

# The International Hydrogeological Map of Europe ( IHME ) at the scale of 1:1.5 Million

A coherent hydrogeological map for greater Europe  
and a model for the Rest of the World

- Historical Background
- State of the Art and Results
- Summary and Recommendations



## Historical Background

### 19th – 20th Century

Systematic exploration of natural resources started;  
Growth and industrialisation (= increasing need for water) called for better planning and safe water supply from groundwater

### After 1950

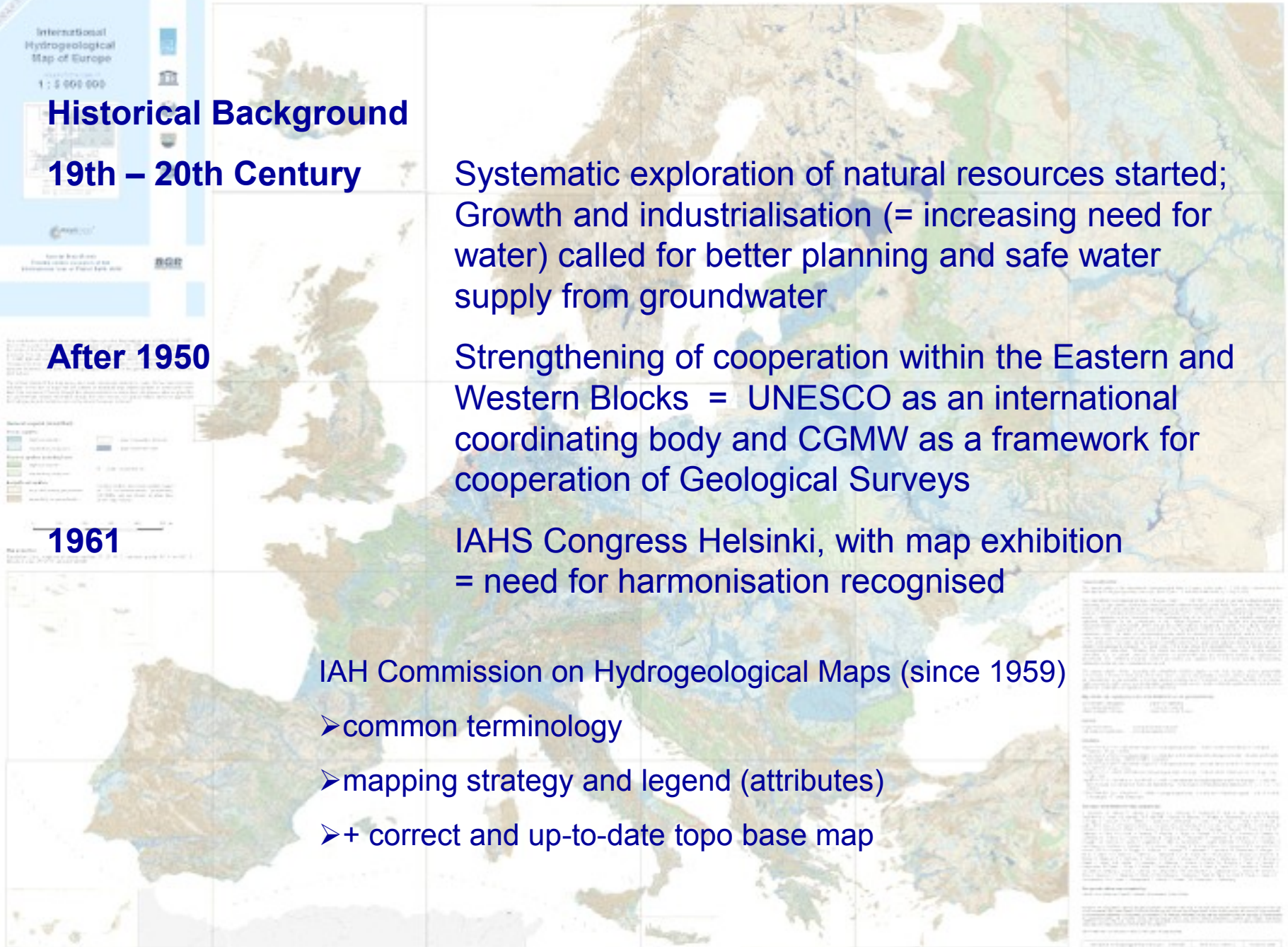
Strengthening of cooperation within the Eastern and Western Blocks = UNESCO as an international coordinating body and CGMW as a framework for cooperation of Geological Surveys

