




DANUBE
WATER
PROGRAM

Smart policies, strong utilities, sustainable services



2021 ANNUAL REPORT **DANUBE WATER PROGRAM**

April 2022

I. SUMMARY

1. The 2021 Annual Report covers activities that took place under the Danube Water Program (DWP) between January through December 2021. During this time, the focus of the program was directed at: i) dissemination and development of new analytical activities; ii) the continued roll-out and upgrade of the Danube Learning Partnership (D-LeaP) for sustainable water and sanitation; iii) continued support for sector policy and regulation; iv) support to benchmarking activities; v) regional knowledge exchange and capacity building; and vi) Phase III extension and close, and Phase IV development and initiation.

2. Pandemic-related restrictions continued to impact working conditions and restrict staff and client ability to travel and hold face to face meetings, workshops and conferences, causing delays in several activities. This has particularly impacted the team's ability to meet in person with higher level government officials and have discussions on water policy reforms and issues. The DWP team, however, continued with the implementation of the activities having adapted to the ongoing circumstances by hosting meetings, workshops, and events virtually. After an initial delay, most activities are back on track. However, to allow for additional time to implement activities and ensure the high quality of deliverables, the team processed a six-months extension of the 3rd Phase deadline through June 2022. At the same time, work on the preparation of the 4th Phase of the DWP has been intensified.

3. As of December 2021, more than 1,100 policy makers, higher level technical and managerial staff from water institutions have benefitted from cross-country capacity building activities. In addition, 161 utilities have participated and completed at least one program under the Danube Learning Partnership (D-LeaP), which are being delivered by nine utility associations that have established program specific D-LeaP Hubs across the region. Furthermore, five countries have Managing Institutions for the Data Collection Management system (DANUBIS DCM), and data is shared by Danube countries with IB-NET and Danubis.org, with a total of 5420 utility records available for the region. Policy and advisory services for the water sector have advanced in several countries. The results framework of the DWP has been updated to measure results under the expanded scope of the activities under the DWP third phase (Annex 1). The indicator targets, as defined under the third phase, are largely on track to be achieved, however, with some delays due to the Covid-19 pandemic situation.

4. DWP disbursements through December 2021, against the total budget of the three phases, amount to 87 percent for Component 1 and 98 percent for Component 2. Overall disbursements in 2021 have been lower than expected due to COVID-19 restrictions on travel and in-person workshops. The overall effects on the DWP budget will be examined as it relates to the closing of DWP Phase III.

5. Under **Component 1** (Bank executed), the Bank team continued with the analytical, advisory, capacity building and knowledge sharing activities. In January 2021, a virtual workshop on Rural Wastewater Treatment was successfully delivered jointly with the Danube River Basin Commission (ICPDR), and in September a second virtual workshop was held on Water Scarcity and Drought Risk Management in the Danube Region, jointly with the Global Water Partnership Central and Eastern Europe (GWP-CEE). Further regional capacity building activities are in the pipeline for early 2022. Advisory services and benchmarking support activities on water supply and sanitation are ongoing in a number of countries, often linked to ongoing work for the preparation and implementation of investment operations including Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Moldova and Ukraine. On water security, at national level the Program supports activities in North Macedonia, Bulgaria, Serbia, and Croatia. At regional level, resources fund a Regional Water Security Diagnostics for the Danube region. The activity is jointly implemented with the ECA Regional Water Security Initiative co-financed from GWSP. A consortium around the International Institute for Applied System Analysis (IIASA) has been contracted and work on the diagnostic is ongoing. The approach for the diagnostics has been presented and discussed at the Danube Water Conference 2021. The elaboration of the Regional Water Security Diagnostics faced delays due to the overall challenging situation in the COVID-19 context and is currently the key focus of activities under Component 1, with a planned finalization in 2022. On the side of Water Supply and Sanitation Services, a regional study was carried out with the title "Impact of Covid-19 crisis on the water supply and sanitation sector in selected countries of the Danube region." The study focuses on the DWP target countries and has been elaborated based on surveys and further background papers and was presented and discussed at the Danube Water Conference 2021. At the national level, recent support on water supply and sanitation

has been provided to Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and North Macedonia. The Bank team also continued to support IAWD in the development and implementation of the D-LeaP, including the development of new trainings on Access to Finance, the Utility Management Training which is linked with the global Utilities of the Future Initiative, and the roll-out of the Water Safety and Crisis Management program.

6. Under **Component 2** (Recipient executed), IAWD continues satisfactorily implementing its capacity development activities that are primarily being delivered under the Danube Learning Partnership (D-LeaP). In 2021, efforts were focused on the continued roll-out of the Danube Learning Partnership programs including the launch of two new programs, i.e. Utility Management Training (UMT) and Access to Financing, and the completion of the 2021 cycle (2020 data) of the Utility Benchmarking Program (UBP). The D-LeaP Annual Report 2020 and the D-LeaP Work Plan for 2021 were presented at the D-LeaP Committee Council Meeting in May 2021 and approved by the IAWD Board in June 2021. As the four-year term of the current D-LeaP Committee Council Chair and Deputy chair has come to an end, elections took place in the course of the second D-LeaP Committee Council meeting in November 2021 and a new D-LeaP Committee Council Chair and Deputy Chair were appointed. The Utility Benchmarking Program continues to progress well with the use of a new data collection platform (IAWD UBP). Significant efforts were made to further develop the Voice of the Danube web including social media channels into a Community of Practice in the Danube region. Based on the success of the COVID-19 webinars, the DWP KnowNow webinar series was launched to address timely topics in a short and concise format. The 2021 Danube Water Conference, themed “Building a resilient and water secure Danube region,” was successfully implemented online in October 2021 using the state-of-the-art Conference Management Platform “Swapcard” putting the digital knowledge sharing activities on the next level. IAWD also took further steps to strengthen its organization base and implemented important elements of the Strengthening Action Plan and the team is working to address a key challenge of ensuring cooperation and closer alignment between investment actions (of the World Bank, other IFIs and bilateral donors) and capacity development offers.

7. The team has processed a six-month extension for Phase III with a new project end date of June 30, 2022. In parallel, the internal processing of the extension of the Danube Water Security Multi-Donor Trust Fund has been completed and additional contributions for the DWP Phase IV were provided by the Austrian Ministry of Finance in December 2021.

II. COMPONENT 1 PROGRESS

Overall status

8. The Bank team continued to work on the analytical, policy advice and regulatory support activities of the program. During the period of January through December 2021, the team focused on dissemination of existing analytical work and development of a Danube Water Security Diagnostics. The team continues supporting the dialogue among policy makers in the region, providing support on policy and benchmarking activities and conducting regional knowledge exchange activities on key topics such as rural water services and water scarcity. The Bank team also continues to support IAWD in the development and implementation of the D-LeaP, including the development of new trainings on Access to Finance, the Utility Management Training which is linked with the global Utilities of the Future Initiative, and the roll-out of the Water Safety and Crisis Management program – the latter was updated in 2020 to incorporate a stronger focus on crisis situations due to pandemics as well as further risk-assessment components due to the water security emphasis of Phase III. The team has processed a six-month extension for Phase III with a new project end date of June 30, 2022. In parallel, the internal processing of the extension of the Danube Water Security Multi-Donor Trust Fund has been completed and additional contributions for the DWP Phase IV were provided by the Austrian Ministry of Finance in December 2021.

Main activities

9. The main activities under Component 1 included:

- ▶ **Communication and Outreach.** Virtual dissemination efforts have continued. Key analytical pieces and publications, including the State of the Sector Reports, respective translations, and more targeted analytical work on rural water service provision, the impact of COVID-19 on water supply and sanitation, and water scarcity and droughts have been disseminated via virtual events which were organized in 2021.
- ▶ **Analytical and Advisory Work on Water Security.** DWP resources are supporting the development of a Regional Water Security Diagnostics for the Danube region. The objective of this activity is to develop a regional overview and to identify key current and future challenges around water security for the Danube region to inform a focused policy dialogue with Danube countries towards building a water secure world for the people, economy and the environment and aiming at the development of policy recommendations to be discussed with policy makers in target countries. The activity is jointly implemented with the ECA Regional Water Security Initiative financed from GWSP. A consortium around the International Institute for Applied System Analysis (IIASA) has been contracted and work on the diagnostic is ongoing. The approach for the diagnostics has been presented and discussed at the Danube Water Conference 2021, and the work is the ongoing key focus of activities under Component 1 with data collection and stakeholder consultations in deep-dive target countries.

In parallel, work at national level in support of water security topics has been conducted:

- In **Bulgaria**, the program supports a policy review on water and agriculture. Source data on agricultural production has been collected and calculations of nutrient surpluses are processed. The output will be spatial distribution of nutrient surpluses and resulting pollution of surface and groundwater bodies. In parallel, policy implications and potential solutions are being elaborated for Bulgaria, feeding into the preparation and discussions of the River Basin Management Plan.
- In **Croatia**, an assessment has been conducted on the resilience of water supply in the coastal areas under the impacts of climate change. The objective of this report was to assess the reliability of water supply in the context of climate change and increased water demand due to expected economic growth over the next 10 – 30 years. The draft report was presented at the Danube Water Conference 2021. Consultations with the line Ministry and Croatian Waters were organized in December 2021 for finalization and dissemination.
- In **North Macedonia**, the DWP supports a water sector strategic assessment as part of the green growth assessment. Two rounds of government consultations (ministries and international donors)

on water sector challenges and opportunities have been completed. Furthermore, opportunities for further collaboration with the Municipal Service Improvement Program Phase 2 are being explored.

- A capacity building and knowledge spillover exchange, supporting the preparation of Flood Risk Management Plans in **Serbia**, has been organized in November 2021. The exchange involved flood risk experts from the Serbian Water Directorate, Serbia and Vojvodina Water Companies, and flood risk management experts from the World Bank. As a follow-up, methodologies have been shared with Serbian experts in support of the preparation of the Plans.

- ▶ **Analytical and Advisory Work on Water Supply and Sanitation.** Water supply and sanitation sector regulation and policies in the Danube region have come a long way since the start of DWP and are today significantly better established and an integral part of sector management in most countries of the region. However, the Covid-19 pandemic has impacted the sector in the Danube region, causing financial, technical, and operational challenges, and imposed requirements for short-term adaptation to the new circumstances to ensure the safe delivery of water-related services. In the second year of the Covid-19 pandemic, the water services sector has learned lessons and adapted to the new normal. However, the crisis has further exposed existing weaknesses but has also increased awareness for the need to improve resilience via proper crisis management arrangements and preparatory planning, through maintaining an efficiently operated and well-funded water service provision sector. To gain better insights, a regional study has been elaborated with the title “*Impact of Covid-19 crisis on the water supply and sanitation sector in selected countries of the Danube region.*” The study focuses on the DWP target countries and has been elaborated based on surveys and further background papers. A dedicated session at the Danube Water Conference 2021 allowed to present and discuss the main findings with sector stakeholders in the region. The study was afterwards finalized, integrating key messages, and [published](#) on the Voice of the Danube webpage.

In addition, support for the water supply and sanitation sector at national level includes the following:

- In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, the program supports the overall water sector reform efforts with advisory services on the development of a country-led and sustainable approach for performance indicator data collection and benchmarking. Several stakeholder meetings with institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina and international donors have been organized and an action plan elaborated. The ongoing support is closely coordinated and aligned with the World Bank Water and Sanitation Services Modernization Project in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- **Croatia**, the most recent EU Member State, is in the final phase of a water services provision sector reform, leading to the regionalization of water utilities, and an expected improvement of service capacity and efficiency by self-sustainable providers. The program supports Croatia in these efforts, with the analysis of the affordability of the water price in the proposed service areas, including an impact assessment of establishing the proposed service areas on the current and future water price after the implementation of the EU projects, and the development of business planning at utility level. This activity was scheduled for completion by end February 2022.
- In **Montenegro**, the National Energy and Water Regulatory Authority (REGAGEN) has been supported during the second half of 2021 in the preparation and adoption of a tariff policy and methodology for the new law on water services related to investments, social affordability, and operator’s plans for performance improvement.
- In **North Macedonia**, the program supports the association of water utilities (ADKOM) in establishing a national benchmarking system for water services with Danubis-DCM as a tool to facilitate data collection, compilation, and analysis of utility performance data for water services, and by using data and indicators established from the country’s Energy and Water Services Regulatory Commission (EWSRC). This effort aims to improve the quality and ease of management of utility data and to help ADKOM and EWSRC in establishing a national water utility benchmarking program.

- ▶ **Regional knowledge exchange and capacity building.** Activities on topics relevant to the regional community of knowledge in water policy and governance remains one of the most important activities. During 2021 three regional knowledge exchange and capacity building events were organized covering topics under both water supply and sanitation and water security: (i) Rural Wastewater Treatment Workshop; (ii) Sewage Sludge Management for a Greener EU; and (iii) Water Scarcity and Droughts in the Danube Region. A fourth workshop on financial sustainability of wastewater management was prepared for early 2022.

