



Expression of interest
in hosting the
Regional Waterloss Conference 2027
in Timișoara, Romania

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Host organization

“Together, our knowledge is greater.”



Romania Water Association (ARA)

Founded in 1995, the Romanian Water Association (ARA) is the national professional body representing the water and wastewater sector in Romania. As the official Governing Member of IWA, EWA and IAWD, ARA acts as a central platform for knowledge sharing, policy dialogue, and sectoral development, connecting national expertise to international best practices.

The present application is officially endorsed by ARA's Board of Directors, following a formal vote of approval. It is signed by the Association's President, Dr. Ilie Vlaicu, and reflects the organization's full commitment to hosting the Regional Waterloss Conference in 2027.

This application is officially supported by the the Government of Romania through the Ministry of Environment and IAWD. Letters of endorsement from these institutions are attached.

ARA as Governing Member and IWA Partner

ARA has played an active role in supporting professional exchanges across borders, and it has endorsed the involvement of Romanian professionals in international contexts coordinated through IWA, while also contributing to regional efforts in Central and Eastern Europe.

Institutional Capacity and National Reach

ARA has 3 categories of members, as shown alongside:

This diverse network is the ground that makes ARA the sole voice of the Romanian water sector, while also playing the role of a technical platform for dialogue and cross-sector cooperation.

ARA finds itself in a national context of large-scale modernization of water infrastructure. Romania has attracted over **€10 billion in EU funding** for water and wastewater investment projects over the past 20 years. With an estimated **60,000 employees** and an **annual sector turnover exceeding €1 billion**, the Romanian water industry is an economic engine and a major player in the country's infrastructure.

Flagship events

Regional Water Forum „Danube - Eastern Europe” and the specialized exhibition ExpoApa®

Among ARA's usual events, the most important one is the Regional Water Forum „Danube - Eastern Europe” and the specialized exhibition ExpoApa®. ExpoApa® has reached its 25th edition, and it has grown exponentially in the last few years, gathering annually approximately **4,000 participants and 90–100 exhibitors**. ExpoApa serves not only as a showcase for industry innovation, but also as a platform for exchanging operational and technical experience and as a space for policy dialogue.

At the 2025 edition of the Forum, the event was honoured by high-level European visibility through **the participation of Roxana Mînzatu - Vice-President of the European Commission, and Jessika Roswall - EU Commissioner for Environment, Water Resilience and a Competitive Circular Economy**. Their presence reaffirmed ARA's status as an active voice in Europe's evolving water policy landscape and as a facilitator of strategic regional dialogue.

30+

Years of experience

48

Municipal and regional water utilities

141

Companies from engineering, consulting and water technology

180+

Individual members, including researchers, experts and managers



Host organization

“Together, our knowledge is greater.”



Water Loss Detection Competition

Beyond ExpoApa®, ARA organizes a broad range of events and technical platforms aimed at operational excellence, capacity building, and peer exchange. Among these is the annual **Water Loss Detection Competition**, a unique national initiative where over 15 to 20 utility teams from across Romania compete to demonstrate their skills in locating and assessing leaks in urban water distribution networks. The competition is held in a real operational context—on active utility infrastructure within selected cities—and includes both practical field assessments and diagnostic exercises.

The event is organized simultaneously with the biannual meeting of the Technical Commission on Water Loss Management, one of the most active working groups within ARA's Technical-Scientific Committee. Alongside the competition, the event features technical presentations delivered by partners of ARA, technology providers in the domain, who showcase their latest solutions in leak detection, acoustic monitoring, pressure management, and smart metering.

This event has attracted an increasing number of water loss detection teams over the years, and its significance has grown at the same time as water loss has become a key topic in the field. The importance of the event is given by the fact that it provides both a testing ground for skills and a lively forum for collaboration between utilities and the private sector. The role of the competition is to endorse professional development at the operational level and to support continuous learning and improvement in reducing non-revenue water - a national priority.

Centre for Professional Training

In addition to its events portfolio, ARA supports professional development through its **Centre for Professional Training (CFP-ARA)**. The center delivers nationally accredited training courses on topics such as network efficiency, leakage detection, asset management, and digital transformation in utilities. Hundreds of sector professionals have been trained under CFP-ARA, enhancing the operational and managerial capacities of Romanian water operators.

Technical-Scientific Committee

ARA's governance structure also includes a **Technical-Scientific Committee**, chaired by Professor Gabriel Racovițeanu, PhD, Eng, which oversees several permanent technical commissions. These commissions gather specialists from utilities, academia, and regulatory bodies to develop technical papers, conduct peer reviews, and lead working groups. The outputs of these bodies have informed both national strategies and sector guidelines. Their activities are complemented by regular webinars and workshops organized jointly with private partners.

