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V MONTENEGRO WATER CONFERENCE

9 – 11. October, hotel „Mediterran“, Budva

INVITATION LETTER

It is our great honour, on behalf of the Association of Waterworks of Montenegro and the Union of Municipalities of Montenegro, to invite you to the V International Montenegro Water Conference (MWC).

The Conference will address current topics related to water and wastewater in Montenegro, the region and beyond. The topics will be discussed by local and international experts who will contribute to a quality exchange of experiences and best practices in water and wastewater sector.



Both the panellists and the topics have been selected with special care, in such a way that all participants, not only representatives of municipalities and public utility companies, but also representatives of the central level, regional and international partners and potential donors, encourage of thinking and motivate so to improve the entire water sector. The Conference will also attend representatives of public utilities associations and associations of municipalities and cities from the region and beyond, as well as their members, but also other national and international institutions from the water sector.

Please confirm your participation at the Conference by sending the registration form, attached to this e-mail, **no later than 05. 09. 2024.**

The participation fee is 200 € per person. Travel and accommodation costs are not covered.

With kind regards,

Association of Waterworks of Montenegro & Union of Municipalities of Montenegro



AGENDA (draft)

9. October Arrival of participants and welcoming dinner

10. October Welcome speeches **Session I** – AWM Initiative, Enabling environment in Water Sector / Coffee break and Press statements / **Session II** – *CHALLENGES OF CHAPTER 27* / **Session III** – From projects to success / *Presentation of Company 1* / **Social program** – Networking

11. October **Session IV** – RCDN+ / **Session V** – Young Water Professionals and gender equality / *Presentation of Company 2* / **Session VI** – *Future is in applied digitalisation (transformation)* / Lunch, Closure and Departure

GENERAL KONCEPT

As a result of the strengthening cooperation between the Association of Waterworks of Montenegro and the Union of Municipalities of Montenegro, joint IV International Montenegro Conference organizing this year. The focus will be on the improvement of the water service system, which, as a key topic and the main goal, will be interweaving through all the sessions of this year's two-day conference.

I day – 10. October 2024.

Session I – *AWM Initiative, Enabling environment in Water Sector*

As a constant challenge in the previous period, the fact related to the definition of the legal framework in accordance with the EU recommendations, that is, the applicability of such legal provisions in Montenegro, was singled out. In the conversation with the relevant speakers, the question will be whether these are only recommendations or in fact obligations, especially when it comes to the laws governing the water sector. In EU member states, laws are adapted to real needs and it is different from country to country, which will be discussed in the introductory session.

Session II – *Challenges of chapter 27*

Bearing in mind that Montenegro is at the door of the EU, the closure of Chapter 27 is one of the most complex, so it is one of the priority topics at this year's conference, especially bearing in mind that it is part of Chapter related the water sector. The session will discuss challenges with sustainable development, circular economy, environmental protection, plant management and maintenance, sludge, deficiencies in the legal framework, etc.

Session III - *From projects to success*

The session focuses on examples of the use of funds through available projects with the aim of establishing sustainable management of public companies, both through examples of good practices that have been implemented and projects that are being prepared or announced.

II day – 11. October 2024.

Session IV – *Regional cooperation and capacity development*

Regional Capacity Development Network (RCDN+) are initiative that have been present in Montenegro for several years. This session will present the most significant activities planned in the coming period, with the support of which to continue the cooperation that the Association of Waterworks of Montenegro

and the Union of Municipalities of Montenegro achieved, and thereby prepared the way for its continuous implementation, as a regional example of good practice.

Session V - *Young Water Professionals and gender equality*

Following the trends in the world, within the Association Waterworks of Montenegro, a group of young experts was formed from among its members, which plans to expand with students. As we must not forget that we are always in deficit with professional staff of this profile, the session will be used as an additional opportunity to motivate young people and keep them in the sector.

Session VI – *Future is in applied digitalisation (transformation)*

The application of innovative technologies enables simple and quick monitoring of the current situation and the display of data on the performance of water service providers, enabling timely and smart decisions to be made during planning and implementation. According to some unwritten rule, countries that use advanced or “State of The Art” technologies are more developed and have a better standard of living, which is what we should strive for. The session will deal with the presentation of new technologies that is trends in the world, as well as the possibilities of creating a favourable environment in overloaded systems in the water sector.

With whom will you meet?

The above-mentioned topics will discussed by local and international experts who will contribute to the quality exchange of experiences and best practices in this sector.

At the Conference, decision-makers in public utility companies and local self-government units, as well as LGU officials employed in the secretariats responsible for the water sector, as well as senior and middle management of public service providers will have the opportunity for professional networking. Certainly, representatives of the relevant ministry, regulators, as well as other institutions from the country, region and beyond, which are involved in the water sector through their activities, are indispensable.

Contact person:

AWM - Andrija Simović, simovic23@gmail.com