

2025 CHAPTER REPORT



Each national chapter is required by IAH Rule 6.5 to provide an annual report on its activities. This helps us to report the Association's activities and is published on the IAH web site. It is also expected that, under the terms of the chapter's constitution or rules, the national committee will make an annual report to members in their country.

1. ABOUT YOU

Your name	Josef Datel
Email address	josef.datel@vuv.cz
Role/responsibility held in chapter	chairman of the Czech Committee

2. YOUR CHAPTER'S INFORMATION

Is your chapter's information correct on IAH's website: https://iah.org/groups/national-chapters Please tell us of any changes now and each time a new committee is chosen.	Yes, it is OK.
Does your chapter have its own website? If so, please confirm the URL. If you do have a website, who is responsible for its management? Please provide contact details.	We have our own subpage on the website of the Czech Association of Hydrogeologists, with basic information https://www.cah-uga.cz/ck-iah/
Would you be interested in IAH hosting your chapter's website/providing support? As an example, see https://germany.iah.org/ .	Yes, we think it would be appropriate due to international connectivity
Does your chapter have an elected committee? If yes, how often are elections held and how are they managed e.g. postal/email vote/at meetings?	We are a very small group, 13 members this year, we have an elected chairman and secretary who form a two-member committee. Elections are held every 5 years (the next one will be in 2027) and so far they are held in person at the annual meeting, but to the future we are thinking about a correspondence election.

3. LOCAL MEMBERSHIP

How is local membership status and trends? e.g. stable, declining, increasing.	We are a very small group, 13 members this year, some of them retired. In the Czech Republic, hydrogeologists are organized primarily in the Czech Association of Hydrogeologists (ČAH) (national professional association). There are about 400 active hydrogeologists in the Czech Republic, of which about 200 are members of the Czech Association of Hydrogeologists, and 13 are members of
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	the IAH. Unfortunately, the trend in the number of IAH members is downward, because few hydrogeologists in our country are internationally active, so they see no reason to be a member of the IAH.
What are your challenges to recruitment? e.g. volunteer time/limitation, IAH fee rates, competition from other societies, language, etc.	The situation described above is a great challenge for the Czech Committee of the IAH, how to proceed. The competition from the national association, which has quarterly contributions, is serious. We see the future in close cooperation with the Czech Association of Hydrogeologists, where perhaps in time a special membership of people engaged in research at the international level could be created, in the form of the IAH chapter.

4. YOUR CHAPTER'S ACTIVITIES IN 2025

Did your chapter hold an annual meeting (AGM-style)? If so, please advise: • Date and place of meeting • Approximate number attending	According to the statutes, the annual meeting is held once every five years, the last one was held in 2022 (November) In Prague, with the participation of 8 members. The next meeting should be held by the end of 2027, at which the new leadership of the committee should be elected.
Did your chapter hold other events e.g. technical and scientific meetings, seminars, conferences, field visits, training events? • If you have already reported these to the IAH Secretariat, only summary information is required. • If not, these please provide a summary of dates, location, number of participants, topics, etc. and how successful you felt each event was. • Do you have photos we can use? • Are your events open to IAH non-members? • Did you hold events in partnership with others e.g. a national society, company, institution?	We do not have the personnel capacity to organize our own events. However, we are regular co-organizers of national hydrogeological congresses, held every 4 years (the XVIIth congress is held this year in Pardubice from 1 to 4 September), where the ČAH is the main organizer. These are very successful events held since 1961, with the participation of 200-300 Czech hydrogeologists. In September, we can send photos. In addition, together with the ČAH, we also award the prestigious Prof. Ota Hyní Award and Medal for Lifetime Contribution to the Field of Hydrogeology. The award has been awarded since 1998 and has been received by 15 colleagues so far,

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	including Jiří Krásný, former vice president of the IAH. This year, four more colleagues will receive the Award at the HG congress.
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5. YOUR CHAPTER'S PLANS

Do you have any activities or tasks planned for 2026? If yes, please provide brief details, including if your plans are limited because of e.g. lack of funds or local interest/volunteer support to help	In 2026, we are still planning to co-organize the XVII National Hydrogeological Congress in Pardubice (September 1-4, 2026), including the presentation of the Ota Hynie Prizes and Medals, as mentioned above. We have no problem with financing, the main organizer Czech Association of Hydrogeologists ČAH provides this, we are just an expert platform.
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6. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Please use this section to make any additional comments/suggestions e.g. what support from IAH centrally might assist your chapter, future plans you would like to see for IAH
Due to our small number, the low interest of new members, and the assumption that other members will retire (incl. me), the future of the Czech Committee is uncertain. We have now published an advertisement in the Czech professional press (the journal Vodní hospodářství – Water management) to see if we can reach out to any new colleagues. We believe that a possible opportunity for the future is close cooperation with the national professional association Czech Association of Hydrogeologists ČAH, which has enough people and resources to cover cooperation with the IAH. However, a certain obstacle is the incomparable amount of membership fees.