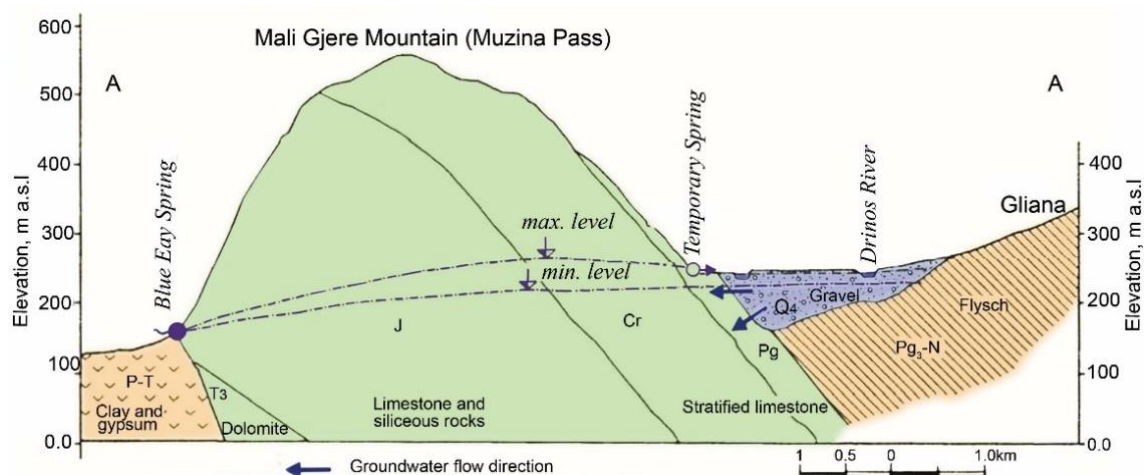




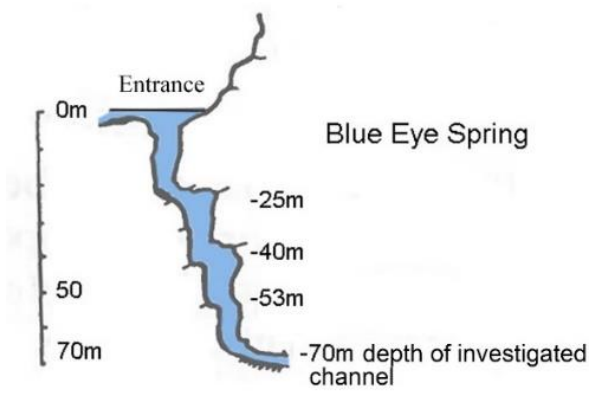
Country	MIKAS springs	Coordinates / Nearby City	Spring discharge (Q in l/s,min/av/max) / tapped or not	Criteria* in order / Main justification */ H-historic, A-aesthetic, S-scientific, E-Economic, Ec-ecologic	Data collected by
Albania 	1. Blue Eye (Syri i Kalter)	N 39°55'25.75" E 20°11'33.08" Z = 152 m asl Saranda	12000/18400/36000 Non-tapped for potable water supply, used for generating electricity and irrigation	A, E, S, Ec <i>The Blue Eye spring (BES) is largest spring in Albania. Very popular tourist center. It is of great economic importance because its water is used for the production of electricity by two hydropower plants. Beside the spring water is used for irrigation of the vast Vurgu Plain and also maintains ecological flow of Bistrica River. About 5 m³/s of the discharge of BE flows to Butrint Lake and contributes to maintaining the salt equilibrium needed to develop the cultivation of shells. The karstic basin of Mali Gjere, which recharges it, is a transboundary aquifer shared between Albania and Greece. Out of 440 km² c. 400 km² is in Albania. Since 1996, BES has been recognized as a "Monument of Nature", while the forest around it has the status of "National Park".</i>	Romeo Eftimi
	2. Uji Ftohtë	N 40°25'12.84" E 19°29'12.83" Z = 0.2-0.4 m asl Vlora	800/2000/4500 Tapped for potable water supply of Vlora. The spring is captured by three galleries, constructed parallel to the coastline at a distance of about 30- 40 m and measuring 60-70 m in length, for a total length of about 250 m.	E, S, H <i>This is the largest karst spring at the Albanian coastline. It has a great economic value because is used for the water supply of the population and industry of Vlora City, one of the biggest cities of Albania (200 000). Very good drinkable quality of this spring one of just a few along sea coastline non exposed to salinization. The first important investigation of the spring was performed in 1963. Because the investigators had no specialized instruments at the time, identification of the spring issues was based on the lower spring water temperature observed by the swimmers. Three locations with more concentrated spring flow have been recommended, and the intake tunnels have been successfully constructed. The spring area is a well-known tourist destination, and a very wide, new urban and tourist area has been constructed upstream, which is now major threat to water quality.</i>	Romeo Eftimi
	3. Viroi	N 40° 06' 00,41" E 20° 07' 13,4" Z = 195 m asl Gjirokastra	0 / - / 30 000 Tapped by huge pumping station above deep siphon. Water used only during the summer for irrigation (2 m³/s)	A, E, S, Ec, H <i>Deep siphonal spring drain karst aquifer of the Gjere Mountain massif. The siphon of Viroi spring with very clean water was investigated for the first time in 1994 which reached the depth -83 m. The spring itself, together with the intermittent lake and the pine forest around, has particular aesthetic value highly appreciated by the local</i>	Romeo Eftimi