### 1961

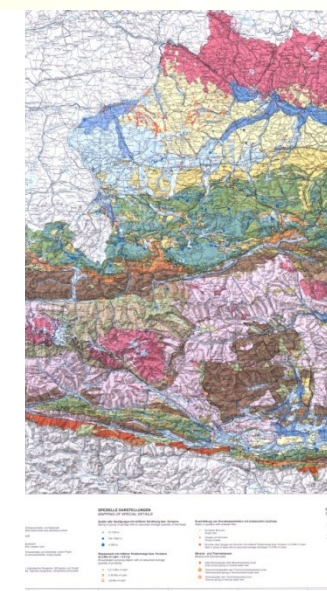
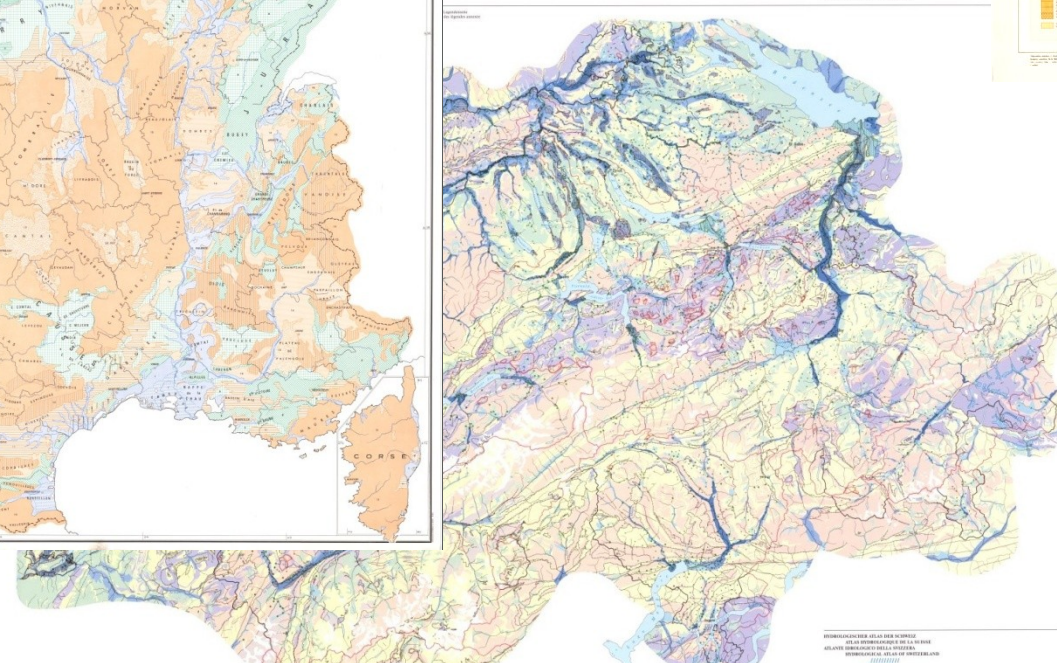
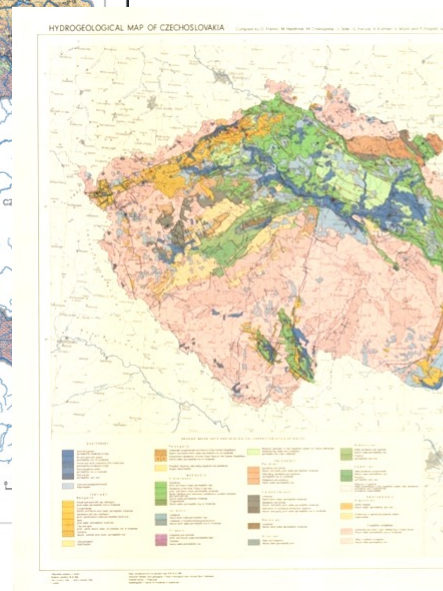
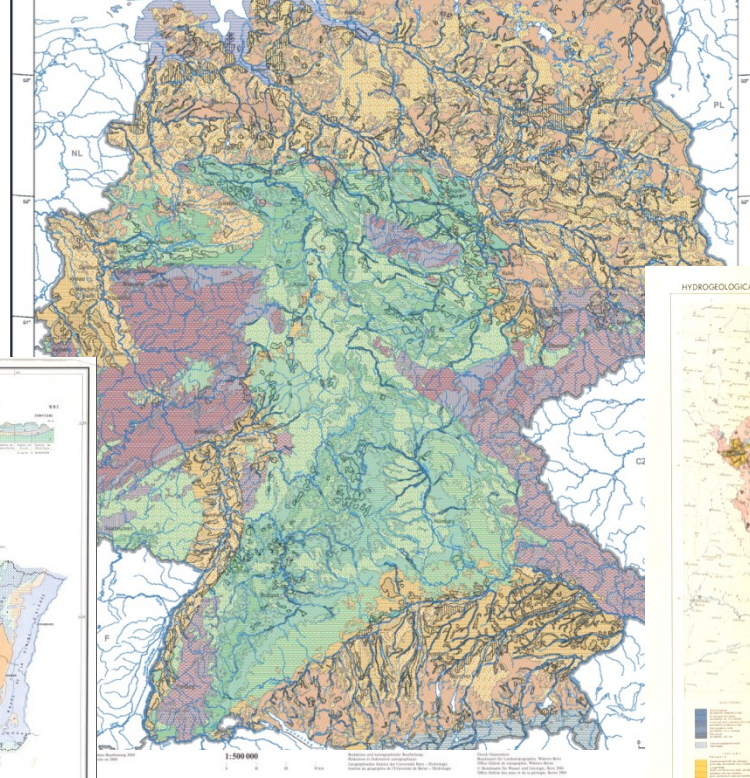
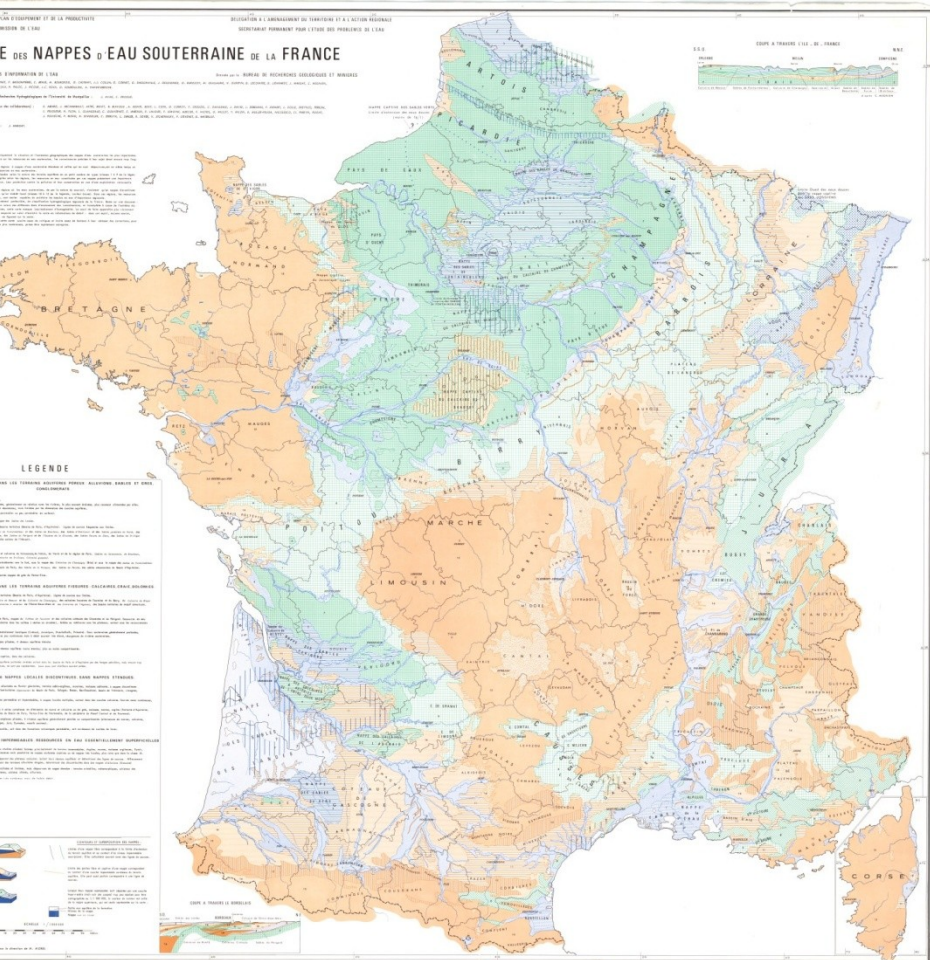
IAHS Congress Helsinki, with map exhibition  
= need for harmonisation recognised

