH, Bosnia and Herzegovina (Panelist)









Mr. Lyubomir Filipov Director Strategic partnerships and regulation, Sofia Water, Bulgaria, (Panelist)



Mr. Ladislav Tolmaci Erste Group, Austria (Panelist)

DRYING PIPES Navigating the Impact of Water Scarcity and Droughts on Water Supply



Ms. Olivia Becher Researcher at Oxford University, United Kingdom, (Presenter)



Mr. Efthymios Lytras Deputy Director of Corporate Strategy and Innovation, Athens Water and Sewerage Company, Greece (Presenter)









Mr. Daniel Craia General Manager Assistant, Aquatim S.A., Romania (Panelist)



Mr. Raimund Mair Senior Water Resources Management Specialist, World Bank, Austria (Moderator)

TAMING THE RAIN Nature based solutions for stormwater management



Mr. Florian Kretschmer Senior Scientist, BOKU University, Austria, (Presenter)



Ms. Cemre Erbil Istanbul Water and Sewerage Administration (İSKİ), Turkey (Presenter)



Ms. Tatjana Uzelac CEO, Starum, Croatia (Presenter)













Mr. Franck Perru Syndicat des Eaux et de l'Assainissement Alsace-Moselle (SDEA), France (Presenter)



Ms. Katerina Schilling Head of Secretariat, IAWD, Austria (Moderator)



Mr. Milo Fiasconaro Executive Director, Aqua Publica Europea, Belgium (Moderator)



INSIGHT:

DANUBE WATER FORUM - HOW THE REGIONAL SETTING AND LOCAL PARTNERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Every, really everybody was there, and everybody had a fantastic time:

The 2024 Danube Water Forum "Riding the Wave: Water Sector Innovations for a New Climate Reality" was a roaring success in every respect.

A huge "Thank you!" goes out to the Romanian Water Association and Compania Apa Brasov for excelling as local hosts in Brasov.

Going into the region, with a spin-off of the Danube Water Conference, i.e. the Danube Water Forum, was essential for fostering direct engagement with local stakeholders, understanding regional water challenges firsthand, and strengthening collaboration across borders. By hosting the 2024 DWF in Brasov, Romania, participants could gain valuable insights into the country's water management efforts, infrastructure, and policy landscape while connecting with key actors from the broader Danube region. This on-theground presence not only increased participation from individuals who would typically not attend the conference in Vienna, but also enabled meaningful discussions, facilitated knowledge exchange, and drove impactful solutions tailored to the region's unique needs.



Another huge "Thank you for your invaluable support!" is directed at our generous supporters, the Austrian Federal Ministry of Finance as well as Klarwin, Wabag, Xylem, Hach Lange, NewIBNET, Diehl, and Sommer Messtechnik. Our Corporate Partners showcased cutting-edge technologies that drive efficiency and resilience in the water sector. Emphasizing innovation, the Forum underscored the importance of leading-edge technologies in ensuring sustainable water and wastewater services.

The biggest, all-encompassing "Thank you!" is reserved for the record-breaking crowd of over 300 participants who made their way to lovely, but somewhat remote, Brasov: Among them representatives from 28 IAWD members attended, including a respectable number of Board members.

Twelve Young Water Professionals (YWP), supported by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions, and Water Management, accepted the invitation to assist the organizers, present posters, and participate in panels. As in previous years, YWP co-chairing proved to be a valuable tool for enhancing







interpersonal skills. Once again, providing a platform for the younger generation paid off. A notable example was Fjolla Lasku's presentation on "YWP Personal Reflections on Navigating the Water Sector Workforce as a Young Female Engineer" during the session "Why Work with Water - Creative Ways to Engage and Grow Talent." Ms. Lasku, the manager of the wastewater treatment plant KRU "Gjakova" SH.A in Kosovo, highlighted the challenges faced by young and specifically female talents in the sector.

And please let us not forget about the remaining distinguished speakers: A full sixty experts took the stage during a compressed two day, twotrack Forum that threw light into every corner of the water business, its crises and opportunities.

Their presentations, interventions, and contributions gave lots of food for thought and many valuable takeaways over the full spectrum of current hot topics: climate change-related challenges, trends in wastewater treatment, water reuse and circular economy, proactive water resources management, climate-resilient water service strategies, creative human resource management, innovative approaches and technologies for sustainable utility management, and effective communication for water services.