Events partnerships

The interest shown by industry sponsors in ARA's initiatives - from large international technology firms to national suppliers - remains consistently high. Many of these partners are long-term collaborators and have expressed their willingness to support the organization of Water Loss 2028, either through sponsorship or technical involvement. Based on past experience, ARA anticipates broad private-sector engagement both in supporting the event and taking part in its activities.

Notably, ARA has previously partnered with the IWA WLSG to organize the regional event in 2019.



Why Romania?

A Strategic and Evolving Hub for the Regional Water Sector

In recent years, Romania has become a central hub for water sector professionals throughout Southeastern Europe. Its geographic position—linking the European Union with the Danube basin and the Black Sea region—makes the country a convenient meeting ground for technical exchange, policy dialogue, and cross-border collaboration. After joining the EU, Romania began a sustained period of development in the water and wastewater sector which was backed by EU structural funds. During this time, the national water sector invested over €10 billion in modernizing its infrastructure, and delivered tangible results such as:

- Urban and rural water supply and sewer systems have seen extensive expansion and improvement;
- Water and wastewater treatment plants have been upgraded to meet EU standards;
- New technologies - such as SCADA, GIS, and remote leak detection - have been adopted;
- Water operators have built up stronger technical and administrative systems, managing complex projects.

The main result is a national water sector that aligns with European policy and technical benchmarks (ARA has a national benchmark and participates also in the EBC), while also showing a clear desire to implement innovation. Today, more than 40 regional operators that manage water and wastewater services across Romania have actively engaged in long-term investment programs. They are shifting towards performance-based management and adopting best practices from European trends in utility modernization to an increasing extent.

A Regional Platform for Collaboration and Innovation

Romania's position in the international water sector and mainly in the Southeastern Europe is shaped by its infrastructure progress, and its function as a regional ground for professional dialogue. In partnership with IAWD, Romania regularly hosts forums, workshops, and other events that bring together stakeholders from across Central and Eastern Europe, the Balkans, and the wider Black Sea region. [The last and most important event of this kind was the Danube Water Forum 2024 with more than 300 participants, held in Braşov last year.](#)

Its location - at the intersection of several major geopolitical and economic areas - contributes to this dynamic. With strong connections to European capitals, as well as to cities in the Middle East and Western Asia, Romania is convenient for a diverse range of participants.

The proposed timing of the conference, in the spring of 2028, falls within a period when Romania typically experiences mild and stable weather - factors that further support the conditions needed for a successful, large-scale gathering of professionals from around the world.

A Water Sector with Scale and Depth

The sector is governed by a mature regulatory system, overseen by national authorities, and has demonstrated steady improvements in efficiency, coverage, and quality. This scale is supported by an active and growing base of technology suppliers, engineering firms, and research institutions. The sector also benefits from direct partnerships with EU bodies, international financial institutions, and bilateral cooperation programs focused on infrastructure and climate resilience.

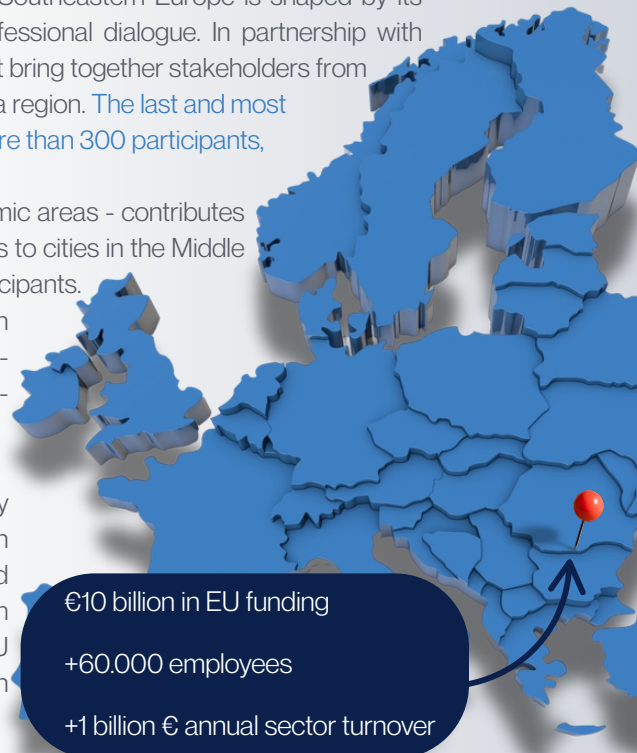
Water loss management, in particular, has become a national focus area.

