

**Special issue on the 2nd International Conference
Strategies toward Green Deal Implementation – Water and Raw Materials
(ICGreenDeal2021)
8–16 December 2021, Cracow, Poland online**

Preface

Climate crisis, which includes climate change and environmental degradation, calls for immediate changes in all sectors of the economy, with a special focus on aspects related to Water, Raw Materials and Energy. Every year, a lot of new activities are implemented as an integral part of the green transformation, in which the key role is played by the Green Deal Strategies (GDSs), that were launched at the national, international, and European levels in the 21st century. The GDSs differ from each other in various regions of the world, such as Asia, America, and Europe. In general, the GDS presents a strategy for the implementation of pro-environmental solutions in various sectors of economy, that should bring us to the climate neutral Planet. To achieve the climate neutrality and protect the Environment, further activities in the field of Water, Raw Materials and Energy are required.

This Special Issue contains a set of selected high quality and peer-reviewed papers that were presented during the 2nd International Conference “Strategies toward Green Deal Implementation - Water, Raw Materials and Energy” (ICGreenDeal2021). The conference, as 1st edition in 2020 (ICGreenDeal2020), was organised as online event on December 8–10, 2021 in Cracow, Poland. The main organiser of the conference was the Division of Biogenic Raw Materials at the Mineral and Energy Economy Research Institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences. The purpose of this Special Issue was to present a possible solutions that fit into the green economy and can be implemented under the Green Deal Strategies in water and sewage sector. In total, 17 papers were published by Practitioners and Theorists presenting various aspects of water and sewage sector, from sustainable management of water resources, through highly effective methods of water and sewage treatment, good examples of blue and green infrastructure solutions, characteristics of waste generated in the water and sewage sector (in the context of the risk of micropollutants, including microplastics, as well as the content of nutrients), to circular waste management and recovery of raw materials.

As the Guest Editor, I would like to express my gratitude the Editor-in-Chief of *Desalination and Water Treatment*, Professor Miriam Balaban for this great opportunity to publish this Special Issue. I would like to also thank Ms. Suzanne Trauffer and all staff members of the journal “*Desalination and Water Treatment*” editorial office for their great support during the editorial process. I would like to thank the Reviewers for the time devoted to developing constructive reviews, as well as all Authors, including Scientists and Academics, Environmentalists and Nature Lovers for their contributions in this Special Issue.

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