

Sustainable groundwater management

European project looks at impact of new pollutants



MONICA RIVA, WE-NEED PROJECT COORDINATOR



Recent debate surrounding PFASs - chemicals used in industrial processes which are extremely persistent and do not readily degrade - brought the problem of groundwater contamination back into the headlines.

Groundwater is a strategic water source in Europe and mismanaging it could cause enormous damage to the environment and society.

For this reason, a group

of scientists are seeking innovative ways of managing precious groundwater resources - such as springs and aquifers from which drinking water is pumped to the surface - in a sustainable way.

The project on which the European pool of researchers is working is called WE-NEED, led by the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Politecnico di Milano.

“We are looking at how vulnerable groundwater is to new contaminants like PFASs,” explained project coordinator Monica Riva, “and we are using probability theory to develop new and innovative ways to manage water resources and protect them from pollution. Our approach allows us to assess the risk of contaminants impacting the quality of groundwater and damaging the ecosystem.” 

