Date: 13 March 2017

INVITATION TO THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

“SUSTAINABILITY OF WATER SERVICES IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA”

Dear Madam/Sir,

Association for Water and Environmental Protection Sector “Aquasan Network in B&H”, Association “Vodovodi Republike Srpske”, Association of the Employers of Utility Companies in Federation of B&H are pleased to invite you to two-day conference “SUSTAINABILITY OF WATER SERVICES IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA”.

The conference will be organised on 5 and 6 April 2016 in Banja Luka, Hotel Bosna.

B&H Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management, and Forestry of the Una-Sana Canton, Association of municipalities and cities of the FB&H and Association of local authorities of RS provide the support in the organisation of the conference.

Additional support is provided by Open Regional Fund for Modernisation of Municipal Services in Southeast Europe (GIZ and SDC) and Danube Water Program via International Association of Water Supply Companies in Danube River Catchment Area (IAWD).

The conference will underscore the need for improvement of legal framework necessary for the operational and financial sustainability of water services, including the sustainability of water utilities, need for strengthening human and institutional capacities, as well as challenges related to accession of Bosnia and Herzegovina to EU.

Objectives of the Conference are:

Overall objective:

- Support public utility companies (PUC) and local government units (LGU) in Bosnia and Herzegovina (B&H) to actively strengthen their organizational, institutional and human capacities and create a supportive legal and institutional framework with the aim of increasing quality, operational and financial sustainability of water services.

Specific objectives:

- To provide a platform for continuing dialogue on the current challenges in municipal water services sector, particularly on the challenges related to the sustainability of the PUCs, to initiate water services reform, as well as to define the next steps to be taken in order to initiate the necessary changes in the water services sector,
- Achieve an understanding of the need for a systemic approach in strengthening the organizational, institutional and human capacities of PUCs and LGUs and inform the participants on the programs and projects focused on strengthening the capacities implemented in B&H and Southeast Europe (SEE), with particular emphasis the opportunities for PUCs and LGUs to become involved in these programs and projects, and the benefits that can accomplished by the mentioned institutions.
- To present the initiative of young professionals in the water supply and wastewater collection sector.
Key regional programs and projects in the water service sector will be presented by representatives of the Danube Water Program (World Bank and IAWD), Open Regional Fund for Modernisation of Municipal Services in Southeast Europe (GIZ and SDC) and representatives of the Association “Aquasan Network in B&H”.

Participation of representatives of PUCs from Bosnia and Herzegovina which provide water supply and wastewater collection services, as well as representatives of their founders, LGUs (municipalities and towns), and unions of LGUs is expected at the Conference.

Representatives of entity and cantonal ministries of agriculture, water management and forestry, entity and cantonal ministries dealing with environmental protection/ecology and communal affairs, entity water agencies and entity environmental protection/ecology funds, representatives of NGOs and private sector participating in preparation and implementation of different programs and projects in the sector are also invited.

In addition to the B&H institutions and organizations, participation of representatives of international financial institutions i.e. development and cooperation agencies: GIZ, SDC, SIDA, USAID, JICA, UNDP; development banks and funds: World Bank, EBRD, KfW, EIB, WBIF and representatives of the Delegation of European Commission in B&H is expected. Participation of associations of utility companies and associations/unions of local self-governance units (municipalities and towns) from the South-East Europe countries (Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro, Macedonia, Albania) and Network of Associations of Local Authorities in SEE – NALAS is also expected.

The Conference will be a joint contribution of our associations to marking 22 March – World Water Day.

Please find attached the conference agenda and application form. The simultaneous translation will be ensured during the conference. Preparation and organization costs for the Conference will be borne by Aquasan Network in B&H including costs for coffee breaks, lunch and simultaneous translation. Travel and accommodation costs will be borne by the participants.

Should you have any question or need clarification, do not hesitate to contact us.

Please send the filled application form until 27 March 2017, at the latest, via e-mail: info@aquasanbih.ba.

Sincerely,

Sandi Zulić
Association “Aquasan Network in BiH”

Aco Pantić
Association of Local Authorities of Republic of Srpska

Vesna Travljanin
Association of Municipalities and Cities of Federation BiH

Branka Trninić
Association “Vodovodi Republike Srpske”

Edin Kekić
Association of the Employers of Utility Companies in Federation BiH

Brankica Pandurević
Acting Assistant to the Minister
B&H Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations

Partners:

Bosnia and Herzegovina Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
Una-Sana Canton
Ministry of agriculture, water management and forestry

Bosnia and Herzegovina
Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina

[Logos]