

# 1<sup>ST</sup> VIRTUAL DANUBE WATER FORUM

## The Importance of Water Sector Data in the Digital Age

**Date/Time:** 27-29 October 2020

**Location:** Online

**Target Audience:** national institutions (ministries, regulators); national water and municipal associations, local government and utilities from the Danube region; representatives from regional utility (IAWD) and municipality (NALAS) associations; representatives from regulatory agency platforms; representatives from the EU, GIZ, SDC and the World Bank; Young Water Professionals; academia; private companies; and others.

**Concept:** The availability of sound water sector data is the inevitable basis for achieving smart policies, strong utilities and sustainable services in the Danube region.

Given the highly unsecure situation due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Danube Water Forum goes virtual. The Forum will address the importance of water sector data in the digital age in a three-day series of webinars.

Day one will start with welcoming remarks from the original hosts for the event from Banja Luka and will be followed by a high-level keynote speech to set the scene at the international level, before diving into the Danube region by showcasing how data availability helps evaluate the improvement of the water sector in the Danube region. This will be followed by a presentation on water sector data in the intersectoral context taking into account Integrated Water Resources Management and water security aspects.

Two sessions on the second day will address the interrelation between smart policy decisions and sound data availability; and the value of sound performance indicator data for financing water services will be discussed.

The third and final day will address the relevance of data collection as a basis for utility performance improvement and summarize the key findings of the Forum in a high-level panel discussion.

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## Tuesday, 27 October

13:30	<b>Opening and Keynote: The relevance of data for water management and sustainable service provision</b> The Opening will introduce the hosts of the Danube Water Forum and provide an overview of the agenda. It will be followed by a keynote speech and a panel discussion on the subject.
14:45	<i>Break</i>
15:00	<b>The bigger picture: water data in the intersectoral context</b> Addressing the importance of data in the context of Integrated Water Resources Management and achieving water security.
16:15	<i>Close of Day 1</i>

## Wednesday, 28 October

13:30	<b>Data counts: Sound data for smart policies</b> Showcasing how smart water sector policy and regulation based on sound data availability can contribute to sustainable water service delivery.
14:45	<i>Break</i>
15:00	<b>Data transparency: the value of performance indicators for municipal governments and the general public</b> Highlighting the importance of data reporting to municipal governments for addressing additional financing needs as well as to the general public.
16:15	<i>Close of Day 2</i>

## Thursday, 29 October

13:30	<b>Utility strengthening: Improving performance through data collection</b> Addressing the relevance of data collection as a basis for utility performance improvement in the context of the Utility Benchmarking Program.
14:45	<i>Break</i>
15:00	<b>Closing of Danube Water Forum</b> Summarizing the key take home messages.
16:15	<i>Close of Day 3</i>