Many utilities have made visible progress in monitoring, pressure control, and leakage reduction—through both technology and operational changes. As a result, Romania offers practical examples and real-world case studies that would greatly enrich the technical content of a global Water Loss conference.

The Right Moment, the Right Place

Choosing Romania as the host for Water Loss 2028 would open up a valuable opportunity for the international community to connect with a sector that is not only technically mature, but also genuinely engaged in learning, sharing and adapting. For professionals from across Southeastern Europe, many of whom may not have regular access to global events, it would serve as a gateway to exchange and collaboration at the highest level.

In this context, organizing the Water Loss 2028 Conference in Romania aligns directly with the interests of the IWA Water Loss Specialist Group, particularly given the European Union's increasing regulatory focus on leakage reduction. Under the revised Drinking Water Directive, all EU Member States are required to assess and report on water leakage by early 2026, with binding leakage rate thresholds to be established at the EU level by January 2028. This places the 2028 edition of Water Loss at a pivotal moment, offering a timely opportunity for dialogue, alignment, and guidance for utilities across Europe. The European Union is playing an increasingly central role in shaping the water loss agenda, and ARA has already established a working connection with EU-level institutions. This was clearly demonstrated by the participation of two European Commission representatives at ExpoApa® 2025, further reinforcing the relevance of Romania and ARA in the broader European water policy framework.



Conference venue



The proposed venue for the Regional Waterloss Conference in 2027 is the **Timișoara Convention Center (TMCC)**, located in the heart of Timișoara and directly connected to Hotel Timișoara.

Opened as one of Romania's most modern convention facilities, TMCC has been designed specifically for international congresses, conferences and exhibitions. Its strategic location in the historic city centre allows delegates to reach hotels, restaurants, cultural attractions and public transport within only a few minutes' walk.

Its central location allows delegates to reach hotels, restaurants, the historical city centre and major cultural attractions within just a few minutes on foot.

Key facilities include:



Modern and Flexible Infrastructure

The Convention Center offers highly adaptable spaces that can accommodate events of various sizes and formats. The venue includes modular conference halls with a combined capacity of **up to 2,000 participants**, allowing organizers to configure the layout according to the specific requirements of the event.



Exhibition Area

The technical exhibition is proposed to be organized in the spacious ground-floor halls of the Convention Center, creating a dynamic environment for exhibitors and ensuring continuous interaction with conference participants throughout the event.

The exhibition layout naturally integrates networking areas, coffee breaks and exhibitor booths, maximizing visibility and delegate engagement.



Conference Infrastructure

The scientific programme will take place in the conference rooms located on the upper level of the Convention Center.

The venue offers:

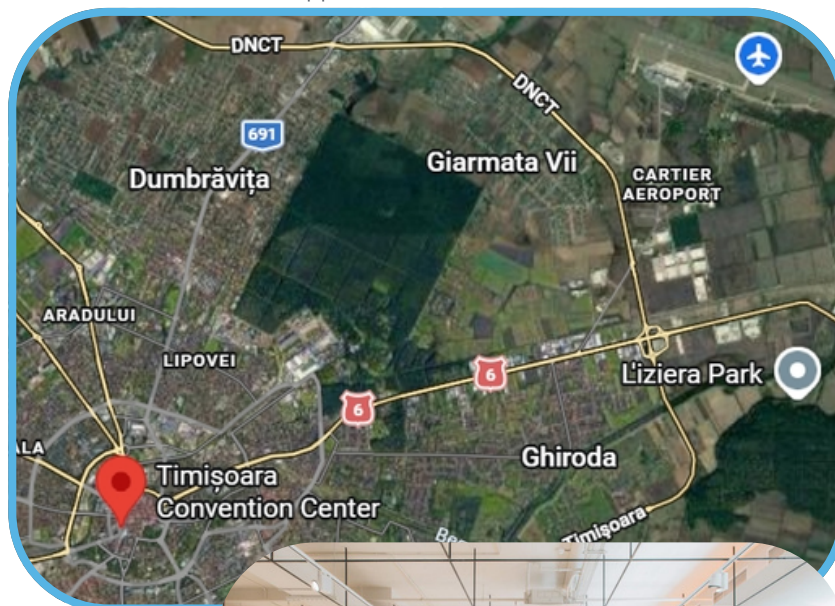
- modular plenary and breakout rooms;
- state-of-the-art audiovisual equipment;
- high-speed internet connectivity;
- professional lighting and sound systems;
- dedicated registration and networking areas;
- complete technical support throughout the event.



