



**UNIVERSITÀ
DI TORINO**



"Giovanni Scansetti"
Interdepartmental Centre
for Studies on Asbestos and Other Toxic
Particulates

Seminario

Aula D1, Dip. Chimica
(5° piano, Via Giuria, 9, Torino)

e online

<https://meet.google.com/zqt-dicu-qmw>

Giovedì, 25 gennaio 2024
ore 16:30

Ambra HYSKAJ

Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest, Hungary.

FROM ALBANIA'S ROCKS TO EUROPE'S RULES: UNDERSTANDING NATURALLY OCCURRING ASBESTOS AND ITS REGULATION

The natural occurrence of asbestos minerals, commonly known as NOA, is a prevalent phenomenon in ophiolitic geological environments, presenting environmental and health challenges. This presentation will introduce some Albanian NOA outcrops, primarily located in the Mirdita ophiolite belt, highlighting the characteristics and the asbestos exposure challenges they pose, despite the absence of mining activities. Additionally, the presentation will discuss the new Asbestos at Work Directive (Directive (EU) 2023/2668), officially signed on 22 November 2023 and published on 30 November 2023. Originating as a draft law by the European Commission on 28 September 2022, this directive represents a significant amendment to the previous Directive 2009/148/EC, with a renewed focus on protecting workers from the risks of asbestos exposure. However, the issue of asbestos exposure is not limited to occupational settings, as NOA occurs naturally in the environment. This situation highlights the limitations of a global ban in fully addressing the health and safety concerns arising from asbestos exposure, underscoring the need for a more comprehensive approach that encompasses both occupational and environmental health perspectives.

Ambra Hyskaj is a PhD candidate at Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest, Hungary. Working at the Department of Mineralogy under the guidance of Erzsébet Harman-Tóth and Tamás G. Weiszbürg, her research currently focuses on naturally occurring asbestos (NOA) in Albania, along with European Union regulatory issues related to asbestos. Utilizing multiple analytical techniques, she assesses the presence of asbestos in NOA outcrops in Albania. Her background in Public Health, followed by Environmental Sciences, has provided a comprehensive perspective on asbestos and hazardous asbestiform minerals together with the human health-related issues.



Università degli Studi di Torino

Dipartimento di **Chimica**
Via Pietro Giuria 9 – 10125 Torino (TO)
Tel (011) 670 7566 – 670 7577 | Mail francesco.turci@unito.it