



Declaration

Dam Day - Reservoirs for Europe is an annual celebrations day declared by EurCOLD (ICOLD European Club) and being held in May. The establishment followed an initiative of the Italian Committee on Large Dams (ITCOLD) aiming to advocate, recognize contribution and spread knowledge on the role of dams and their reservoirs in an economic, social and environmental context. The event is celebrated for the first time in May 29th 2024 with the active participation of EurCOLD member countries.

Objectives and structure: Main objectives of the Dam Day include raising public awareness about dams, engaging local communities, providing to kids, young people, and the society the values of dams and their contribution for sustainable social development and prosperity, providing information to high school students and young professionals on job opportunities in the dam sector, promoting interactions between different professional figures and administrations operating in the dam sector. The Dam Day is celebrated around Europe with a variety of events showcasing the important role of dams and their ability to adapt with resilience to climate change extremes (floods and droughts) and satisfy the increased needs for potable water, water for energy and irrigation purposes. Activities related to the event, may take place a short period before and after the predefined day.

Coordination: Events on a national basis are coordinated by the European ICOLD National Committees. EurCOLD collaborates to engage and synchronize National Committees and disseminate Dam Day's main objectives.

Examples of activities: Interested parties (Dam owners, Authorities, cultural Associations, Universities, etc.) are encouraged to conduct events and activities such as technical visits to dams and excursions, debates, seminars, etc. The event is also supported by an online campaign in social media.

History: The Dam Day - Reservoirs for Europe day was formally proposed by the Italian Committee on Large Dams (ITCOLD) to the ICOLD European Club members in 2023 Board Meetings in Gothenburg and Interlaken (91st ICOLD Annual Meeting and 12th ICOLD European Club Symposium respectively) and in March 2024 (online EurCOLD Board Meeting) it was approved and officially declared that the "Dam Day" would be defined each year, within the second half of May of each year.