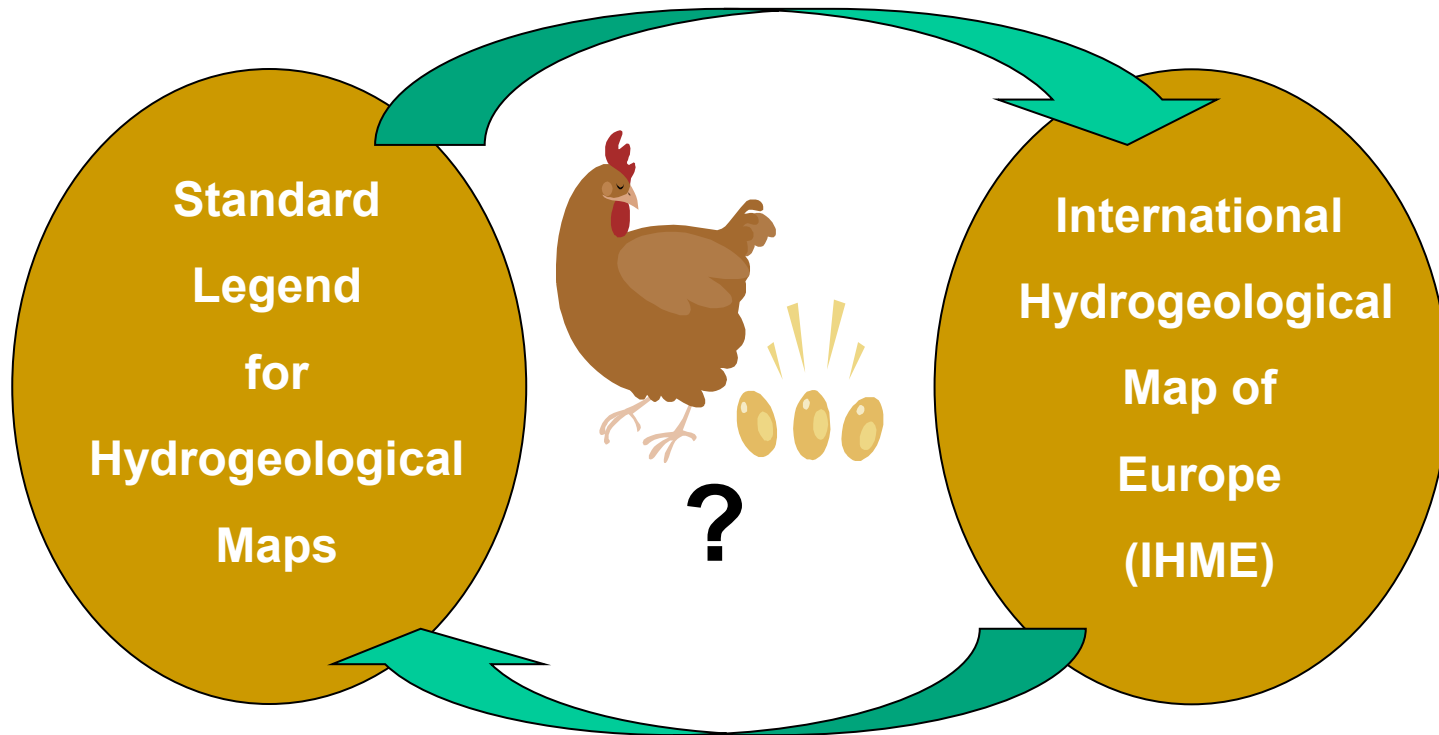
IAH Commission on Hydrogeological Maps (since 1959)

- common terminology
- mapping strategy and legend (attributes)
- + correct and up-to-date topo base map



**Existing national  
hydrogeological maps  
= no coherent picture**





**1959**

**Draft Legends  
(1962 – 1967)**



**Final version  
Printed 1970**

**IAH Commission on  
Hydrogeological Maps**

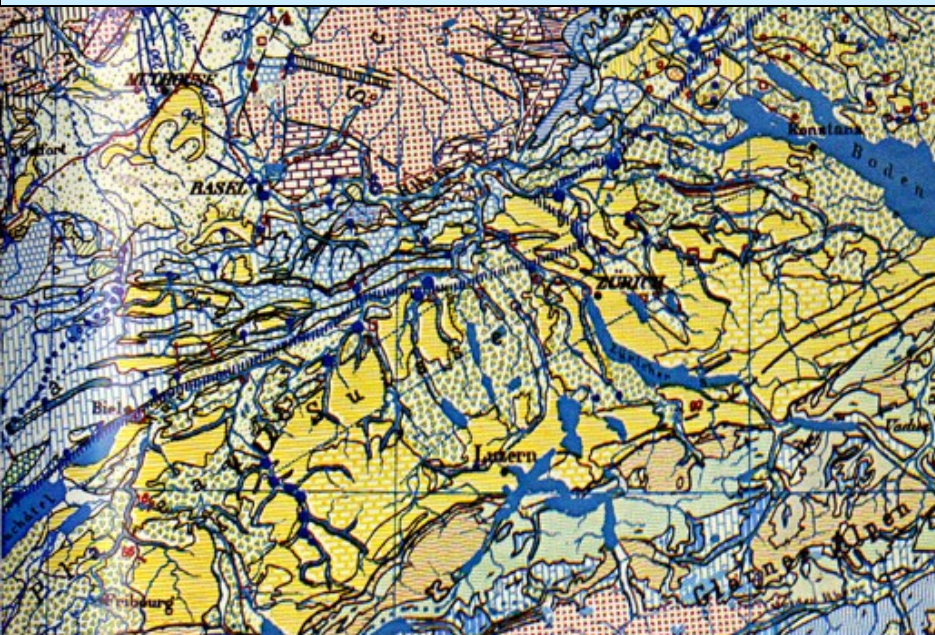
**IAHS Standing  
Committee on  
Hydrogeological Maps**

