



# NEWSLETTER



## NATIONAL CHAPTERS OF WEST AND CENTRAL EUROPE of the International Association of Hydrogeologists

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EDITION # 2

MARCH 2023

GROUNDWATER:  
**BREAKING INVISIBILITY**  
**SHARING VISIBILITY**



## WORLD WATER DAY 2023 ACCELERATING CHANGE

This World Water Day is about accelerating change to solve the water and sanitation crisis.

And because water affects us all, we need everyone to take action.

That means you!

You and your family, school and community can make a difference by changing the way you use, consume and manage water in your lives.

Your commitments will be added to the Water Action Agenda, to be launched at the UN 2023 Water Conference – the first event of its kind for nearly 50 years.

This is a once-in-a-generation moment for the world to unite around water.

Play your part. Do what you can.

<https://www.worldwaterday.org/>

<https://www.unwater.org/bethechange/>

<https://www.unwater.org/news/concept-papers-now-available-un-2023-water-conference-dialogues>

## WWD 2023

22<sup>nd</sup> of March, don't save the date! Use it thoroughly in any kind of public or academic activity intended to ACCELERATE CHANGE in the 2023 World Water Day.

Beware: the world is seriously behind the pace to meet the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6. We hydrogeologists have a word and must act!



The **Hydrogeoday** is a **day focussed to hydrogeology dissemination**, held on the occasion of World Water Day (**March 22**) and promoted by the **Spanish Chapter** since 2017 and run in a convenient day close to the date.

Public Research Organizations, Universities, and other organizations whose activities are related to groundwater also collaborate on it. This initiative consists of **free walking itineraries, guided by hydrogeologists and open to all types of public**, regardless of their knowledge in the field to be treated in each of the proposed activities. The program run in 2022 in all 21 Spanish autonomous communities and in Andorra, Chile, and Guatemala with more than 1000 participants. For more information:

<https://www.aih-ge.org/hidrogeodia/>

## Hidrogeodía (Hydrogeoday)

This series of hydrogeology dissemination events was created by the Spanish Chapter in 2017 to commemorate the WWD. Since then, it runs in great success in Spain and other countries.

**Why not give it a try in your country?**



At the moment we can inform you we

organizing the **Flowpath 2023**.

The Conference will be held in Malta

14 to 16 June 2023.

You can find all the information on the website of the conference:

<https://energywateragency.gov.mt/flowpath2023/>

## 6<sup>th</sup> Flowpath

The Italian Chapter is pleased to invite you to the 6th Edition of FLOWPATH, the National Meeting on Hydrogeology.



## 50<sup>th</sup> IAH Worldwide Groundwater Congress

Cape Town (South Africa) is calling for your presence from 18 to 22 September 2023.

In 2023, we celebrate the early careers and their importance in the development of the IAH and the hydrogeology profession. This is your Congress. Early Careers, be welcome to the future.



## Workshop on digitalization in groundwater management

**Venue:** School of Mines, Madrid (ETSI Minas)

**Date:** 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2023

**Hour and duration:** 10:30-13:30

**Aimed at:** specialists, researchers, technicians, groundwater operators mainly hydrogeologists and engineers

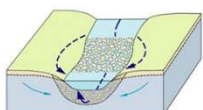
**Organized by:** WWF Spain and AIH-Spanish group

**Collaborators:** ETSI of Mines and energy, Madrid Polytechnical University and Groundwater club.

Contact the Spanish Chapter:  
[aih-ge@aih-ge.org](mailto:aih-ge@aih-ge.org)

## PRESENTIAL COURSE

**Surface Water – Groundwater Interaction:  
From Watershed Processes to Hyporheic Exchange**



Asociación Internacional de Hidrogeólogos  
Grupo Español



UNIVERSIDAD  
DE GRANADA



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY

USGS  
science for a changing world



Donanld Rosenberry (USGS)  
Masaki Hayashi (Ucalgary)



15-19 May 8:30-14:30



Faculty of Science,  
University of Granada (Spain)

[https://www.aih-ge.org/wp-content/uploads/SW\\_GW\\_Granada\\_2023\\_v1.pdf](https://www.aih-ge.org/wp-content/uploads/SW_GW_Granada_2023_v1.pdf)

## Surface Water – Groundwater Interaction

If needed, consult the provided link to the Spanish Chapter

**News and information for the next Newsletter  
must be communicated  
before the 20th of previous month**

## Next Issue of the Newsletter





This successful open access webinar series was introduced in 2021 by Marco Petitta then Vice-President of the IAH W&C Europe Chapters.