- In January of 2021, the DWP and ICPDR jointly hosted a two-day virtual **workshop on Rural Wastewater Treatment**. The objective of the workshop was to contribute to the understanding, issue awareness, potential approaches to overcome constraints and to create an enabling framework for sustainable and decentralized solutions for wastewater treatment in rural areas which remain underserved in many countries and often hosting a socially disadvantaged share of the population. In preparation for the workshop, a report was prepared and presented to provide an overview of the existing framework, status and analytic review on rural wastewater management in the Danube region. The final workshop report includes this overview and incorporates lessons learned during the virtual event. The workshop was considered very successful, engaging 265 participants from 31 countries (217 from the Danube region). Furthermore, the [RWWT event page](#) is the most visited page on the new Voice of the Danube, after the landing page itself, and continues to draw a large audience.
 - In June 2021, partnerships were extended and a workshop on the emerging topic of [Sewage Sludge Management for a Greener EU](#) was jointly organized with the ICPDR and the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) in the frame of the EU Green Week. The topic is of increasing relevance in the context of the ongoing review of the EU Sewage Sludge Directive 86/278/EEC and major investments in Urban Wastewater Treatment in line with the requirements of the EU Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive. The main aim of the workshop was to discuss the situation of sewage sludge management in Europe, particularly in the Danube Region, and to set the scene on the situation and trends and raise awareness on this important but so far relatively neglected topic. The workshop provided the technological context and up-to-date information on new trends and helped in establishing a common understanding and knowledge development for long-term planning of sludge management in the Danube Region countries.
 - In September 2021, the DWP and Global Water Partnership Central and Eastern Europe, and coordinated with the ICPDR, jointly organized a two-day virtual capacity building workshop on the topic of **Water Scarcity and Drought** with the title “Beyond Scarcity: Water Scarcity and Drought Risk Management in the Danube Region.” The objective of the workshop was to raise awareness about the relevance, past and potential future impacts of water scarcity and drought, and to provide a forum for exchange on good practice approaches and options to address the issue to make the region more resilient against such extreme events. The workshop drew 133 participants from the Danube region and beyond, with a mix of Public Authority officials, International Organizations & NGO officials, Private Sector staff, Water & Environmental Agencies officials, staff of Financing Institutions and Academia. A workshop report has been elaborated and made available together with all presentations on the [Voice of the Danube](#) webspace. In October, results of the workshop were shared and discussed at the 2021 Danube Water Conference. The activity drew interest from the European Commission and, upon request, a knowledge spillover exchange on the subject took place with the European Commission in November, allowing to share the lessons learned and related documents as input for discussions on the establishment of a new EU Task Group on water scarcity and drought in the frame of the new work program of the Common Implementation Strategy for the Water Framework Directive.
 - Preparatory work has been conducted for a virtual workshop on the **financial sustainability of wastewater management**. The workshop, scheduled for February 3, 2022, is organized jointly with the ICPDR. The activity includes the preparation of an issue report with the objective to: (i) gain better insights on the status and challenges of financial sustainability of wastewater management in the Danube region, and (ii) support the identification of needs, priorities and possible best practices for sustainable management of wastewater infrastructure in light of EU directive compliance. The workshop allows to present and discuss recent papers, studies, and projects that are relevant for the issue, involving speakers from the World Bank, ICPDR, OECD, national institutions, the private sector and others.
- **Knowledge sharing on European integration and harmonization with requirements of EU directives** in the water sector remains an important topic under the Program and for the sector in the Danube region overall. Following latest developments regarding key EU water directives that are very relevant for a broad variety of water sector stakeholders in the region, the team dedicated three KnowNow webinars to the topic. The [first webinar](#) covered the **new EU Drinking Water Directive 2020/2184**, which came into force in January 2021, with a January 2023 deadline for legal implementation in the Member States. The European Commission's DG Environment gave a comprehensive presentation on the changes, challenges, impacts and implications the Directive will bring for the water sector of the Danube

region, followed by a lively discussion between panelists from the region. A [second KnowNow webinar](#) presented firsthand information on the ongoing **revision of the EU Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive**. Again, the European Commission presented an overview of the Directive, its place in the EU water legislation architecture, the results of a recent comprehensive evaluation and the current impact assessment process as a basis for a successful revision. Panelists then joined in with perspectives from their own fields of expertise in the Danube region. A [third KnowNow webinar](#) on the **EU Green Deal** addressed the broader context of policy developments with specific relevance for the water sector. Presentations and input from the European Commission, World Bank and the European Investment Bank allowed for an informed discussion to shed more light on these broader developments.

- ▶ **Regional Capacity Development activities** (*jointly executed with IAWD*). The D-LeaP curriculum on **Water Safety Planning and Crisis Management (WSP)** was updated in 2020, financed from GFDRR funds, putting a stronger focus on crisis situations due to pandemics next to adding further risk-assessment components due to the water security emphasis of Phase III. Two Hubs were established, with additional financial support from GIZ, to deliver the updated program in Albania/Kosovo and North Macedonia. In Albania SHUKALB received financial support under the DWP and GIZ to conduct a Training of Trainers end of 2020. A first workshop for ten utilities was delivered in early 2021, due to limited funding available only five out of those 10 also received the follow-up training and prepared the Crisis Management Plan. Discussions are ongoing with SHUKALB and RCDN to allow for another three utilities to complete the training in early 2022. In Kosovo the Training of Trainers will be organised in March 2022 and the delivery of the WSP will start in April 2022.

With regards to the **Utility Financing**, a new D-LeaP course on access to funding for utilities was prepared in 2021 and builds on two existing training courses developed by the World Bank's Water Global Practice, with support of PPIAF (Public-Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility). These courses target staff and clients (water and wastewater utilities and other stakeholders) and are the WWS Utility Finance and WSS Utility Creditworthiness. The development of the **Access to Financing: Financing Municipal Water Supply and Sanitation Services (AF)** curriculum has been contracted to AQUASAN Network acting as Technical Partner, with additional input and review by the World Bank team. The Training of Trainers program was delivered in end June 2021 and the training course started in Bosnia and Herzegovina in mid-July and was completed in November with 19 participating utilities.

Finally, with regards to the IAWD run **Utility Management Training program**, excellent progress was made in terms of cooperating with the World Bank program "Utilities of the Future", which has been built into the UMT curriculum next to gender aspects addressed in the human resources module. In addition, the World Bank with the support of the GWSP Trust Fund has launched a UMT Scholarship. In total, 17 applications have been received, out of which ten applicants were selected by a World Bank selection panel to receive a 50% Scholarship. In consequence, the first UMT class with 20 participants (ten males, ten females) started the UMT in May 2021 with the Induction Module (see further updates under Component 2 below).

- ▶ **Data Collection and Benchmarking Activities** (*jointly executed with IAWD*). Specific support has been provided to Montenegro, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia and Ukraine. The goal remains to support performance indicator data collection and benchmarking in countries to inform sector policies and the water services utility industry at national level, as well as to make publicly available utility performance information which is needed to conduct international benchmarking, tracking official aid effectiveness, undertaking research and analytical work, and overall to add to global sector knowledge for evidence-based policies. The DANUBIS DCM platform was updated in 2021 and the software remains to be fully functional and stable for continued use by countries until 2029. The following support has been provided at national level:
 - Cooperation has successfully continued in 2021 in **Serbia** with the Association for Water Technology and Sanitary Engineering (AWTSE), where the program aids utilities in data collection, analysis, and the preparation of reports on Serbia's water utility sector's status with most recent data from the year 2020. Data collection was executed on up to 146 central and other municipal water supply systems. Support also included the preparation of a separate multiannual benchmarking report, allowing to analyze trends.
 - In **Montenegro**, the program assisted the National Energy and Water Regulatory Authority (REGAGEN) to collect and analyze water utility data for 2019 and 2020 in accordance with the Benchmarking Rulebook prepared by REGAGEN and uploading national data to the IBNET and Danubis.org platform.

- In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, the two water associations have been supported in 2021 with data collection and benchmarking of utility performance for the 2020 data.
- In **North Macedonia**, the program supports the Association of providers of communal services in the Republic of North Macedonia (ADKOM) in the data collection, analysis, and preparation of pilot national benchmarking reports with 2019 and 2020 data. The data collection shall be executed for up to 50 municipal water utilities of the Republic of North Macedonia.
- In **Ukraine**, support was provided to the Danube Water Centre on utility benchmarking for utilities participating in the World Bank UIP-2 project. Workshops were organized and individual Benchmarking Reports prepared and provided to participating water utilities.