Integrated Event Experience

One of the greatest advantages of the proposed venue is that the conference rooms, exhibition area, registration desk, networking spaces and Hotel Timișoara are part of the same complex.

This integrated concept significantly improves the delegate experience by minimizing walking distances, simplifying logistics and encouraging continuous interaction between participants, speakers and exhibitors throughout the conference.



Date, Size and Language

Proposed Date

The Romanian Water Association proposes to host the Regional Waterloss Conference 2027 in Timișoara **from Monday, April 19 to Wednesday, April 21, 2027.**

The event programme will follow the standard structure recommended by the IWA Water Loss Specialist Group:

Monday, April 19, 2027

– Evening: Welcome reception for all registered participants and guests
(Coffee break provided)

Tuesday, April 20, 2027

- Early morning: Opening Ceremony, including welcome speeches and keynote presentations
 - Late morning and afternoon: Parallel technical sessions
(Two coffee breaks and lunch provided)
-

Wednesday, April 21, 2027

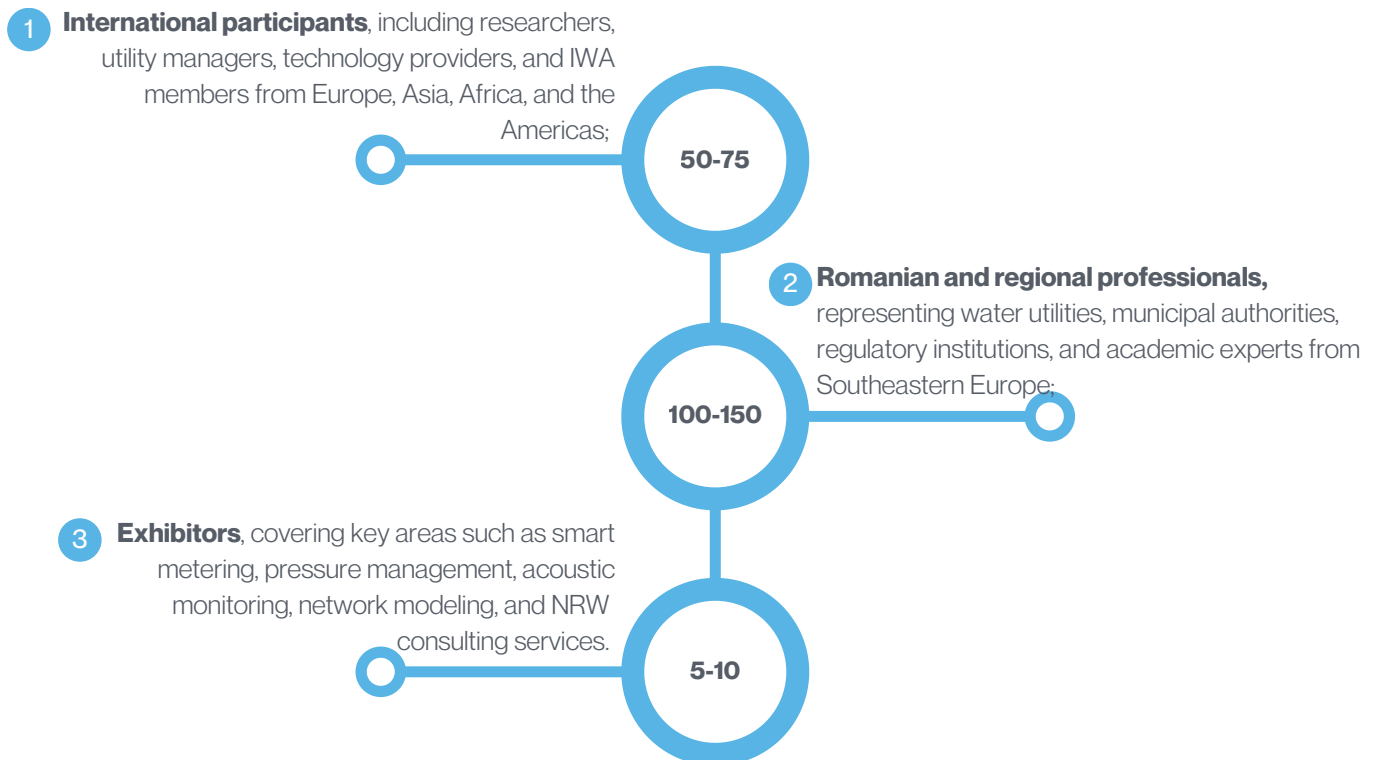
- Morning and early afternoon: Final round of technical sessions
 - Late afternoon: Closing ceremony, in the main plenary hall
 - Evening: Conference Gala Dinner
(Two coffee breaks and lunch provided)
-

The selected week avoids national holidays, ensures stable weather conditions, and provides ample flexibility for both technical and social engagement, in line with past editions of the Regional Waterloss Conference.

