

Bari, XY AAAAAA 2026

INVITATION TO THE 42nd IAHR WORLD CONGRESS

Bari, Italy | 28 June – 2 July 2027

Dear Mayor,

Dear City Leader,

Following the successful Water & Cities Workshop held in Madrid on 28 May 2026, we would like to sincerely thank you for your valuable contribution to the discussions and for the commitment demonstrated towards building more resilient, sustainable and liveable cities.

The Madrid meeting confirmed a shared vision among cities, utilities, researchers and institutions: water must become a central pillar of urban resilience, climate adaptation and sustainable development. The discussions highlighted the importance of integrated urban water management, nature-based solutions, sponge-city approaches, water reuse, digital innovation and stronger governance frameworks to address the challenges of climate change, droughts, flooding and resource scarcity. The Road to Bari initiative was conceived precisely to bring together cities willing to lead this transition and to create a platform for exchanging experiences, showcasing successful practices and building strategic partnerships.

It is therefore our great pleasure to invite your city to participate in the **42nd IAHR World Congress** (<https://www.iahr2027.org/>), which will take place in Bari, Italy, from 28 June to 2 July 2027 with the partnership of **Autorità Idrica Pugliese** and **Acquedotto Pugliese**.

Under the theme: **“Driving Change Management in the Era of Digital Water and Global Transitions”**. The Congress will gather leading city representatives, utilities, policymakers, researchers, international organisations and industry leaders from across the world to discuss the future of water and cities.

Building on the outcomes of Madrid, Bari 2027 will offer a dedicated opportunity for cities to continue the dialogue initiated through the Road to Bari programme and to

contribute to an international agenda on urban water resilience. Attention will be devoted to city leadership, nature-based solutions, sponge-city strategies, climate adaptation, digital transformation and innovative governance models.

We would be honoured to welcome your City among the protagonists of this global event and to continue together the journey started in Madrid.

The accompanying photographs from the Opening and Morning City Sessions remind us that the strength of this initiative lies in the collective commitment of cities working together towards a more resilient water future.



We look forward to meeting you in Bari.

Yours sincerely,

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General Chair, 42nd IAHR World Congress – Bari 2027

Dr. Gianluca Vurchio

President, Autorità Idrica Pugliese (AIP)