

2022 DANUBE WATER FORUM

Energizing the Water Sector in the Danube region

28 - 29 June 2022

Tirana, Albania

**Back-to-back with Business Meetings on 28 June
and the Conference on “Benchmarking and Asset Management Nexus – Key
tools for Regulators/ Decision Making” on 30 June 2022**



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The Danube Water Program

The Danube Water Program (DWP) implemented by the World Bank and IAWD supports smart policies, strong utilities and sustainable water and wastewater services in the Danube region by partnering with regional, national and local stakeholders, promoting an informed policy dialogue around the sector's challenges and strengthening the technical and managerial capacity of the sector's utilities and institutions.

Danube Water Conference and Danube Water Forum

Since its start, the Danube Water Program has been working on the establishment of an international network of water sector institutions and experts, becoming a well-known resource for vitally needed capacity building, knowledge sharing, analytical and advisory services. In that context, 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 organised in the region with the support of a strong partner. 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.

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 river basin organizations; representatives from the EU, UNECE, GIZ, SDC, the World Bank and other bilateral donors and IFIs; Young Water Professionals; academia; private companies; NGOs, and others.

Context and objective

Austerity can come with an unforeseen price tag: increasing energy tariffs hit the water sector everywhere in the Danube region, and they are especially painful if investments have not yet taken place on measures to improve energy efficiency.

Energy, as for other sectors, is also essential for the water sector, driving water service delivery through pumping, treatment of freshwater before consumption, as well as treatment before discharge into the environment. Energy tariffs, generally considered as

affordable over the past decades, provided only limited incentives for water utilities to focus on an increase of energy efficiency and hence the reduction of energy consumption. This situation is about to change since energy costs have recently surged and costs for electricity and gas have multiplied in the beginning of 2022. Inefficient operations of utilities put additional financial constraints on water service providers to ensure the operation, maintenance, and replacement of the aging infrastructure.

However, for a majority of water and wastewater utilities, investments in energy efficiency can generate the highest return on investment. Electricity costs for water production, distribution, and treatment contribute significantly to operating costs, ranging in many countries from around 30% to 80% of non-labor operating costs of water and wastewater utilities. This although opportunities for the reduction of energy consumption are estimated between 20-50%, with a return on investment in 1-5 years. Improving energy efficiency in utilities can therefore lead to significantly lower energy costs and reduced vulnerability to energy tariff increases. Combined with measures like the reduction of water losses, measures to improve the performance of the water services sector can therefore contribute to both adaptation as well as mitigation to the impacts of climate change, as well as increasing the resilience of the sector overall.

The Danube Water Forum will provide an opportunity to shed light on the linkage between energy and water from different angles, with sessions exploring the development of the energy market and its effects on utilities in the region, innovative technologies, financing, and the creation of an enabling environment for modernization and reform.

Event's overview and Agenda

Business Meetings	Tuesday, 28 June		
	08:45 – 10:15	IAWD Board meeting <i>Room Antigonea 3</i>	
	10:15 – 10:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
	10:30 – 12:30	IAWD General Assembly <i>Room Antigonea 2</i>	
	12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch Break</i>	
	13:30 – 15:30	D-LeaP Committee Council meeting <i>Room Antigonea 2</i>	14:00 – 15:30

2022 Danube Water Forum	Tuesday, 28 June		
	15:00	<i>DWF Registration</i>	
	16:30 – 18:00	2022 DWF Opening Session: Water and Energy in Europe <i>Room Antigonea 1+2</i>	
	18:00 – 20:00	2022 DWF Welcome Reception and Cocktail	
	Wednesday, 29 June		
	08:00	<i>DWF Registration</i>	
	09:00 – 10:30	Setting the Scene: The Energy Market and Effects on Utilities in the Danube region <i>Room Antigonea 1+2</i>	
	10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
	11:00 – 12:30	Innovative technologies for saving and producing energy in the water service sector <i>Room Antigonea 1+2</i>	
	12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch Break</i>	
	13:30 – 15:00	Financing energy related measures in the water service sector <i>Room Antigonea 1+2</i>	
	15:00 – 15:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
	15:30 – 17:00	Creating an enabling environment to energize the water sector: capacity building, policy, and regulation <i>Room Antigonea 1+2</i>	
	17:00 – 17:30	2022 Danube Water Forum: Closing Session <i>Room Antigonea 1+2</i>	
	19:00	Joint Conference Dinner with Nexus event	

2022 DWF Opening Session: Water and Energy in Europe

Date: Tuesday, 28 June 2022

Time: 16:30 – 18:00

Location: Hotel Rogner, Room Antigonea 1 and 2

Chairs: Mr. Raimund Mair, World Bank and Ms. Katerina Schilling, IAWD

Context and objective

The opening and keynote session will feature welcoming words from senior representatives of the various institutions organizing, hosting and supporting the 2022 Danube Water Forum and provide an overview of the event's structure. It will be followed by a keynote speech and a panel discussion on the subject.