**Models 1 - 4  
(1962 – 1964)**

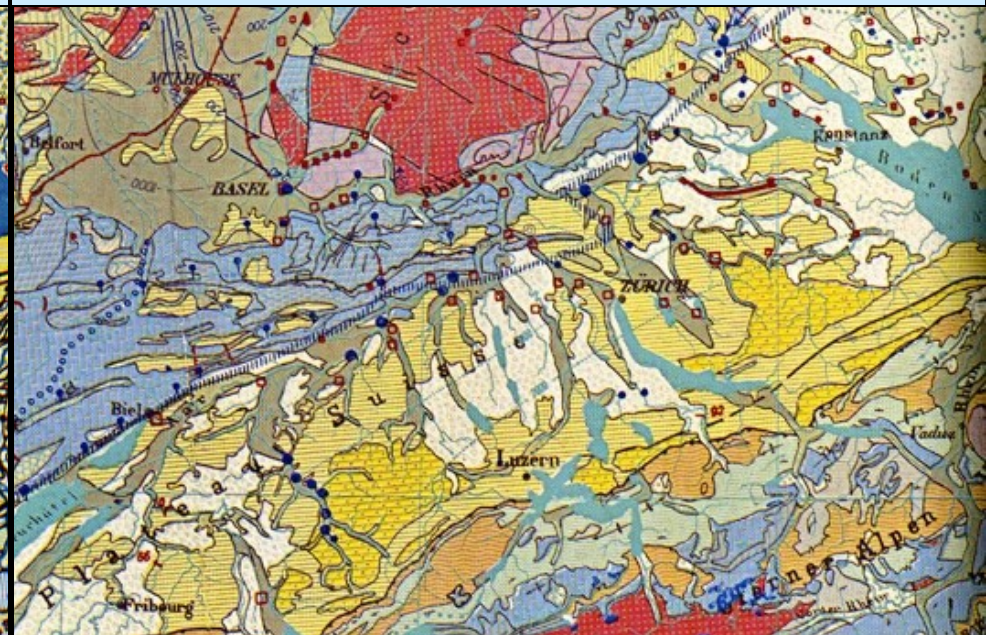


**Sheet C 5 Bern  
Printed 1970**

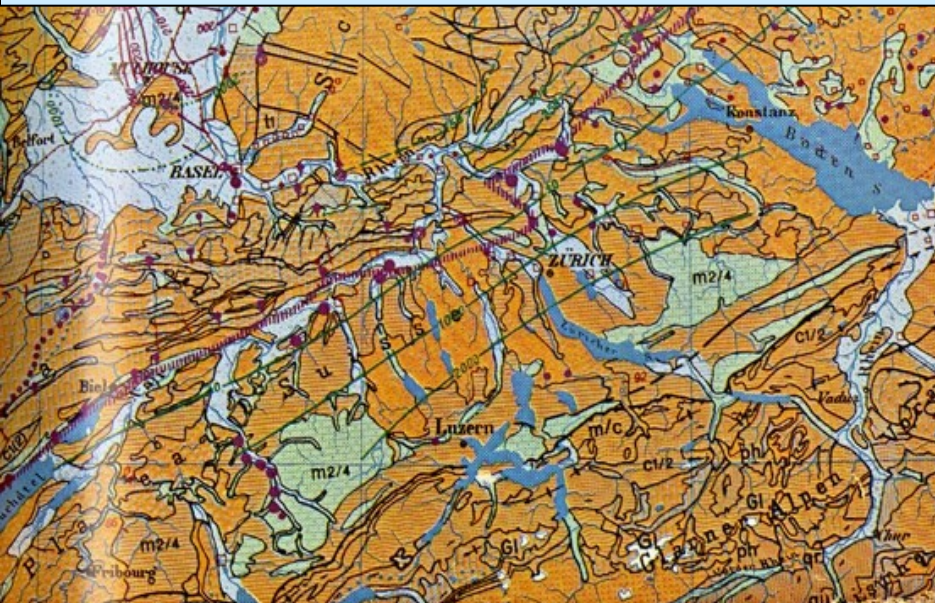
**Model 1** Lithology, stratigraphy and porosity



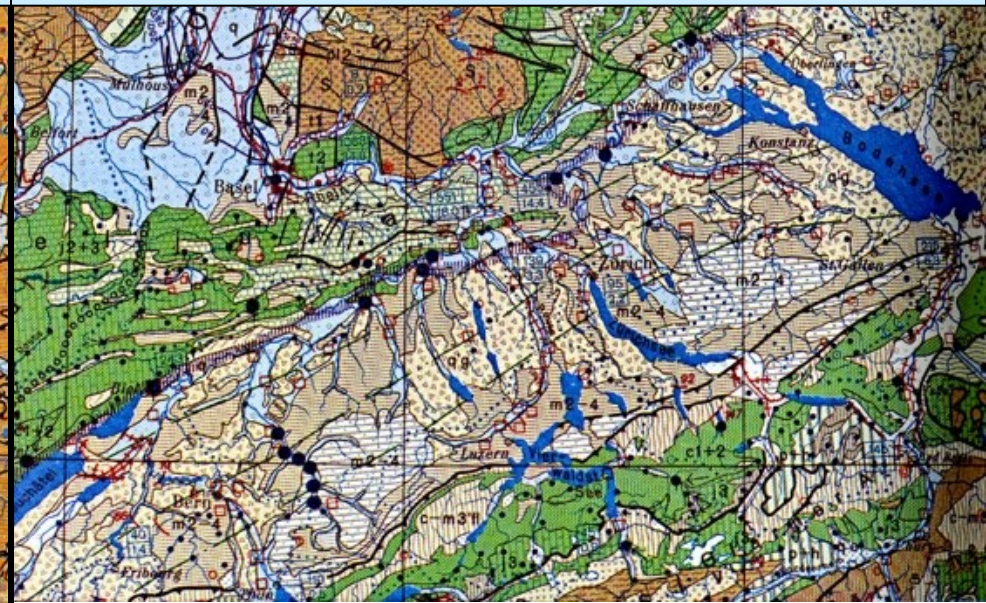
**Model 2** Lithology, stratigraphy and aquifer yield