Challenges encountered

10. The main challenges under Component 1 included:

- ▶ Pandemic-related restrictions continue to impact everyday life and working conditions including staff and client ability to travel and hold face-to-face meetings, workshops and conferences. The team adapted to the new situation and furthermore responded to the needs with specific demand-driven Covid-19 related activities which were originally not foreseen in the DWP Workplan. In combination, Covid-19 caused delays in the timeline and status of the implementation of several activities.
- ▶ The team has adapted and shifted several activities to a virtual setting. After an initial delay, most activities are back on track, whereas the shift to the use of electronic media and virtual exchange has allowed to reach a significantly higher number of policy makers and water sector experts in the region specifically for the knowledge exchange and capacity building activities. Furthermore, the team processed a six-month extension of the program deadline, to allow for additional time to conduct key activities and ensure the high quality of deliverables.

Priorities through June 2022

11. The main priorities for the first half of 2022 (final six months of Phase III) under Component 1 and for the World Bank team are the following:

- ▶ Ensuring successful conduction of Phase III activities:
 - Important progress was made on the Water Security Diagnostics, with data collection and the development of a detailed methodology which was peer-reviewed and endorsed. The methodology is being rolled-out, including the organizations of stakeholder consultations in deep-dive target countries. Work on the Water Security Diagnostics will remain a key focus though June 2022, whereas the finalization of the analytical work will coincide with the beginning of the 4th Phase of the Program. The work on the deep-dive assessment for Ukraine had to be put on hold due to the armed conflict in the country;
 - Maintaining flexibility in terms of addressing emerging priority topics. Next to the still ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, this includes most recently and in addition the ongoing energy crisis causing significant challenges for water utilities to continue with the operation of service delivery. The issue will be addressed in the frame of the capacity building and knowledge sharing activities, including the continuous organization of the DWP “KnowNow” knowledge exchange series together with IAWD, and the preparation and roll-out of the 2022 Danube Water Forum dedicated to the topic;
 - Continuation of close collaboration with World Bank teams working on the preparation of new operational engagements, taking on board analytical and advisory work provided by the DWP towards further endorsement by client counterpart.
- ▶ Managing sustainability of key DWP products:
 - Support IAWD in the preparation and roll-out of D-LeaP training programs and linkage to operational engagements, including latest key products like the updated Water Safety and Crisis Management program, new curriculum on Utility Financing, and support in the implementation of

the Utility Management Training, with linkages to global work of the World Bank under the Utilities of the Future Initiative;

- Continued support for the training of utility staff in WSS data collection, validation and benchmarking using the DCM platform or establishment of national platforms, and continued promotion of DANUBIS.org and linkage to the ongoing discussions on the update of IBNET;
- Supporting discussions on improving the coordination of Capacity Development activities in the frame of D-LeaP / RCDN, on IAWD's strategic reform agenda and evolution with the aim of ensuring long-term sustainability of key activities and impact.

► Transitioning to the future:

- Processing and initiating Phase IV of the Danube Water Program.

III. COMPONENT 2 PROGRESS

Overall status

12. In 2021, efforts were focused on the continued roll-out of Danube Learning Partnership programs including the launch of two new programs, i.e. Utility Management Training (UMT) and Access to Financing, and the completion of the 2021 cycle (2020 data) of the Utility Benchmarking Program (UBP). The D-LeaP Annual Report 2020 and the D-LeaP Work Plan for 2021 were presented at the D-LeaP Committee Council Meeting in May 2021 and finally approved by the IAWD Board in June 2021. As the four-year term of the current D-LeaP Committee Council Chair and Deputy chair has come to an end, elections took place in the course of the second D-LeaP Committee Council meeting in November 2021 and a new D-LeaP Committee Council Chair and Deputy Chair were appointed. The Utility Benchmarking Program continues to progress well with the use of a new data collection platform (IAWD UBP). Significant efforts were made to further develop the Voice of the Danube web including social media channels into a Community of Practice in the Danube region. Based on the success of the COVID-19 webinars, the DWP KnowNow webinar series was launched to address timely topics in a short and concise format. The 2021 Danube Water Conference themed “Building a resilient and water secure Danube region”, was successfully implemented online in October 2021 using the state-of-the-art Conference Management Platform “Swapcard” putting the digital knowledge sharing activities on the next level. IAWD also took further steps to strengthen its organization base and implemented important elements of the Strengthening Action Plan and the team is working to address a key challenge of ensuring cooperation and closer alignment between investment actions (of the World Bank, other IFIs and bilateral donors) and capacity development offers.

13. Extensive discussions have taken place on coordinating the support available for capacity building activities through the RCDN project managed by GIZ and funded by SECO and BMZ. The IAWD project proposal for the upcoming period until autumn 2022 has been approved and allows for co-funding of D-LeaP related activities.

Main activities

14. The main activities under Component 2 included:

- ▶ The **Danube Water Conference** (jointly executed with the World Bank) was hosted virtually on October 18 – 21, 2021. Themed “Building a Resilient and Water Secure Danube Region,” the Conference offered an unprecedented breadth and depth of topics addressed in the frame of the DWP. The program was delivered via two parallel tracks (effectively doubling the number of events delivered) focusing on water supply and sanitation and the broader water security agenda, and a rich schedule of 1 keynote, 6 plenary sessions, 6 roundtable talks, 9 networking sessions, 1 working group, and a newly invented “Ask me anything” session that provided each conference participant with an opportunity to pose any questions to global knowledge leaders in the field. During a global pandemic, the new virtual DWC provided a platform for 250 registered water experts gathering in a virtual space to examine current and future challenges, discussing how to innovate, invest, reform, build capacity, and communicate the sector out of trouble. The team investigated and decided to utilize latest digital conference technology, the “Swapcard” platform, for its many advanced features, including a synthesis of online video conferencing, social media elements, range of possible session formats, exhibitor booths, personalized agendas, library of publications, session recordings, virtual photobooth, and opportunities for networking. The 2021 Danube Water Conference was successfully organized, and the Conference material made available on the [Voice of the Danube](#) webspace.
- ▶ **Danube Learning Partnership.** Despite the still ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, a number of Hubs were able to start the 2021 program delivery, among them four Asset Management Hubs (BiH, Serbia, Albania and Kosovo), one Commercial Efficiency Hub (Romania), one Water Safety and Crisis Management Hub (Albania), one Access to Financing Hub (Bosnia and Herzegovina), one Utility Management Training Hub (Danube region) and four UBP Hubs (Albania/Kosovo, Bulgaria, Ukraine and Danube region). In April 2021, the D-LeaP Committee Council meeting took place virtually. The Committee Council acknowledged the D-LeaP Annual Report 2020, confirmed the D-LeaP Work Plan

2021 and discussed the needs of the national water utility associations in the D-LeaP delivery 2021, especially in the context of the preparation of the RCDN project proposals in order to achieve a maximum synergy between the two funding sources. In addition, a second D-LeaP Committee Council meeting took place on November 23, 2021, and a new chair (Ms. Vesna Muslic, AQUASAN, BiH) and deputy chair (Ms. Maja Medenica, UTVSI, Serbia) have been elected according to the D-LeaP Committee Council Governance, as the term of the previous chair/deputy chair has been completed. Progress was also made on the development and roll-out of two new curricula, i.e. Utility Management Training (UMT) and Access to Financing (AF).