Date, Size and Language

Expected Number of Participants

Based on previous editions of Water Loss Conferences and Romania's proven ability to attract a broad professional audience through national and regional events such as ExpoApa, we anticipate a total attendance of approximately **100 to 200 delegates**, broken down as follows:



Given Romania's central position in the Danube region, and the high professional interest in water loss management at national level, we expect strong domestic and regional participation, especially from countries in the Western Balkans, Moldova, Ukraine, and Central Europe. [ARA has memorandums of understanding with Moldova's Water Association, the Hungarian Water Association and even with the Istanbul Water and Sewerage Administration \(ISKI\) and also maintains strong relationships with other regional water associations.](#) Romania's generally lower price level compared to Western European countries may serve as an additional incentive, making participation more accessible and appealing to a wider range of attendees. ARA will also coordinate with IWA Young Water Professionals and university partners to encourage student and early-career expert attendance.

All of the above are creating a solid foundation for drawing a significant number of participants from across the region, as we already do in all the international events we host.

Conference Language

The language of the conference will be **English**, consistent with IWA's international practice. To support active engagement from Romanian and regional professionals, **simultaneous interpretation** will be provided throughout the event - from plenary sessions to all three technical streams. Interpretation will be available in both directions (English–Romanian and Romanian–English) and will be integrated into the venue's technical setup. This approach has been successfully used by ARA in past events and will follow established protocols.

All official materials - including printed documents, on-site signage, and digital platforms such as the conference website and mobile application - will be available in both English and Romanian, ensuring clarity and accessibility for all participants.

Budget

ARA assumes full financial risk for the event, having the necessary financial capacity, as demonstrated by the successful organization of Danube Water Forum 2024, the Regional Water Forum „Danube - Eastern Europe” 2025, ExpoApa 2025, and Regional Water Forum „Danube -Eastern Europe” 2026.

Transport & Accessibility

Timișoara is one of the most accessible cities in Western Romania, benefiting from excellent air, road and rail connections with the rest of Europe.

Traian Vuia International Airport (TSR)

The city is served by **Traian Vuia International Airport (TSR)**, located approximately 12 km (15–20 minutes) from the proposed conference venue, Timișoara Convention Center. The airport offers direct connections to several important European destinations and provides convenient access through major airline hubs.

For delegates travelling from destinations without direct flights to Timișoara, convenient one-stop connections are available through major European hubs, particularly **Munich**, which offers multiple daily direct flights to and from Timișoara operated in partnership with the Lufthansa network. This provides onward connectivity to a wide range of intercontinental and European destinations.

Budapest Ferenc Liszt International Airport (BUD)

In addition, **Budapest Ferenc Liszt International Airport (BUD)**—one of Central Europe's largest aviation hubs—is located approximately 300 km from Timișoara and can be reached in around 3 to 3.5 hours by road. Budapest Airport offers an extensive network of direct flights to destinations across Europe, North America, the Middle East and Asia, providing an additional travel option for international delegates.