				population and the tourists. The economic value of the springs is related to the big groundwater resources used for irrigation, as well as a tourist attraction. The spring has important historic value because, from very old times, it has been a reference point for the inhabitants of Gjirokastra.	
	4. Lengarica	N 40° 14' 37,11" E 20° 25' 55,26" Z = 0–337 m asl (group of springs)	65 / - / 250 Thermal water is used in primitive pools for balneology	E, A, S, H Group of ascending thermal springs (13 occurrences), which issue on both banks of the small Lengarica River from Lower Cretaceous-Eocene carbonate and evaporitic rocks. In a small carbonate anticline structures of Kruja Zone there are many ascending springs originating from deep-circulating waters along fractures, deeply cut by the small Lengarica River, there are many thermal water springs. The Lengarica springs have important historic value. They have been the first springs used by the local Albanian population for balneological purposes for centuries. The spring area has very particular aesthetic value, consisting of many thermal springs, the beautiful Lengarica Canyon, many caves, and the old stone Katiut Bridge. During last ten years as this area is transformed into a big tourist and medical attraction.	Romeo Eftimi

MIKAS - Blue eye (Syri i Kalter)



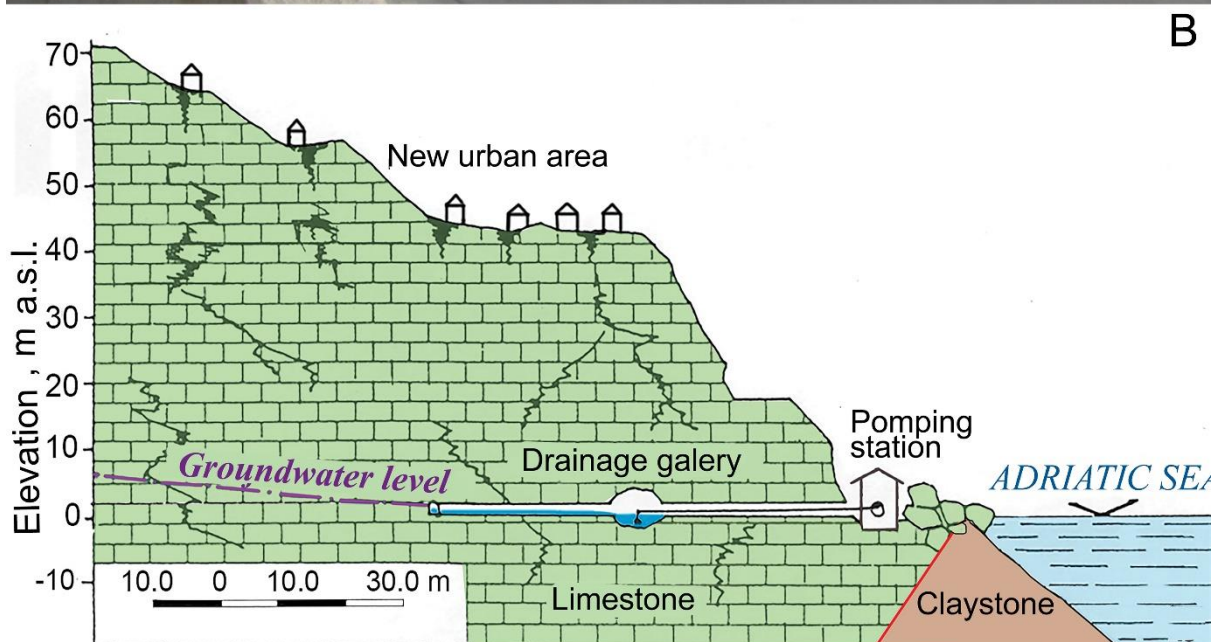
Cross-section through Blue Eye Spring (after Eftimi et al. 2007)



