

EuroGeoSurveys Soil Working Group

O. Düwel, P. Christmann



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EUROPEAN SOIL BUREAU NETWORK 2007 Plenary Meeting



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EuroGeoSurveys Soil Working Group



Intro



EGS Soil Working Group



Soil Protection Framework Directive – the geological community's response



Outlook – European remits for Geology



Summary

What and who is EuroGeosurveys



The Association of the European Geological Surveys

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Albania | Italy |
| Austria | Latvia |
| Belgium | Lithuania |
| Bulgaria | Luxembourg |
| Croatia | The Netherlands |
| Cyprus | Norway |
| Czech Republic | Poland |
| Denmark | Portugal |
| Estonia | Romania |
| Finland | Russia |
| France | Slovak Republic |
| Germany | Slovenia |
| Greece | Spain |
| Hungary | Sweden |
| Iceland | Switzerland |
| Ireland | United Kingdom |

32 members

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What and who is EuroGeosurveys

The Association of the European Geological Surveys

President: Dr. Zdenek Verena (CZ)

Secretary General: Dr. Patrice Christmann

32 members

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What and who is EuroGeosurveys

Ministries Supervising The European Geological Surveys

Environment	Science Technology	Economy	Industry	Other
Bulgaria	Austria	Germany	Finland	Greece Development
Czech Republic	Belgium	Portugal	Iceland	Ireland Communication, Marine and Natural Resources
Denmark	France	Hungary	Norway	Luxembourg Public Works
Estonia	The Netherlands		Sweden	Switzerland Environment, Transport, Energy and Communication
Italy	Spain			
Lithuania	United Kingdom			
Poland				
Slovakia				



What and who is EuroGeosurveys

The Mission

Virtual European Geological Survey

To assist the European Union to obtain joint technical advice from the Geological Surveys of the Member States and the Accession Countries

Virtual Data Centre

To provide the policy makers, the industry and the public with easily accessible, uniform, quality controlled geoscience data

Virtual Center of Excellence

To combine the best of geo-expertise in Europe to further develop technology and know-how in the field of natural resources and terrestrial environment

Virtual Geoscience Permanent Education Network

To improve the awareness of public, industry, authorities of the opportunities offered by geoscience

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What and who is EuroGeosurveys



+ Document the contribution of Geosciences to European Policies
+ Provide advice
+ Participate to work groups
+ Formulate proposals



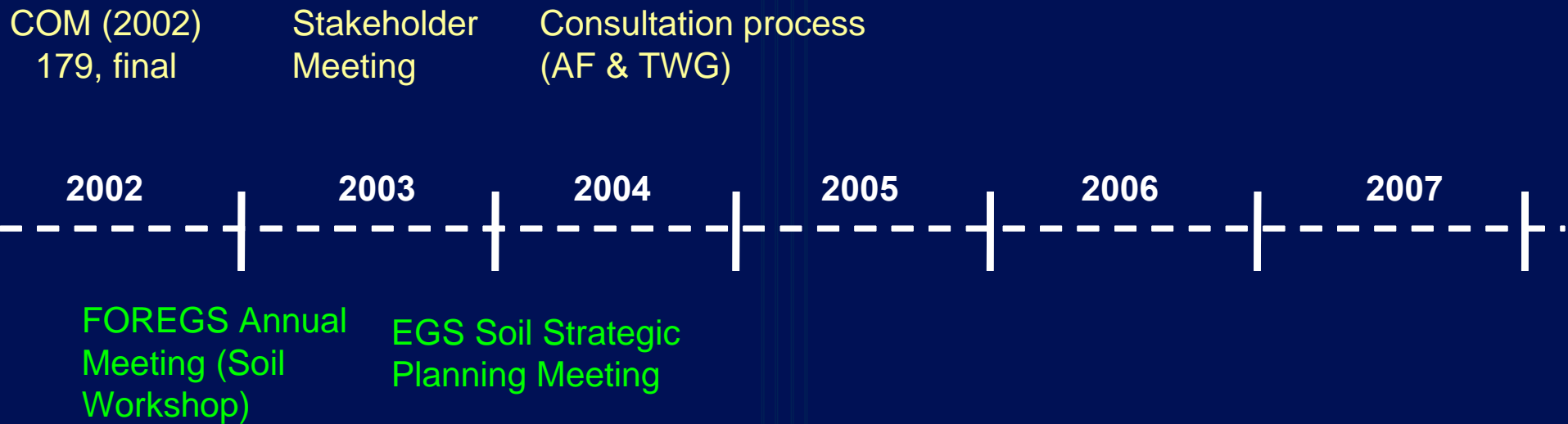
+ Identify policies, programmes & opportunities
+ Transmit requests and enquiries