Just a few examples:

International Water Association Executive Director Kalanithy Vairavamoorthy was scheduled as the keynote speaker of the opening session. Mr. Vairavamoorthy combined a strong engineering background with practical

international experience, has published extensively and has a strong international profile working closely with the World Bank, UN-Habitat, UNESCO and multiple other significant stakeholders.

Mr. Vairavamoorthy's opening keynote was followed by Michel Sponar's presentation on the climate resilience aspect in the EU water service directives. Mr. Sponar is the long-standing Deputy Head of Unit at the European Commission, Directorate General for the Environment. His team is involved in several files such as the revision of the Drinking Water Directive and the review of the Urban Wastewater Treatment.

Additional interesting speaker rosters were scheduled for all sessions of the Forum, and many dealt with practical approaches and solutions for current and future challenges, like Lindita Sakiri, Technical Director at the WWTP Skopje, who took the stage during the session "on trends in wastewater treatment, water reuse and circular economy", presented the large-scale wastewater treatment plant project in Skopje, and demonstrated how to successfully turn wastewater into a resource.



Those who were not there, can check the event's page for all the presentations.

Success like this is encouraging in times when encouragement is more necessary than ever. Thank you everybody – it was amazing, and so were you!







With numerous actors working in the Danube Region, the team recognizes the importance to coordinate with other development partners throughout the region to ensure synergies and avoid duplication of efforts. Several ongoing efforts have been made with this objective and are outlined below.

- IFIs Meeting: Danube IFI and Donors meetings are regularly organized back-to-back with the Danube Water Conference / Forum with the objective to convene and provide an update of ongoing activities of the donor community in the Danube region and in the frame of the Danube Water Program. The latest IFI meeting was coorganised by IAWD, UN-Habitat and the World Bank back-to-back with the 2024 Danube Water Forum and focused on "Establishing a Water Operator Partnerships Platform in South-Eastern Europe (WOP SEE)." The objective of the meeting was to introduce the idea of WOP SEE to the donor and IFI community and to identify potential funding opportunities. In the course of the summer 2024 IAWD continued discussions on a bilateral basis and developed a donor landscape report to summarize the key findings.
- NewIBNET: In 2024, the formally established Letter of Intent was further formalized through a contract between IAWD and NewIBNET (New International Benchmarking Network for Water and Sanitation Services) to enhance regional (DWP target countries) and global data mobilization. This collaboration has already yielded significant results, including the mobilization of global datasets encompassing approximately 140 water utilities, with 16% originating from the Danube region, as part of the Data Pioneers in Water Utilities campaign. For the first time, NewIBNET and the DWP team have started to closely work together to assess management practices data collected under the NewIBNET platform, integrating these insights into the State of the Sector Report in 2025. This represents a significant milestone in strengthening the data-driven understanding of utility performance in the region, and globally. The IAWD Secretariat promoted NewIBNET at several key events in the course of 2024. This included delivering a presentation at the Danube Water Forum in Romania on behalf of NewIBNET and participating as an exhibitor at both the Danube

Water Forum and the Balkans Joint Conference in Kosovo. These engagements were complemented by targeted outreach to IAWD members and the publication of dedicated news articles on the Voice of the Danube website and LinkedIn account.

- RCDN+ (Regional Capacity Development) Network): The ongoing and successful implementation of activities under IAWD's grant agreement continues to support delivery of D-LeaP programs, but also strengthening IAWD in its core association functions. RCDN and GIZ representatives are invited to participate in the D-LeaP Committee Council meeting to foster mutual understanding and synergies between the programs. In December 2024, representatives from IAWD joined the Project Advisory Board meeting of RCDN+.
- UoF Center of Excellence: The World Bank, in partnership with the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), established the new Utility of the Future Center of Excellence (UoF-CoE), focusing on providing support to the water sector in the Western Balkan countries. The UoF-CoE will expand upon the current World Bank UoF program and is intended to complement existing capacity development efforts in the region, such as D-LeaP and RCDN. The team continues to have regular meetings with the UoF-CoE team to maximize synergies, e.g. by co-hosting the 2024 Danube Water Forum that saw a number of contributions from the UoF-CoE team including the announcement of the first cohort of supported utilities. Furthermore, 2024 saw an assessment of Policies-Institutions-Regulations (PIR) for the water supply and sanitation sector in the Western Balkan countries, including a series of workshops. The results will be integrated into the State of the Sector Report 2025.







Looking ahead, the Danube Water Program will continue to address the evolving challenges in the water sector within the Danube region. The Program remains committed to supporting sustainable water supply and sanitation services while also addressing broader water security issues.

