



FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Waters in Sensitive and Protected Areas

10-13.04.2024, Pula, CROATIA

www.wspa2024.org

ORGANIZED BY

Croatian Water Pollution Control Society (CWPCS)



European Water Association (EWA)



CO-ORGANIZED BY

University of Zagreb, Faculty of Civil Engineering

University of Zagreb, Faculty of Mining, Geology and Petroleum Engineering

Croatian Waters

Water Institute Josip Juraj Srossmayer

Croatian Hydrological Society

Croatian Society for Drainage and Irrigation

UNDER THE AUSPICES BY

Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of the Republic of Croatia

University of Zagreb

Juraj Dobrila University of Pula

University of Rijeka

City of Pula

Brijuni National Park

Public Institution Natura Histrica

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Patrick Willems, KU Leuven, Department of Civil Engineering, Hydraulics and Geotechnics unit / EWA European Technical and Scientific Committee (ETSC) member, BE

Dear colleagues,

We are pleased to invite you to the 4th International Conference WATERS IN SENSITIVE AND PROTECTED AREAS (4th WSPA Conference), which will be held in the city of Pula in Croatia from 10-13 April 2024. The 4th WSPA Conference is organised by the European Water Association (EWA) and the Croatian Water Pollution Control Society (CWPCS). It is a continuation of the EWA project on waters in sensitive and protected areas, which aims to bring together the best scientists, experts, entrepreneurs and public administration representatives to present the latest research results and exchange ideas on scientific, technical, socio-economic, legal and educational aspects of protection and rational use of valuable sensitive water resources and ecosystem services.

The city of Pula, with its impressive ancient Roman buildings and magnificent amphitheatre, is known for its mild climate and unspoiled nature. Situated on the southern tip of the Istrian peninsula, below seven hills and overlooking the crystal-clear waters of the Adriatic Sea, the city offers conference participants a beautiful and inspiring environment.

It is a great honour for us to continue the tradition that started in 1996 with the 1st WSPA Conference in Primošten and continued with the 2nd WSPA Conference in 2007 in Dubrovnik and the 3rd WSPA Conference in 2013 in Zagreb. Let us continue this tradition together!

We look forward to seeing you in Pula!

Chairman of the Organizing Committee
Prof. **Zoran Nakić**



CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

Sensitive and protected areas are important not only for the protection of nature and its biodiversity, but also for the preservation of their values for various human needs. We see every day that human activities and dramatic population growth are greatly exacerbating the impacts of climate and land use change on the physical environment. This leads to degradation of human health and ecosystem services, pollution of water, soil, and air, imbalance of biogeochemical cycles, and tremendous waste production. Over the last decades, sensitive and vulnerable areas, like fertile soils around rivers prone to flooding, karst aquifers influenced by salinization or overexploitation or coasts vulnerable to tropical cyclones, were regularly affected by extreme events, having large socio-economic and environmental impacts affecting many sectors. Many groundwater and surface water systems are under significant pressure due to overuse or pollution, and demand for water resources is increasing dramatically. Better knowledge of how to identify and mitigate human-induced environmental problems, and how to help land-use planners and policy makers balance water resource needs with their availability, is central to sustainable development. New knowledge and approaches that enable decision makers and development policy makers to balance water resource needs and availability are key to achieving global and national sustainable development goals.

Although significant scientific progress has been made in recent decades in the management of water resources and biodiversity under climate change, there are still research gaps in this area that need to be addressed. The aim of this Conference is to contribute to the expansion of scientific knowledge aimed at new innovative and cost-effective solutions for the protection of water and biodiversity, as well as changes in the regulatory framework for sensitive and protected areas.

THEMATIC AREAS

1. Inter- and transdisciplinary research in sensitive and protected areas.
2. Effective water and wastewater management in sensitive and protected areas under climate change.
3. Biodiversity and aquatic ecosystems - bringing nature back into our lives.
4. Waters in sensitive coastal areas.
5. Contributions to amendment of legal framework related to sensitive and protected areas.

The full list of the scientific topics is available at the Conference web site: www.wspa2024.org.

CONFERENCE VENUE

The Conference will be held in the Hotel Park Plaza Histria, Verudella 17, 52100 Pula, Croatia.



ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The official language of the Conference will be English. All papers accepted by the Scientific Committee will be published in the Proceedings. The high-quality papers will be considered for possible publication in one of the international peer-reviewed scientific journals with high IF and in the special issue of the Croatian interdisciplinary scientific journal HRVATSKE VODE.

IMPORTANT DATES

1 March 2023	Abstract submission opens
1 May 2023	Early Bird registration opens
30 September 2023	Abstract submission deadline
15 October 2023	Formal notification of acceptance for abstract
1 December 2023	Early Bird registration closes, Regular registration opens
1 December 2023	Field excursion registration closes
31 January 2024	Full paper submission deadline
15 February 2024	Deadline for presenting authors to finalize their payment, to be included, or be deleted, from the final program
15 March 2024	Third Announcement: final program
5 April 2024	Regular registration closes
9 April 2024	Onsite workshop registration opens
10 April 2024	Onsite Conference registration opens

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Abstracts guideline is available at the Conference web site: www.wspa2024.org.

