

# Preface

In the public discourse, the Italian water sector is often regarded as an example of negative records and performance; this is in part true, since there are several cases with evident weaknesses. Nevertheless, a large part of the water industry has high quality profiles in very diverse environmental situations, ranging from high mountains to old industrialized valleys, from intensively cultivated areas to the very dry zones of the southern part of the country. These different environments led to the development of solutions for multiple challenges, linked with the management, supply, distribution, purification, depuration, and reuse of water.

This book sheds light on cutting-edge technologies and solutions that the Italian water industry has been able to design and implement over recent years. We have collected several experiences and contributions from large, medium, and small players localized in various parts of the country. This is in order to give a comprehensive overview of the Italian landscape. Our view is that several factors, such as a sound regulatory framework, along with managers' entrepreneurship, have triggered various innovations and boosted the creation of articulated industrial skills and peaks of excellence.

Since the book is intended as a joint effort of the entire sector, we gave voice directly to the companies. Some of the most important Italian water actors drafted each chapter, choosing the topic they considered to be among the most innovative in their business. As you will see in reading the following pages, there is a wide variety of contributions, which are also not totally homogeneous from a certain point of view. But we deliberately accepted this diversity to prove the richness of the industry, which is really experiencing a sort of "new renaissance."

For all of these reasons, I want to thank all of the Authors for their invaluable participation: Lorenzo Bardelli (Italian Regulatory Authority for Electricity, Gas and Water-AEEGSI, Director of Water Directorate), Simona Camerano (Cassa Depositi e Prestiti S.p.A., Head of Research), Massimiliano Cattozzi, Giovanni Costigliola, Nicola Tomaiuoli (respectively former Global Head of Energy and Utilities, Global Relationship Manager Energy & Utilities and Analyst Energy & Utilities of Intesa Sanpaolo S.p.A.), Giordano Colarullo (Utilitalia, General Manager), Tullio Montagnoli (A2A Ciclo Idrico S.p.A., Chief Executive Officer),

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