Local Transport in Timișoara

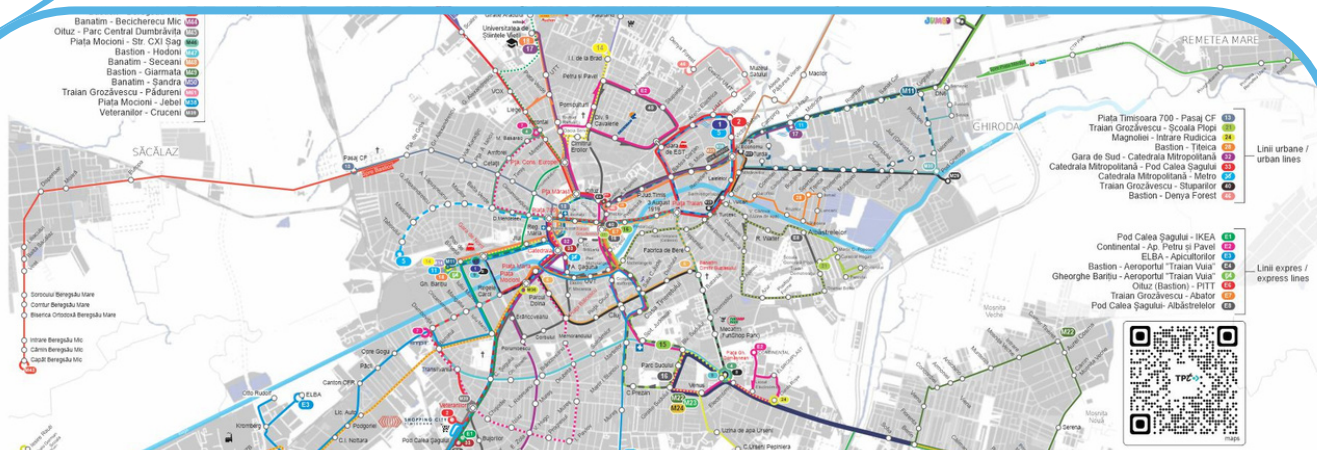
Once in Timișoara, delegates benefit from the city's **compact layout** and efficient transport network. The proposed venue, Timișoara Convention Center, is located in the city centre, **within walking distance** of numerous hotels, restaurants, cafés and major cultural attractions.

The city is served by an extensive public transport network, including **modern trams, buses and trolleybuses**, offering convenient connections between the airport, railway station, hotels and the conference venue. Taxi services and ride-hailing applications such as **Uber and Bolt** are also widely available, providing fast, reliable and affordable transportation throughout the city.

Timișoara is also known for its **pedestrian-friendly city centre**, allowing delegates to comfortably reach many key locations on foot. This compact urban setting significantly reduces transfer times and enables participants to move easily between accommodation, conference sessions, the exhibition area and social events, thereby maximizing networking opportunities and enhancing the overall conference experience.