EGS Soil Working Group

The Soil Working Group



Development of the strategy: Contribution of Geological Surveys

Advisory Forum

(Co-ordination, working methods and common planning)

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Technical working groups

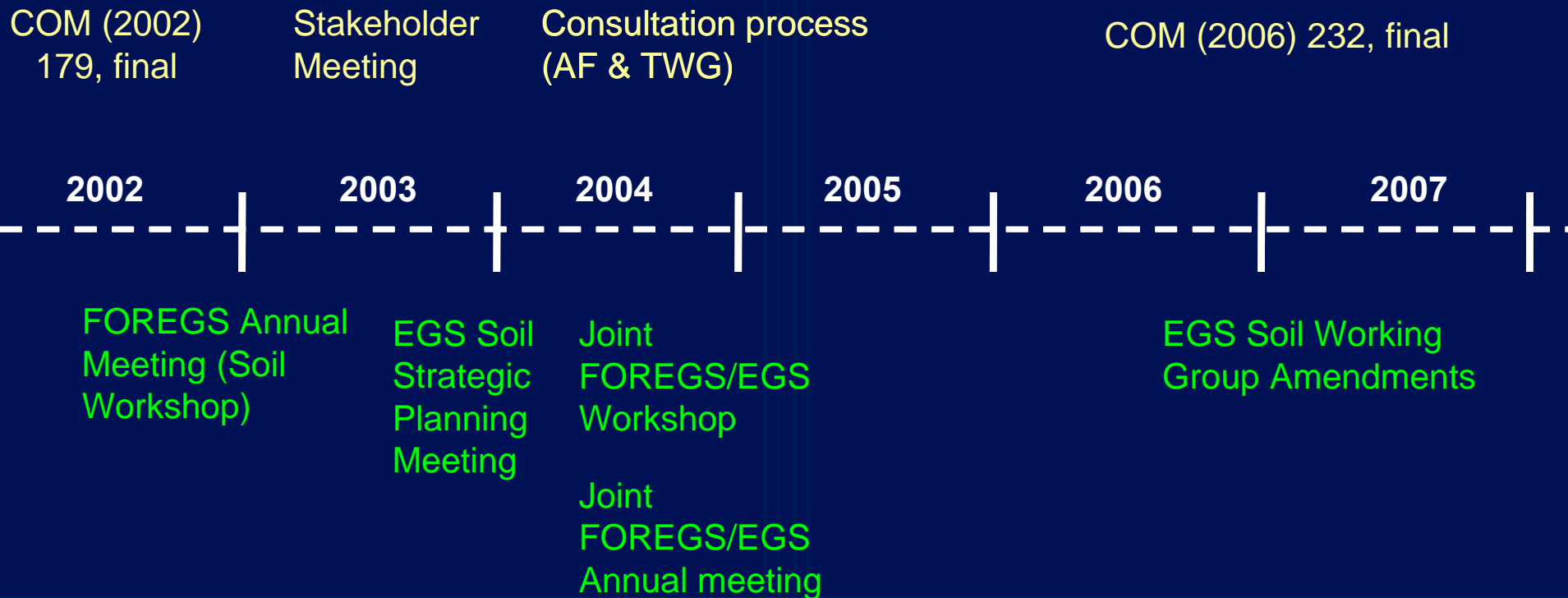
(technical guidance)





EGS Soil Working Group

The Soil Working Group





EGS Soil Working Group

EGS – Soil Working Group:

24 experts

21 geological surveys

Expertise in terms of soil (geo-) sciences

Soil physics	available
Soil chemistry	high
Soil mapping	high
Soil information systems	high