In the coming year, the Program will facilitate informed dialogue with water sector stakeholders and decision-makers through analytical work, raising awareness, and directing efforts and investments towards fostering water security and resilient recovery. The Danube Water Conference, scheduled for May 2025, will provide a platform for these important discussions.

A key highlight of the upcoming work will be the "State of the Sector" (SoS) Update 2025. This report will offer comprehensive assessments and track the sector's development over the past 10 years since the first SoS Report in 2015. It will illuminate

the progress made and the lessons learned, guiding future initiatives in the region.

As 2025 marks the final year of the ongoing Phase 4 of the Program, efforts will build on the success of established activities such as the D-LeaP programs. The Program will continue to provide analytics, advice, knowledge sharing, and capacity building in close cooperation with other development partners active in the region. This coordinated and comprehensive approach will ensure that the continuous demand of water sector stakeholders is effectively addressed.







A.1 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

As of December 31, 2024, disbursements for Phase IV of the Danube Water Program amounted to 64 percent for Bank-executed Component 1 and 74 percent for Recipient-Executed Component 2.

Phase I-III					
Original Project Amount (Phase I)	EUR 4.5 million				
First Additional Financing (Phase II)	EUR 5 million				
Second Additional Financing (Phase III)	EUR 3.5 million				
Roll-over to Phase IV / Continuation of activities	EUR 0.53 million				
Phase IV					
Third Additional Financing (Phase IV)	EUR 4.0 million				
Approval Date	November 21, 2022				
Grant Signing Date	December 7, 2022				
Effectiveness Date	December 14, 2022				
Closing Date	December 31, 2025				
Project Amount (Phase IV plus roll-over Phase I-III)	EUR 4.53 million				
Disbursement Component 1*	64%				
Disbursement Component 2**	74%				

^{*}World Bank led activities



^{**}IAWD led activities



A.2 RESULTS INDICATORS FRAMEWORK

Phase IV

	Base-line		Phase IV				_
PDO Level Results Indicators			2022	2023	2024	2025	Status
PDO: The Development Objective of the Danube Water Program Phase IV is to foster water security and resilient recovery of target and participating countries in the Danube region. This will be achieved by supporting the strengthening of water sector policies, institutional capacities, and efficiency of water sector delivery.							
Indicator One: [NUMBER] of target countries in which regulatory and policy	0	Planned	0	3	5	10	- On track
recommendations for the water sector have been presented and discussed by decision makers	U	Actual	0	3	8		
Indicator Two: [NUMBER] of Hubs delivering a capacity building program	0	Planned	4	14	24	34	
		Actual	11	16	30		On track
Indicator Three: [NUMBER] of participating utilities that have improved their operational performance as a result	28	Planned	33	43	53	63	Achieved
of a capacity building program under the Danube Learning Partnership		Actual	39	49	78		Acmeveu
Indicator Four: Cumulative income generated by IAWD from the implementation of DWP activities (in EUR)	0	Planned	10,000	40,000	70,000	100,000	Achieved
		0	Actual	22,600	104,895	165,935	



In the second se	David Co.		Phase IV			0	
Intermediate Level Results Indicators	Base-line		2022	2023	2024	2025	Status
Component One: Provision of Policy and Regulatory Support to National and Local Level Authorities and Support for Program Implementation (Bank-executed)							
Intermediate Result Indicator One: [NUMBER] of water supply and sanitation		Planned	45	45	45	55	
sector regulation and policy reviews conducted	45	Actual	45	45	46		On track
Intermediate Result Indicator Two: [NUMBER] of sector regulation and policy	7	Planned	7	10	12	14	Achieved
reviews conducted in water security topics	ı	Actual	7	10	22		Acmeved
Intermediate Result Indicator Three: [NUMBER] of policy makers, higher-level technical and managerial staff from	415	Planned	415	445	470	500	Achieved
target and participating countries that benefited from cross-country capacity building activities	415	Actual	415	480	508		
Component Two: Capacity Building for Water	er Supply and	Wastewate	er Utilities	and Institu	utions (Red	cipient-exe	cuted)
Intermediate Result Indicator Four: [NUMBER] of policy makers, higher-level technical and managerial staff from	1,194	Planned	1,234	1,274	1,314	1,354	- Achieved
participating countries that benefited from cross-country knowledge sharing and cross-country capacity building activities		Actual	1,374	1,593	1,825		
Intermediate Result Indicator Five:	529	Planned	549	569	589	609	Achieved
[NUMBER] of female representatives that benefited from capacity building activities.		Actual	687	799	891		Achieved
Intermediate Result Indicator Six: [NUMBER] of participating utilities that have completed an operational	161	Planned				200	Achieved
performance improvement program under the Danube Learning Partnership		Actual	176	176	206		
Intermediate Result Indicator Seven: [Number] of new members joining IAWD	9	Planned				21	- Achieved
		Actual	13	18	23		
Intermediate Results Indicator Eight: Cumulative amount of co-funding received	0	Planned	10,000	50,000	90,000	130,000	- Achieved
supporting the implementation of Danube Water Program activities (in EUR)			46,976	91,014	205,437		



