The Ninth Belgrade Water Exhibition and Forum successfully held

From November 15 to 17, 2017, in the Belexpo Center at Holiday Inn Hotel in Novi Beograd, the 9th Water Exhibition and Forum was held successfully gathering representatives of domestic and foreign producers, industry, distributors of equipment, tools and chemicals, international and domestic institutions, organizations and associations, scientific institutions, design companies, water management companies, local self-governments, public utility companies, as well as financial institutions, associations, programs and organizations which support the implementation of infrastructure investment projects and specific programs for development and capacity building in the water sector.

In order to promote new projects and best practices from practice, and to motivate young water professionals and future experts to present their professional papers and become more involved in the work of the association, the organizers of the Water Forum have chosen the title "Water Sector - Modern Tools and Techniques, Experiences and New Projects ". With its mission to improve knowledge and propose measures to address the issues, the UTVSI, in the first session of this year's Forum of Water, paid special attention to the aspect of drinking water safety - the challenges and pressures of urbanization. The importance of this issue is also reflected in the fact that the presentations of five foreign and domestic experts were dedicated to the new program and plans related to the risk management in emergency situations concerning safe and secure drinking water supply within the Danube Learning Partnership, the drinking water safety plans in Serbia, specific measures and experiences in the field of protection of water source of Budapest waterworks, as well as the results of application of modern methods for protection of water sources from contaminated runoff from roads.

Problems and reforms of the activities of water supply and sanitation in Serbia were discussed by representatives of water utility companies. This session included the presentation of the latest report on the water supply companies in Serbia for 2016. On the round table representatives of water utility companies discussed tariffs for water and sewerage services, the new situation after the introduction of the Public Property Act, the overlapping of competencies, employment of staff and salaries, and responsibilities in the field of protection of drinking water sources, absence of measures for protection of water sources, conditions and code of practice of sanitary drinking water control laboratories in water utility companies.

On the second day of the Forum, the program was dedicated to the regional water cooperation through the Danube Water Program (program of institutional capacity building of the water sector in 11 countries in the Danube River Basin that has been implemented by the International Association of Water Supply Companies in the Danube River Catchment Area and the World Bank), as well as regional activities on capacity building implemented by the GIZ - Germany International Cooperation Organization, where the participants were informed about the advisory and analytical work carried out by the World Bank for the Danube Water Program, programs for strengthening water and sewerage companies’ capacities within the Danube Partnership for Learning - D-LeaP, implementation of the asset management program, methodology, tools and results in implementation of the project of introducing Asset Management in water supply companies in the region, DCM platform, the results of the project preparation for the introduction of Technical Safety Management-TSM in water supply companies in Serbia, as well as the results of TSM implementation in the region.

The significance of the water forum is in favor of the fact that besides the traditional presentation of current projects and work results, this year, on the third day, the program for young experts
was introduced which had a great response with successful presentations of 15 papers in the field of water protection, as well as protection from water and water use.

In the framework of the Forum, an advanced 3 day training was also organized for 41 participants of the program for asset management advisory service for water utility in South-East Europe from Serbia, Montenegro and Macedonia. This program is financed by GIZ, Hydrocomp and IAWD and supported by UTVSI.

The presence of a record number of 100 companies - exhibitors, a large number of experts and visitors of this year's event testifies not only about the great interest of the branch for this project, but it is also the confirmation of the organizer's determination that the water exhibition and forum in Belgrade should remain the largest regional manifestation in this field.