The **UMT** was successfully launched with the Induction webinar series in May and the first virtual module “Financial and Organizational Management” in June. The 2021 class is fully booked with 20 participants from 15 utilities in seven countries with a healthy 50:50 gender balance. In October, the Commercial Management and Customer Service Module was organised as a hybrid event in Ceske Budejovice, with a number of participants joining physically. Due to the high number of Covid-19 cases, the Asset Management and Investment Planning Module took place virtually on 6-10 December. For the fourth Module, physical presence is desirable, thus further planning strongly depends on travel restrictions due to Covid-19. In addition, planning for a second round of delivery has started, although there is a clear need to involve additional corporate partners and ideally to set-up a new Scholarship. In this context, collaboration with EBRD Green Cities is being explored.

The **AF** curriculum has been finalized and Training of Trainers has been delivered by the end of June, the pilot delivery in BiH started in mid-July and was completed in November 2021 with 19 participating utilities. Under Phase IV, additional financial resources are mapped to allow for a delivery in additional countries.

- ▶ A virtual meeting of **IFIs and international donors** was organized in the frame of the 2021 Danube Water Conference. The objective of the meeting was to provide an update of ongoing activities of the donor community in the Danube region and in the frame of the DWP, and to discuss how the donor and IFI community can ensure good communication and coordination among initiatives and how financial resources can effectively support the existing stakeholders and programs of national institutions in strengthening the capacity of the sector. The meeting proved to be useful to maintain partnerships and to provide an update and discuss both ongoing and new initiatives. The meeting minutes, presentations, and related material, like the D-LeaP Utility Management Training testimonial video have been shared with participants following the meeting.
- ▶ **Utility Benchmarking Program:** The Utility Benchmarking Program (UBP) is designed as a foundation program under D-LeaP to create a group of utilities interested and active in utility performance improvement through benchmarking. The Utility Benchmarking Platform (IAWD UBP) has been further improved in the course of the 2021 UBP cycle. There is a strong commitment to attract more utilities, including from Western Europe, into the program to increase its profile. A promotional webinar, organized on 8 June 2021 back-to-back with the regional Danube Hub event, was targeted to support this goal. In November 2021, a UBP Hub coordinators meeting has highlighted that the second year of the Corona pandemic has further hindered the participation of utilities in the program. As almost all events and workshops in all Hubs (despite a study tour to Bavaria in the Ukraine Hub) had to be organized online, the UBP Hub coordinators face an increasing frustration of the utilities to join the online events, as the physical exchange is one of the backbones of the program. Despite that, two out of the three national/sub-regional Hubs (Ukraine and Albania/Kosovo) have successfully onboarded a good number of utilities (16 for Ukraine and 14 for Albania/Kosovo) and completed the data collection for the 2021 cycle (2020 data). Similar to the national/subregional Hubs, the UBP Danube Hub has also faced difficulties to keep utilities engaged, some of them being unable to pay the full fees due to a decrease in income. However, Vienna Water has joined the UBP Danube Hub, which will hopefully encourage additional utilities to join the program. At the coordinators' meeting the participants also expressed the need to better incentivize the participation in the UBP, such as the access to a potential Energy Efficiency program in Ukraine or better cooperation with investment projects. Also, the EBRD Green Cities program and NALAS can support utilities' participation. Finally, the full integration of the UBP Hubs into the D-LeaP scheme, including the payment of the 20% D-LeaP Administration fee, is foreseen for 2022.
- ▶ **DANUBIS.org Water Platform (jointly executed with the World Bank).** DANUBIS.org has been integrated in 2020 in the Voice of the Danube (VoD) web-service. The platform accounted for a significant 1501 unique page views in 2021, demonstrating the relevance of the service. In parallel, discussions on the upgrade and further development of IBNet are ongoing led by the World Bank who

is running the system. In 2021, a decision was taken to re-design the IBNET benchmarking platform, with the objective to renew the focus on using the data collection exercise to help utilities to improve their performance, and by updating the way data is collected and utilized. Additional elements, including data-based services for utilities and regulators, communities of learning for utilities, and alignment of performance data with good management practices, will also be shaped as part of the program. The DWP team, together with regulatory agencies and water utility associations from the region, has participated in consultations with the NextIBNET team that is working on the further development of IBNET. In the course of these discussions, the DWP team and regional partners have provided a number of suggestions based on DWP experience from the region. This effort will continue over the coming period with several more formal outreach events that the NextIBNET team is planning.

- ▶ **Knowledge Sharing Activities (jointly executed with the WB).** The DWP team continues to implement 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. Four editions have been held in 2021, covering topics of the 1) new EU Drinking Water Directive, 2) ongoing revision of the UWWTD, 3) the EU Green Deal, and 4) Danube water sector response to extreme weather events. It was agreed to continue with the series going forward with topics on demand. Looking at potential topics of interest under the current situation, the team has decided to initiate the preparation of the next round of thematic webinars (to be rolled out in 2022) focusing on two potential topics of particular relevance in times when the global economy is impacted by supply problems and raising energy costs: (i) reduction of water losses (NRW) and energy efficiency, a particularly relevant topic for water utilities struggling to deal with increasing costs of energy and high levels of NRW, which are jointly putting pressure to increase water tariffs, and (ii) energy production in wastewater treatment plants, which offers possibilities to cover a part of the total utility energy demand, and help in maintaining financial sustainability of utility operations.
- ▶ **IAWD Communications Strategy:** Expert support was provided in 2019 for a communications strategy and action plan, which has been implemented in 2020 and 2021, including the launch of the new Voice of the Danube website in July 2020. Despite the implementation of the Communication Strategy, the communication expert still supports the development of weekly news item, webinar and conference reports. Along with the new website, the VoD has a strong social media presence across LinkedIn (521 followers), Facebook (126 Likes) and Twitter (104 followers). The new website has been well received as also demonstrated by example figures for the unique page views on the regional capacity building and knowledge sharing activities in 2021: Rural Wastewater Workshop (1033); New EU Drinking Water Directive KnowNow (616); Revision EU UWWTD KnowNow (400); EU Green Deal KnowNow (332); UMT Induction module (271); Utility Benchmarking Program for the Danube region utilities promotional event (275); Extreme Weather Events KnowNow (160); Water Scarcity and Drought Workshop (574); Danube Water Conference (1524); Danubis.org (1195). Finally, a total number of 500 registered voice of the Danube users was observed by end of 2021.
- ▶ **IAWD Strengthening.** The commitment to develop IAWD into a self-reliant financially stable association, financed out of public financial resources was part of the conclusions of the IAWD governing review process. Based on this review a document called “IAWD Strengthening actions and timeline 2020-2022” has been developed and approved by the Board outlining eleven actions to strengthen IAWD. In Action 11 “Undertake a staged program of Governance Reform” the IAWD Board requests and agrees to finance the development of an organisational and financial structure of IAWD under Austrian legislation that best suits this reform.

