



International Association  
of Water Supply Companies  
in the Danube River  
Catchment Area



UBP

# Utility Benchmarking Program for Water Supply and Sanitation Utilities

**GAIN** practical support in  
analyzing and improving utility  
performance

**LEARN** from other utilities  
in the sector

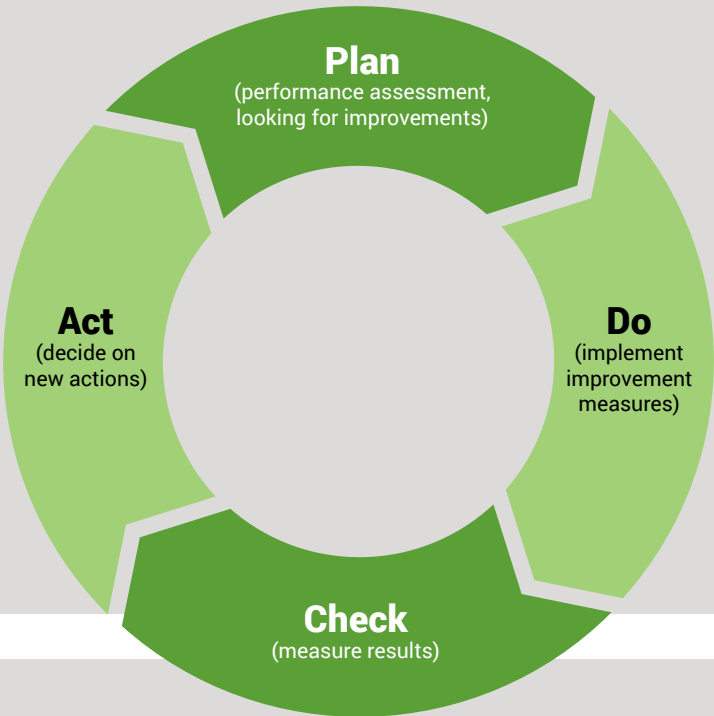
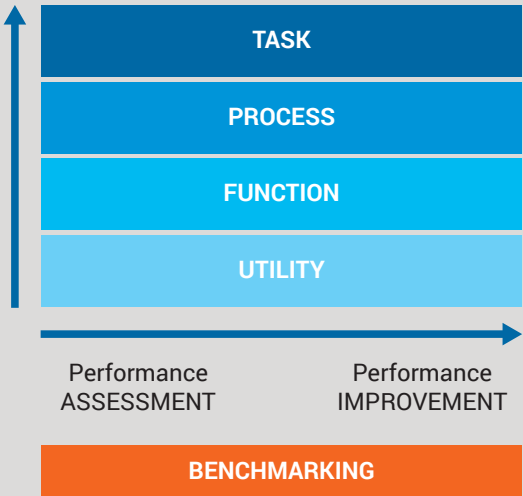
**BE UP TO DATE** on the  
most recent tools for analyzing  
utility performance

**BENEFIT** from regional  
and global comparison with  
other utilities and experts

# Utility Benchmarking Program for Water Supply and Sanitation Utilities

Get to know **Benchmarking** as a key tool for performance improvement through systematic search and adaptation of leading practices following two consecutive steps: Performance assessment and performance improvement

LEVEL OF  
DETAIL



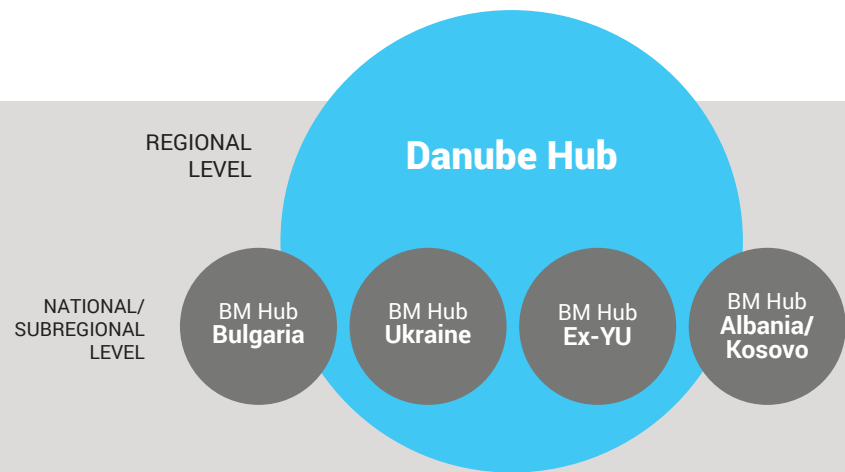
**Experience Benchmarking** as highly efficient tool for continuous improvement, preferably embedded in a yearly business planning cycle

