EEA geospatial data catalogue

WISE WFD groundwater body horizons reported under Water Framework Directive

For the Water Framework Directive (WFD) spatial data on groundwater bodies (GWBs) the borders of polygons are their projection on the surface. As GWBs are three-dimensional entities but represented as two-dimensional polygons, it is necessary that multiple overlapping groundwater bodies at different depths with non-identical boundaries can be distinguished in different horizons (layers), the reporting of groundwater bodies horizons is an optional part of the WFD spatial data reporting.

The assignment of GWBs to horizons should not be mixed with (is separate from) the delineation of GWBs which is strictly subject to Member State's decisions and methods. Horizon assignment is a tool to enable harmonized and coherent visualization of GWBs at the European level and to support transboundary coordination.

The assignment of horizons follows a simple numeration in the sense of the numerical position of the groundwater body starting with the first GWB-horizon from the surface. Groundwater bodies can be split for the purpose of assigning parts individually to corresponding horizons, depending on the overlap with other GWBs. There is no limitation in the number of horizons and overlaying groundwater bodies cannot be associated to the same horizon.

The characterization of the vertical position of GWBs by horizons can help reflect the three-dimensionality of GWBs and their relative vertical position to other GWBs, and to enable a stratified visualization of GWBs on maps. It can also help to identify and visualize the parts of GWBs which are probably most exposed to anthropogenic pressures on the surface. However, except for the uppermost horizon (horizon 1) the assignment of a (part of a) GWB to a certain horizon does not give any information about its absolute vertical position within the overall schema, just the relative position to overlying or underlying (parts of) GWBs from the surface.

Simple

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No information provided.

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Continents, countries, sea regions of the world.	• Norway • Iceland • EU27 (from 2020) • United Kingdom
EEA Management Plan	• 2024 1.1.6
Keywords	
Keywords	
EEA topics	• Water • Water
	• aquifer

GEMET	• groundwater • water resources management • water • water body • Water Framework Directive • water • water body • groundwater • aquifer • Water Framework Directive • water resources management
GEMET - INSPIRE themes, version 1.0	• Area management/restriction/regulation zones and reporting units • Area management/restriction/regulation zones and reporting units
INSPIRE priority data set	• Water bodies (Water Framework Directive) • Directive 2000/60/EC • Groundwater bodies (Water Framework Directive)
Spatial scope	• European • European
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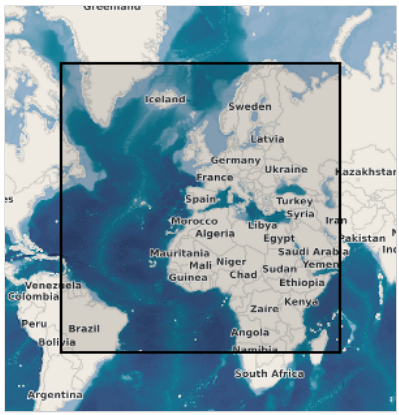

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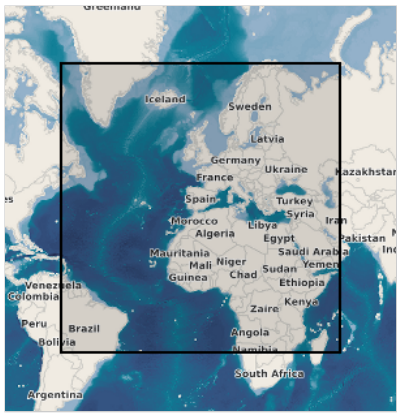