Therefore, IAWD has initiated a **change of IAWD’s organizational structure** by merging the IAWD Secretariat and the IAWD Technical Secretariat. The position of IAWD Head of Office at Vienna Water has been closed and the handover process to the **new IAWD Secretariat** is ongoing, with new staff to be hired.

Following the complete establishment of the new IAWD Secretariat a consultancy (1) will identify IAWD’s financial needs to fulfil its services towards its members and partners, (2) to review IAWD’s current offer and assess potential future services to members and partners, (3) to explore alternative options for IAWD’s institutional setup that allows for expanding its range of activities, generate income and adopt a different risk profile and (4) to assess additional public funding sources for IAWD under alternative institutional arrangement (5) to define and develop in-kind contributions provided by IAWD member utilities which support the maintenance of IAWD. IAWD aims to share results of the consultancy in the first half of 2022 and ensure that the outcomes of organizational change can happen throughout Phase IV.

As a consequence of this process the City of Vienna evaluates its support of IAWD which constantly grew over the last three decades of the IAWD development (1993 – 2021). To support the needed transition process of IAWD, the City of Vienna will decide on the future setting of the IAWD support, to arrange it in an updated form that allow a further grow of IAWD as a regional association based in Vienna. This process is ongoing with results to be communicated in the first half of 2022. Arrangements confirmed by the City of Vienna will enable the consultant to develop a sound organisational concept to develop IAWD into a self-reliant financially stable association.

In addition, a new board was elected in 2021 and will take over in January of 2022. Walter Kling will continue to serve as President, but two new Vice Presidents representing utilities that strongly support IAWD have been elected, i.e. – Sofia Water and Energie AG. The new VPs and Board are strongly committed to grow IAWD further and will be in office for the duration of Phase IV of the DWP.

Challenges encountered

15. The main challenges under Component 2 included:

- ▶ Pandemic-related restrictions continue to impact everyday life and working conditions including staff and client ability to travel and hold face-to-face meetings, workshops and conferences. The team adapted to the new situation and furthermore responded to the needs with specific demand-driven Covid-19 related activities which were originally not foreseen in the DWP Workplan, e.g. the KnowNow series or a fully virtual Danube Water Conference.
- ▶ The long-term illness of the staff member responsible for Procurement and Finance resulted in the completion of the employment with IAWD at the end of June. The additional workload was compensated by workload shifts and the hiring of a part-time staff member Emilija Milunovic, who finally took on the RCDN Project Manager position in autumn 2021 on a full-time basis. Philip Weller, long-term coordinator of the DWP, retired end of November 2021. The handover of tasks to Katerina Schilling, leading the IAWD Technical Secretariat since December 2021 on an interim basis, was prepared throughout the year in order to guarantee a smooth transition. As the effective DWP staff was reduced to one person by December 2021, a fast onboarding of additional staff members is needed under the upcoming phase 4.
- ▶ COVID-19 has continued to delay the delivery of a number of the D-LeaP Programs, which rely on face-to-face meetings, e.g. NRW and EE. Nevertheless, a number of Hubs (14 in total) have been able to deliver trainings despite the pandemic situation by including online learning elements as well as virtual trainings.
- ▶ At the current stage, it is foreseeable that the initial objective for the 3rd Phase of the DWP to make D-LeaP financially self-sustainable has only partly been achieved. In order for D-LeaP to sustain and grow, more utilities will need to join the program and it is expected that further funds will be needed for the continuation of the activity at an enhanced pace. In this context, the further alignment with donor-funded investments in the region is key for providing sustainable capacity building in the region.
- ▶ The Swiss-funded Regional Capacity Development Network (RCDN) for Water and Sanitation Services aims at improving the performance of local government units and water utilities in the Western Balkans. A key factor in the future success will be the alignment of the D-LeaP activities with activities under the RCDN project. The RCDN reform process was intended to be completed by the end of 2020 but is on hold for the time being. In June 2021 IAWD submitted a Grant Proposal to RCDN including a number of activities closely aligned with efforts under the DWP and D-LeaP in particular. In addition, national water utility associations in RCDN target countries have included activities to co-finance the implementation of D-LeaP activities. IAWD's project proposal has been approved and IAWD staff member Emilija Milunovic was able to start working in September 2021, although the grant funds were only made available in November.

Priorities through June 2022

16. The main priorities for 2022 under Component 2 for the IAWD team are the following:

- ▶ Successful completion and closure of Phase 3 of the Danube Water Program.
- ▶ Kick-off of Phase 4 of the Danube Water Program:

- Onboarding of new staff members;
 - Development of the Phase 4 work plan;
 - Prepare and deliver the 2022 Danube Water Forum in Tirana, Albania;
 - Further strengthen the uptake of D-LeaP programs, support for national utility associations, and launch of D-LeaP Hubs and capacity building programs (Asset Management, Energy Efficiency, Non-Revenue Water, Commercial Efficiency, Water Safety Planning, and Utility Benchmarking Program) and the implementation and management of the D-LeaP Learning Management System (D-LeaP Academy);
 - Finalize the current delivery of the Utility Management Training, prepare a second cycle of the and explore external corporate support to the program in order to reduce participation fees;
 - Continue the new DWP “KnowNow” knowledge exchange series on just in time topics relevant to the water sector in the Danube region.
- ▶ Managing sustainability of key DWP products:
- Continued exchange with IFIs and other donors towards establishing a funding strategy for D-LeaP and benchmarking activities, and ensuring the creation and utilization of synergies between D-LeaP and the RCDN project;
 - Utilization and further expansion of the newly developed Voice of the Danube web including social media channels to further grow a Community of Practice in the Danube region.
- ▶ Transitioning to the future:
- The IAWD Head of office Katherine Wagner, who was seconded by Vienna Water, was announced to conclude her engagement in IAWD at the end of the year due to other commitments within Vienna Water. The priorities in 2022 include the onboarding of a new IAWD assistant including a smooth handover of tasks as well as the transformation of the IAWD Technical Secretariat into the IAWD Secretariat;
 - Further implementation of actions outlined in the IAWD Strengthening Actions Document and completing a consultancy to evaluate different options for institutional arrangements including pros and cons of IAWD’s legal set-up.

IV. ANNEXES

1. Results Framework¹

PDO LEVEL RESULTS INDICATORS	Base-line		Cumulative Target Values										Status
			PHASE I				PHASE II			PHASE III			
			2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	
Indicator One (New): [NUMBER] of participating utilities that have improved their operational performance as a result of a capacity building program under the Danube Learning Partnership.	0	Planned								5	15	20	Exceeded
		Actual								13	28	39	
Indicator Two (Revised): [NUMBER] of participating countries that have implemented and are using a sector information system to track utility performance and are sharing data with IB-NET Danubis.org.	5	Planned	3	3	4	6			6	8	9	10	Achieved
		Actual	3	3	4	5	7	8	8	10	10	10	
Indicator Three (New): [NUMBER] of participating utility associations that have established a hub and are delivering capacity development programs under the Danube Learning Partnership.	4	Planned								5	6	7	Exceeded
		Actual							4	8	8	9	
Indicator Four (New): [NUMBER] of target countries in which regulatory and policy recommendations for the water sector have been discussed, endorsed and are being implemented.	0	Planned								2	5	7	On track
		Actual								1	3	5	
Indicator Five (New): [NUMBER] Cumulative income generated by IAWD from the implementation of DWP activities (in EUR).	0	Planned								25000	65000	165000	On track
		Actual								34592	66052	145000	

¹ Results framework as of December 2021. The project has been extended until June 2022. The final results indicators will be due by that deadline.

