IAWD International Association of Water Service Companies in the Danube Region

DANUBE WATER PROGRAM

2027 DANUBE WATER CONFERENCE

FROM DIRECTIVE TO ACTION:

TRANSFORMING WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT IN THE DANUBE REGION

19 - 21 May 2027, Vienna, Austria

Back-to-back with the UBP Danube Hub Workshop and Business Meetings on 18 - 19 May

Supported by:

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In cooperation with:

EWA
EUROPEAN WATER ASSOCIATION

The Danube Water Program

The Danube Water Program (DWP), implemented by the World Bank and IAWD, strengthens smart policies, capable utilities, and sustainable water and wastewater services across the Danube region. It does so by partnering with stakeholders at all levels, fostering informed policy dialogue, and building the technical and managerial capacity of sector institutions and utilities.

Danube Water Conference and Danube Water Forum

Since its inception, the Danube Water Program has built a strong international network of water-sector institutions and experts, becoming a trusted hub for capacity building, knowledge exchange, and analytical support. Within this framework, the annual Danube Water Conference (DWC) and Danube Water Forum (DWF) have emerged as the Program's flagship events, alternating each year. While the DWC is held in Vienna, the DWF is hosted across the region in partnership with a committed local host. Together, these events provide a key platform for sector professionals from the Danube region and beyond to discuss emerging challenges and opportunities in the 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

Themed “From Directive to Action: Transforming Wastewater Management in the Danube Region”, the 2027 Danube Water Conference will bring together more than 200 stakeholders from across the region to explore what the evolving EU wastewater framework means in practice for utilities, authorities, and partners. After an opening that shapes a shared vision for Danube wastewater services, a reality check will take stock of where the region stands today and what lies ahead. The program will then turn to the technical areas shaping wastewater management, starting with the next generation of wastewater operations, where data and innovation are turned into better performance. Parallel discussions will follow on practical solutions for small and rural communities, and on advanced treatment to remove micropollutants and enable water reuse. A second set of parallel sessions will look at how utilities and cities can manage stormwater together through blue-green approaches, and at how to build operational and cyber resilience for the unexpected. The technical agenda will close the loop by treating sludge as a resource, with a focus on recovery and the road to energy neutrality. Completing the program, a poster breakfast will showcase the latest research and practical solutions, while a final session on the human dimension will highlight the skills, people, and partnerships needed to turn technology and policy into reliable, future-ready wastewater services.

Event Agenda and Overview

Business Meetings / **World Bank and OEWAV Premises**					
	Tuesday, 18 May				
	13:00 – 17:00	YWP Workshop			
	12:00 – 13:00	Lunch			
	13:00 – 17:00	YWP Work-shop	UBP Danube Hub Workshop	Wastewater Knowledge Sharing Event	EWA Council Meeting
	Wednesday, 19 May				
	09:00 - 12:00	IAWD General Assembly	UBP Danube Hub Workshop	Wastewater Knowledge Sharing Event	
	12:00 – 13:30	Lunch / Transfer to Venue			

2027 DWC / **Tech Gate**		
	Wednesday, 19 May	
	13:00	Start of Registration & Exhibition
	14:30 – 16:00	**2027 Danube Water Conference Opening**: From Directive to Action - Transforming Wastewater Management in the Danube Region
	16:00 – 16:30	Networking Coffee
	16:30 – 18:00	**The Wastewater Reality Check**: Where the Region Stands and What Comes Next
	18:00 – 19:30	Welcome Reception featuring Dunbar Ceremony

2027 DWC / **Tech Gate**			
	Thursday, 20 May		
	08:30	Registration	
	09:00 – 10:45	**Next-Gen Wastewater**: Turning Data and Innovation into Better Performance	
	10:45 - 11:30	Networking Coffee	
	11:30 – 13:00	**Going Rural**: Practical Wastewater Solutions for Small Communities	**Beyond Conventional Treatment**: Removing Micropollutants and Enabling Water Reuse
	13:00 – 14:00	Networking Lunch	
	14:00 – 15:30	**From Grey to Green**: Utilities and Cities Managing Stormwater Together	**Ready for the Unexpected**: Building Operational and Cyber Resilience
	15:30 – 16:15	Networking Coffee	
	16:15 – 17:45	**Let's Settle Down**: Sludge Management, Resource Recovery and the Road to Energy Neutrality	
	19:30	Conference Dinner: Enjoy true Austrian Heurigen Spirit	
	Friday, 21 May		
	09:00 – 10:00	**Fresh Ideas at Poster Breakfast**: Showcasing Research and Solutions for Wastewater Management	
	10:00 – 12:00	**Who Will Deliver the Transition?** Skills, People and Partnerships for Future-Ready Wastewater Services	
	12:00 – 12:15	2027 Danube Water Conference Closing	