

POLICY BRIEF

Report on Youth Perspectives on Groundwater Quality and Quantity Monitoring



Prepared by: **GWYN Scientific Committee – Working Group Groundwater Monitoring: Quality & Quantity**

Authors: Lucija Plantak, Isabelle Schmidt, Paolo Colombo, Annie Jose, Dhaval Pandya, Amin Shakya

Contact lplantak@gfv.hr; isabelle.schmidt@fu-berlin.de

What's the issue?

Young researchers and professionals in the water management sector are usually not included in actions related to establishing monitoring networks as well as decision-making processes regarding analysis of collected data and proposing measures and action plans on national and international levels.

Youth involvement is crucial for the following reasons:

1. Young professionals can gain guided expertise from their more experienced counterparts.
2. Young professionals are more aware of challenges that Z generation has to tackle like water pollution and climate change.
3. Youth bring diverse perspectives and utilize digital media to promote groundwater protection.

Bearing this in mind, the working group “*Groundwater Monitoring: Quality and Quantity*” conducted research via a survey on youth perspective regarding groundwater monitoring in multiple countries around the world.

Insights from the survey

The main topic was groundwater monitoring with some aspects on emerging pollutants and vulnerability analysis. 80 answers were collected within this survey and are summarized in a report (section 2) followed by an overview of international regulations on groundwater monitoring in section 3. Also, brief descriptions of groundwater monitoring regulations in 7 countries: EU member states (Croatia, Germany, Italy, Slovenia, Spain), Jordan, and India are included as case studies (section 4).

Report results show that youth do have a strong opinion regarding groundwater monitoring governance in their countries and are very motivated and interested in contributing to future discussions and decisions. Also, Report gives technical results (i.e., groundwater parameters that youth want to be measured in their countries, transparency regarding the existence, status, and data availability of the groundwater monitoring network, etc.) This emphasizes the importance of networks such as GWYN having the aim of involving more young professionals in groundwater management and, ultimately, in creating and implementing groundwater monitoring regulations.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Groundwater Youth Network (GWYN) has a target to enhance the engagement of youth in addressing water security issues with objectives to create a youth network of groundwater ambassadors of change and involve youth in all activities and decision-making processes regarding groundwater.
- GWYN Scientific Committee works on connecting young scientists and researchers in the water management sector, especially involving groundwater issues through Working Groups.
- Working Group Groundwater monitoring: Quality and Quantity deals with youth involvement in planning and establishing groundwater monitoring.