EGS Soil Working Group

Expertise in terms of soil functions

biomass production, including in agriculture and forestry	available
storing, filtering and transforming	high
biodiversity pool	available
physical and cultural environment	high
source of raw materials	high
carbon pool	high
archive of geological and archeological heritage	available

Expertise in terms of soil degradation

erosion	high
Organic matter decline	high
salinisation	available
compaction	high
landslides	high
contamination	high
sealing	available

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EGS Soil Working Group

The Soil Working Group – main activities:



Contribution to soil protection strategy



Soil Protection Framework Directive – the geological community's response

PROPOSAL FOR AMENDMENTS

BY EUROGEOSURVEYS

**THE ASSOCIATION OF THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEYS
OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**On the Proposal for a
DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL
establishing a framework for the protection of soil and amending Directive
2004/35/EC**

**COM(2006) 232 final
2006/0086 (COD)**

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Soil Protection Framework Directive – the geological community's response

The members of EGS soil working group

- draw together individual comments from the member institutions into an agreed form,
- make comments from the perspective of technical capability and capacity, policy sustainability and scientific evidence, and
- suggest specific amendments to the Directive's text along with the justification associated with each proposed change.

(Σ 38 discussed and justified amendments)



Soil Protection Framework Directive – the geological community's response

The members of EGS soil working group

- **strongly support the aims and objectives of the Directive.**
- **acknowledge, that a common strategy to soil protection is appropriate within the context of the sustainability of the European environment as a whole.**
- **are extremely concerned that the discipline of Geology (including hydrogeology, mineralogy, geochemistry, geophysics and remote sensing) appears to have been excluded from the domains of scientific expertise.**



Soil Protection Framework Directive – the geological community's response

Key aspects:

- consideration of Geology

Chapter “2) Consultation of interested parties and impact assessment - Collection and use of expertise”; paragraph 1

Commission text	Amendments Proposed by EGS
Soil science, agronomical science, forestry, hydrology, biology, ecology, economy, social science, political science.	Soil science, agronomical science, geology, geomorphology, geochemistry, chemistry , forestry, hydrology, biology, ecology, economy, social science, political science.

Justification

... Soil science, without the involvement of other earth science disciplines, and the idea of ‘geology’ happening hundreds of metres below our feet, over time scales of millions of years, is an outdated view. ...



Soil Protection Framework Directive – the geological community's response

Key aspects:

- **consideration of Geology (*scientific domains concerned*)**
- **intake of soil biodiversity (*opportunity to increase knowledge on soil biodiversity*)**
- **specification of terms and definitions (*e.g. contamination vs. pollution*)**
- **addition of soil functions (*e.g. 'infiltration of water and replenishment of groundwater reservoirs' ; 'source of vital sediment and nutrients'*)**
- **supplementation of criteria for risk area identification (*e.g. geological parameter (e.g. soil parent material; bedrock)*)**

■ ■ ■ ■ Outlook – European remits for Geology

Fields of future activities:

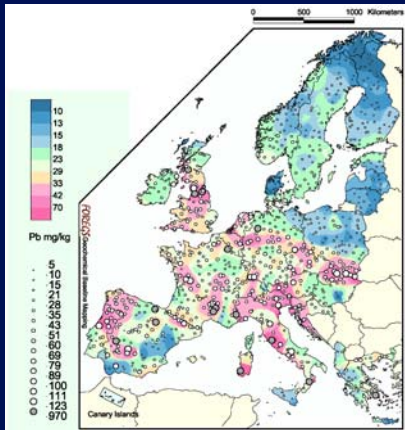
- Know better the **soil policy priorities** in our respective countries, and how they are expressed at EU level
- Based on the various items selected (erosion, contamination, organic, sealing, etc...), **precise the area of competence/ excellence** of each survey
- Work on the coming calls of the commission to establish joint proposals with **suitable partners**



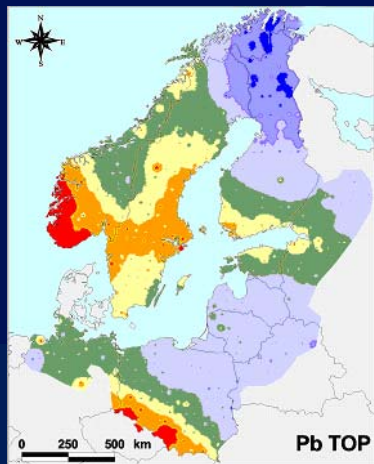
Outlook – European remits for Geology

Provide uniform, quality controlled geoscientific data, e.g.

