

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	Tom Diez
Email address	Tom.diez@dewatergroep.be
Role/responsibility held in chapter	President Belgian Chapter

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.	Information is correct
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.	https://belgium.iah.org/ David Simpson (david.simpson@agt.be)
Would you be interested in IAH hosting your chapter's website/providing support? As an example, see https://germany.iah.org/ .	/
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?	The Belgian chapter does have an elected board responsible for the day-to-day management. The Belgian chapter is legally a non-profit association. Our articles stipulate that board members are elected by the members of the Belgian chapter. Board mandates have a term of three years, and the board may consist of a maximum of 12 members. Each year, prior to the General Assembly, a call for new board member candidates is issued, provided that vacancies are available. During the General Assembly, board members are elected by the members of the Belgian chapter.

3. LOCAL MEMBERSHIP

How is local membership status and trends? e.g. stable, declining, increasing.	Stable, between 100 and 125 members, of which around 80 are IAH-members en 35 are only member of the Belgian
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	chapter. Detailed information in annexed file.
What are your challenges to recruitment? e.g. volunteer time/limitation, IAH fee rates, competition from other societies, language, etc.	We have a good representation of the Belgian hydrogeological community. Biggest challenge is volunteer time.

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	Yes, our general assembly was held on 6th June 2025. We had 32 members attending. We combine our annual general assembly with a study day focused on a specific current topic, including a site visit. This helps increase attendance and encourages greater engagement among our members.
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?	11th, 18th and 25th March 2025: evening seminars about 3D groundwater flow modelling – 9 participants 6th June 2025: General Assembly and study day about dewatering – 32 participants 16 October 2025: Young Hydrogeologist Day - 8 young hydrogeologists competing for the Best Master's Thesis Award and around thirty participating members Our events are open to IAH non-members. Some events are free for members, non-members have to pay. For other events non-members have to pay a higher fee. We did not held events in partnership with others, but we are looking into that.

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	• The Belgian chapter awards a maximum of two grants each year to financially support PhD students in attending an IAH activity. This year, we had 4 candidates, all applying to attend IAH in Budapest. It was decided this year to award one grant to Maziar Fekri (VUB) with Oral presentation: "Trustworthy Recharge Estimates from Pastas: A
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	Practical Framework for Robust Recharge Estimation from Time Series Analysis of Groundwater Level Data”, Promotor: Prof. Marijke Huysmans (VUB). - On June 5th we held our annual General Assembly and Study Day. We had around 50 participants (39 members). The theme of the study day was “Aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) and climate change”, with five inspiring presentations about MAR and ASR. In the afternoon a site visit was organized to a new facility for the production of drinking water. In this facility urban waste water is treated to drinking water quality. For winter-summer balancing, tests were conducted to store the excess of treated water in the winter for use in dry summer. The tests have shown that the quality of the recovered water presents a challenge. - October 15th (Tentative date, to be confirmed) we will organize our yearly Young Hydrogeologist day 2026. Students who graduate this year can present their master thesis and compete for the award for best master thesis. He/she will receive a prize of 500 euro. - Late 2026 – early 2027 we are planning to organize new evening courses, this year probably about performing tracer tests.
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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

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