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GEOPHYSICAL MEASUREMENTS IN AN ABANDONED OLD RAILWAY TUNNEL (MARSICO NUOVO, Italy)

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In Europe, there are many abandoned railway tunnels. These structures are generally placed in mountainous or hardly accessible territories, where their use was no longer necessary for the improvement of the road communications and the favourite use of the private car. However, in some cases, they could be an important point of observation to monitor the mountains, where important hydrogeological resource are located. This is the case of an old tunnel sited in Marsico Nuovo village, where the rail way "Atena-Marsico Nuovo" was realized in the early 20th century and worked until the in '60. The studied tunnel has a total length of 1229 m and, from geological point of view, it is located in the carbonate complex of the Maddalena Mountains and is characterized by the presence of stratified and fractured carbonate rocks. In proximity of this structure, there is also an important karstic cave (Castel di Lepre) already subject to geophysical measurements realized in the past [1]. The presence of a tunnel offers an advantageous perspective to monitor the aquifer improving the knowledge of the fluid circulation in a carbonate rock formation [2].

However, no engineering and geotechnical information about the realization of the construction and the geological setting of the area are available. In order to characterize, from an engineering point of view, the correlation between the hydrogeological formation and the engineering structure, several geophysical surveys, based on electric and electromagnetic acquisitions, were carried out along the gallery. The results obtained show the potentialities of the geophysical methods for monitoring and characterizing engineering structures also providing useful and detailed information for the identification of shallower geological structures in the first meters surrounding the tunnel.

References

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