

Date and venue

16 and 17 October 2024, Grand Hotel Neum
<https://www.hotel-neum.com/>

The Conference participants

- ▶ State, entity and cantonal ministries
- ▶ Entity water agencies
- ▶ Funds for environmental protection
- ▶ Local self-government units (municipalities and cities) and their associations
- ▶ Public water and utility companies and their associations
- ▶ International water associations
- ▶ International financial institutions
- ▶ Donor organizations
- ▶ Design and consulting firms
- ▶ Non-governmental organizations
- ▶ Higher educational establishments

The language of the Conference

The Conference will be held in the languages of the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Registration fee

There is no registration fee for participation in the Conference.

The Conference organizer bears the costs of the preparation and organization of the conference, including the costs of coffee breaks and lunch during the conference.

Conference participants are responsible for their own accommodation and transportation costs and organize their own hotel reservations.

Registration

Registration for participation is done by September 15, 2024, by filling out the application form and submitting it to the organizer:

e-mail: info@aquasanbih.ba
Phone: (037) 224-038; 307-993 i 222-899

Contact person:
Mirela Vojić, Aquasan network in BiH



**ASSOCIATION
„AQUASAN
Network in B&H“**

**Association for Water and Environmental Protection
“Aquasan Network in BiH”**



5th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

**EFFICIENT AND
SUSTAINABLE WATER
SERVICES**

**16 and 17 October 2024
Neum, Grand Hotel Neum**

**Join us in shaping sustainable
water services**

The importance of the Conference

Water services, which include water supply and wastewater collection and treatment services, should be provided and developed in accordance with the needs of citizens - service users in a fair and economical way, while respecting the principles of public health and environmental protection and in accordance with the directives and best practices of the European Union (EU). In Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), the need for the overall improvement of the water services sector has been recognized through the improvement of the legislative, legal and institutional framework for the provision and development of water services, increasing the operational efficiency and financial sustainability of water service providers, strengthening capacities in the sector and achieving an understanding of the importance sector and general values about water services.

According to the available data, about 75% of the population of BiH is connected to the public water supply system, about 41% is connected to the public drainage system, and less than 15% of the population is connected to wastewater treatment plants. The quality of water services shows a negative trend, especially due to a decrease in the quality of drinking water caused by pollution, an increase in losses in the water supply network, and due to inadequate investment maintenance. Recently, due to climate change, a significant number of public water supply/utility companies (PUCs) do not have sufficient water at the springs, especially during the summer period. A large number of PUCs do not generate enough income to be self-sustaining, and the average levels of income from the provided water services do not cover the costs of operation and maintenance.

Therefore, in accordance with the expressed needs and the tradition established over the

past years, the Association for Water and Environmental Protection "Aquasan Network in BiH" is organizing a conference called "Efficient and sustainable water services" which will ensure the continuation of the dialogue with the objective of exchanging knowledge, experiences and good practices contribute to the improvement of the water services sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The focus of the conference is on domestic institutions, organizations and experts and their role and responsibility in the process of reforming the water services sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We also intend to show that in the water services sector in BiH there are staff, employees and experts who work every day to provide quality water services to citizens and use the opportunities provided to them to improve them. In this direction, we will surely present the knowledge and experience of international experts that we can use and apply in BiH, but with an emphasis on the role and responsibility of all of us in the sector. We would like to emphasize that the activities of improving the water services sector in BiH are not project activities that are implemented in order to meet the criteria set by financiers, but activities that are carried out daily for the benefit of citizens, service users.

Conference topics

- ▶ Change management in the water services sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina and ownership of the reform process
- ▶ The process of consideration and adoption of entity laws on water services
- ▶ Planning, preparation and financing of sector projects
- ▶ Asset management - communal water infrastructure

- ▶ Energy management in PUC
- ▶ Non-revenue water management
- ▶ Increasing the energy efficiency of pumping plants
- ▶ Financial management of PUC
- ▶ Operation of wastewater treatment plants
- ▶ Efficient and sustainable management and management of PUCs with appropriate support and supervision by the founders of LGUs
- ▶ Capacity development for waste water management
- ▶ Community of Practice in the waste water management sector in BiH
- ▶ Experiences of international experts in the field of waste water management

Organizer

Association for Water and Environmental Protection "Aquasan network in BiH", www.aquasanbih.ba

Conference partner

Embassy of Switzerland in BiH

The Conference is held within The Regional Capacity Development Network for Water and Sanitation Services (RCDN+) project.

Regional Capacity Development Network (RCDN+) is implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and cofinanced by the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO).