



E-NEWSLETTER OF THE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE ASSOCIATION OF ALBANIA

**SHUKALB**

WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE ASSOCIATION OF ALBANIA

February 2022

Issues in Focus



Energy Cost Recovery Issues for Water Utilities

I. Overview

In the water supply and wastewater sector, out of the 57 water utilities (WT), 48 fail to cover their operating and maintenance (O&M) costs. Electricity costs in the water and wastewater sector account for about 30% of the total O&M costs. The utilities that fail to cover O&M costs secure their financial survival through central government subsidies, and/or by not paying their electricity bill to the Albanian Power Distribution Operator (OSHEE). This situation has led to an accumulated debt of 10.7 billion ALL (about 89 million euros) of this sector to the OSHEE, which together with interest arrears over the years amounts to about 19.5 billion ALL (about 162 million euros).

Under such a situation, the Water Regulatory Authority, with the support of OSHEE, has undertaken a study that analyzes the situation in detail, as well as provides relevant recommendations for water sector to get out of this state. The study provides a key approach to assessing this situation as well as some recommendations as a starting point for solving the problem. The analysis is mainly focused on 6 water utilities, the amount of debt of which accounts for about 63% of the total debt of the water and wastewater sector to OSHEE (see Table No. 1). Energy costs for these utilities range from 40 to 60% of O&M costs. The conclusions and recommendations from the analysis of these 6 companies have a generalizing character for the entire sector. [read more](#)

Training and Capacity Development Programs

Upcoming International Conferences

[MEP Water Group Online Webinar: How to make the energy efficiency directive Water-Smart?](#)

Online
8 February 2022

[EWA Innovation webinar: Hygienic and Safe Wastewater Reuse](#)

Online
8 March 2022

[7th Young Water Professionals BeNeLux conference 2022](#)

Delft, the Netherlands
4-6 April 2022

[LET2022- The 17th IWA Leading Edge Conference on Water and Wastewater Technologies](#)

Reno, Nevada, USA
27 March - 02 April 2022

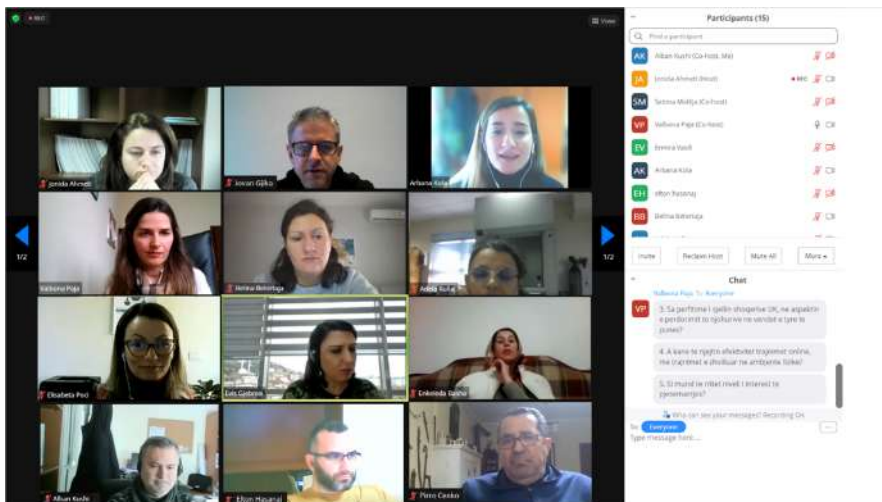
SHUKALB About to Launch Its Training Calendar for 2022



Last year was a very successful year for SHUKALB's Training Program. We are happy to report that we delivered successfully 13 training courses and 3 capacity development programs, attracting an audience of around 250 participants from 30 water utilities across Albania. These trainings included SHUKALB's own training courses, as well capacity development products and programs as part of SHUKALB's partnerships with Danube Learning Partnership (D-LeaP), and the Regional Capacity Development Network (RCDN).

In preparation for launching the Training Calendar of this year, and as a regular practice, SHUKALB has already distributed to the water utilities in Albania a Training Needs Assessment (TNA) Survey, in order to collect their feedback on their training needs for 2022. [read more](#)

SHUKALB Organizes Meeting with the Trainers Engaged in its Training and Capacity Development Program



On January 21, 2022, SHUKALB organized a virtual meeting with the participation of trainers who are involved in the SHUKALB Training and Capacity Development Program. The meeting was organized in the framework of the "Regional Capacity Development Network for Water and Sanitation Services (RCDN)" Project.

The overall objective of the meeting was to facilitate information, exchange between trainers on capacity development programs and activities organized by SHUKALB at the national level.

[IFAT 2022 - World's Leading Trade Fair for Water, Sewage, Waste and Raw Materials Management](#)

Munich, Germany
30 May – 3 June 2022

Join Us!



Tell us what you think!



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

The meeting was moderated by Valbona Paja, Deputy Administrator, Shkodra Water Supply and Sewerage Company. [read more](#)

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.

News From Our Members

Winter, We Fear You Not – The Water Supply and Sewerage Companies in Albania Take Actions Against the Frost Situation



Albania experienced an unusual weather during the month of January, with temperatures dropping several degrees below zero, for at least four days in a row. The north-eastern and south-eastern areas of the country in particular, but also the western lowland suffered from frosting. This unusual situation did not catch unprepared the water utilities though. SHUKALB has been in contact with several of its member water supply and sewerage (WSSC) companies that have been most affected, such as Korça WSSC, Pogradec WSSC, Bulqiza WSSC, but also Tirana WSSC and Vlora WSSC, and has collected information about the situation and the measures taken by them.

The first measure taken by all Companies was to raise awareness of consumers about the situation, informing them

how to deal with water meters and pipes in the winter season. [read more](#)

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[Training Delivery](#)

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