Session structure

Time		Content	Speaker
16:30	5'	Introduction	Mr. Raimund Mair , Senior Water Resource Management Specialist, World Bank, Austria and Ms. Katerina Schilling , Interim Head of Technical Secretariat, IAWD, Austria
16:35	10'	Welcome words from the host country	H.E. Ms. Belinda Balluku , Minister of Infrastructure and Energy, Albania (tbc)
16:45	5'	Welcome words from the Austrian Ministry of Finance	Ms. Elisabeth Gruber , Director for International Financial Institutions, Austrian Federal Ministry of Finance, Austria
16:50	10'	Welcome words from the World Bank and IAWD	Ms. Evis Sulko , Senior Country Operation Officer, World Bank, Albania and Mr. Walter Kling , President, IAWD, Austria
17:00	20'	Keynote: Exploiting the Water-Energy Nexus – Energy Saving and Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Mr. Loïc Charpentier , Water Innovation Policy Manager, Water Europe
17:20	40'	Framing the debate (reactions on the Keynote including electronic voting to engage the audience)	Moderated by Ms. Monika Weber-Fahr , Senior Expert, Austria Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Viola Haxhiademi, Secretary General, Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy, Albania (tbc)- Mr. Filip Wanner, Technical Project Manager, Energie AG Bohemia, Austria- Ms. Hajrije Morina, Director, Water Services Regulatory Authority, Kosovo
18:00		End of session	

2022 DWF Welcome Reception and Cocktail

Date: Tuesday, 28 June 2022

Time: 18:00 – 20:00

Location: Hotel Rogner, garden area

Chairs: Mr. Winston Yu, World Bank and Mr. Walter Kling, IAWD

Context and objective

In the frame of the Welcome Reception and Cocktail the World Bank will launch the **Albania National Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Modernization Program**. In addition, participants have the opportunity to network with peers.

Session structure

Time		Content	Speaker
18:00	5'	Introduction	Mr. Winston Yu , Practice Manager, Water Practice, Europe and Central Asia, World Bank, Austria and Mr. Walter Kling , President, IAWD, Austria
18:05	15'	Launch of the World Bank Albania National Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Modernization Program	H.E. Ms. Belinda Balluku , Minister of Infrastructure and Energy, Albania (tbc) Ms. Evis Sulko , Senior Country Operation Officer, World Bank, Albania Mr. Eduart Rumani , National Programme Officer at Swiss Embassy in Albania (tbc)
18:20	100'	Networking	
20:00		End of reception	

Setting the Scene: The Energy Market and Effects on Utilities in the Danube region

Date: Wednesday, 29 June 2022

Time: 09:00 – 10:30

Location: Hotel Rogner, Room Antigonea 1 and 2

Chair: Mr. Walter Kling, IAWD

Context and objective

Energy, as for other sectors, is also essential for the water service sector, driving water service delivery through pumping, treatment of freshwater before consumption, as well as treatment before discharge into the environment. Energy tariffs, generally considered as affordable over the past decades, provided only limited incentives for water utilities to focus on an increase of energy efficiency and hence the reduction of energy consumption. This situation is about to change since energy costs have recently surged and costs for electricity and gas have multiplied in the beginning of 2022. Inefficient operations of utilities put additional financial constraints on water service providers to ensure the operation, maintenance, and replacement of the aging infrastructure. This session aims to set the scene for the 2022 Danube Water Forum by exploring the recent developments of the energy markets in the region and the resulting impact on the utilities struggling to secure sustainable service provision due to increasing energy tariffs.