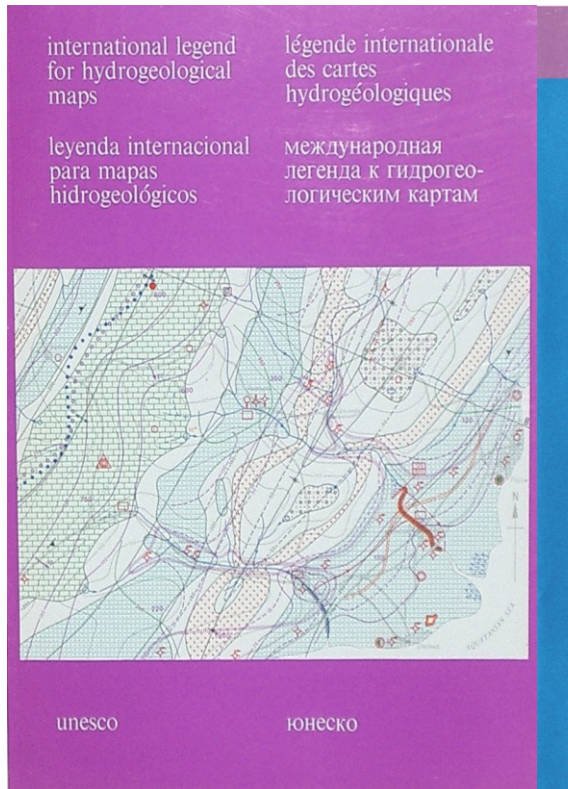
**Model 3** Lithology and aquifer yield



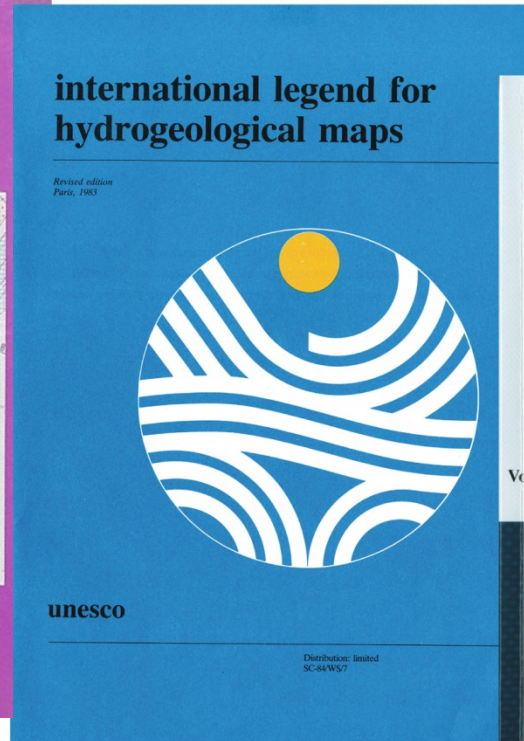
**Model 4** Lithology and groundwater characteristics



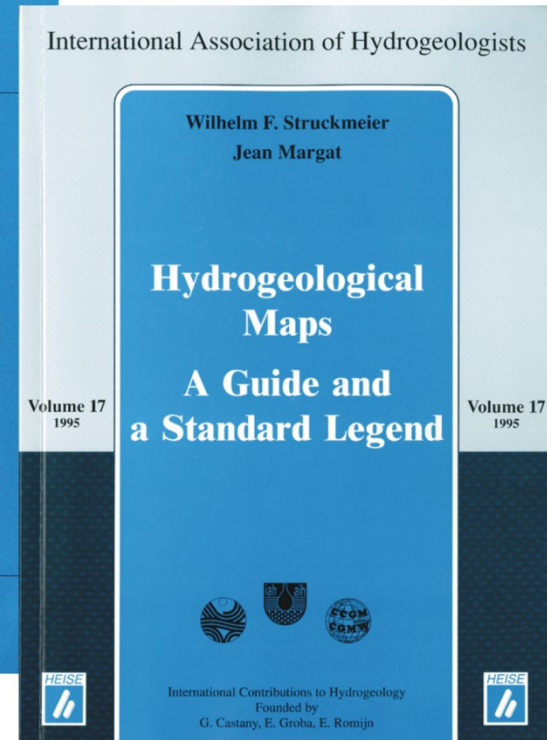
# Towards Common Standards ( IAH, IAHS, UNESCO, CGMW )



(1970)



(1983)



(1995)

Internationale Hydrogeologische Karte von Europa

Internationale Association der Hydrogeologen Kommission für die Geologische Weltkarte Unterkommission für Hydrologische Karten Herausgegeben von der Bundesanstalt für Bodenforschung und der UNESCO

Scientific Editor: H. KARRHENBERG, Geographisches Landesamt Nordrhein-Westfalen, Karlsruhe

Nappes d'eau souterraines - Groundwater - Grundwasservorkommen

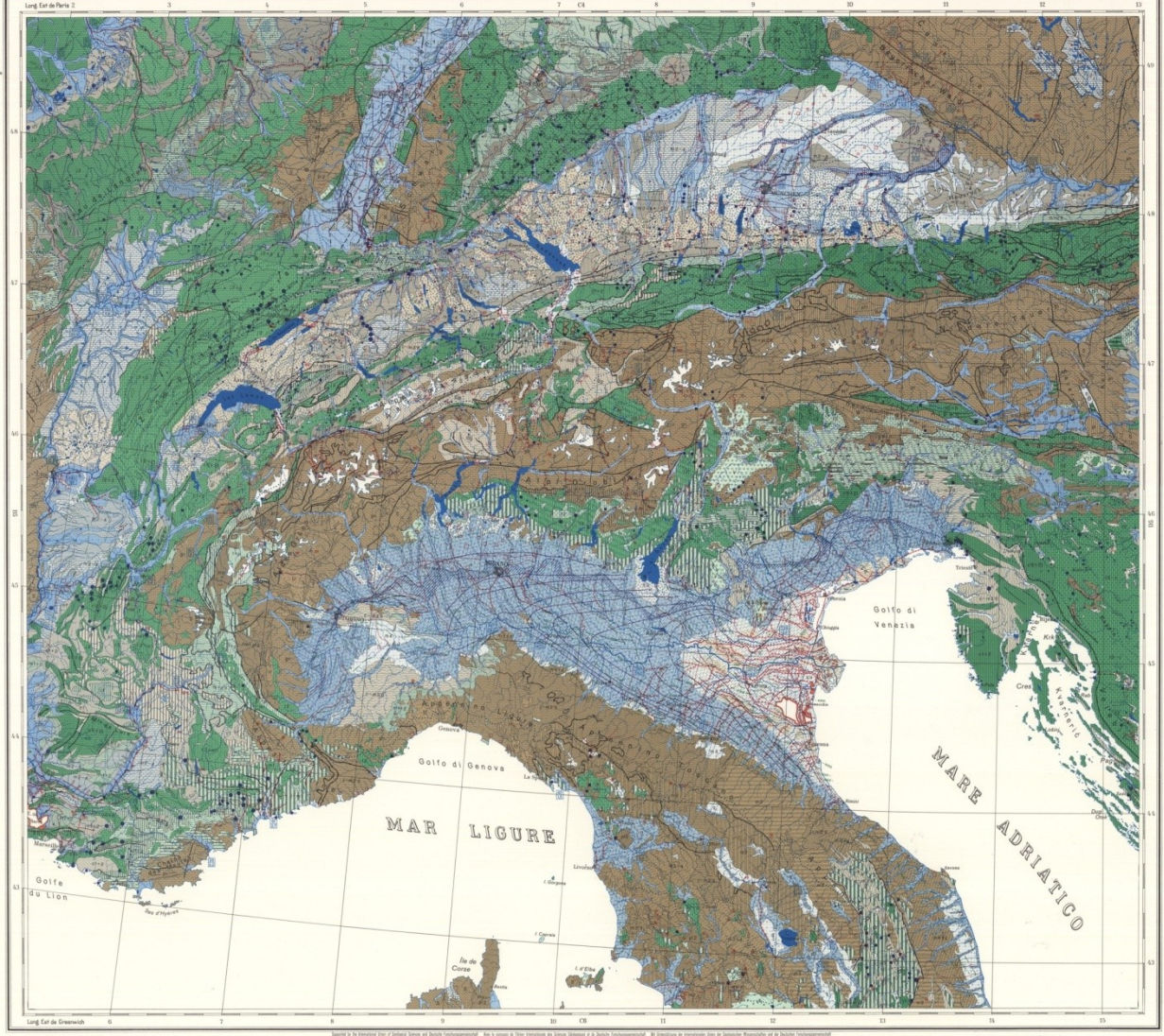
Les cartes souterraines indiquent à la fois les zones à la fois d'écoulement et de recharge des aquifères et les zones de recharge des aquifères. Les cartes souterraines indiquent à la fois les zones à la fois d'écoulement et de recharge des aquifères et les zones de recharge des aquifères.