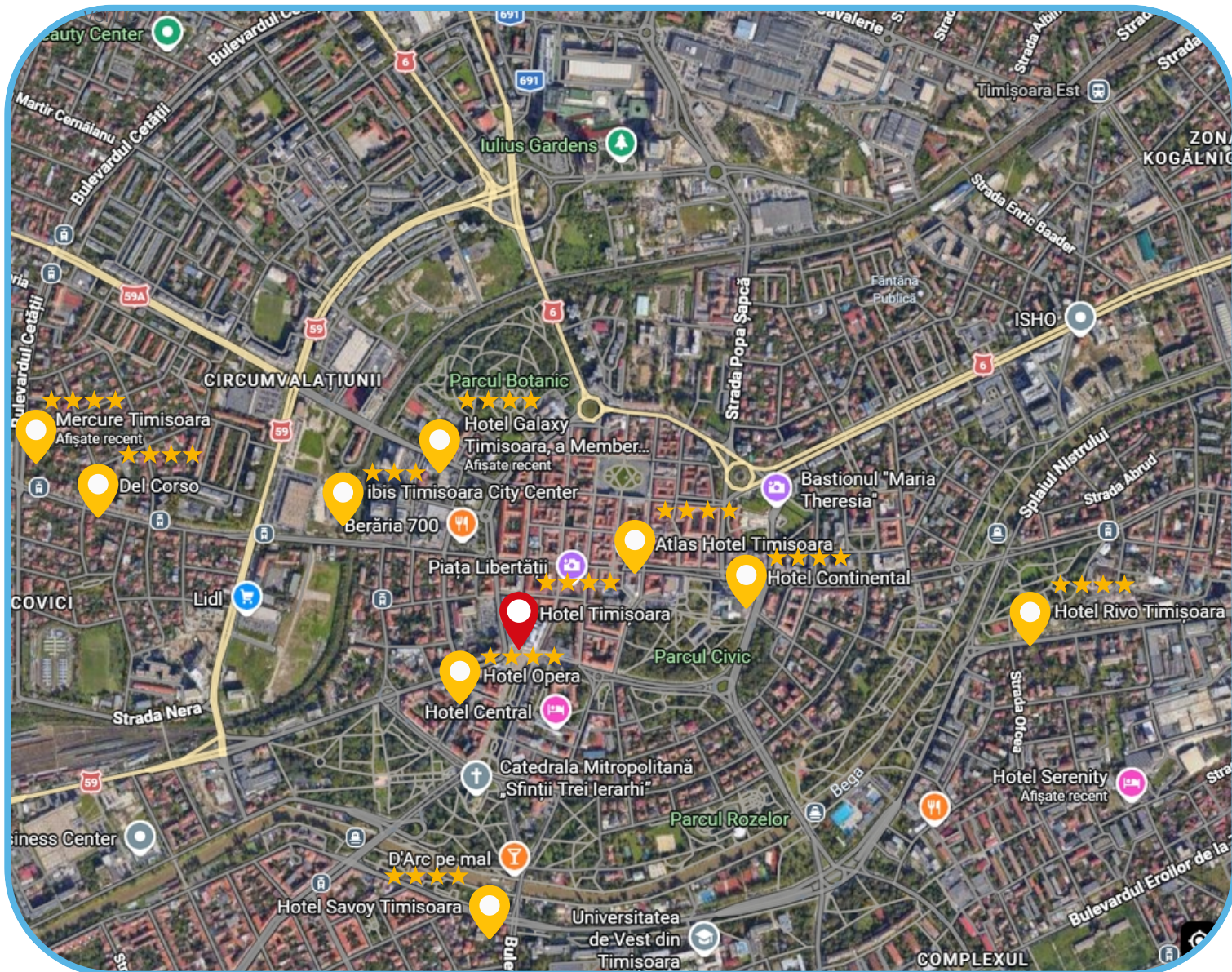
Visa

In general, travelers to Romania do not need a visa. Exceptions can be checked [here](#).



Accommodation

A curated list of accommodation options has been prepared for delegates attending Regional Waterloss Conference 2027 in Timișoara, [here](#). The selection includes hotels of varying standards—ranging from mid-range to premium—carefully chosen by the host organization based on their service quality, reliability, and proximity to the conference



Most of the recommended hotels are located in or near **Timișoara's city centre**, an area that benefits from good public transport connections and easy access to the city's main roads. This ensures convenient travel between accommodation facilities, **Timișoara International Airport**, the railway station and the conference venue.

Several accommodation options are located **within walking distance of Timișoara Convention Center**, allowing delegates to reach the conference, exhibition areas, restaurants and major cultural attractions without requiring additional transport. These include **Hotel Timișoara**, directly connected to the Convention Center, as well as **ibis Timișoara City Center**, **Continental Hotel**, **Atlas Hotel**, **Opera Hotel**, **Mercure Timișoara**, **Del Corso Hotel**, **Savoy Hotel**, and **Hotel Galaxy Timișoara a member of Radisson Individuals**, all offering modern accommodation and easy access to the venue.

The central location of the venue offers delegates a wide range of accommodation options, from modern business hotels to boutique and premium properties, suitable for different budgets and preferences.

Accommodation

Hotel	Rating	Distance	Travel Time	Transport	Adress	Directions to the venue
<u>Hotel Timișoara</u>	4 stars	0 m	1 min	connected	Strada Mărășești 1-3, Timișoara	https://maps.app.goo.gl/DQ5jeVrs43qrNCHY8
<u>Atlas Hotel</u>	4 stars	350 m	5 min	on foot	Piața Sfântul Gheorghe 2-3, Timișoara	https://maps.app.goo.gl/edJTGYwyAmdU5mo47
<u>Opera Hotel</u>	4 stars	350 m	5 min	on foot	Strada Piatra Craiului 4, Timișoara	https://maps.app.goo.gl/o46NSrZ9M5Qj7Dtt6
<u>Hotel Galaxy Timisoara, a member of Radisson Individuals</u>	4 stars	500 m	7 min	on foot	18-20, Strada Gheorghe Lazăr Street, Timișoara	https://maps.app.goo.gl/UbZGZhW7TMv2USvS6
<u>Continental Hotel (North Star Continental Resort)</u>	4 stars	550 m	8 min	on foot	Revolutiei 1989 no. 2A, Timișoara	https://maps.app.goo.gl/YhERqk8VLXL8Pw1Y9
<u>Savoy Hotel</u>	4 stars	950 m	13 min	on foot	Splaiul Tudor Vladimirescu 2, Timișoara	https://maps.app.goo.gl/K3JLnUHzwX6UQR6a9
<u>Del Corso Hotel Timișoara</u>	4 stars	1,1 km	16 min	on foot	Calea Bogdăneștilor 18, Timișoara	https://maps.app.goo.gl/PBRPaXQPqgbdVqWD7
<u>Mercure Hotel Timișoara</u>	4 stars	1,5 km	21 min	on foot	Bulevardul Cetății 10, Timișoara	https://maps.app.goo.gl/97UTW8QBezZCutud9
<u>Ramada Hotel & Suites by Wyndham Bucharest North</u>	4 stars	3,3 km	15 min	on foot	Strada Daniel Danielopolu 44A, București	https://maps.app.goo.gl/AhFHZVZhEzw5KnoQ7
<u>ibis Timișoara City Center</u>	3 stars	650 m	9 min	on foot	Strada Mărășești 1-3, Timișoara	https://maps.app.goo.gl/WUocUSPndHVEWdv76

