



Mid-term Report 2019- 2021

IAH SOCIO-HYDROGEOLOGY NETWORK (IAH-SHG)

1. INTRODUCTION

IAH-SHG was officially launched as a new network of the International Association of Hydrogeologists at the international IAH congress held in Málaga (Spain) in September 2019. The goal of it is to promote the integration of social sciences into hydrogeology and to include local perspectives into hydrogeological assessment by developing concepts how inter- and transdisciplinary cooperation and research can be carried out. Furthermore, IAH-SHG aims to highlight the importance of science communication and to serve as a platform for hydrogeologists who already work at the interface between society and groundwater.

2. IAH-SHG STRUCTURE AND STEERING COMMITTEE

The Network is currently chaired by Viviana Re (Italy) and co-chaired by Theresa Frommen (Germany) and Shrikant Limaye (India), who form together the IAH-SHG Steering Committee (SC). In 2020, a call was made to ask all interested IAH-Members to join the Network, and a dedicated section (Network Members) was added to the website. This is the first step to create connections among those working at the interface between groundwater and society, and to start a group for discussion about possible new initiatives. By forming working groups and assigning tasks, we will be able to involve all members who are willing to actively contribute to the development of the IAH-SHG. Currently, we have about 35 members (September 2021).

A key topic under discussion is “Gender, Diversity and Inclusion”, and the network chair, Viviana Re, was involved in drafting of the [IAH’s statement on equity, diversity and inclusion](#).

3. ACTIVITIES

Below, a detailed list of all the IAH-SHG activities undertaken in the 2019-2021 period is provided.

- **LOGO CREATION**

In the last months of 2019, the IAH-SHG SC members worked on the finalization of the logo (**Figure 1**), to be launched in the first half of 2020.



Figure 1. Network logo.

The logo was designed by Maximilian Nölscher, based on a concept of the IAH-SHG SC, and aims to show our idea of combining society and hydrogeology. One can see three people who bridge the gap, for example between science, society and authorities, and protect the well (= groundwater) through close cooperation.

Overall, we tried to design a logo as gender and race neutral as possible and avoid misrepresenting the human body.

- **WEBSITE LAUNCH:** <https://sociohydrogeo.iah.org/>

The official Network website was launched in June 2020 and since then is constantly updated by Theresa Frommen and Viviana Re, with the technical support of Kellie Nicholson. An E-Mail account was set up, too (iah.shg@posteo.de).

- **SPECIAL SESSION** at the **Geoethics and Groundwater Management Congress** (online congress – May 18-22 2020)

The special session “**Socio-Hydrogeology to support ethical groundwater management**” chaired by Viviana Re saw the participation of many IAH members, whose contribution are included in the Conference Proceedings ((<https://www.springer.com/gp/book/9783030593193>) published in early 2021.

- **LAUNCH OF THE SPECIAL ISSUE** “Socio-Hydrogeology in Groundwater Resources Assessments and Management” – Guest Editors: Viviana Re and Theresa Frommen

The special issue was launched upon invitation by the journal **Water** in June 2020 and will close end of July 2021. IAH-SHG chairs will contribute to the special issue with an introductory paper on the advances and challenges in Socio-Hydrogeology and with individual papers. More information on the special issue status can be found at: https://www.mdpi.com/journal/water/special_issues/Socio_Hydrogeology_Groundwater

- **LAUNCH OF THE IAH-SHG TWITTER ACCOUNT (317 follower in September 2021).** Tweeting regularly about IAH-SHG activities and related content.



- The **STEERING COMMITTEE (SC) MEETING** was held via Skype on 31st of July 2020. Furthermore, Viviana Re and Theresa Frommen were meeting via Skype on 23rd November, 11th December 2020, 2nd February, 17th March, 26th March, 17th June 2021 and the SC has regular email exchanges to discuss various IAH-SHG topics.
- **LAUNCH OF THE SURVEY ON “GENDER IN THE GROUNDWATER SECTOR”** in collaboration with UNESCO-WWAP (Figure 2)



Figure 2. Gender Survey.