Abstracts will be reviewed by the international Scientific Committee.

Abstracts should be submitted via the Conference web site.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The programme will take place over three days.

The workshop “Integrated wastewater management - from the household to the watershed level”, will be held on Wednesday, April 10. More detailed information on the content and goals of the workshops is available at the Conference web site: www.wspa2024.org.

The Conference icebreaker party will begin in the late afternoon on Wednesday, April 10.

The Opening ceremony will be held in the morning and the round table on the legal framework related to sensitive and protected areas will be held in the early afternoon on Thursday, April 11.

The Closing ceremony will be held in the late afternoon on Friday, April 12.

The 4th WSPA Conference will include two post-conference excursions, on Saturday, April 13, to Brijuni National Park (Excursion A1) and to the interior of the Istria peninsula (Excursion A2).

Abstracts should be submitted via the Conference web site.

10 th April Wednesday	11 th April Thursday	12 th April Friday	13 th April Saturday
	4 th WSPA Conference		
Workshop			
	Opening ceremony		Excursion A1
			Excursion A2
	Round table		
Icebreaker party	Gala dinner	Closing word	

REGISTRATION FEES - Workshop (10 April 2024)

Registration fee	Till 1 Dec 2023	From 2 Dec 2023 and onsite
Participant non-member	190,00 EUR (≈1431,56 HRK)	220,00 EUR (≈1657,59 HRK)
Participant Member*	170,00 EUR (≈1280,87 HRK)	200,00 EUR (≈1506,90 HRK)
Young professionals under the age of 30	150,00 EUR (≈1130,18 HRK)	180,00 EUR (≈1356,21 HRK)
Student**	140,00 EUR (≈1054,83 HRK)	170,00 EUR (≈1280,87 HRK)

*MEMBER: • National associations of European Water Association (EWA) • Croatian Water Pollution Control Society (CWPCS)
• Croatian Hydrological Society (CHS) • Croatian Society for Drainage and Irrigation (CSDI)
**PhD students included

Registration fee includes: • Workshop attendance • Certificate of attendance • Printed workshop documents • Presentations and other workshop documents in digital format • Coffee break.

REGISTRATION FEES - Conference (11 – 12 April 2024)

Registration fee	Till 1 Dec 2023	From 2 Dec 2023 and onsite
Participant non-member	400,00 EUR (≈3013,80 HRK)	450,00 EUR (≈3390,53 HRK)
Participant Member*	300,00 EUR (≈2260,35 HRK)	350,00 EUR (≈2637,08 HRK)
Retired	250,00 EUR (≈1883,63 HRK)	300,00 EUR (≈2260,35 HRK)
Student**	200,00 EUR (≈1506,90 HRK)	250,00 EUR (≈1883,63 HRK)
Accompanying person	150,00 EUR (≈1130,18 HRK)	150,00 EUR (≈1130,18 HRK)
Daily fee (11 April 2024)	150,00 EUR (≈1130,18 HRK)	150,00 EUR (≈1130,18 HRK)
Daily fee (12 April 2024)	150,00 EUR (≈1130,18 HRK)	150,00 EUR (≈1130,18 HRK)

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**PhD students included

Registration fee includes: • Conference attendance • Certificate of attendance • Conference bag • Book of abstracts (in digital format) • Proceedings (in digital format) • Welcome drink / Icebreaker party • Coffee breaks • Gala dinner with music.

Registration fees payment guidelines are available at the Conference web site: www.wspa2024.org.

SPONSORSHIPS

Companies will be able to present their products, equipment and services before, during and after the conference through the website, newsletters, flyers, social media channels (Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram), promotional materials in conference bag and exhibition.

Companies interested in Conference sponsorship should contact the technical organizer by e-mail petra@spektar-holidays.hr for additional information. The full description of the Conference sponsorship packages is available at the Conference web site: www.wspa2024.org

ACCOMODATION

The Park Plaza Histria, perfectly located on the Punta Verudela peninsula overlooking the sea, represents the symbol of Pula's tourist offer. Guests at the Park Plaza Histria can view Pula's fascinating Roman remains including one of Europe's best preserved Amphitheatres. The hotel's location on the beautiful south coast of Croatia's Istrian Peninsula offers breathtaking views across the Adriatic Sea, and the historic city of Pula is only minutes from the resort.

An aerial photograph of a coastline. The water on the left is a vibrant turquoise color, transitioning to a darker blue further out. The shoreline is rocky and covered in white foam from the waves. To the right of the shore is a dense, lush green forest of trees. The overall scene is bright and scenic.

**We look forward to welcoming
you at the Conference!**



WSPA
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