

Session #3 Details

AM Implementation Experiences and Long-term Investment Planning

Date: Thursday, 18th November 2021

Time: 16:00 – 17:30

Location: Studenica, Ravanica, Gračanica conference halls

Moderator: Georgi Hristov, GIZ

Simultaneous translation: Yes (Serbian and Albanian)

Context and objective

The session will include presentations about experiences on AM implementation and long-term investment planning, delivered by recognized regional experts. The session will continue with a roundtable discussion by putting additional light on key issues and required actions for the step ahead. That could be possible with a proper understanding of principles for long-term planning, using regional experiences, and both positive and negative, but also potentially with proper regulation of the sector.

Session structure

Time		Content	Speaker
16:00	5'	Introduction	Moderator
16:05	20'	Appropriate regulation or just another bureaucratization (live)	Ivaylo Kastchiev – Main Directorate at Energy and Water Regulatory Commission, Bulgaria
16:25	20'	Regional AM Pioneering (live)	Maja Medenica – Belgrade Water, Serbia
16:45	20'	Using AM Tool / Principles for long-term planning – SEEAM experience (live)	Georgi Hristov / Oliver Nachevski – GIZ, North Macedonia
17:04	24'	Round Table 3	Ivaylo Kastchiev, Maja Medenica, Shamil Rexhepi, Milica Tomić, Evis Gjebrea
17:30	1'	End of session	Moderator

Moderator's and Speakers' bios

Georgi Hristov

Mr. Georgi Hristov has more than 25 years of professional experience in public, private and civil sector as well as in bi-lateral and regional projects in South-East Europe funded by different donors and IFIs. For the last 20 years, he has focused on supporting decentralization process and improvement of municipal utility services in Western Balkan countries through capacity development and advisory services for public utilities. Currently, he works as Project Manager for GIZ Open Regional Fund for South-East Europe – Modernization of Municipal Services, implementing development cooperation projects in Western Balkan region. Mr. Hristov graduated at the Electrotechnical Faculty in Skopje, completed MBA in Finance Management at the University of Sheffield (UK), and earned PhD in Quality Management. His academic and professional focus is towards decentralization, service quality, and performance improvement of public utility services. He is author/co-author of several research articles and policy documents on water regulators and performance improvement, fiscal decentralization, and local/regional development.



Ivaylo Kastchiev

Mr. Ivaylo Kastchiev holds MBA in City University of Seattle, USA and PhD in Economics and Management in Sofia University, Bulgaria. He has 18 years of experience in Water and sanitation sector, with 10 years in utility in Bulgaria, and 8 years in national regulator. Mr. Kastchiev worked 10 years in Sofiyska Voda – the biggest water and sanitation operator in Bulgaria, where he was responsible for strategic investment planning, life-cycle asset management, network operations and maintenance, non-revenue water reduction, business plan preparation and others. For the past 8 years Mr. Kastchiev works in the Energy and Water Regulatory Commission of Bulgaria as department manager and later on as Water and Sanitation Services Director. He is responsible for preparation and execution of all aspects of national regulation of quality and prices of water and sanitation services. Mr. Kastchiev chairs the “Institutional Governance and Regulation” specialist group in IWA, is active participant on behalf of EWRC in WAREG (European Water Regulators Network), works with the World Bank in projects related to the water sector with countries in Europe and Central Asia, and is author of several scientific publications in the area of WS asset management and sector governance.



Maja Medenica

Ms. Maja Medenica has been employed with the PUC Belgrade Waterworks and Sewerage (BWS) since 2000 and her current position is the Head of Asset Management Centre. She also has large experience as a Coordinator of International project in BWS, cooperating with IFIs and the international consulting companies. During last sixteen years of professional experience, she specialized in Integrated Infrastructure Asset Management as team member on several international projects: From 2015 onward, she is a member of the Association for Water Technology and Sanitary Engineering's (UTVSI) Steering Committee. She is a graduate in Civil Engineering, Department of Hydraulic Engineering, from the University of Belgrade and the owner of a degree from the “Post-graduate Specialization Course in Management of Water Resources and Services” – Water Utilities, Turin, Italy.



Oliver Nachevski

Mr. Oliver Nachevski has over 35 years of extensive professional experience in the corporate and non-profit sectors advancing the core business objectives by promotion of the social and environmental responsibility. He has earned his diploma in Applied Hydraulics – Sanitary Engineering at the University of St. Cyril and Methodius, North Macedonia in 1984. He is a member of International Water Association (IWA) since 2013 and Vice Chair of the IWA SAM SG. He is the former President of Engineers without Borders International (2014 – 2018). He was serving as expert juror and as Ambassador of the Siemens Stiftung’s network in the 2016 and 2019. Currently, he acts as Project Manager at GIZ Germany, fostering the involvement of the private sector at the point where business opportunities and development policy initiatives intersect. His main focus is strengthening the capacities of the water utility associations and water utilities in South-Eastern Europe for Integrated Asset Management.



Shamil Rexhepi

Mr. Shamil Rexhepi has completed his studies at Izzet Baysal University in Turkey, Faculty of Economics, Management and Business. Has performed several important organizational and managerial functions in the Euro-Asian international associations, mainly related to the management of human resources, social and economic development. He has a considerable experience in regulating the energy sector in the Republic of North Macedonia and is part of the Energy and Water Services Regulatory Commission since the establishment of this institution. He has conducted several international trainings on the energy side. Currently he is Head of Tariff Unit in the field of natural gas, liquid fuels and heat in the Department for Economic Affairs of the Energy and Water Services Regulatory Commission. From January 2016 because of legal changes in the water sector, it has an active role in regulation of the water management system and is also a coordinator of the working group responsible for preparing bases and regulatory acts in this area.



Milica Tomić

Milica Tomić works in Energy and Water Regulatory Agency of Montenegro, as an analyst in Water Department. She holds master’s degree in international economy and finance and her master thesis was also about water regulation. During four years in Regulatory Agency, she was part of the small team, responsible on establishing water regulation in Montenegro, which created and has been implementing all required bylaws – tariff setting, benchmarking and licensing the operators.