Session structure

Time		Content	Speaker
09:00	5'	Introduction	Mr. Walter Kling , President, IAWD, Austria
09:05	15'	Energy price shocks in the Danube region: latest developments and future perspectives	Ms. Katharina Gassner , Senior Energy Economist, World Bank, Vienna
09:20	15'	Rising costs versus poor efficiency: challenges and opportunities to (de-)energize utilities	Mr. Radoslav Russev , CEO Wadata, Bulgaria
09:35	55'	Discussion with panel and audience	Moderated by Mr. Walter Kling , President, IAWD, Austria Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ms. Katharina Gassner, Senior Energy Economist, World Bank, Vienna- Mr. Radoslav Russev, CEO Wadata, Bulgaria- Mr. Christian Minelli, Head of Secretariat, European Water Regulators (WAREG), Italy (tbc)- Mr. Ndricim Shani, Chairman, Albanian Water Regulatory Authority (WRA), Albania- Ms. Elisabeta Poci, Executive Director, SHUKALB, Albania- Mr. Gazmend Daci, Senior Energy Specialist, World Bank, Albania- Mr. George Sugar, CEO, ViK Subotica, Serbia
10:30		End of session	

Innovative Technologies for Energy Management in the Water Services Sector

Date: Wednesday, 29 June 2022

Time: 11:00 – 12:30

Location: Hotel Rogner, Room Antigonea 1 and 2

Chair: Ms. Kathia Havens, World Bank

Context and objective

Technologies for energy production and energy conservation have always been present in water supply and sanitation (WSS), but their importance and integration in processing and operating WSS technology has grown in importance only with the recent major increase of energy costs, that is likely to be an irreversible process. Unless efficient mitigation measures are implemented, the rise of energy prices will have serious impact on WSS service sustainability, and consequently service affordability.

The objective of this session is to look at examples of innovative technology used for production and conservation of energy in water supply and sanitation systems from two different angles: (I) experience of water utility in application of innovative technologies for energy production and saving, and (II) most recent technological solutions that are being developed by water industry. Brought together, technology users and technology developers should provide participants with information on what technological innovations are being developed and how they are being successfully applied.

Session structure

Time		Content	Speaker
11:00	5'	Introduction	Ms. Kathia Havens , Program Analyst, World Bank, Austria
11:05	15'	Renewable energy production - the case study of Kubratovo WWTP in Sofia	Mr. Jelyaz Rangelov , Manager of Kubratovo WWTP, Sofia Water, Bulgaria
11:20	15'	Renewable energy production - the case study of Vienna Water	Mr. Wolfgang Gruber , Staff Unit Manager, Vienna Water, Austria
11:35	15'	Energy Management for Water and Waste Water industry	Mr. Steffen Haendler , Business Development Energy Management, Siemens, Germany
11:50	40'	Discussion with panelists and audience	Moderated by Ms. Kathia Havens , Program Analyst, World Bank, Austria Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mr. Jelyaz Rangelov, Manager of Kubratovo WWTP, Sofia Water, Bulgaria- Mr. Wolfgang Gruber, Staff Unit Manager, Vienna Water, Austria- Mr. Steffen Haendler, Business Development Energy Management, Siemens, Germany- Mr. Florian Kretschmer, Senior Scientist, BOKU Vienna, Austria- Mr. Camilo Lombana Cordoba, Senior Water Supply and Sanitation Specialist World Bank, USA
12:30		End of session	

Financing Energy Related Measures in the Water Services Sector

Date: Wednesday, 29 June 2022

Time: 13:30 – 15:00

Location: Hotel Rogner, Room Antigonea 1 and 2

Chair: Ms. Patricia Lopez, World Bank

Context and objective

Water and sanitation often struggle to receive sufficient funding for its regular service provision, therefore securing additional funds necessary for financing of energy related measures represents an additional challenge. This session looks at the possible sources and different modalities of financing available for the energy investments in water and sanitation sector and how those financing schemes and sources could be utilized to achieve financial sustainability of water service provision.

Session structure

Time		Content	Speaker
13:30	5'	Introduction	Ms. Patricia Lopez , Senior Infrastructure Finance Specialist, World Bank, Spain
13:35	15'	Options for Financing Energy Efficiency Projects in the Water Services Sector	Mr. Dilip R. Limaye , Expert Water Consultant, World Bank
13:50	15'	Is the EU Taxonomy relevant for energy efficient water service provision?	Mr. Juan Bofill Maestre , Senior Water Engineer, Projects Directorate, Water Management Division, European Investment Bank
14:05	15'	How to support green Start-ups in the water service sector for the delivery of innovations	Mr. Lyubomir Filipov , Strategic Partnerships and Projects Director, Sofia Water, Bulgaria
14:20	40'	Discussion with panel and audience	Moderated by Ms. Patricia Lopez , Senior Infrastructure Finance Specialist, World Bank, Spain Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mr. Dilip R. Limaye, Expert Water Consultant, World Bank- Mr. Juan Bofill Maestre, Senior Water Engineer, Projects Directorate, Water Management Division, EIB- Mr. Lyubomir Filipov, Strategic Partnerships and Projects Director, Sofia Water, Bulgaria- Mr. Eduart Rumani, National Programme Officer at Swiss Embassy in Albania (tbc)- Mr. Sokol Xhafa, Acting CEO, Regional Water Company Pristina, Kosovo
15:00		End of session	