The aim of this survey is to obtain gender-specific information on people working in the groundwater sector. We want to understand if and to what extent gender sensitivity is already present in the different areas of the groundwater sector. The feedback received will help us to further develop our research on gender issues in the groundwater sector. Results will be published by late 2021.

The survey was translated in different languages with the help of many IAH and IAH-SHG members who offered their time and help for the success of the initiative. Kellie Nicholson provided the technical support.

- **ONLINE WEBINAR of Gender and Groundwater session, IAH 2021 Brazil**

In February 2021, Viviana Re and Ana Maciel de Carvalho, as promoters of the special session on Gender and Groundwater at the IAH congress 2020/2021 in Brazil, have been invited to host a webinar in the frame of the **IAH2020 online initiatives** (Figure 3). The webinar was organized on February 18th 2021 and recordings are available at this website: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LDFVS9PrVmQ>



47TH IAH CONGRESS BRAZIL 2021
 ONLINE | 09/21/2020 – 08/20/2021
 HYBRID | AUGUST 22ND – 27TH, 2021
 ESPAÇO ARCA - SÃO PAULO - BRAZIL

XV LATIN AMERICA HYDROGEOLOGY CONGRESS
 XXI BRAZILIAN GROUNDWATER CONGRESS
 XXII BRAZILIAN MEETING OF WELL DRILLERS
 FENÁGUA 2021 NATIONAL WATER TRADE SHOW

18/02/2021 | 11H30 (BRT) / 02H30 PM (GMT)
GÊNERO E ÁGUA SUBTERRÂNEA
GENDER AND GROUNDWATER
GÉNERO Y AGUA SUBTERRÂNEA

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Figure 3. Gender Session, IAH 2020.

The network was also involved in a debate to promote the equal representation of male and female speakers in the keynote lectures at IAH 2021 Brazil.

• **IAH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

2019: The first IAH-SHG activity after its launch was the projection of the 52-min documentary “Pani Check – Join the Sisterhood of Water” at the 2019 IAH congress. This movie reflects the experience of a case study in Jaipur, India, on participatory groundwater management conducted by Theresa Frommen.

2021: IAH-SHG will host the **special session** “Socio-Hydrogeology – How can hydrogeology be inspired from other disciplines/outside science?” at **IAH 2021** in Brussels (Belgium). Furthermore, we will host the movie screening of “Pani Check - The Sisterhood of water”. Info: <https://iah2021belgium.org/programme/detailed-programme/>.

• **IAH-SHG Newsletter**

In December 2020, an update of all the initiatives promoted by the Network was sent to all IAH-SHG members, with an invitation for a more active involvement in 2021 (Figure 4).



Figure 4. Newsletter 2020.

A second newsletter was sent in August 2021, summarizing all past and future activities of the network and highlighting possibilities to participate in it.

- **Relations with other associations**

At the end of 2020, IAH-SHG was invited by IAH-Executive to be the main point of contact between IAH and the **International Association for Promoting Geoethics (IAPG)** and **Human Rights 2 Water**.

4. ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE SECOND HALF OF THE LICENCING PERIOD

- **Wikipedia article**

Writing a Wikipedia article based on the introductory paper of the SI (see above) in the frame of science communication and outreach activities.

- **Survey “Gender in der Groundwater Sector” Paper**

Analysing the survey results and publishing it at Hydrogeology Journal.

- **Establishing a Working Group on “Gender, Diversity and Inclusion”**



- **Network members**

Increase the number of network members, solidify the current member group, get more active members.

- **Propose a special session on Socio-Hydrogeology EGU General Assembly 2022**

Besides being actively engaged in the IAH international congresses we will also try to diversify IAH-SHG presence in international conferences, including (but not limited to) those of the European Geoscience Union.

- **Propose a session on Socio-Hydrogeology at the FH-DGGV congress 2022 in Jena, Germany**

- **SI in Hydrogeology Journal**

Prepare a SI (or a topical collection) in Hydrogeology Journal for mid 2020s.

September 2021

Viviana Re, Theresa Frommen (on behalf of the SHG Steering Committee)