Tourist attractions

Victory Square

The heart of Timișoara and one of the city's most iconic landmarks, **Victory Square** is surrounded by impressive Secession architecture and connects the **Metropolitan Orthodox Cathedral** with the **Romanian National Opera**. A symbol of the 1989 Romanian Revolution, it is also a vibrant pedestrian area filled with cafés, restaurants and cultural venues.



Union Square

One of Romania's finest Baroque squares, **Union Square** showcases Timișoara's multicultural heritage through its colourful historic buildings, elegant churches and lively café terraces. Home to the **Art Museum** and numerous cultural events, it is one of the city's most popular gathering places.



The Bega Canal

The **Bega Canal** offers a relaxing setting for riverside walks, cycling and boat trips through the city. Its landscaped promenade, green spaces and waterfront cafés make it a perfect place for delegates to unwind after conference sessions.



Tourist attractions

Timișoara Art Museum

Located in the historic **Baroque Palace** in Union Square, the **Timișoara Art Museum** features Romanian and European art collections, including works by renowned painter **Corneliu Baba**, together with temporary exhibitions throughout the year.



Banat Village Museum

The **Banat Village Museum** is an open-air museum presenting the traditional architecture, customs and rural heritage of the Banat region. Authentic houses, workshops and cultural events offer visitors a glimpse into the area's rich multicultural history.



Relaxation

Amazonia Aquapark & Spa

Just **15 minutes from Timișoara Convention Center**, **Amazonia Aquapark & Spa** is one of the newest and most modern wellness destinations in western Romania. Designed as a year-round retreat, it combines relaxation, recreation and wellness in a contemporary setting, making it the perfect escape after a day of conference sessions. The complex features **indoor and outdoor thermal pools**, premium **sauna facilities**, wellness and spa treatments, relaxation areas and beautifully designed leisure spaces. Whether enjoying the therapeutic benefits of the thermal water, unwinding in the sauna or simply relaxing by the pool, visitors can experience a peaceful atmosphere dedicated to wellbeing.

Amazonia also offers restaurants, cafés and recreational facilities, making it an ideal destination for both individual visitors and accompanying family members. With its modern amenities and tranquil environment, it provides delegates with an excellent opportunity to recharge while discovering another side of Timișoara.

Bring your swimsuit and enjoy a well-deserved moment of relaxation!



Traditional Romanian Cuisine – A Taste of Local Comfort

Romanian cuisine is hearty, flavorful, and deeply rooted in local tradition. Influenced by Balkan, Turkish, and Central European styles, many recipes have been passed down through generations and are still found today in family homes and traditional restaurants. Here are some must-try dishes:



Mămăligă

A warm cornmeal dish, similar to polenta, often served as a comforting side to cheese, sour cream, or hearty stews



Sarmale

Cabbage rolls filled with minced meat and rice, slowly cooked and served with sour cream and, of course, mămăligă on the side



Ciorbă de burtă

A tangy tripe soup, flavored with vinegar, garlic, and cream. Bold in taste, it's considered a Romanian classic



Mici (Mititei)

Juicy, grilled skinless sausages made from spiced meat, served with mustard and bread, a Romanian street food staple



Pleşcoi sausages

Spicy, dried sausages made from mutton, originally from the Buzău region. They're smoky, peppery, and full of character



Piftie

A savory meat jelly, made from pork or poultry, flavored with garlic and served cold. Often seen on holiday tables



Cozonac

A festive sweet bread filled with walnut paste, Turkish delight, or poppy seeds. Traditionally baked for Christmas and Easter, but delicious anytime

Where to Try It

Looking for an authentic culinary experience in Timișoara? These restaurants offer traditional Romanian and Banat cuisine.

- **Berăria 700** – A local favourite in the historic city centre, serving traditional Romanian and Banat dishes alongside a wide selection of local beers.
- **Curtea Berarilor Timișoreana** – One of Timișoara's best-known beer gardens, offering Romanian specialties, grilled dishes and locally brewed beer in a lively atmosphere.
- **Casa Bunicii** – Renowned for its authentic Banat cuisine, prepared according to traditional family recipes in a warm and welcoming setting.

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