



International
Association of Water
Service Companies
in the Danube Region



**DANUBE
WATER
PROGRAM**

2025 DANUBE WATER CONFERENCE

**LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD:
A STATE OF THE SECTOR UPDATE**



14-16 May

Twelve Conference Center, Vienna (AUT)

Back-to-back with the UBP Danube Hub Workshop on 13-14 May
and Business Meetings on 14 May

supported by:

 **Federal Ministry
Republic of Austria
Finance**

 **Federal Ministry
Republic of Austria
Agriculture, Forestry, Regions
and Water Management**

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 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

The Danube region's water sector is facing several challenges, including consequences of the recent global pandemic, energy and economic crises caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, further enhanced regulatory requirements set by EU Directives on water, and the increasing effects of climate change. Water and wastewater utilities are operating in a dynamic environment, where they must maintain high levels of service provision while dealing with rising energy costs and an aging workforce, all while investing in performance improvements.

As part of its ongoing efforts to support the region, the World Bank is currently working on the State of the Sector Report - Update 2025, building on previous editions from 2015 and

2018. Draft results from this ongoing work will be presented and discussed at the conference, providing a foundational overview of the sector's progress, challenges, and future opportunities.

The Danube Water Conference will focus on both existing and emerging obstacles of the region's water sector. Through sessions exploring best practice examples and interactive discussions aimed at identifying new solutions, the conference will seek to provide valuable insights and innovative strategies to help ensure that the water sector in the Danube region continues and further expands to deliver high-quality service provision amidst a constantly changing environment. The conference's objective is to foster cooperation and knowledge exchange to tackle the emerging challenges faced by the Danube region's water sector.

Event Agenda and Overview

Business Meetings WB Office	Tuesday, 13 May		
	09:00 – 12:00	UBP Danube Hub Workshop	YWP Meeting
	12:00 – 13:00	<i>Lunch</i>	
	13:00 – 17:00	UBP Danube Hub Workshop	YWP Meeting

Business Meetings WB Office	Wednesday, 14 May			
	09:30 – 12:00	IAWD General Assembly	UBP Danube Hub - Management Practices	Donors and IFIs Meeting
	12:00 - 13:30	<i>Lunch / Transfer to Venue</i>		

2025 DWC Twelve Conference Centre	Wednesday, 14 May	
	13:00	<i>Start of Registration & Exhibition</i>
	14:00 – 15:30	2025 Danube Water Conference Opening Session: From Past Lessons to Future Visions - A Sector Update Overview
	15:30 – 16:00	<i>Break</i>
	16:00 – 17:30	Driving Change in Water Services Delivery: Innovating Policies, Institutions, and Regulations
	17:30 – 18.30	<i>Welcome Reception and Drinks</i>

2025 DWC
Twelve Conference Centre

Thursday, 15 May	
08:00	Registration
09:00 – 10:30	Running water: How to attract and retain a diverse workforce in the water service sector
10:30 - 11:15	Coffee Break
11:15 – 12:45	Mastering infrastructure: How to stay on top of your assets
12:45 – 13:30	Lunch Break
13:30 – 15:00	Just Plug the Leaks! What's Stopping Us from Tackling Non-Revenue Water?
15:00 – 15:45	Break
15:45 – 17:15	What's new in wastewater management: Challenges, Regulations and Solutions
18:30	Dinner
Friday, 16 May	
09:00 – 10:00	Poster Breakfast
10:00 – 11:15	Beyond Utility Reach? How to Close the Urban – Rural Access Gap
11:15 – 12:30	Plan for the unplanned: Crisis Management in water services delivery
12:30 – 12:45	Closing