Arsenic contamination of Ogosta river: Linking biogeochemical processes in floodplain soils with river system dynamics (ASCOR)

Starting Date 01.11.2014
Duration 36 Months
Discipline Pedology

Main Goals
- To investigate arsenic (As) spatial distribution in contaminated soils of the Ogosta Valley, NW Bulgaria
- To investigate As release from soils to river and groundwater
- To integrate molecular and river-system scale information to better understand As fate in the Ogosta Valley’s landscape

Activities
- Spatial analysis of river floodplain morphology using GIS and airborne LiDAR data
- Building a groundwater monitoring system considering the floodplain morphology
- Flood modeling for certain high flow events in the period of industrial mining in the Ogosta River basin
- Process studies on reductive As release from flooded soils as influenced by Fe and Mn
- Investigation of microbial communities and processes controlling As reduction

Expected results
- Elaborated detailed maps of As concentration in floodplain soil of the Ogosta Valley
- Delineated ‘hot spots’ of groundwater arsenic contamination
- Novel process-oriented knowledge on the dynamics of As, Fe, and Mn reduction in highly-contaminated, pH-neutral river floodplain soils induced by flooding

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