

# WATER AND OPPORTUNITIES *Equal*

3 - 5 NOVEMBER 2026 - PRISHTINA, KOSOVA

14<sup>th</sup> BALKANS JOINT CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION

CALL FOR  
ABSTRACTS



Conference and Exhibition:  
Conference Program:  
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## WELCOME NOTE

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On behalf of [SHUKOS](#) and [SHUKALB](#), we are pleased to invite you to join us at our 14<sup>th</sup> Balkans Joint Conference and Exhibition, taking place from **3–5 November, 2026**, in **Prishtina, Kosova**, at the [Emerald Hotel](#).

The theme of the 2026 Conference, **“Water and Equal Opportunities”** highlights the importance of building a water sector that is not only technically strong, but also fair, inclusive, and responsive to the needs of communities. Inspired by the UN World Water Day 2026 theme, *“Water and Gender”*, this year’s Conference takes a broader perspective, addressing both equitable access to water and sanitation services and equal opportunities within the water sector itself.

Access to safe, reliable, and affordable water and sanitation services is essential for public health, economic development, and quality of life. Yet disparities in access and service quality continue to affect communities across the region and beyond. Ensuring that no one is left behind, requires utilities, governments, and stakeholders to work together to secure services that are planned and delivered in a way that are accessible, resilient, and responsive to the needs of all citizens.

At the same time, better services depend on strong institutions and skilled professionals. As the sector faces challenges such as infrastructure modernization, regulatory compliance, digital transformation, climate pressure, and workforce renewal, it is essential to attract and retain talented professionals, support career development, and promote equal opportunities for participation and leadership.

We therefore encourage all interested professionals, institutions, utilities, private sector representatives, academia, young professionals, and partners to explore this year’s conference themes and topics and to contribute actively to the programme by submitting an abstract for presentation. By sharing experiences, research, practical solutions, and lessons learned, participants will help enrich the professional dialogue and support the advancement of a more inclusive, and sustainable water sector.

We would be pleased to welcome you to Prishtina this November and to share this important opportunity for exchange, cooperation, and joint commitment to the future of the water sector in the region and beyond.

## TECHNICAL PROGRAM COMMITTEE

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The Technical Program Committee consists of experienced water sector professionals from Albania and Kosovo. They ensure the conference program features high-quality, relevant, and well-balanced content through a thorough review process. The members of the Technical Program Committee are:

**Abedin Azizi**

Deputy Director, Regulatory Authority for Water Services, Kosova

**Albert Salltakaj**

Chair of YWP Group in Kosova, Regional Water Company  
“Hidroregjioni Jugor”, Prizren, Kosova

**Amir Rexha**

GIS Specialist, Regional Water Company “Hidromorava”, Kosova

**Arbana Kola (ex officio)**

Project Manager, Water Supply and Sewerage Association, Albania

**Arben Musaj**

Projects Coordinator, National Agency of Water Supply and Sewerage, Albania

**Armend Avdiu**

Technical Director, Regional Water Company “Prishtina”, Kosova

**Elona Kuçi**

Director of the Technical and Economic Directorate, Water Regulatory Authority, Albania

**Enkelejda Gjinali**

Principal Lecturer, Environmental Engineering Department, Polytechnic University of Tirana, Albania

**Evis Gjebrea**

Deputy General Director, Tirana Water Supply and Sewerage Company, Albania

**Hilda Hoti**

Young Water Professional, Water Resource Management Agency, Albania

**Ilir Rodiqi**

Lecturer, Faculty of Construction, Kosova

**Nadire B Vitija (ex officio)**

Manager of Trainings, Water and Wastewater Works Association, Kosova

**Ngadhnjim Haxhosaj**

Company Spokesperson  
Regional Water Company “Gjakova”, Kosova

**Rozarta Pura**

Legal Advisor, Durres Regional Water Supply and Sewerage Company, Albania

## MAIN THEMES OF THE CONFERENCE

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Interested speakers are invited to submit an abstract focusing on one of the following topics. All abstracts will be reviewed and evaluated by the Technical Program Committee. Authors of accepted abstracts will be invited to prepare and submit a full paper along with a PowerPoint presentation. Abstracts may cover, but are not limited to, the following water-related subjects:

### GOVERNANCE AND POLICY FOR WATER UTILITIES

- Development of Governance Policies and Institutional Relationships
- Selection, Establishment and Functioning of Utility Governing Bodies
- Organizational Management and Structure
- Regionalization of Water Supply and Sewerage Services and Implementation of Service Agreements
- Corporate Governance
- Public - Private Partnerships
- Relationship between the Water Utilities and Local Government
- Management of Rural Water Supply and Sewerage Systems
- Inclusive Governance and Equal Opportunities in Water Utilities

### REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

- Licensing of Water Supply and Sewerage Service Providers
- Tariff Review and Approval Process
- Analysis of Performance of Water Supply and Sewerage Utilities
- Development and Application of Water Supply and Sewerage Services Standards.

