



Dr.sc. Mara Pavelić (HR)

**Member of the EWA Management Committee (MC)
National representative in the EWA Council**

My name is Mara Pavelić and I come from Croatia. Since 2014, I have been the head of the Water Protection Department in Hrvatske vode (Croatian Waters) - government entity responsible for water management in the Republic of Croatia. I received my PhD in 2009 at the Faculty of Food Technology and Biotechnology, University of Zagreb, in the field of biotechnology, with the topic "Water Quality Index as a Basis for Economic Evaluation of Groundwater in Karst", which laid the foundation for the methodology of economic evaluation of groundwater. I am a pioneer in the practical application of toxicity tests with photobacteria, which later became a standard ISO method. I also received an award of the Faculty of Food Technology and Biotechnology, University of Zagreb for an outstanding contribution to the promotion of higher education, science and profession.

Since 2015, I have been the president of the Croatian Water Pollution Control Society, which last year celebrated 40 years of operation, and since 2019, the Croatian representative in the Management Committee of the European Water Association (EWA). I am a signatory of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Croatian Water Pollution Control Society and the German Water Association (DWA) and one of the initiators of a bilateral cooperation project between the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Germany entitled "National Training and Competence Center for the Water Sector" in cooperation with the German Water Partnership (GWP), the German Water Association (DWA) and the Croatian Water Pollution Control Society, as well as the initiator of the Swiss-Croatian Water Utility Cooperation Program.

Working on various jobs and projects during my 30-year professional career at the Department of Hydraulic Engineering, Faculty of Civil Engineering, University of Zagreb as a research assistant, and later in Croatian Waters, I gained the necessary experience and proved my skills in strategic planning and project implementation, management of human, material and financial resources.

I am a member of numerous professional bodies: the Committee for Monitoring the Implementation of the Rural Development Program of the Republic of Croatia (2014-2020); Coordinating body for monitoring the implementation of the project "Municipal Water Financing Facility" financed with loans from the EIB and the CEB; Coordination Body for Monitoring the Implementation of the Coastal Cities Pollution Control Project 2; Croatian Waters Expert Council; appointment of representatives of Croatian Waters to the Comitology Committees of the European Commission, as well as the head of the Expert Unit in case of extraordinary and sudden water pollution.

The Republic of Croatia is rich in drinking water. In order to use it well, it is necessary to invest significantly in the development of supporting infrastructure, as well as in the collection and treatment of wastewater. This matter is a key environmental, development and social issue because the lack of mostly sewage network, and regrettably in some parts of the country of the water supply network as well, strongly affects. The Republic of Croatia must work on meeting the prescribed conditions with additional investments in the development of the wastewater systems and, ultimately, the construction of wastewater treatment plants. The construction of such plants imposes a clear need for the establishment of experts who will manage them and for the possession of quality technology that will achieve this.

As the most recently elected member of the EWA Management Committee, I must emphasize that our cooperation and mutual support grow year by year. This fact opens Croatia's path to the depths of Europe and cooperation with other international institutions in the field of water management. I am proud to be in such a high position of a world-renowned European society and I hope that in the coming years we will become even stronger with EWA help.