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Metadata

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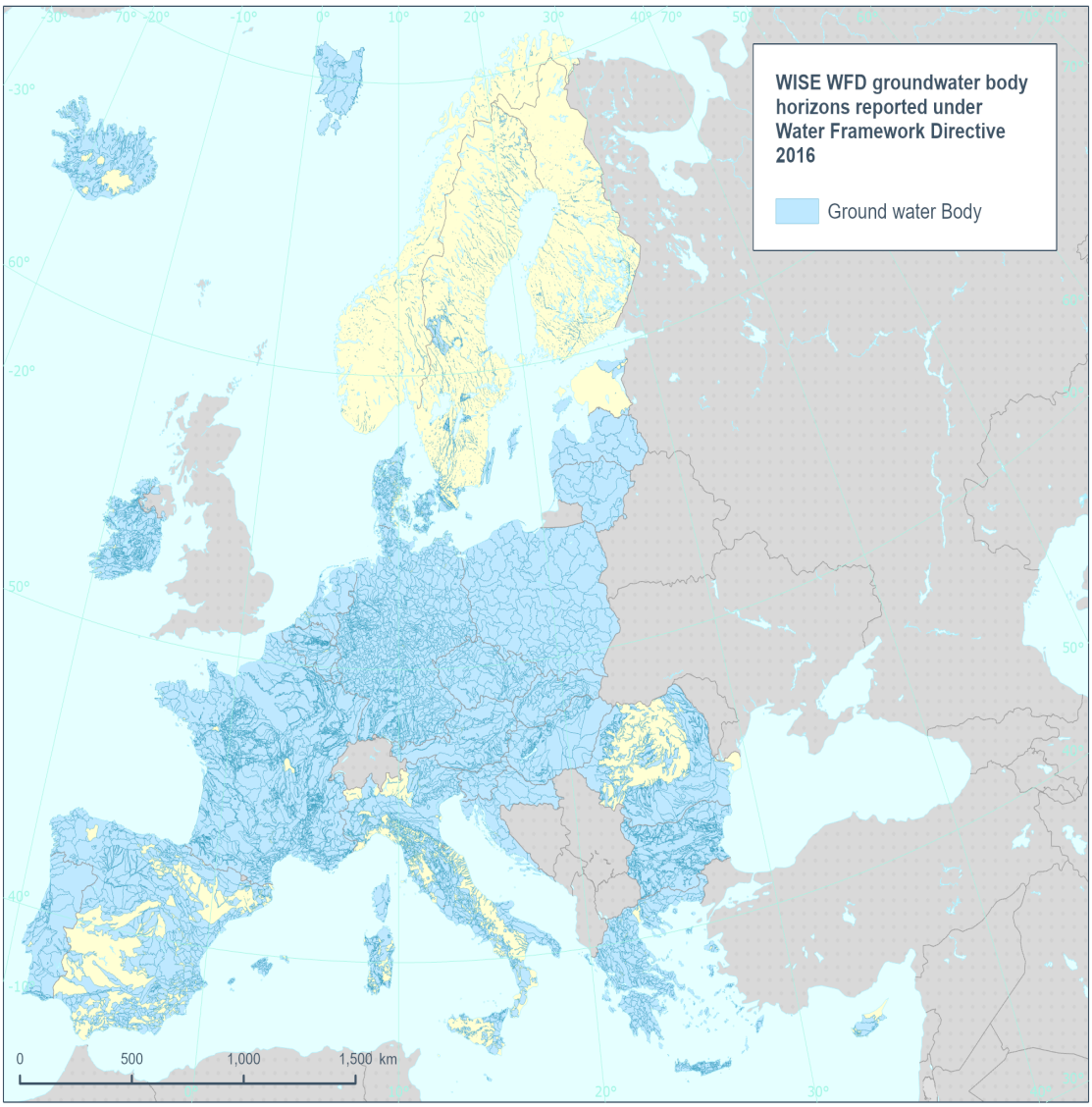
Overviews



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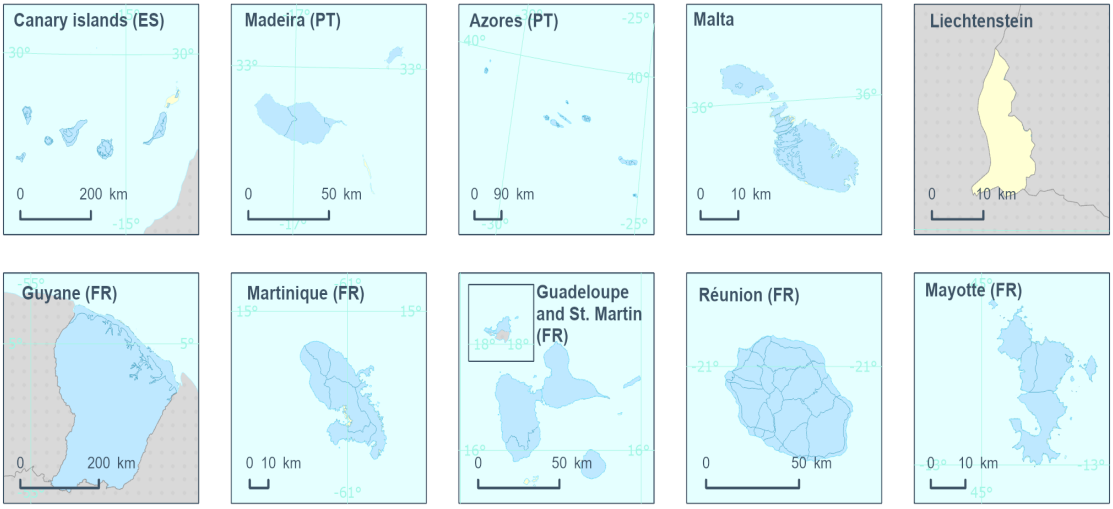

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