Creating an Enabling Environment to (De-)Energize the Water Sector: Capacity Building, Policy, and Regulation

Date: Wednesday, 29 June 2022

Time: 15:30 – 17:00

Location: Hotel Rogner, Room Antigonea 1 and 2

Chair: Ms. Elisabeta Poci, SHUKALB

Context and objective

While rising energy prices are primarily impacting technical and financial sustainability of water utilities that are responsible for water service provision, solutions for this challenge can only be found with a joint effort of policy makers, and water and energy regulatory bodies and water service providers, through creation of an adequate enabling environment and through coordinated action. The objective of this session is to analyze how integrated policy, regulatory interventions, and capacity building can support a more sustainable water service delivery in the Danube region despite the recent energy crisis.

Session structure

Time		Content	Speaker
15:30	5'	Introduction	Ms. Elisabeta Poci , Executive Director, SHUKALB, Albania
15:35	15'	Aligning Policies, Institutions and Regulations (PIR) for efficient water service delivery	Ms. Dambudzo Josephine Muzenda , Senior Water Supply and Sanitation Specialist, World Bank, USA
15:50	15'	Albania Water Sector Modernization Program: An innovative approach to achieve the once in a lifetime water sector reform	Mr. Klevis Jahaj , Director, National Agency for Water Supply, Sewerage and Waste Infrastructure (AKUM), Albania (tbc)
16:05	15'	D-LeaP – a regional partnership to capacitate the water service sector	Ms. Vesna Muslic , Chair, Danube Learning Partnership (D-LeaP) Committee Council
16:20	40'	Discussion with panel and audience	Moderated by Ms. Elisabeta Poci , Executive Director, SHUKALB, Albania Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Dambudzo Josephine Muzenda, Senior Water Supply and Sanitation Specialist, World Bank, USA - Mr. Klevis Jahaj, Director, National Agency for Water Supply, Sewerage and Waste Infrastructure (AKUM), Albania - Ms. Vesna Muslic, Chair, Danube Learning Partnership (D-LeaP) Committee Council - Ms. Evis Gjebrea, Deputy General Director, Tirana Water and Wastewater Utility, Albania - Representative, Albanian Water Resources Management Agency, Albania (tbc)
17:00		End of session	

2022 Danube Water Forum: Closing Session

Date: Wednesday, 29 June 2022

Time: 17:00 – 17:30

Location: Hotel Rogner, Room Antigonea 1 and 2

Chair: Mr. Winston Yu, World Bank

Context and objective

This session aims at summarizing of the main messages and ideas coming from the various sessions, and at reflecting on the main points and key ideas from conference, to identify the future paths for the sector to strengthen the institutional capacities to (de-)energize the water sector in the Danube Region.

Session structure

Time		Content	Speaker
17:00	5'	Introduction	Mr. Winston Yu , Practice Manager, Water Europe and Central Asia, World Bank, USA
17:05	20'	Panel discussion on lessons learned and how to proceed	Moderated by Mr. Winston Yu , Practice Manager, Water Europe and Central Asia, World Bank, USA Rapporteurs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mr. Walter Kling, President, IAWD, Austria- Ms. Kathia Havens, Program Analyst, World Bank, Austria- Ms. Patricia Lopez, Senior Infrastructure Finance Specialist, World Bank, Spain- Ms. Elisabeta Poci Executive Director, SHUKALB, Albania
17:25	5'	Closing words of co-organizer	Mr. Petrit Tare , President, SHUKALB, Albania
17:30		End of the Forum	

Joint Conference Dinner

Date: Wednesday, 29 June 2022

Time: 19:00

Location: Prestige Resort

Chair: none

Context and objective

The Conference Dinner will be convened jointly with the on “Benchmarking and Asset Management Nexus – Key tools for Regulators and Decision Makers” and will provide conference participants excellent networking opportunities. The Dinner will take place in the beautiful Prestige Resort at the seaside close to Durrës.

Transport by bus will be available starting at the Hotel Rogner at 6pm.