ACQUE SOTTERRANEE
Italian Journal of Groundwater

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Italian Chapter

Call for papers

Safety and protection of groundwater for drinking use

Groundwater, extracted from wells and springs, supplies nearly 50% of the world's drinking water. In Italy it accounts for approximately 85% of the water distributed by the water utilities, making it a strategic resource for public supply. Ensuring access to safe water, both in terms of quantity and quality, is a fundamental right. The recent EU Directive 2020/2184 on the quality of water intended for human consumption (transposed into Italian law through Legislative Decree No. 18 of 23 February 2023 and Legislative Decree No. 102 of 19 June 2025) sets out two key objectives: protecting human health by preventing contamination of drinking water and ensuring it is clean and safe while improving access to drinking water for all citizens.

The adoption of a risk-based approach to safety of drinking water constitutes a significant advancement. It requires: i) public authorities to conduct and to approve risk assessments and risk management plans for aquifer recharge areas associated with groundwater abstraction points; ii) water utilities to perform risk assessments and implement management strategies for each drinking water supply system, through the development of a Water Safety Plan (WSP). In relation to hydrogeological aspects, the risk assessment must specifically address: impacts of climate change; vulnerability mapping; and exposure to contamination, including emerging pollutants.

The working group "Safety of groundwater abstractions" (SiCaptAS) of the Italian Chapter of the International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH Italy) launches the Special Issue "*Safety and protection of groundwater for drinking use*". We aim to bring together methodologies, experiences, and case studies related to groundwater abstraction and hydrogeological challenges, with a specific focus on the implementation of the WSP. Research papers and technical notes are welcome from all stakeholders involved in the water safety process, such as water utilities, regional and provincial authorities, environmental protection agencies, technical and scientifical communities.

In the specific framework of groundwater for drinking use, topics include the following or a combination of those:

- Vulnerability assessment and mapping
- Spring and well protection zones
- Emerging contaminants
- Climate change scenarios
- Groundwater management
- Groundwater modeling
- Groundwater monitoring

Scientific papers (peer-reviewed, in English), technical notes (not peer-reviewed, in English or Italian) are welcome, following the Journal guidelines for authors.

Submission deadline
15 July 2026

Publication: on line first and printed copy in Dec. 2026

Guidelines for authors
Instructions for submission

About the journal

Acque Sotterranee – Italian Journal of Groundwater is one of the oldest European journals dealing with groundwater.

The journal is **Open Access**, indexed in Scopus and ESCI databases, and recently obtained I.F. of 0,7 (2024).

It has the patronage of the National Association of Hydrogeology and Water Wells (ANIPA), the Italian Chapter of the International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH-Italy) and the Geological Survey of Italy (ISPRA).

The submission is free of charge. Submitted scientific papers undergo a **double blind review**.

Guest Editors

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