Webinars are hosted monthly in a different country, with IAH support.

**Do you have an interesting topic that may raise attention wider than your country? Are you a senior? An early career?**

Apply with an attractive presentation to IAH or your Chapter that will coordinate with the V-P for the organization and dissemination.

In up to one hour, we expect two presentations, at least one by an early career, and a discussion period.

The call is open through <https://iah.org/submit-an-event> with Cc to our email (see header of the Newsletter) or

through your National Chapter, in any case mentioning the title of the series.

There are vacancies from March to July and from October to December 2023.

## NEWS: Presentation of a Guideline for good practices for the design, construction, sealing and closure of groundwater abstraction wells (Spanish Chapter)



On Tuesday, January 24th, the Spanish Chapter had the honour of presenting the “Guideline for good practices for the design, construction, sealing and closure of groundwater abstraction wells” in the assembly Hall of the Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge of Spain (MITECO), presented by the General Director of Water, Teodoro Estrela.

A hundred people attended, and it was also broadcast on Youtube (<https://youtu.be/RSJ7vPS4HmI>).

The conclusions about the meeting could be the following:

*The main conclusion was that for the protection of the Public Hydraulic Domain and the compliance with the provisions by the Consolidated Text of the Spanish Water Law, the Water Framework Directive and the Groundwater Directive, it is necessary that the construction and closure of groundwater wells fulfil with strict technical standards. The Spanish Chapter has been working for years on the proposal for a Spanish standard that dictates these minimum technical requirements. It is expected that this official normative will be published within the next weeks. As a complement to this regulation, the presented Guideline is intended to help meet these minimum requirements. More specifically, the Guideline aims to help all parties involved in the construction of a well to ensure that this type of work meets minimum quality, increases its durability and cost-efficiency ratio and avoids that wells constitute both a route of preferential contamination of aquifers and a death trap due to inadequate sealing after its abandonment.*

To more information about the guide: <https://www.aih-ge.org/guia-de-buenas-practicas-para-el-diseno-construccion-sellado-y-clausura-de-pozos-de-captacion-de-agua-subterranea/>

The guide, in Spanish, with expected translations in other languages, can be downloaded from

[https://www.aih-ge.org/?smd\\_process\\_download=1&download\\_id=5527](https://www.aih-ge.org/?smd_process_download=1&download_id=5527)

## NEWS: Participation of the IAH ECHN in the first UN Groundwater Summit last December

The UN Groundwater Summit was a call for governments and respective stakeholders to step up their collective efforts to better manage the invisible, life-sustaining groundwater. The IAH was present at the highest level and very active. After all, IAH is the worldwide biggest association of groundwater scientists, professionals and students.

The ECHN was present too and has been a direct liaison with the newly established UN Groundwater Youth Network (GWYN), where our ECHN steering committee has contributed to the planning and implementation of early career events at the summit. It included a workshop with participants from many regions on engaging and connecting youth across the water sector, where diverse scenarios were discussed with senior officials and experienced researchers seeking an action plan to address the issue or challenge. The ECHN members present also had a great opportunity to participate in the IAH organised session on Innovation, where Dave Creamer (IAH president) and his team of invited speakers held a very engaging and interesting session around the wide array of groundwater related innovations defining our water future. Several strong messages emerged from these sessions. Just a few: -GW specialists must lead the change; -nature based solutions were found the most interesting as well as ethical/social hydrology.

Ultimately the youth participation has set a great standard for future summits and meetings. Having early careers researchers and professionals participating in global discussions on groundwater practice and policy. We look forward to continuing these initiatives in other events and congresses, such as the next IAH Congress in South Africa in September 2023. After all, the future of Hydrogeology is in the Early Careers.

(End)

# IAH W&C Europe Chapters webinars

- Open the call for proposals to 2023.
- 1 webinar /month
- 2 presentations/webinar.
- At least 1 early career.

## Guideline for good practices for the design, construction, sealing and closure of groundwater abstraction wells

In addition to well-designed and operated water wells being essential for the sustainable use of groundwater, they can also constitute pathways for the contamination of water resources, and structures that pose serious safety problems, particularly to children. For the moment the document exists only in Spanish. Translations to other languages are encouraged by IAH W&C Eu

## ECHN corner

This edition begins what we hope will be a permanent monthly section dedicated to the IAH Early Careers Hydrogeologists Network in the Region. Send news.

> ECHN was active in the Paris UN Groundwater Summit and is expected to increase engagement in the future. Join the ECHN! Act!