

CLOSING SESSION

WRAP-UP AND REFLECTIONS ON KEY MESSAGES

29 OCTOBER 2020, 15:00 – 16:15

Day 3 of the Danube Water Week: Ready for conclusions?

Not really: wanted to dig deeper

Already Day 3?

Would love to spend time over coffee

Looking forward to the weekend

WHY WE ALL CAME HERE



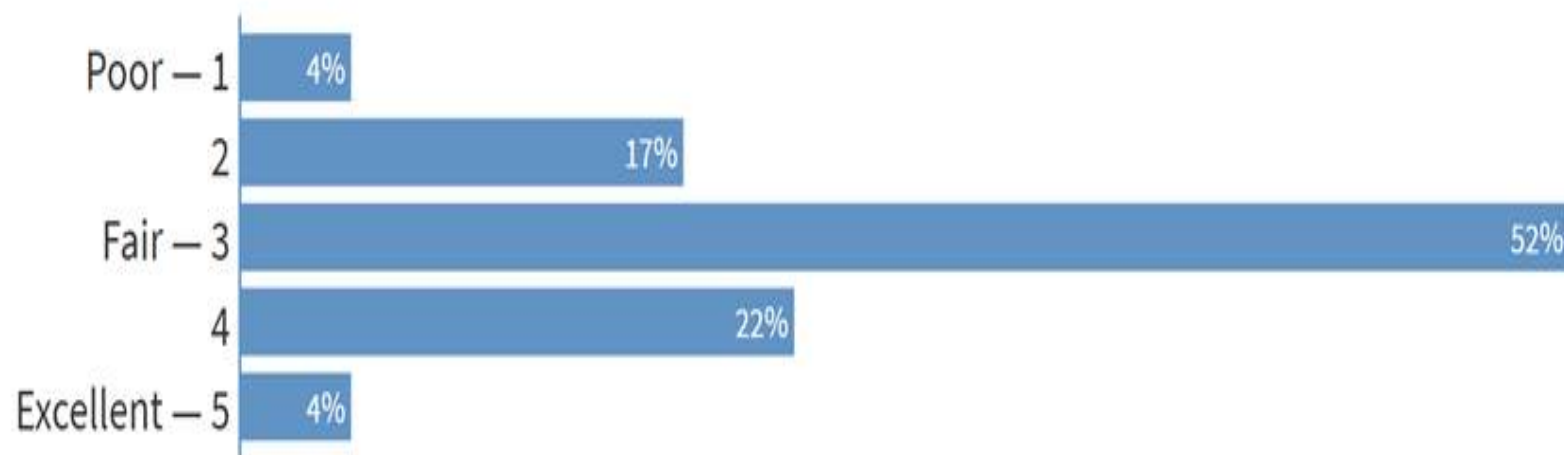
Smarter Policies, Stronger Utilities, Sustainable Water Services

DAY 1: WELCOMES

- ▶ **Mr. Milan Gavric, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of Republic of Srpska, BiH**
- ▶ **Mr. Igor Radojicic, Mayor of Banja Luka/BiH**
- ▶ **Dr. Elisabeth Gruber, Director International Financial Institutions, Ministry of Finance, Austria**
- ▶ **Raimund Mair, Danube Water Program Leader, World Bank**
- ▶ **Philip Weller, Head of Secretariat, IAWD**

DO WE HAVE A CHALLENGE?

How would you rate data management and digitalization in your area of work, on a scale of 1 (poor, not at all up to new standards and technologies) to 5 (excellent, at the forefront of technology)?



... MAYBE WE DO...



DAY 1: RELEVANCE

- ▶ **European Commission: Joachim D'Eugenio** European Green Deal – European Data Strategy – Digitization is coming for water sector
- ▶ **Belgrade Waterworks: Maja Medenica** - Knowing your system: 4000 kms instead of 2500kms
- ▶ **Sava River Basin: Dragan Zeljko:** Integrating 15 different data systems; flood forecasting
- ▶ **World Bank: Harsh** - Change your view or perspective by using data from different sources
- ▶ **Global Water Partnership: Konstantin Ivanov** – Investing in Trust matters as much as in data infrastructure (e.g. drought watch)
- ▶ **Austrian Environment Agency: Gabriele Vincze** – data sharing depends on data quality! – And: Cost in Austria “upper six digit range actually”

DAY 2: DATA COUNTS

- ▶ **Hungary Regulatory Authority: Gabor Kisvardai** After eight years of data collection: complete revision – why, how, what – in collaboration, eliminated 40% of data collection burden
- ▶ **Montenegro Regulatory Authority: Milica Petrovic** – data to determine fair tariffs – objectivity, transparency, non-discrimination. Despite huge variation amongst operators: Benchmarking! “Good regulation needs good data”
- ▶ **Netherlands, KWR: Peter van Thienen** – 21% performance improvement through benchmarking. Also: Decision Support Tools: Reducing non-revenue water, better planning through modelling uncertainties
- ▶ **Austria, University of Innsbruck: Heribert Insam** – waste water monitoring for early warning/ prediction of COVID spread “waste water epidemiology”

DAY 2: TRANSPARENCY

- ▶ **Banja Luka Water Utility: Miodrag Babic** – data on 550 technical and financial variables – business improvement. Across the Republika Srpska: more and more utilities joined benchmarking.
- ▶ **Municipality of Sombor: Antonio Ratkovic** - energy independence for the city's wastewater plant
- ▶ **EBRD: Damir Cengic** – massive investments into green city infrastructure – where cities commit to “green action plans”, with targets on GHG reduction – targets require data
- ▶ Q&A:
 - ▶ Transparency,
 - ▶ Public right for information

DAY 3: UTILITY STRENGTHENING

- ▶ **Mr. Sokol Xhafa, Acting Director, Regional Water Company Pristina, Kosovo** - The value of data as solid basis for asset management – the case of Pristina
- ▶ **Ms. Sanda Nastic, PhD, Head of Business cooperation and International projects, PUC Novi Sad, Serbia** - The use of performance indicator data as controlling tool – the case of Novi Sad
- ▶ **Mr. Lyubomir Filipov, Strategic partnerships and projects Director, Sofia Water, Bulgaria** - Ensuring reliable data to inform sound management decisions – the case of Sofia Water

How far are you away from getting to the point when you use data really well, in your utility, authority, association?

We are pretty much there

Maybe in 5 years

It's a long long road

Not before my retirement

Sort by order of Priority -- What are the main challenges for good data collection, management, use and sharing?

Incentives

Capacity

Financial resources

Unclear on what/how to collect

Institutional/legal framework

Data sharing

Other

What stops you from sharing data effectively – in your utility, authority, association?

Nothing, we share everything

Poor/mixed data quality

No system for sharing

Political concerns

Other

**In your organization – do you have examples
when you saw improvements, based on the
use of data?**

PANEL DISCUSSION: TAKE AWAYS

- ▶ The Gaps
- ▶ The Gains
- ▶ The Tasks ahead (important, difficult, personal)

CLOSING OF THE DANUBE WATER FORUM



David Michaud

World Bank

Practice Manager of the
Water Global Practice for
Europe and Central Asia,
USA

END OF THE DANUBE WATER FORUM



Stay safe!
And see you at the
Danube Water Conference 2021!