

Special Issue

Challenges in Environmental Geology and Hydrology

Message from the Guest Editors

Geological settings and earth processes influence the occurrence of natural hazards which have numerous impacts on humans and their environments. At the same time, human activities and dramatic population growth significantly increase the impact of climate and land use change on the physical environment, causing the deterioration of human health and ecosystem services, the pollution of water, soil, and air, the imbalance of biogeochemical cycles, and enormous waste production. These multi-faceted impacts occur both in arid and semi-arid regions, but also in regions where water availability has never before been a major concern. Many water systems used for water supply and irrigation are already under substantial pressure from overexploitation or pollution, and the demand for water resources is increasing remarkably. Improved knowledge on how to identify and mitigate environmental problems and how to help land-use planners and policy makers to balance needs for land and resources with their availability is pivotal to achieve sustainable development.

Guest Editors

Prof. Zoran Nakić

Faculty of mining, geology and petroleum engineering, University of Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia

Dr. Alexandra Gemitzi

Department of Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Democritus University of Thrace, Xanthi, Greece

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Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
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Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Marc A. Rosen

Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science, University of Ontario
Institute of Technology, Oshawa, ON L1G 0C5, Canada

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