Understand the importance of “**utility (driven) Benchmarking**” activities targeting utilities aiming at improving their own performance over time (quality focused) versus “**authority (driven) Benchmarking**” activities involving all utilities in a country for statistics, policy making and enforcement of minimum service requirements (quantity focused)

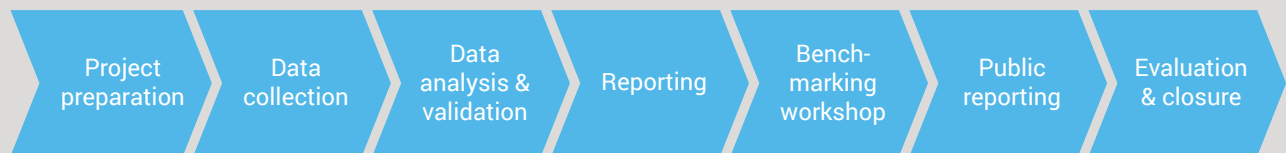
|              | Authority (driven) Benchmarking                                                                  | Utility (driven) Benchmarking                                                                                           | International utility (driven) Benchmarking                                                            |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Goals        | Data collection and reporting, transparency, enforcement of minimum requirements                 | Voluntary improvement of utility services within a country, may be response to, demand for or substitute for regulation | Voluntary improvement of utility services beyond national best practices raising of national standards |
| Participants | All utilities in a country, including small utilities, with special focus on regulated utilities | Leading* utilities in a country initially, later most utilities in a country                                            | Leading* utilities from a number of countries, mostly leading* utilities in their own countries        |

\* Leading utilities are defined by their drive to improve their own services and to support other utilities through peer learning

Join the IAWD Utility Benchmarking Program either on (i) the national/subregional or on the (ii) Danube regional level



Follow the seven consecutive steps of the Benchmarking process to improve your performance



Get constant support from the Benchmarking Coordinator of your respective Hub and network with the Benchmarking family



Receive your own individual company report to check your data and identify performance gaps



Join the Benchmarking workshops to exchange knowledge and good practices and attend the utility leaders' dinner and meet CEOs and MT members, to discuss results and address possible improvements on a policy level (only for participants of the Danube Hub)

# Utility Benchmarking Program for Water Supply and Sanitation Utilities

## Program description and covered topics

The Utility Benchmarking Program is one of the Foundation Programs within the Danube Learning Partnership. This Program helps participating utilities and staff to establish their own diagnostic of high-impact issues affecting the performance of their utility companies by benchmarking the utility performance against other similar companies and international benchmarks and facilitating dialogue among practitioners on good practices.

### Set-up of Program

The European Benchmarking Cooperation (EBC) acts as Technical Partner of IAWD and provides the methodology as well as the IT platform for the benchmarking exercise. The Program offers three different assessment levels (basic, standard and advanced). For maximum added value, participants are

encouraged to choose the highest possible level. Which level best fits a utility depends on the availability of reliable data, benchmarking experience and ambition.

In total, four national/subregional Hubs have been created in accordance with the EBC operating structure focusing on utilities in Kosovo & Albania, Ex-YU countries, Bulgaria and Ukraine. By establishing the Danube Hub, IAWD has upgraded the existing national and sub-regional Hubs, in order to support capacity building and the sharing of knowledge and experience among its members and other utilities located in the Danube region. The Hub concept ensures that participating utilities follow the same assessment methodology and receive comparable results.

### Learning goals

- Why to compare performance with other utilities?
- How to collect and manage utility performance information?
- How to develop an improvement plan to address performance issues?

### Hubs



**National Benchmarking Hub for Bulgaria** (hosted by the Bulgarian Water Association, BWA)



**National Benchmarking Hub for Ukraine** (hosted by IAWD in cooperation with the Ukrainian Association of Enterprises of Water Supply and Sewerage Services, UKRVODOKANALEKOLOGIA)



**Subregional Benchmarking Hub for Albania & Kosovo** (hosted by the Water and Wastewater Works Association for Kosovo, SHUKOS)



**Subregional Benchmarking Hub for the former Yugoslavia region** (hosted by IAWD)

**Regional Danube Hub** (hosted by IAWD)

### Technical Partner



**European  
Benchmarking  
Co-operation**

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