INTERMEDIATE LEVEL RESULTS INDICATORS	Base-line	Cumulative Target Values											Status
		PHASE I				PHASE II			PHASE III				
		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021		
Intermediate Result (Component One): Developed regulatory and policy instruments for improved country framework conditions in Water Supply and Sanitation and Water Resources Management (BETF)													
Intermediate Result indicator One (Revised): [NUMBER] of target countries in which regulatory and policy recommendations on water supply and sanitation have been discussed by decision makers.	0	Planned	0			8			8			10	Achieved
		Actual		0	2	5	7	7	9	10	10	10	
Intermediate Result indicator Two (Revised): [NUMBER] of water supply and sanitation sector regulation and policy reviews conducted.	0	Planned	0			11			22			40	Achieved
		Actual		0	0	16	17	19	28	36	38	41	
Intermediate Result indicator Three (New): [NUMBER] of policy makers, higher-level technical and managerial staff from participating countries that benefited from cross-country capacity building activities on water security topics	0	Planned										40	Exceeded
		Actual								0	0	285	
Intermediate Result indicator Four (New): [NUMBER] of sector regulation and policy reviews conducted in water security topics	0	Planned										5	On track
		Actual								1	1	3	
Intermediate Result indicator Five (Revised): [NUMBER] of utility records reported to IBNET/DANUBIS from participating countries.	0	Planned							3500			5300	Exceeded
		Actual				3896	4206	4313	4727	4912	5239	5420	

Intermediate Result (Component Two): Increased institutional capacity in participating utilities (RETF)													
Intermediate Result indicator Six (Revised): [NUMBER] of participating utilities that have completed an operational performance improvement program under the Danube Learning Partnership	0	Planned	0			15			70			120	Exceeded
		Actual		0	22	49	49	50	79	140	158	161	
Intermediate Result indicator Seven (Revised): [NUMBER] of policy makers, higher-level technical and managerial staff from participating countries that benefited from cross-country capacity building activities.	0	Planned	0			45			350			730	Exceeded
		Actual		85	200	367	515	607	701	919	1105	1194	
Intermediate Results indicator Eight (Revised): [NUMBER] of female representatives that benefited from capacity building activities.	0	Planned							100			280	Exceeded
		Actual				134	197	229	252	329	359	529	
Intermediate Results indicator Nine (New): [NUMBER] of curricula developed and offered under the Danube Learning Partnership.	5	Planned										8	Achieved
		Actual							5	6	6	8	
Intermediate Results indicator Ten (Revised): [NUMBER] of water utilities that the project is supporting.	0	Planned							150	195	210	230	Exceeded
		Actual				108	114	135	182	201	226	238	
Intermediate Results indicator Eleven (New): [NUMBER] of new members joining IAWD.	0	Planned										9	Exceeded
		Actual							0	3	11	11	
Intermediate Results indicator Twelve (New): IAWD revises its membership categories and adopts a revised fee structure	0	Planned								Yes	Yes	Yes	Completed
		Actual							No	No	Yes	Yes	
Intermediate Result indicator Thirteen (Revised): [NUMBER] of participating utility associations that are implementing their business plans.	1	Planned							6				Completed
		Actual				0	0	1	8				
Intermediate Result indicator Fourteen (No change): [NUMBER] of Competitive Grants completed as planned.	0	Planned							20				Completed
		Actual				12	12	17	21				

2. Disbursement levels

All amounts in EUR 1,000

Component	Starting Balance January 1, 2021	Annual Disbursements	Current Balance December 31, 2021	Undisbursed Balance	% disbursed
Component 1 / World Bank	3,621	595	4,216	630	87
Component 2 / IAWD	6,846	389	7,235	164	98
Total	10,467	984	11,451	794	94

3. Missions and technical visits

Dates	Location	Participants ²	Purpose
January 15, 2021	Virtual	Philip Weller, Katerina Schilling	Meeting with IAWD member ENERGIA AG to discuss UBP, UMT and WSP
January 21-23, 2021	Virtual	Philip Weller, Katerina Schilling	Preparation meeting for the Danube Water Forum
January 27-29, 2021	Virtual	Philip Weller, Katerina Schilling	UBP Workshop Bulgarian Hub and UBP Coordinators meeting
February 4-7, 2021	Virtual	Philip Weller	Asset Management Advisory Committee Meeting and Recruitment Workshop
February 23, 2021	Virtual	DWP team	DWP Steering Committee Meeting
February 24-26, 2021	Virtual	Philip Weller	Asset Management Advisory Committee meeting and Sustainability Workshop
April 9, 2021	Virtual	DWP team	NextIBNET coordination meeting
April 15, 2021	Virtual	Raimund Mair, Stjepan Gabric	Stakeholder meeting state of benchmarking in Bosnia and Herzegovina
May 5, 2021	Virtual	DWP team	DWP Steering Committee Meeting
May 26, 2021	VIC Vienna	Raimund Mair	Coordination meeting ICPDR
June 15-16, 2021	Virtual	DWP team	DWP Implementation Support Mission

² Only core IAWD and WB team members are indicated

Dates	Location	Participants ²	Purpose
June 17, 2021	Virtual	Raimund Mair, Stjepan Gabric, Camilo Lombana Cordoba	Exchange on water sector support needs in Serbia
July 2, 2021	Virtual	Philip Weller	Asset Management Steering Committee Meeting
8 July	Virtual	DWP team	DWP Steering Committee Meeting
13 October	Virtual	DWP team	DWP Steering Committee Meeting
15 November	Virtual	Raimund Mair, Kathia Havens	Meeting with European Commission on water quantity management and climate change adaptation
25 November	Virtual	Raimund Mair, Kathia Havens, Stjepan Gabric	Meeting Global Water Partnership (GWP) on Drought Risk Management
29-30 November	Virtual		DWP Implementation Support Mission
20 December	Hybrid	Stjepan Gabric, Raimund Mair	Consultation with Line Ministry and Croatian Waters on Coastal Resilience Study
22 December	Virtual	Katerina Schilling	Asset Management Advisory Board Meeting

