

Second Global WOPs Congress and GWOPA General Assembly

27-29 November – Barcelona, Spain





WOPS

A Water Operators' Partnership (WOP) is a peer-support exchange between two or more water or sanitation operators, carried out on a not-for-profit basis with the objective of strengthening capacity, enhancing performance and enabling the water operator to provide a better service to more people, especially the poor.

GWOPA

The Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance (GWOPA) is a global community of organizations using solidarity-based peer partnerships to strengthen water and sanitation operators. UN-Habitat founded GWOPA in 2009 to scale up quality WOPs worldwide. Its Secretariat is hosted in Barcelona.

WELCOME

Water operators are the central actors in a pressing global challenge: sustainably managing water in our cities. Empowering operators to meet this challenge is the purpose of Water Operators' Partnerships. WOPs draws on the expertise and innovation of strong utilities to help others, on a solidarity basis, to improve their service quality and coverage.

I invite you to join this growing community of WOPs practitioners and participate in the Second Global Water Operators' Partnerships Congress and GWOPA General Assembly.

Every two years, UN-Habitat organizes this Congress to bring together utilities and WOPs supporters to share their experience, advance knowledge and initiate action on Water Operators' Partnerships. Our first Global WOPs Congress, held in Cape Town in 2011, gathered participants from around the world.

This year, the Second Global WOPs Congress is being held in my home town, Barcelona, in the newly restored, historic Sant Pau buildings, new home to the GWOPA Secretariat. Together with the GWOPA Secretariat, I invite you to come and engage with us in the exceptional setting. We hope to see you there.

JOAN CLOS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UN-HABITAT



WHO'S COMING?

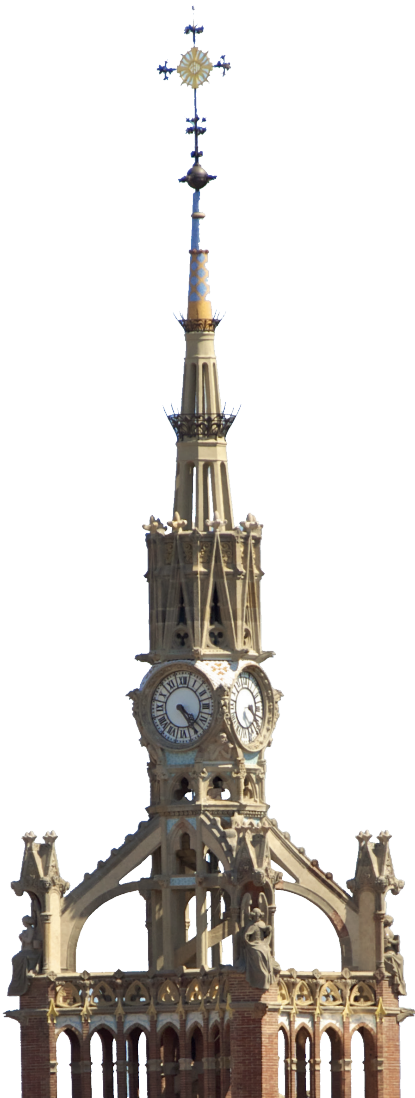
The event will welcome those practicing, supporting, studying or curious about using not-for-profit peer support between water operators to improve global water and sanitation services, including:

- ✓ Water and wastewater utilities
- ✓ Local and National Governments
- ✓ Donors and financial institutions
- ✓ Civil society organizations
- ✓ Labour Unions
- ✓ Knowledge and academic institutions in the water and sanitation sector

Participation in the conference will be free of charge, however space is limited. All those interested in participating are encouraged to contact the organizers early.

CONGRESS HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ High level guests from Government, the UN System and GWOPA partners
- ✓ Opportunities for Learning and Exchange amongst WOPs Practitioners
- ✓ Partnerships Launching
- ✓ Utility Matchmaking Opportunities
- ✓ Social Events and Barcelona Water Cultural Tour
- ✓ GWOPA General Assembly and Steering Committee Election



THEMES

The Global WOPs Congress is a celebration of the United Nations International Year for Water Cooperation and will be held under the banner “Fostering Cooperation between Water Operators”

The Congress will explore a number of themes in more detail:

- ✓ WOPs and Financing
- ✓ WOPs Learning Approaches
- ✓ WOPs Results
- ✓ Innovations in WOPs

Proposals for additional thematic sessions are welcome.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Participants are invited to propose contributions to the Congress:

- ✓ WOPs Cases – Throughout the Congress, discussions will be enriched by presentations on WOPs cases. Those wishing to share their partnership experiences are invited to submit their cases to the GWOPA's WOPs Profile database.
- ✓ Thematic Presentations – Proposals are invited for presentations on the identified themes or other pertinent WOPs topics.

Expressions of interest to contribute should be sent to the congress@gwopa.org by 15 September.



SUPPORT

Financial support will be made available to a limited number of participants from utilities in the South. Submission of a Utility Profile and WOP profile, where applicable, is required in order to be considered for sponsorship.

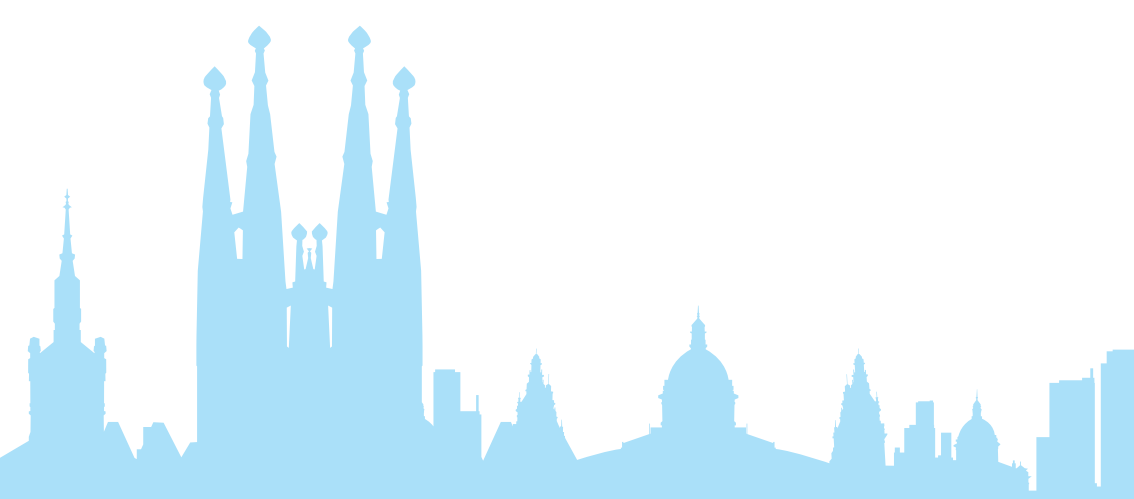
Please contact congress@gwopa.org if you have any inquiries.

REGISTRATION

Registration instructions are available on our website www.gwopa.org
Follow us on Twitter [@gwopa](https://twitter.com/gwopa) or Facebook to receive updates or send an email to express early interest to register.

This Event is being organized as part of the International Year of Water Cooperation and in Collaboration with the City of Barcelona.





Time	Tuesday 26 November	Wednesday 27 November	Thursday 28 November	Friday 29 November
9.00	Pre-congress meetings and workshops (invitation only)	Opening and keynote	Parallel sessions	GWOPA general assembly (and steering committee elections)
9.30				
10.00		Plenary presentations and panel	Coffee and tea	
10.30			Parallel sessions	
11.00				
11.30		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
12.00				
12.30		Parallel Sessions	Synthesis and closing	Barcelona tour
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