



**13th IWA Specialized Conference
on Small Water and Wastewater Systems (SWWS)
together with the 5th IWA Specialized Conference
on Resources-Oriented Sanitation (ROS)
Athens, Greece, 14–17 September 2016**

Editorial

This special issue of *Desalination and Water Treatment* includes 49 water and wastewater related papers selected from the 13th IWA Specialized Conference on Small Water and Wastewater Systems (SWWS) together with the 5th IWA Specialized Conference on Resources-Oriented Sanitation (ROS) that took place in Athens from the 14th to the 17th of September 2016. The Conference was part of the activities of the IWA Specialist Groups on Small Water and Wastewater Systems and on Resources-Oriented Sanitation. The Sanitary Engineering Laboratory (www.eyt.gr) of the National Technical University of Athens (www.ntua.gr) together with the Hellenic Water Association (www.hwa.gr) hosted this large and fruitful event, having more than 500 participants from all over the world. Small and decentralized treatment solutions are in many cases more cost-effective than larger scale, centralized solutions. Their application can solve real problems of water scarcity and sewage management.

The Conference brought together researchers, engineers, water practitioners from academia, industry, water utilities, public authorities and administration to exchange know how and experiences. Within the Conference, knowledge and expertise were disseminated on innovative systems, technologies and processes which are applied at small and decentralized regions for the management of water and wastewater. The whole water supply chain was considered from water abstraction up to treated wastewater disposal and reuse. Furthermore, resources-oriented sanitation was discussed as a route to sustainable and ecologically sound sanitation. The Conference included several social events, a strong technical programme and technical tours. The content of the papers of this Special Issue is summarized below. The first 13 papers address the thematic area of different technologies applied for the treatment of domestic/municipal wastewater. The next 10 papers investigate the treatment of industrial and high strength wastewater, while the next 12 papers that follow focus on resource recovery. Furthermore, this special issue includes 3 papers that examine the fate and removal of micropollutants as well as 8 papers which investigate onsite treatment systems. Finally, two papers deal with water treatment and monitoring and one paper on the assessment of landfill sites.

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Guest Editors

Dr. Konstantinos Moustakas

National Technical University of Athens,
School of Chemical Engineering, Unit of
Environmental Science & Technology,
9 Heroon Polytechniou St.
Zographou Campus, 15773, Athens, Greece
Email: konmoust@central.ntua.gr
Tel. +30 2107723108/2334
Fax +30 2107723285

Dr. Simos Malamis

National Technical University of Athens,
School of Civil Engineering, Department
of Water Resources and Environmental
Engineering, Sanitary Engineering Laboratory,
5 Heroon Polytechniou St.,
Zographou Campus, 15780, Athens, Greece
Email: smalamis@central.ntua.gr
Tel. +30 2107722797