- soil quality – trace element contents in European soils

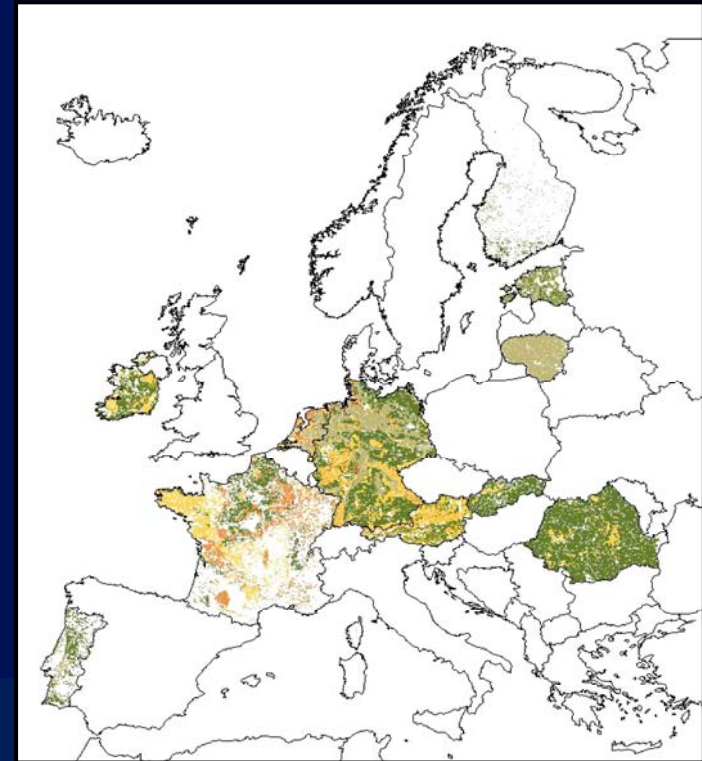


FOREGS GEOCHEMICAL MAPPING



Baltic Soil Survey

ESBN: Trace element and organic matter contents



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Outlook – European remits for Geology

Provide uniform, quality controlled geoscientific data, e.g.

- Geo – hazards



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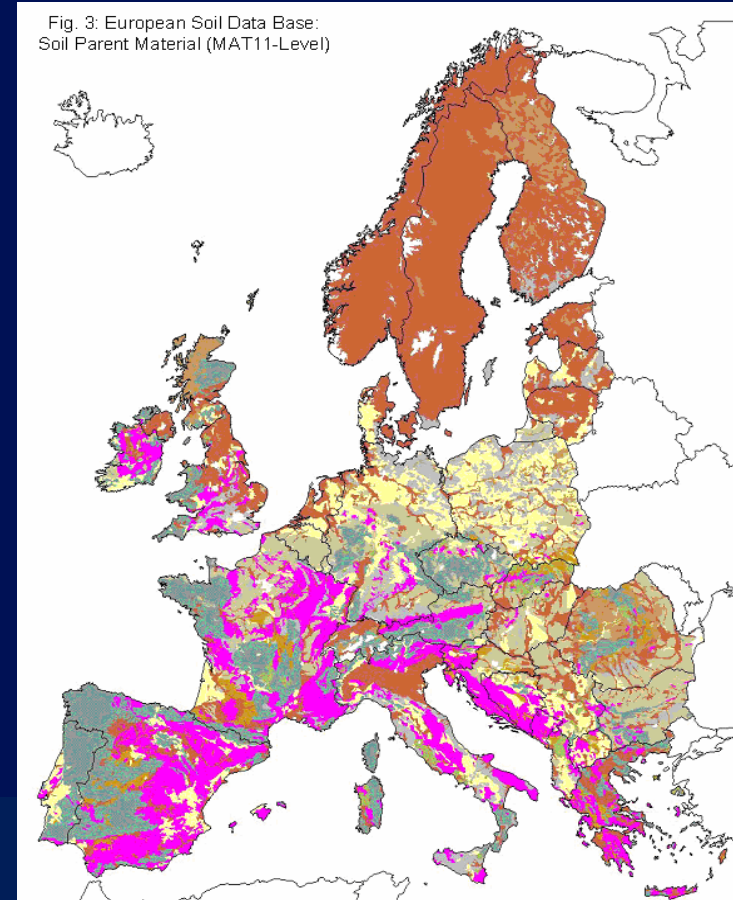
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Outlook – European remits for Geology