A.3 REGIONAL EVENTS, TRAININGS AND CONFERENCES

Dates in 2024	Location	Number of partici-pants	Purpose	Organized by DWP Co-organized and/or co-funded by DWP Attended by DWP
21 March	Sofia, Bulgaria and hybrid	110	Conference "Water resources – management, preservation and effective use"	2
10-12 April	Ljibljana, Slovenia	30	ICPDR Public Participation Expert Group meeting	3
17–18 April			Rural Wastewater workshop	1
7 May	Virtual		IAWD Board meeting	3
14-16 May	Munich, Germany	80	EWA Conference @IFAT Munich	3
15 March	Virtual	8	UBP Coordinators meeting	2
28-29 May	Brasov, Romania		UBP Danube Hub workshop	1
29 May	Brasov, Romania		D-LeaP Committee Council	3
29 May	Brasov, Romania		IAWD General Assembly	3
29-30 May	Brasov, Romania	302	Danube Water Forum: Riding the Wave	1
05 Jun	Virtual	50	Regional Workshop on Water Monitoring under EU4Green	3
18-19 June	Göstling, Austria		DWP Team retreat	1
20-21 June	Vienna, Austria		EUSDR Annual Forum	3
24-28 June	Bulgaria and Albania		UMT Efficient Plant Management Module	2
4-5 July	Vienna, Austria		YWP Peer-to-Peer Exchange	3
8-12 July	Vienna, Austria		NALAS & IAWD Project Development Workshop	3
9-16 August	Toronto, Canada		IWA World Water Congress and Exhibition	3
04 September	Virtual		EWA Working Group on Qualification	3
11 September	Virtual	8	UBP Coordinators meeting	1
11–12 September	Vienna, Austria		ICPDR Pressures and Measures Expert Group meeting	3
18-20 September	Sarajevo, BiH	120	Non-Revenue Water Conference	3



Dates in 2024	Location	Number of partici-pants	Purpose	Organized by DWP Co-organized and/or co-funded by DWP Attended by DWP	
2 October	Budapest, Hungary and hybrid		EUSDR PA4 Steering Group meeting	3	
7 October	Virtual		Know Now Webinar: Drying Pipes Navigating the Impact of Water Scarcity and Droughts on Water Supply	1	
9 October	Virtual		Extraordinary IAWD General Assembly	2	
10 October	Virtual	100	Earth Observation and Al Solutions for climate resilient water resources management	3	
9-11 October	Budva, Montenegro	120	UVCG Annual Conference	2	
17 October	Virtual	50	Western Balkans Regional Workshop on Policy-Institutions-Regulations	2	
05-07 November			Balkans Joint Conference and Exhibition		
14 November	Virtual		KnowNow Webinar: Taming the Rain: Nature Based Solutions for Stormwater Management	1	
19 November	Sarajevo, BiH	100	BiH Water Conference	3	
25–29 November	Vienna and hybrid		Utility Management Training Module "Water Safety Planning and Crisis Management" residential week	2	
10 December	Virtual	8	UBP Coordinators meeting	1	
11 December	Vienna, Austria	60	ICPDR Ordinary Meeting	3	





