

ABOUT US

At the founding Assembly in October 1999, UPKP in FBiH was joined by 32 members with around 3,000 employees. Now UPKP in FBiH has 74 members with over 8,000 employees from all ten cantons of FBiH, who have their representatives in the Management and Supervisory Board. Sessions are held once every two months (and more often if necessary), if possible in different cantons, with the presence of government representatives and the founders of the PUC. All activities are carried out in accordance with the Statute and other acts of UPKP in FBiH.

UPKP in FBiH actively promotes the utility sector and ensures normal working and living conditions for citizens.

Within UPKP in FBiH, Subcommittees have been formed by activities, in order to more precisely resolve problems and plan activities.

Key topics dealt with by UPKP in FBiH are:

- Economic situation and operations of PUCs;
- Status of public utility companies;
- Prices of utility services;
- Collection of receivables.

The UPKP in the FBiH emphasizes the importance of engaging all levels of government in solving the problems of the utility sector. It has a professional staff with many years of experience, with the contribution of Expert Teams, Working Groups and Commissions that monitor legal regulations and propose solutions for improving the operations of PUCs.

Overview of the most important activities of the UPKP in the FBiH in the last few years:

2022.

The initiative sent to UNDP BiH to support the implementation of the Program and Methodology through education and training of trainers, who further transfer knowledge to PUC employees, was accepted.

As part of the MEG II project, UNDP BiH and UPKP in FBiH conducted training of trainers from water PUCs, who were engaged in seminars and trainings with the aim of training PUCs and local government units to apply the Methodology. Training-of-trainers workshops were also held, with the participation of representatives of utility companies, and the evaluations were extremely positive.

After the trainings, trainers are already conducting trainings in cantons.

An initial conference of water utilities in FBiH was held on the topic of water services sector reform, organized by UPKP in FBiH and the MEG II project, with the aim of approaching the obligations from the Program and the application of the Methodology, while presenting the reform framework and the role of UPKP.

In April 2022, a Memorandum of Cooperation was signed between UPKP in FBiH and the Association of Municipalities and Cities of FBiH, which further strengthened the long-standing cooperation in the field of water supply and drainage.

2023.

Through long-term cooperation with the Association "KOMDEL" from Belgrade, a Protocol on Business Cooperation was signed with the Chamber of Commerce of the Republic of Serbia and related associations from the Region.

In cooperation with the MEG II project of UNDP and UPKP in FBiH, a project to support the reform of municipal water services was successfully implemented. With the support of the MEG II project and the FMAWWMF, an Inter-ministerial Working Group was appointed to draft the Law on Water Services in FBiH, as well as an expert team of UPKP to draft proposals for solutions for the registration of municipal infrastructure.

The Strategic Plan of UPKP in FBiH for the period 2023–2027 was adopted.

2024.

Active cooperation with the competent institutions in the FBiH (FMPWŠ, FMOIT, FMERI, SOG FBiH and FZOFBiH). The Preliminary Draft Law on Water Services in the FBiH was analyzed and sent to the competent ministry for further procedure, with parallel work of the expert team on the issue of registration of communal infrastructure.

Continued cooperation with international partners, including signing the contract for the "RCDN+" project and activities on new initiatives in the field of green transition.

The results of the survey indicate a high level of satisfaction of members, with the need to further strengthen activities, especially in the waste management sector.

Key initiatives launched to improve the legislative and institutional framework (A4, C1, D4), and requests for more favorable treatment of PUCs in the field of electricity were sent.

Participation in expert meetings and initiation of programs to reduce water losses in BiH, in cooperation with relevant partners. The Electoral Assembly of the UPKP in the FBiH was held, bodies were appointed, reports were adopted and new subcommittees were formed.

2025.

The long-term cooperation with GIZ through the implementation of the RCDN and RCDN+ projects is being implemented in accordance with the planned activities. Key trainings and education were conducted within the project, including generic and specific trainings of trainers, as well as programs in the field of asset management and wastewater systems for decision-makers.

A mid-term evaluation meeting of the project was also held, advocacy and lobbying activities were implemented, and additional trainings related to the development of capital infrastructure investments were carried out.

The Strategy and Activity Plan of the UPKP in the FBiH for the period 2023–2027 were revised. In addition, a public call for registration of professional staff of the UPKP in the FBiH was published, with continuous publication of calls for participation in project activities.

Active cooperation with UNDP BiH was realized through the implementation of the MEG 2 project and activities to establish the Water Academy at the level of BiH, with the plan for young experts to be the bearers of its development in the next phase of the MEG project. With the support of the MEG 2 project, the UPKP in the FBiH, through its Expert Team, organized a thematic conference dedicated to the presentation of a proposal for a legal solution for the registration of utility infrastructure in the business books of public utility companies and local self-government units. The UPKP expert team in the FBiH, through its work, conducted a comprehensive analysis of the relevant legislative framework, including 12 laws and seven models of infrastructure registration, as part of the preparation of the Draft Law on Water Services. It was particularly emphasized that the registration of infrastructure and the calculation of depreciation represent a key strategic priority, which contributes to sustainable management, improvement of investment planning and overall development of the water services sector. The conference brought together representatives of the utility sector, local self-government units and international organizations, and through constructive discussion,

significant proposals and recommendations were collected for further improvement of the proposed solutions.

Cooperation with the World Bank, where the UPKP in the FBiH, through the active participation of the Youth Subcommittee, successfully completed the "Water Services Reform" project financed by the World Bank.

Representatives of the World Bank expressed their willingness to improve further cooperation with the UPKP and the Young Experts Subcommittee by continuing communication, that is, informing young experts about possible activities and projects that they would implement with them through the UPKP in the FBiH.

The Young Experts Subcommittee of the UPKP has also conducted numerous other activities and organized a series of significant events. The results of their work are visible both within the UPKP in the FBiH itself and in the work of water utilities that are members of the UPKP.

A Working Group has been formed to develop a Job Catalogue in Public Utility Companies in the FBiH.

The Job Catalogue in PUCs in the FBiH will contain:

- job titles,
- job descriptions and work tasks,
- required professional qualifications and competencies,
- special conditions (licenses, physical fitness, security checks),
- corresponding salary grades.

The aim of this activity is to standardize job systematization, transparent human resources management, professionalize personnel in the utility sector, increase efficiency, accountability and quality of public services. This document would be a key tool for professionalization, modernization and depoliticization of the work of utility companies in the FBiH.