- List of symbols and descriptions for groundwater features, including recharge areas, discharge areas, and specific aquifer types.

- List of symbols and descriptions for various geological and hydrogeological features, including different rock types and aquifer characteristics.

- List of symbols and descriptions for specific indicators related to groundwater and surface water, such as springs and wells.

Sheet C 5 Bern



- List of symbols and descriptions for surface water features, including rivers, streams, and lakes.

- List of symbols and descriptions for artificial works, such as dams, canals, and irrigation systems.

- List of symbols and descriptions for specific geological features, including faults and rock types.

Hannover 1970 1:1,500,000

Scale and publication information, including the scale of 1:1,500,000 and the year of publication, 1970.

# Methodology, content and colour system of the IHME

- **colour wash (for type and hydrogeological significance of rock bodies)**

Blue: intergranular aquifers

Green: fissured and karst aquifers

Brown: non-aquifers or only local potential

- **background ornament for lithological rock type**

various types in grey

- **line and point symbols for special features**

full blue for surface water, springs and karst

violet for groundwater features, e.g. groundwater contours

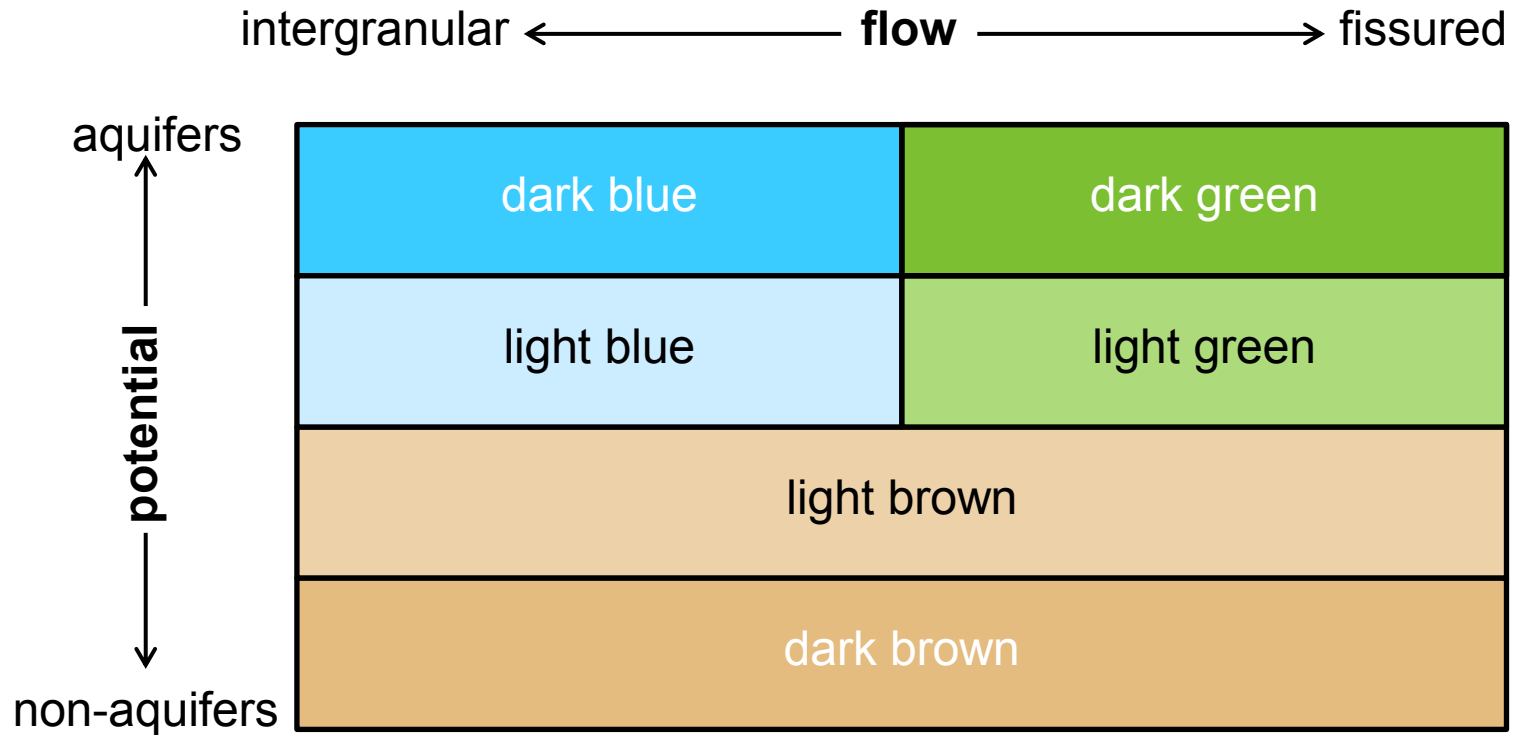
orange for chemical and thermal features, e.g. thermal and mineral springs

red for man-made changes of the natural GW regime

black for geological features, e.g. lithological boundaries, faults



# Principles of colour wash on the IHME and General Legend



# Legend IHME

Aquifer type / characteristics by colour wash

Grey ornament indicating lithology

q, q+m3		Argiles sableuses, sables et graviers avec argiles à blocaux et silts, localement au-dessus des sables tertiaires Sandy clays, sands, and gravels with boulder clays and silts, locally above tertiary sands Sandige Tone, Sande und Kiese mit Geschiebemergeln und Schluffen, z. T. über tertiären Sanden
q		Roches pyroclastiques, meubles à consolidées Pyroclastics, unconsolidated to consolidated Pyroklastika, locker bis verfestigt
m4		Sables, graviers et silts Sands, gravels and silts Sande, Kiese und Schluffe
m3		Sables fins Fine sands Feinsande
m3-2, m3, m		Argiles, sables et graviers avec lignites intercalés Clays, sands and gravels with intercalated lignites Tone, Sande und Kiese mit Braunkohlen-Lagen
c2, c1, j(t)		Sables glauconieux et calcaires sableux Glauconitic sands and sandy limestones Glaukonitsande und sandige Kalksteine