Blue Eye Spring, syphon section (Eftimi et al. 2019)



Blue Eye Spring, main issue (photo R. Eftimi)

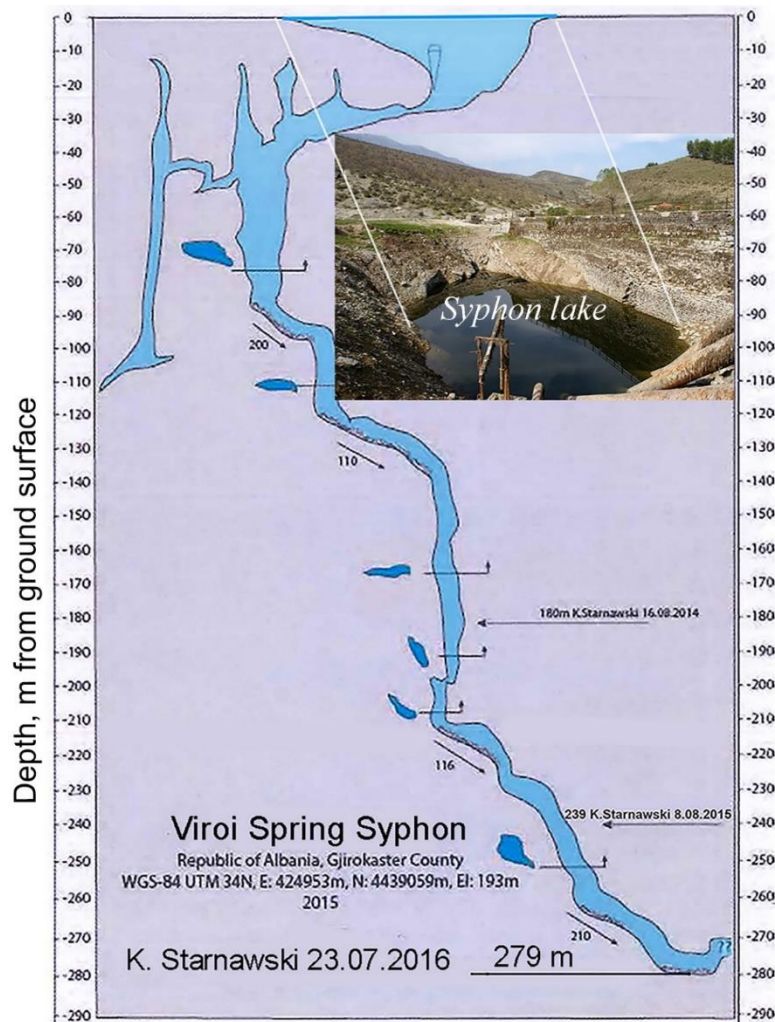


Uji Ftohte Spring; a) Location of pumping station; b) Cross-section of Uji Ftohte Spring showing also the possibility of the pollution of the spring (after Eftimi and Zojer 2015)

