



V MONTENEGRO WATER CONFERENCE

22 – 24. October, 2025. 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 VI 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 01.10.2025.**

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)

22 October

Arrival of participants and welcome dinner

23 October

Opening remarks / **Session I** – European Integration for a Better Quality of Life and Environment/ Coffee break and press statements / **Session II** – *Projects in the Water Sector* / **Session III** – Perspectives of the World Bank & UNICEF on Water Sector in Montenegro / *Presentation of Company 1* / **Networking social event**

24 October

Session IV – Synergy of Key Stakeholders in the Water Services Sector / **Session V** – The Way Forward – Case Study Water Portugal / *Presentation of Company 2* / **Session VI** – *Artificial Intelligence and Water Loss Reduction* / Closing, lunch and departure

GENERAL KONCEPT

The 6th International Montenegro Conference is jointly organized by the Association of Waterworks of Montenegro and the Union of Municipalities of Montenegro, as a result of strengthened cooperation. The Conference takes place at a key moment, as Montenegro enters a crucial stage of EU accession negotiations. Particular focus will be placed on the requirements of Chapter 27 – Environment and Climate Change for central and local authorities, but also on the opportunities it creates for communities, the economy, and citizens.

I day – 23 October 2025

Session I – *European Integration for a Better Quality of Life and Environment*

This session will explore how European integration contributes to improving quality of life and environmental standards. As Montenegro moves closer to EU membership, closing Chapter 27 remains one of the most complex and pressing issues, especially in relation to the water sector. Discussion topics will include sustainable development, the circular economy, environmental and public health protection, and opportunities offered through EU integration.

Session II – *Projects in the Water Sector*

This session will highlight the use of available funds for projects aimed at strengthening sustainable management of public utilities. Examples will include successfully implemented projects, those in preparation or under consideration, and opportunities for replication. Support in preparing the necessary documentation will also be addressed.

Session III – *Perspectives of the World Bank & UNICEF on Water Sector in Montenegro*

The World Bank and UNICEF will present analytical studies on the current state of the sector, along with perspectives and recommendations for its improvement. The session will also showcase practical tools developed within their programs, such as Utility of the Future and WASH BATH.

II day – 24 October 2025

Session IV – Synergy of Key Stakeholders in the Water Services Sector

This session will emphasize the importance of cooperation and joint action among key stakeholders to ensure the sustainable functioning of service providers, in line with international recommendations and standards.

Session V - The Way Forward – Case Study of Water of Portugal

This session will present Portugal's successful transformation from one of Europe's most environmentally challenged countries into a model of sustainable water service management within three decades. Participants will gain insights into the reform process, its applicability, and potential benefits for Montenegro.

Session VI – Artificial intelligence and water losses

This session will focus on innovative technologies and the use of artificial intelligence to reduce water losses. Such tools enable efficient monitoring of utility performance and support timely, data-driven decision-making. Presentations will cover global trends in loss management and strategies for creating a supportive environment in Montenegro, where average losses exceed 60%.

Who will you meet?

Local and international experts will share experiences and best practices, ensuring a high-quality exchange of knowledge.

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:

Association of Waterworks of Montenegro (AWM): Andrija Simović - simovic23@gmail.com

Union of Municipalities of Montenegro (UoMM): Sanja Živković - sanja.zivkovic@uom.co.me