h, d, d-s		Calcaires avec ardoises Limestones with slates Kalksteine mit geschiefertem Tonsteinen
pl, dt, d		Ardoises, quartzites, grès, phyllites et schistes verts Slates, quartzites, sandstones, phyllites, and chlorite schists Geschieferte Tonsteine, Quarzite, Sandsteine, Phyllite und Grünschiefer
		Roches pyroclastiques du Paléozoïque (=Schalstein-) Pyroclastics of the Paleozoic ("Schalstein") Pyroklastika des Paläozoikums („Schalstein“)
		Granites Granites Granite
		Gneiss Eneisses Gneise
		<b>b</b> { Régions sans eau souterraine en quantité appréciable, même en profondeur No groundwater resources worth mentioning, even at depth Keine nennenswerten Grundwasservorkommen, auch nicht in der Tiefe

## II. dans des roches fissurées, y compris les roches karstifiées in jointed rocks, including karstified rocks in klüftigen Gesteinen, einschließlich Karstgesteinen

		{ Réseaux aquifères étendus très productifs, souvent seulement en grande profondeur Extensive and highly productive aquifers, often at great depth only Ausgedehnte und sehr reiche Grundwasservorkommen, oft nur in großer Tiefe
m1, c2, j2		Craie, calcaires mameux, partiellement fissurés et karstifiés Chalk, mainly limestones, partially jointed and karstified Kreide, Kalkmergelsteine, teilweise klüftig und verkarstet
		Roches extrusives fissurées (=Basalte du Vogelsberg-) Extrusive rocks, jointed ("Basalt of the Vogelsberg") Extrusiva, klüftig („Basalt des Vogelsberges“)
c2, c1, j1, t3, t1-p1		Grès quartzeux avec conglomérats en bancs Quartzose sandstones with layers of conglomerate Quarzsandsteine mit Konglomeratlagen

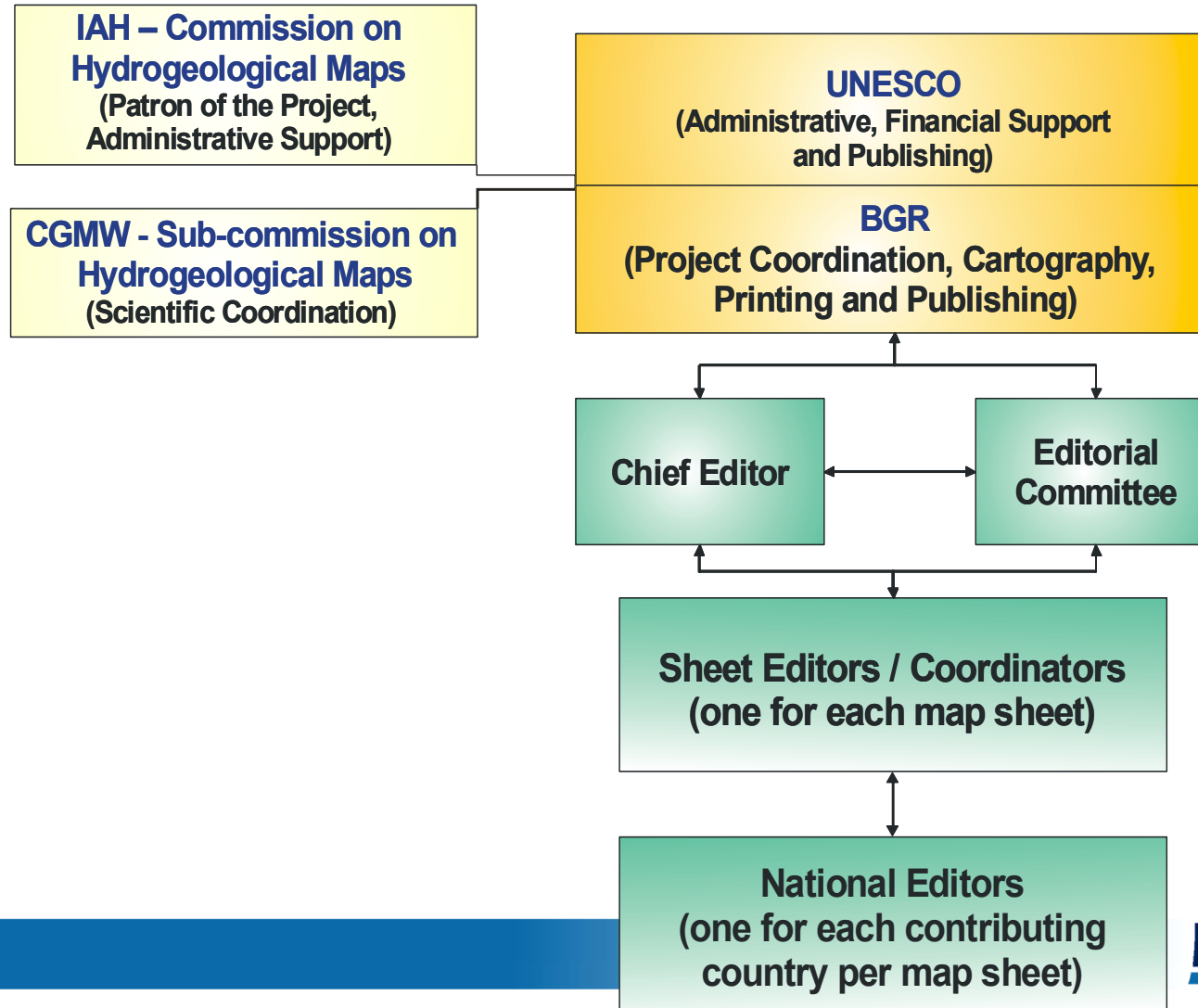
Stratigraphical symbols (selected)

q		Argiles à blocaux, argiles et silts Boulder clays, clays, and silts Geschiebelehme, Tone und Schluffe
m3, m		Argiles, silts, sables silteux et sables avec lignites Clays, silts, silty sands, and sands with lignites Tone, Schluffe, schluffige Sande und Sande mit Braunkohlen
m, c1, j3-1, t2		Marnes et argilites; Calcaires et marnes (t2) Marls and claystones; Limestones and marls (t2) Mergel- und Tonsteine; Kalksteine und Mergel (t2)
		Roches extrusives basiques du Néogène Basic extrusive rocks of the Neogene Basische Extrusiva des Neogen
j(t), t1, t		Argillites, argiles et grès Claystones, clays, and sandstones Tonsteine, Tone und Sandsteine
pl, d-o, dt, cb+eo		Ardoises avec couches peu puissantes de grès, quartzites et grauwwackes Slates with thin layers of sandstones, quartzites, and graywackes Geschieferte Tonsteine mit geringmächtigen Sandstein-, Quarzit- und Grauwwackelagen

