

Dear Colleague,
Madam, Sir,

We have the pleasure of inviting you to the first “**International Workshop on Wastewater Management in the Danube river Basin**“, which will take place from **28 to 29 November 2017** in **Bucharest, Romania**. The Workshop is co-organised by the ICPDR, IAWD, the International Association of Water Supply companies in the Danube River Catchment Area, and the World Bank. The event is hosted by the National Administration “Romanian Waters” and supported by the Danube Water Program (DWP, jointly implemented by IAWD and World Bank), the EUSDR PA4, the Global Water Partnership, the EIB, both Directorates General ENV and JRC of the European Commission.

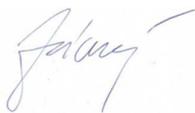
This initiative answers a need by the countries of the Danube River Basin that have expressed their need to more specifically deal with the **multi-dimensional problem of the wastewater management** under the ICPDR’s umbrella. The ICPDR reacted to the request of the countries and decided to get more active on the subject. In a first step, the countries identified the challenges they were facing and outlined potential topics to address further. In a second step, countries agreed **to organise a workshop** aiming at bringing together the administration (national and local authorities) and utility sectors together with all relevant stakeholders for joint discussions on the following three pillars:

- Investment & Financing
- Management & Operation
- Innovation & Technology

The anticipated goal of the workshop is to achieve a clear concept of the roles and responsibilities for all stakeholders involved and to identify the necessary further steps towards **sustainable management** of wastewater infrastructure and services. Moreover, the workshop will provide the participants with a **platform** to identify, share and discuss best practices and cost-efficient solutions in wastewater management.

We are looking forward to your participation and to fruitful discussions at the workshop.

Sincerely,



Ivan Zavadsky
Executive Secretary
ICPDR



Walter Kling
Secretary General
IAWD



David Michaud
Practice Manager
World Bank

Overview of topics

Pillar I - Investment & Financing

Understanding the financial issues behind both the construction/upgrading/extension of wastewater collecting system and/or treatment plants and the operation of the facilities is crucial for improving and maintaining the wastewater infrastructure. Funding sources, ways of absorbing funds, investment prioritisation according to cost-efficiency and cost-benefit analysis are critical issues to be discussed. To operate the newly built infrastructure in a sustainable manner and to ensure compliance with wastewater collection, treatment and discharge standards, sufficient tariffs, proper incentives and accountability need to be in place.

Pillar II - Management & Operation

The administrative level (either national/regional or local administration) identified a high demand for qualified experts dealing with wastewater management related project development and implementation. For better absorbing available funds, people with proper organizational and strategic skills at the central and local administration are crucial. Moreover, at the level of water authorities, the regulation and control over the implementation issues are important aspects. Utilities often lack sufficiently trained technical experts. Well-developed trainings targeting the operation and maintenance of wastewater infrastructure are crucial to ensure not only a qualified workforce, but also efficient and sustainable wastewater treatment.

Pillar III - Innovation & Technology

At small agglomerations (below 2,000 PE) and in areas, where construction of sewer systems is not advantageous therefore individual and other appropriate systems (IAS) shall be applied, wastewater management should be managed by small scale, decentralised treatment facilities to make the infrastructure technically and economically feasible.

Technological progress and the rise of environmental awareness in dealing with water resources have led to technological breakthroughs such as: sludge and wastewater reuse, biogas utilisation, energy optimisation, treatment of organic micro-pollutants that allow to use resources in a technology-driven and environmentally aware manner.

Event logistics & contact

Venue:

Ramada Bucharest Majestic Hotel
Calea Victoriei 38-40
010082 Bucharest, Romania

Event duration:

Start: 28 November 2017 at 09 AM
End: 29 November 2017 at 1 PM

Registration:

Registration to the workshop is now open and will close on **31 October 2017**.

We kindly ask you to **register here:** <https://danubis.icpdr.org/event/16487>

Accommodation:

The organisers have blocked a contingent of rooms at the event venue. Please use the hotel reservation form available at <https://danubis.icpdr.org/event/16487> to book your hotel room.

Workshop fee:

While attendance is free of charge, registration is mandatory. Accommodation and travel costs for a limited number of experts from non-EU MS (RS, BA, ME, MD, UK, MK, AL) can be covered. Requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Contact:

Mr. Adam Kovacs
Pollution Control Technical Expert of the ICPDR Secretariat
Email: adam.kovacs@unvienna.org

Meeting documents and information:

Further logistical information, draft workshop agenda and related documents will be provided in due time prior to the workshop at <https://danubis.icpdr.org/event/16487>.

In order to ensure proper representation and participation of **experts on wastewater management** from both, the administration and water utility sector, we kindly ask you to **disseminate the information on the workshop** to your relevant colleagues.