MIKAS – Viroi

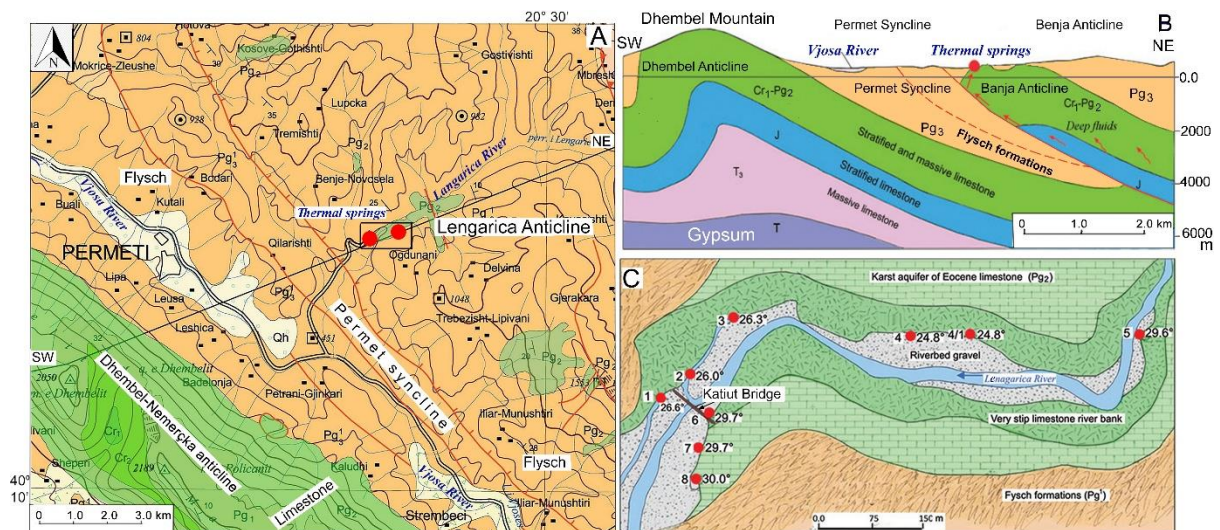


Viroi Spring: A. During the wet season, B. During the dry season (photo R. Eftimi).



Viroi Spring, syphon section of the main issue (after C. Touloumdjian, 2005).

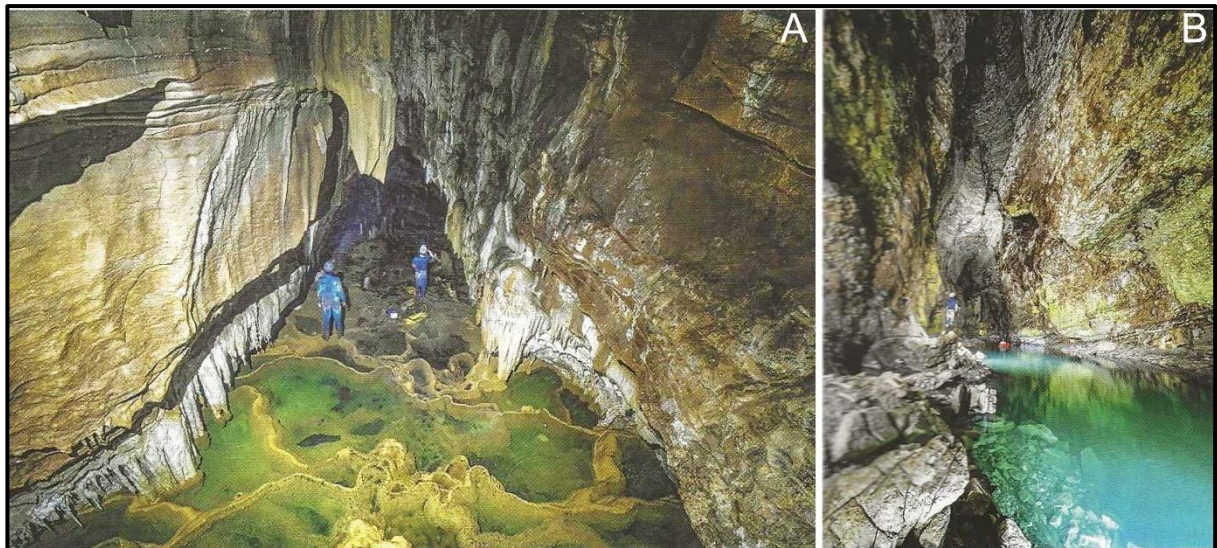
MIKAS – Lengarica thermal springs



A: Geological map of the Lengarica area; **B:** Cross-section through the Lengarica springs; **C:** Sketch map of the location area of the Lengarica thermal springs (After Eftimi and Frasheri, 2016).



View of some thermal springs on the left bank of the Lengarica River and the Katiut Bridge (monument of the Culture).



*Karst system of Lengarica. **A:** One of the galleries of the Lengarica cave system, **B:** The big lake with sulfur water at a temperature of 30.4 °C (after Benasi 2023).*