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December 2019

The Impact of the 26 November Earthquake in the Water Supply Networks, and the Responsiveness and Solidarity of the Water Sector



On the morning of November 26, 2019, Albania was hit by the strongest earthquake recorded in decades, of 6.4 magnitudes. Unfortunately, 51 lives were lost, over 1000 people were injured, and many buildings collapsed and have been severely damaged, mainly in the cities of Durres

and Thumane, as well as in other areas of Kruja, Tirana, Lezha and Kavaja.

The early hours after the earthquake were critical to saving lives under the buildings that had collapsed. The team from the Technical Department of Durres Water Supply and Sewerage Company (WSSC) was quick to respond to this emergency, by setting up a verification team to assist the search and rescue operation at the collapsed facilities. The operation was led by the engineering staff of Durres WSSC and it was carried out by the staff of the maintenance department, who did a heroic job, under very dangerous circumstances.

SHUKALB played a proactive role in offering its support to the most affected water companies mainly Durres WSSC and Kruja WSSC. [read more](#)

Event in Review

7th Balkans Joint Conference and Exhibition 2019 “Water for All”: A Continued Success Story for SHUKALB and SHUKOS!

On 6, 7, 8 November 2019, SHUKALB in partnership with SHUKOS (The Water and Wastewater Works Association Kosovo) organized the 7th Balkans Joint Conference and



Upcoming International Conferences

[Water Management in Cold Climate 2020](#)

Harbin, China
12 – 14 January 2020

[2nd IWA Polish Young Water Professionals Conference](#)

WARSAW, POLAND
12-14 February 2020

[6th IWA young water professionals conference of the BeNeLux](#)

Luxembourg
12-14 February 2020

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Exhibition, titled “Water for All”, at Emerald Hotel, in Prishtina, Kosovo. This year’s event marked its highest participation in the history of our conferences, with a record of over 550 participants coming from 16 different countries throughout the Balkans, Europe and beyond.



About SHUKALB

The Water Supply and Sewerage Association of Albania (SHUKALB), which was established in 2000, is a professional, not-for-profit Association of water supply and sewerage professionals, who wish to improve the management of the Water Supply and Sewerage Sector in Albania, making it efficient, sustainable and effective in accordance with the current laws and regulations in Albania.

The Conference again reached its goal to stimulate the dialogue between different stakeholders and offer opportunities for water professionals, policymakers, and business professionals from the sector to discuss issues of concern, exchange information, and share their experiences in an effort to help the further development of the water supply and wastewater sector in the Greater Balkan Region.

Prior to the start of the Opening Ceremony, on 6 November, several Pre-Conference events were organized to include the Young Water Professionals Forum from Kosovo and Albania “Young Water Professionals Education Towards Career Development”, the special Meeting on “Test-Based Certification Program”, and the Regional Benchmarking Workshop of the Utility Benchmarking Program for Kosovo and Albania HUB. [read more](#)

What's New at SHUKALB!

SHUKALB’s “Water Through the Eyes of Children” Exhibit Brings Again Innocent but Strong Messages on Water From Children



November is the most exciting month for SHUKALB. Besides SHUKALB’s Balkan’s Joint Conference, one of its most loved public outreach and education programs, the “Friends of Water” Program, culminates with the Childrens’ Exhibition “*Water through the Eyes of Children*”. As traditionally, also this year, the Childrens’ Exhibition was organized and opened for the public during the National Water Week in Albania, on 1 to 4 November 2019, at Tirana Youth Center.

The Exhibition was officially opened on 1 November 2019 by Ms. Elisabeta Poci, Deputy Executive Director of SHUKALB and the teachers and students from “Edith Durham”, “Siri

Kodra” and “Dora D’Istria” schools of Tirana. In her speech, Ms. Poci thanked the institutional partner, the Ministry of Education Sports and Youth of Albania, and teachers and parents, for making it possible to spread essential knowledge on important water issues to the future generations across Albania, and thus planting the seeds in the further development of the water sector in our country. [read more](#)

SHUKALB Invited to Share Perspectives at the 3rd Regional Nexus Roundtable in South East Europe



On 16 to 18 October 2019, in Tirana, the Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean organized the 3rd Regional Nexus Roundtable in South East Europe (SEE). The three day event was organized jointly with the German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety and supported by the German Federal Environment Agency, Global Environment Facility’s (GEF) International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network, and Austrian Development Agency.

The 3rd Regional Nexus Roundtable followed up on the previous ones held in Belgrade in 2017 and in Skopje in 2018. The overall aim of these Roundtables is to assist towards achieving the Nexus-related objectives of the Dimension “Environment” of the SEE2020 Strategy, by facilitating dialogue processes in the South East Europe Region for the incorporation of Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems Nexus considerations in national and transboundary water resources management planning.

This 3rd Roundtable mainly focused on enhancing related capacities, on assisting towards the identification and prioritization of Nexus-related solutions, and on discussing potential next steps at the regional level. [read more](#)

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