A.4 MISSIONS AND TECHNICAL VISITS

Dates in 2024	Location	Participants	Purpose
19 April	Virtual	Katerina Schilling, Elisabeta Poci, Antonia Püspök	STEP Training
19 April	Virtual	Raimund Mair	Coordination meeting with European Commission on drought risk assessments
24 April	Virtual	Raimund Mair, Kathia Havens	Coordination meeting with Global Water Partnership on drought risk assessments
25 April	Virtual	Katerina Schilling, Elisabeta Poci	D-LeaP Quality & Evaluation Working Group meeting
17 May	Virtual	Katerina Schilling, Elisabeta Poci	D-LeaP Quality & Evaluation Working Group meeting
26 May	Virtual	Katerina Schilling, Elisabeta Poci	D-LeaP Quality & Evaluation Working Group meeting
21-22 June	Hybrid	DWP team	DWP Implementation Support Mission
27 June	Virtual	DWP team	Coordination meeting DWP - Centre of Excellence
06 July	Hybrid	DWP team	DWP Steering Committee meeting
26–27 September	Podgroica, Montenegro	Katerina Schilling, Emilija Milunovic	RCDN+ PAB and Networking meeting
4-6 October	Podgorica, Montenegro	Raimund Mair	Mission Montenegro
13-14 October	Virtual	Katerina Schilling	ICPDR EG meeting on Public Participation
14 November	Virtual	DWP team	Coordination meeting DWP - Centre of Excellence
17 November	Virtual	Raimund Mair	Coordination meeting with ICPDR on drought risk assessments
20 November	Virtual	Raimund Mair	Meeting Montenegro Sediment Assessment
27 November	Vienna, Austria	DWP team	Coordination meeting DWP - Centre of Excellence
28-29 November	Hybrid	DWP team	DWP Implementation Support Mission
5-6 December	Brasov, Romania	Katerina Schilling, Antonia Püspök	DWF preparation visit
11-12 December	Podgorica, Montenegro	Raimund Mair	Meeting Montenegro Sediment Assessment
13-14 December	Vienna, Austria	IAWD team	RCDN+ Networking meeting on Quality Standards
18-19 December	Podgorica, Montenegro	Raimund Mair	Mission Montenegro
20 December	Hybrid	DWP team	DWP Steering Committee meeting
4-6 March	Podgorica, Montenegro	Raimund Mair	Montenegro Sediment Mission
13-14 June	Podgorica, Montenegro	Raimund Mair	Montenegro Sediment Mission
22–26 September	Zagreb, Croatia	Raimund Mair, Stjepan Gabric	Croatia Water Mission
8-12 October	Budva, Montenegro	Raimund Mair	Montenegro Water Mission
5-6 November	Pristina, Kosovo	Raimund Mair	Balkans Water Mission
10-12 November	Podgorica, Montenegro	Raimund Mair	Montenegro Water Mission
26 November	Vienna and Hybrid	DWP team	DWP Implementation Support Mission



A.5 PUBLICATIONS

Publication date Title Publication date Title

January -December 2024



Voice of the Danube electronic weekly digest

May 2024



DWF Conference Brochure

March 2024



DWP KnowNow Summary: "Make it Rain"

June 2024



UMT Efficient **Plant Operations** one pager

March 2024



<u>UMT Network</u> Operations and **Energy Efficiency** Module one pager

July 2024



Western Balkans **6 Country Climate** and Development Report

May 2024



IAWD Annual Review 2023

October 2024



DWP KnowNow Summary: "Drying Pipes"

May 2024



DWP Annual Report 2023

November 2024



Water Supply **Utility Drought** Risk Assessment



Publication date Title Publication date Title

November 2024



DWP KnowNow Summary: "Taming the Rain"

November 2024



UMT Water Safety Planning and Business Continuity Management one pager

November 2024



Romania Drought Risk Assessment

December 2024



A Blueprint for Resilience: Charting the Course for Water Security in Europe and Central Asia



A.6 AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER PROGRAMS AND DONORS

Partner	Area of collaboration	Amount	Status
	ECA Water Security Initiative, covering whole ECA region – synergies with methodological development of Danube Water Security Diagnostics	USD 380,000	Ongoing
Global Water Security and Sanitation Partnership	UMT Scholarship covering 50% of program fees for 10 UMT participants	EUR 30,000	Completed
(GWSP)	Technical Assistance on Sediment Management in Montenegro	USD 36,000	Ongoing
	Support for the roll-out of D-LeaP Programs on Access to Finance and Asset Management	USD 50,000	Completed
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)	RCDN+ Grant Agreement of IAWD co-financing relevant DWP activities such as IAWD Strengthening and D-LeaP	EUR 300,000	Ongoing









For further information

www.danube-water-program.org
www.worldbank.org/en/topic/water
www.iawd.at
www.d-leap.org
www.danubis.org



c/o World Bank A – 1020 Vienna, Praterstrasse 31 office@danube-water-program.org



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Federal Ministry
Republic of Austria
Finance