4. Regional Events, trainings and conferences

Dates	Location	Number of participants	Purpose	1. Organized by DWP 2. Co-organized and/or co-funded by DWP 3. Attended by DWP
January 13	Virtual	43	Water Safety and Crisis Management: Business Continuity Essentials for Disaster Risk Management Program Launch in the Czech Republic	1
January 19-20	Virtual	265	Beyond Utility Reach? How to Close the Rural Access Gap to Wastewater Treatment and Sanitation Services	1
February 10	Virtual	15	DANUBIS Data Collection and Management Platform (DANUBIS DCM) Steering Group Meeting	1
February 18	Virtual	131	Now it's clear: Changes and Chances in the Revised Drinking Water Directive	1
February 25	Virtual	11	IAWD Board meeting	3
March 18	Virtual	117	Cleaning Up: The Review of the EU Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive	1
April 26	Virtual	17	D-LeaP Committee Council meeting	1
May 5, 2021	Virtual	11	IAWD Board meeting	3

Dates	Location	Number of participants	Purpose	1. Organized by DWP 2. Co-organized and/or co-funded by DWP 3. Attended by DWP
May 5, 2021	Virtual	40	IAWD General Assembly	3
May 12, 2021	Virtual	72	Green Deal for the Blue Danube: The European Green Deal and its implications for the Danube region	1
May 18-20, 2021	Virtual	70	Utility Management Training - Induction Module Webinar series	1
May 27-27, 2021	Virtual	256	European River Symposium	2
June 1, 2021	Virtual	26	UMT FOM module introductory session	1
June 8, 2021	Virtual	79	Utility Benchmarking Program for the Danube region utilities	1
June 9, 2021	Virtual	21	UBP Danube Hub Workshop: 2019 data results	1
June 10, 2021	Virtual	96	Workshop on Sludge Management in the Danube Region for a Greener EU	2
June 14-18, 2021	Virtual	31	UMT FOM module residential week	2
September 16, 2021	Virtual	8	IAWD Board meeting	3
September 20-21, 2021	Virtual	133	Beyond Scarcity: Water Scarcity and Drought Risk Management in the Danube Region	1
September 23, 2021	Hybrid	46	Second Advisory Board Meeting Danube Hazard m3c	3
September 27, 2021	Hybrid	100	Climate Change Conference EU Danube Strategy	3
September 27, 2021	Virtual	-	UMT CMCS Introductory Session	1
September 29, 2021	Virtual	51	Prepared to be Unprepared: Response of the Water Sector in the Danube Region to Extreme Weather Events	1
October 4-10, 2021	Hybrid	25	UMT CMCS residential week	2
October 18-20, 2021	Virtual	216	Danube Water Conference	1
October 21, 2021	Virtual	13	IAWD Roundtable	3
October 21, 2021	Virtual	9	Regulators Meeting	1
October 21, 2021	Virtual	15	IFI Meeting	1
October 21, 2021	Virtual	7	IAWD Board meeting	3
November 3-5, 2021	Virtual	-	Balkans Joint Conference & Exhibition	3
November 18, 2021	Virtual	20	Capacity building exchange on Flood Risk Management in Serbia	1
November 23, 2021	Virtual	17	D-LeaP Committee Council Meeting	1
November 24, 2021	Virtual	5	UBP Coordinators meeting	1
December 2, 2021	Virtual	22	UMT AMIP Introductory Session	1
December 6-10, 2021	Virtual	23	UMT AMIP residential week	1

5. Publications and documents

Date of publication	Title
January – July 2021	Voice of the Danube electronic weekly digest
January 18, 2021	DWP electronic newsletter
January 25, 2021	Webinar summary “Water Safety and Crisis Management: Business Continuity Essentials for Disaster Risk Management Program Launch in the Czech Republic”
February 22, 2021	Webinar summary “Now it's clear: Changes and Chances in the Revised Drinking Water Directive”
March 14, 2021	Workshop report “Beyond Utility Reach? How to Close the Rural Access Gap to Wastewater Treatment and Sanitation Services”
March 29, 2021	Webinar summary “Cleaning Up: The Review of the EU Urban Waste Water Directive”
April 29, 2021	UMT Scholarship Announcement
May 18, 2021	Webinar summary “Green Deal for the Blue Danube: The European Green Deal and its implications for the Danube region”
June 18, 2021	2020 IAWD Annual Review
June 20, 2021	DWP Interview Podcast
Sept. – Dec. 2021	Voice of the Danube electronic weekly digest
September 2021	Workshop Report “Beyond Scarcity: Water Scarcity and Drought Risk Management in the Danube Region”
October 2021	2021 Danube Water Conference Brochure
October 1, 2021	Webinar summary “Prepared to be Unprepared: Response of the Water Sector in the Danube Region to Extreme Weather Events”
November 2021	Impact of Covid-19 crisis on the water supply and sanitation sector in selected countries of the Danube region

6. Agreements with other programs and donors

Partner	Area of collaboration	Amount	Status
Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction (GFDRR)	Co-financing for the “water safety planning and business continuity” capacity building activity	USD 242,413	Completed
Global Water Security and Sanitation Partnership (GWSP)	Co-financing for the “utility access to financing” capacity building activity and FUEL study	USD 119,500	Completed
	ECA Water Security Initiative, covering whole ECA region – synergies with methodological development of Danube Water Security Diagnostics	USD 380,000	Ongoing
	UMT Scholarship covering 50% of program feeds for 10 UMT participants	EUR 30,000	Ongoing
GIZ	Co-financing of the Water Safety and Crisis Management delivery for North Macedonia and Albania	EUR 60,000	Completed
SEEAM - Asset Management Advisory Services to Water	Co-financing of the Asset Management delivery in Albania and Kosovo	EUR 64,400	Ongoing

Partner	Area of collaboration	Amount	Status
Utilities in South Eastern Europe			
RCDN	Co-financing of the Water Safety and Crisis Management delivery (completed) and financing of RCDN project manager supporting the implementation of D-LeaP programs (ongoing)	EUR 30,000	Ongoing

7. Overview of D-LeaP programs







PROGRAM	TECHNICAL PARTNER	CURRICULUM READY	TOT DELIVERED	TRAINERS TRAINED	HUBS ESTABLISHED
	MACROCONSULTING	✓	✓	5	4
	VARIOUS	✓	✓	N/A	1
	ECONOLER	✓	✓	20	3
	VALU ADD	✓	✓	16	3
	HYDROCOMP	✓	✓	19	4
	UNA CONSULTING	✓	✓	22	2
	INFRAPROTECT	✓	✓	14	4
	AQUASAN NETWORK	✓	✓	9	1

Figure 7.1 Key characteristics of each D-LeaP programs













COUNTRY	ASSOCIATION	2021 DELIVERY	2020 DELIVERY	2019 DELIVERY	2018 DELIVERY	2017 DELIVERY	IN PREPARATION
	AQUASAN	AM AF	AM	NRW AM	NRW AM EE	NRW AM	
	ADKOM	WSP CE	WSP CE	WSP	CE		
	BWA	UBP	UBP	UBP	UBP	UBP	
	SHUKALB	WSP AM	AM	AM	CE		EE
	SHUKOS	UBP AM	UBP AM	UBP AM	UBP	UBP	WSP
	UTVSI	AM	AM	AM	AM	AM	
	WASS						EE
	ARA	CE					
	ENERGIE AG						WSP
	DWCUKR	UBP	UBP	UBP	UBP	UBP	
	UVCG						NRW
	IAWD	UBP UMT	UBP	UBP	UBP	UBP	

Figure 7.2 Status of implementation of the D-LeaP programs by each Hub