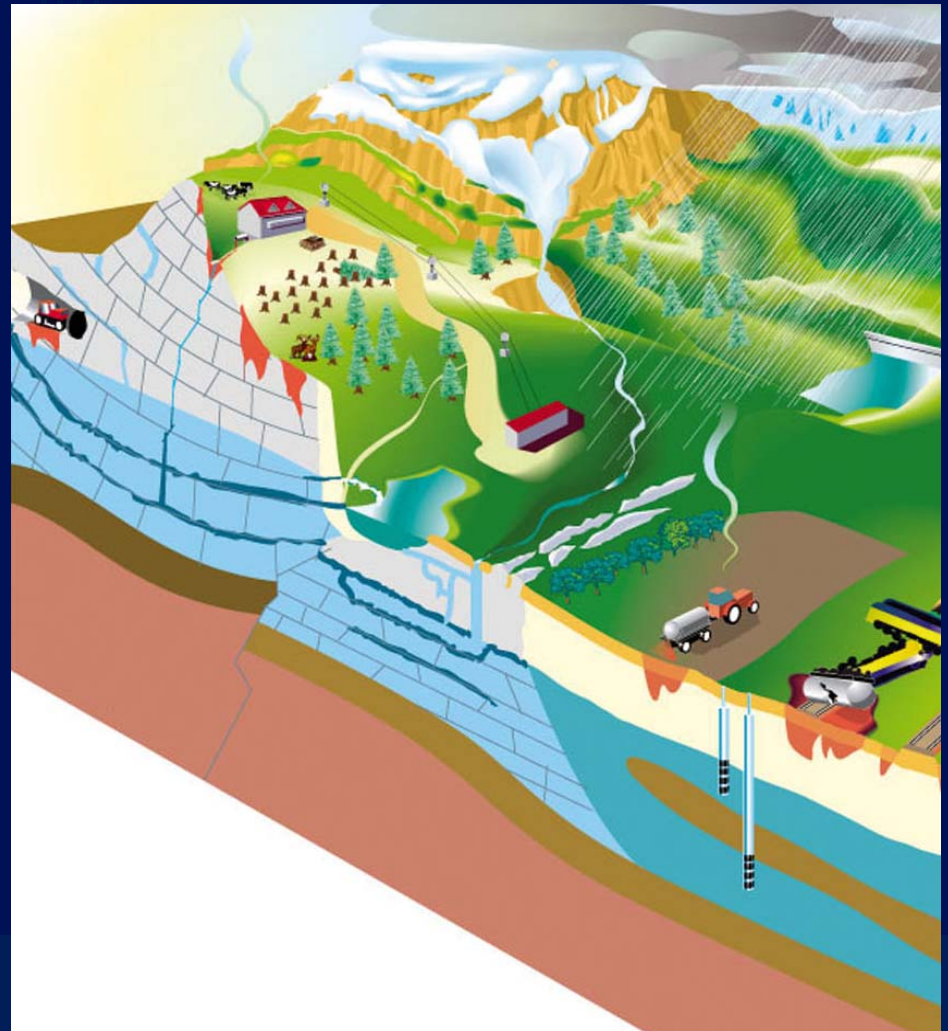
Provide uniform, quality controlled geoscientific data, e.g.

- *spatial information on soil parent material / bedrock*



Outlook – European remits for Geology

- *links with other environment media (water)*



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EuroGeoSurveys (Association of the European Geological Surveys)

- provides a network of soil experts
- supports the EU soil strategy
- seeks a better integration between soil associated disciplines (e.g. geological, hydrological, atmospheric, life sciences)
- offers collaboration in the view of coming calls (scientific research – political/legislative) of the commission to establish joint proposals with suitable partners

Thanks for your attention!



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