



**Harsha Ratnaweera** is a professor at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences and the Qingdao University of Technology, China. He is a fellow of the European academy of Sciences and the Norwegian Academy of Technological Sciences". Previously, he was the Director of International Projects and Innovation at the Norwegian Institute for Water Research (NIVA) from 1991 to 2012, where he spearheaded NIVA's commercialization of research outcomes. He holds a Dr. Ing. in Civil Engineering from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU, 1992) and an MSc (Hons) in Chemical Engineering from the National Technical University of Ukraine KPI (1987).

Harsha is a distinguished Fellow and Board Director of the International Water Association (IWA) and serves as President of the European Water Association (EWA). He is also a Fellow of both the European Academy of Sciences and the Norwegian Academy of Technological Sciences.

His research interests include modeling and optimization of coagulation processes in water and wastewater treatment, real-time monitoring and control of treatment processes, holistic optimization of sewerage systems, virtual sensors and validation of measurements, membrane processes, image analysis for sensor development, water resources management, and the harmonization of water-related graduate studies across Asia, Africa, and Eurasia with Norway.

Harsha has been a member of the Norwegian National Commission for UNESCO and currently chairs or sits on the boards of various water and environmental organizations in Norway. He has also served as an advisor or consultant to organizations such as the World Bank, UNECE, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, NORAD, and SIDA, and has worked extensively across Asia, Africa, and Europe. He is fluent in English, Norwegian, and Russian.

Harsha has initiated and leading a network of projects involving 100 universities from 54 countries ([www.WaterHarmony.net](http://www.WaterHarmony.net)). He has also lead the organisation of four international conferences in [IWA Particle Separation Conference, Oslo](#) and [EWA Water Management in Cold Climates, Spitsbergen](#) in June 2016, [EWA Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems, Oslo](#), 2019 and [2nd IWA-EWA Conference on Water Management in Cold Climates, Harbin](#), China in 2020. Harsha is chairing the EWA Spring Conference on Addressing Changes to the Urban Wastewater Directive in May 2025 and the 14th IWA Conference on Instrumentation, Control and Automation in June 2025, both in Oslo.



**Elisabeta Poci** is the Executive Director of Water Supply and Sewerage Association of Albania (SHUKALB), a non-governmental and not for profit professional organization, aiming to improve the performance of water supply and sewerage sector in Albania, through advocacy, capacity building, and public outreach activities.

She has been instrumental in the professional development of the water and wastewater sector of Albania and in building SHUKALB as a professional organization to the point that it is a well-respected stakeholder among the other institutional stakeholders in Albania, a financially sustainable organization, and a mutual force for cooperation in the Western Balkan region and beyond.

Ms. Poci has led several projects and activities in Albania and the region, and she has also experience in the private sector, as well as in the academia, during the time she served as a lecturer at the Polytechnic of Tirana, Faculty of Civil Engineering. She is actively engaged in regional initiatives and networks among which the Danube Water Program where she served as the Deputy Chair of the Danube Learning Partnership (D-LeaP) during 2017-2021, and the Regional Capacity Development Network for Water and Sanitation Services (RCDN) where she served as the Deputy Chair of Project Advisory Board.

She is a member of the Board of Directors of the International Water Association (IWA), since September 2022. In addition, she is affiliated on a part time basis with the International Association of Water Service Companies in the Danube River Catchment Area, where she serves as an association development manager since September 2022.

Ms. Poci holds a Bachelor Degree in Environmental Engineering from the Polytechnic University of Tirana and a Master of Science Degree in Environmental and Water Resources Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin, USA, under a Fulbright Scholarship.