### MANAGEMENT OF WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE INFRASTRUCTURE

- Capital Investment Absorption Capacities in Developing Countries
- Current Methods of Assessment and Prioritization of Investment Needs
- Development of Dynamic Master Plans
- Monitoring of Investments and their Sustainability

### WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

- Climate Change
- Balancing Water Demand Management and Conservation with New Source Development
- Water Supply Source Monitoring and Protection of Trans-boundary Waters
- Integrated Water Resources Management
- Drought and Flood Management

### FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OF WATER UTILITIES

- Financing Sources and Subsidy Policies
- Financial Risk Management
- Development, Implementation and Monitoring of 5-year Business Plans
- Financial Reporting to Support Performance Improvement
- Internal Auditing Instruments
- Debt Management

### TECHNICAL OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE UTILITIES

- Water Demand Analysis
- Water Consumption Measuring Practices
- Water Loss Reduction– Best Practices
- Service Zone Mapping (GIS)
- Application of Hydraulic Modelling – Practices
- Increasing Use of SCADA systems in the Operation of Water Utilities
- Water Safety and Crisis Management
- Benchmarking
- Energy Efficiency in Water Supply and Wastewater System and Facilities
- Integrated Asset Management
- Occupational Health and Safety

### WASTEWATER TREATMENT AND SLUDGE MANAGEMENT

- Wastewater Management in the Context of Circular Economy
- Wastewater Policy and Governance
- Construction and Operation of Waste Water Treatment Plants
- Constructed Wetland Treatment Systems and Challenges
- Selecting Treatment Technologies for Small and Rural Systems
- Sludge Treatment and Reuse
- Use of Sludge for Energy Production

### CUSTOMER SERVICE

- Commercial Efficiency
- Organization and Operation of a Customer Service Department
- Customer Database Management.
- Customer Service Contract
- Public Relations and Communications Management
- Management of Customer Complaints and the Use of GIS
- Implementing Service Disconnection as Debt Collection Policy
- Inclusive and Accessible Customer Services for All User Groups

### HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

- Human Resources Management and Employment Policies
- Training Needs Assessments and Capacity Building
- Training and Test-based Certification
- Annual Staff Performance Review/Assessment
- Inclusive Workplaces, Staff Well-being, and Safe Working Environments

## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

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Authors wishing to submit abstracts by **11 September 2026** need to follow these requirements:

- Abstracts should be submitted in Albanian and/or English language
- The format of the abstract needs to comply to:
  - up to 350 words
  - document “MS Word file”
  - Times New Roman font, 11pt
- The abstracts should include the following additional information:
  - Title of the Presentation/Full Paper
  - Author name/Position/Institution/Country
  - Personal Contacts (e-mail, mailing address, and telephone number)
- The Relevant Conference Topic
- The Objective of the Paper, the main issues/ problems, the methodology used, and the results and conclusions drawn.

For detailed information on abstracts submissions and other instructions, visit [Rules and Guidelines](#) page on the Conference Website.

## IMPORTANT DATES AND LANGUAGES

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<b>Abstract Submission</b>	<b>11 September, 2026</b>
<b>Acceptance of Abstracts Notification</b>	<b>24 September, 2026</b>
<b>Advanced Program</b>	<b>19 October, 2026</b>
<b>PowerPoint Presentation Submission Short Biography Submission</b>	<b>23 October, 2026</b>
<b>Full Paper Submission<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>27 November, 2026</b>

**The official languages of the Conference are Albanian and English.**

**Simultaneous translation will be provided.**

## CONTACTS

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**For additional details regarding Conference Program, contact us:**

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<sup>1</sup> Full papers must be submitted using the [official template](#) and must meet all formatting and content requirements. The Proceedings Book will be published only if a minimum of 10 eligible full papers are submitted according to these criteria.