



**1st EWaS-MED International Conference on
Improving Efficiency of Water Systems
in a Changing Natural and Financial Environment
11–13 April 2013, Thessaloniki, Greece**

Editorial

This special issue of the *Desalination and Water Treatment* journal contains selected papers presented during the 1st EWaS-MED International Conference on Improving Efficiency of Water Systems in a Changing Natural and Financial Environment, which was held in Thessaloniki, Greece during 11–13 April 2013. The conference was organized by the Department of Chemistry, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in collaboration with the Department of Civil Engineering, University of Thessaly and it was supported by the European Water Association (EWRA). An international board of valued scientists comprised its scientific committee.

The specific areas of scientific interest, on which surveys and papers were presented during the conference, were the following:

Theme A: Water Resources Management

- Simulation, optimization, and management
- Implementing the WFD - evaluation & progress
- Climate change and its impacts
- Desalination
- Funding opportunities
- Case studies and lessons learnt

Theme B: Urban water systems management

- Simulation and optimization techniques of water pipe networks
- Drinking and wastewater treatment plants
- Demand prediction and management
- Water pricing
- Performance optimisation
- Repair or replace
- Water and Energy
- Case studies

Theme C: Water losses topics

- Water loss management
- Apparent Losses management
- NRW-reduction techniques
- Water metering
- Process benchmarking
- Decision Support Systems
- Technical vs. financial aspects
- Case studies

The success of the conference is evident as 49 papers were included in the conference proceedings. From this number, 21 papers were initially selected and re-submitted (after appropriate extension) to be considered for eventual publication in this special issue, aiming to a specific edition of significant added value for scientists, engineers, researchers, and policy-makers, working in the relevant areas. Finally, 17 papers were selected after the review process.

We would like to thank all the authors for their worthy contributions to this special issue of *Desalination and Water Treatment* journal. Furthermore, we would like to express our thanks to the journal Editor-in-Chief, Miriam Balaban and her assistant, Suzanne Trauffer, for the faith she showed to the Guest Editors and for their help throughout the handling of manuscripts. We are also thankful to the several reviewers for the time and efforts they sacrificed in order to ensure high standards for the submitted manuscripts.

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