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Danube Water Balance

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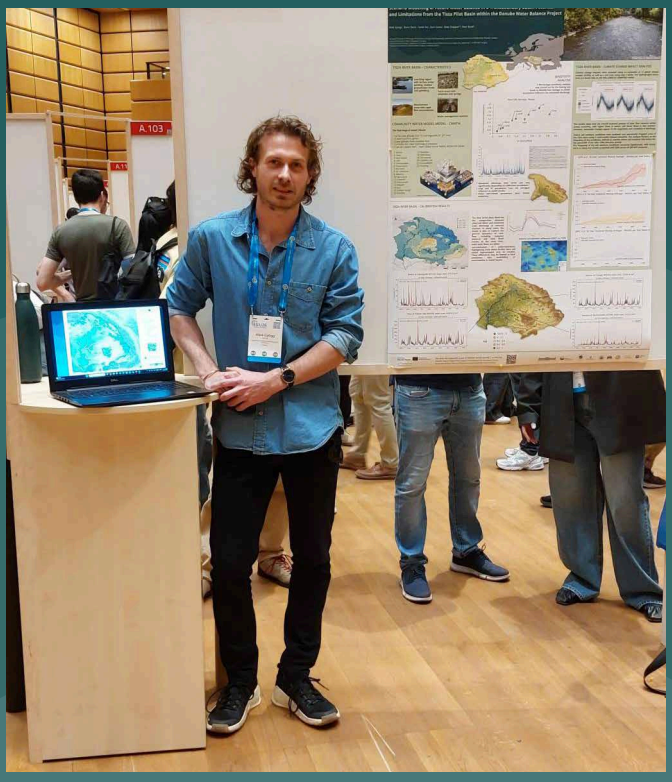
The Danube Water Balance (DWB) project has continued its intensive international cooperation, scientific dissemination and stakeholder engagement activities throughout spring 2026, with project partners actively contributing to knowledge exchange and transnational cooperation across the Danube Region.

One of the key highlights of the recent period was the participation of the DWB consortium at the **General Assembly 2026 of the European Geosciences Union (EGU)** in Vienna. Following the successful experience of last year, DWB partners again contributed to the organisation of a dedicated scientific session focusing on water balance assessment, hydrological modelling and climate adaptation challenges in the Danube River Basin. Several project partners participated as conveners, contributors and presenters, strengthening the visibility of the project within the international scientific community.



The session provided an excellent platform for discussing basin-scale modelling approaches, climate change impacts on water resources, drought and water scarcity issues, as well as opportunities for integrating scientific knowledge into practical water management decision-making. Special attention was given to the role of harmonized datasets, transboundary cooperation and the development of common methodologies supporting future climate adaptation planning in the Danube Basin. The conference also enabled project partners to strengthen cooperation with researchers and institutions involved in related international initiatives.

Another major milestone of the reporting period was the successful organisation of the Danube Water Balance **international training and 5th partner meeting in Sarajevo**, hosted by the University of Sarajevo with the support of the General Directorate of Water Management (OVF). The event combined capacity-building activities, stakeholder consultations and internal technical discussions over several days. More than 50 participants representing universities, water management authorities, research institutes and stakeholder organisations from across the Danube Region attended the event.

The 2.5-day training programme included hands-on modelling and data management sessions focusing on the practical application of the project's water balance modelling framework and the interpretation of simulation results for pilot subbasins. Participants also received detailed presentations on the ongoing development of the project's

central data storage system, visualization tools and data management strategy. Interactive discussions and working group sessions provided opportunities for participants to share experiences, discuss basin-specific challenges and formulate recommendations for future applications of the project outputs.

The partner meeting following the training enabled the consortium to review progress achieved within the three thematic work packages, discuss quality assurance aspects and coordinate the final implementation phase of the project. Particular emphasis was placed on the completion of project outputs, reporting obligations and the achievement of programme indicators.

In addition to project-specific activities, DWB representatives also participated in the **partner meeting of the LAREDAR project** in Ljubljana. The event created valuable opportunities for synergy building and knowledge exchange between projects addressing complementary water management challenges in the Danube Basin. Discussions focused particularly on possible links between basin-scale water balance modelling, drought management, water retention measures and reservoir operation. The meeting further strengthened professional cooperation among Danube Region experts and supported the capitalization of project results across related initiatives.
Through these activities, the Danube Water Balance project continues to contribute to the development of shared knowledge, stakeholder capacities and transnational cooperation supporting sustainable and climate-resilient water resources management in the Danube River Basin.