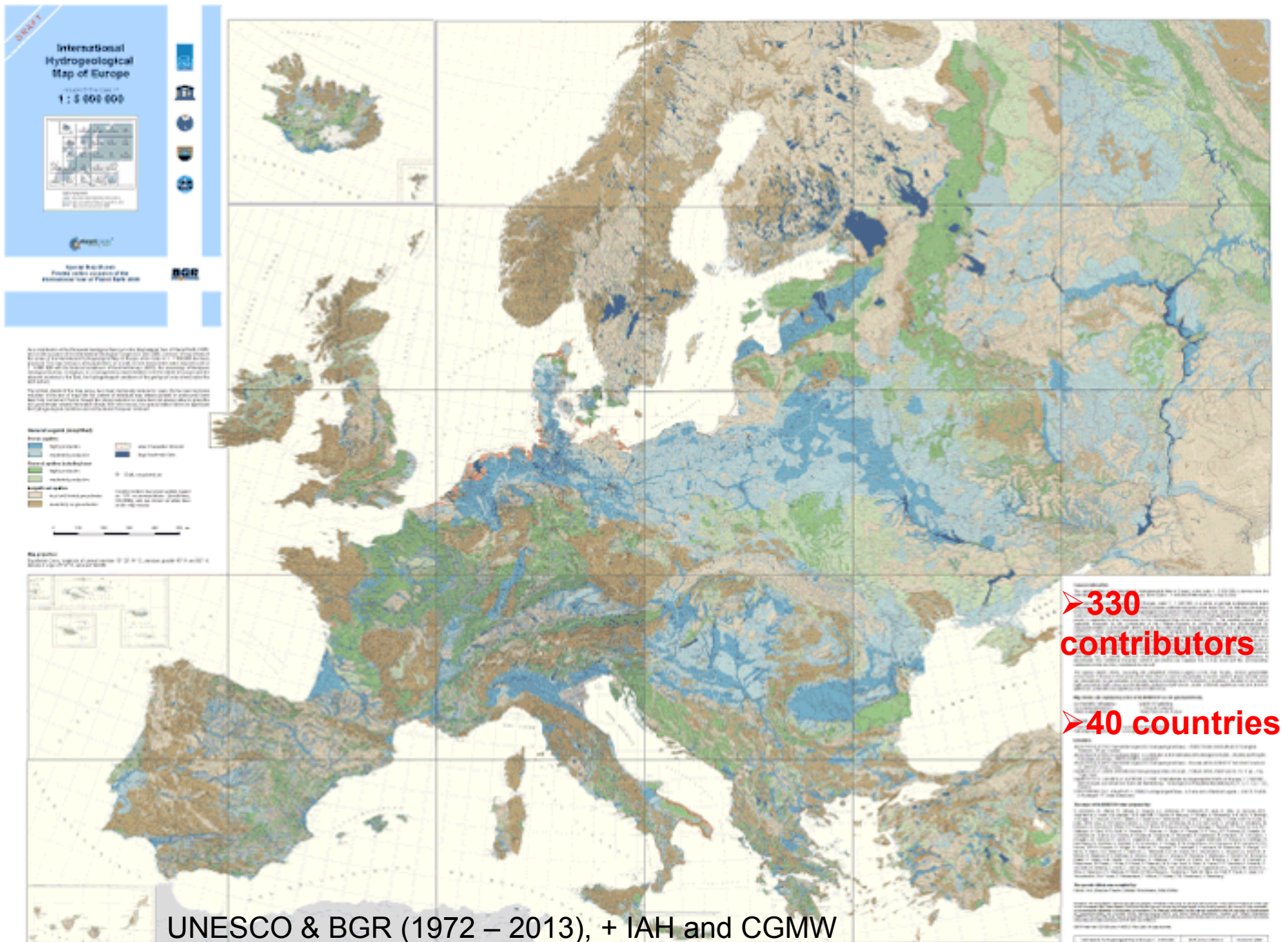
# Milestones for the IHME

- **German Science Foundation and BGR** assured funding of a **scientific editor and the cartographic work** in Krefeld and Hannover
- **IAH = scientific lead** (Prof. Herbert Karrenberg)
- **Support of Geological Surveys** via the Sub-Commission on Hydrogeological Maps of the **CGMW** (Commission for the Geological Map of the World)
- **Growing interest** in Europe and the Eastern Countries
- **1970 : Contract between UNESCO and BGR** for the publication of the IHME (addendum for each sheet and explanatory note)

# Organisational Structure



# International Hydrogeological Map of Europe, scale 1:1,500,000



International Hydrogeological Map of Europe, scale 1:1,500,000



## State of preparation

 map sheet and explanatory notes printed

 map sheet printed without explanatory notes

Date: August 2013

# International Hydrogeological Map of Europe, scale 1:1,500,000

**SWAP**

International Hydrogeological Map of Europe  
SCALE 1:1 500 000



Logo of the International Geosphere and Biosphere Programme (IGBP) and the International Hydrological Programme (IHP).

Logo of the German Research Foundation (DFG).

The map is based on the following data sources: ...

The map is based on the following data sources: ...

**Hydrogeological legend:**

Aquifers	Aquifers with low permeability
Groundwater recharge	Aquifers with high permeability
High permeability	Not mapped
High permeability	
Aquifers with low permeability	
Aquifers with high permeability	



Map projection: UTM, Zone 32N, Datum: ED50, Spheroid: Bessel 1841



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**Map description:**  
This map shows the hydrogeological characteristics of Europe, including the distribution of aquifers, groundwater recharge, and permeability. The map is based on data from various sources, including geological maps, hydrogeological surveys, and remote sensing data. The map is presented in a grid format, with each cell representing a specific geographic area. The years shown on the map indicate the date of the data used for each area.

**Legend:**  
The legend provides a key to the symbols and colors used on the map. It includes symbols for aquifers, groundwater recharge, and permeability, as well as a scale bar and a north arrow.

**Scale:**  
The scale of the map is 1:1,500,000, meaning that 1 cm on the map represents 15 km in reality.

**Projection:**  
The map uses the UTM projection, Zone 32N, with the Bessel 1841 datum.

# IHME Explanatory Notes ( 18 map sheets)





# International Hydrogeological Map of Europe 1 / 1 500 000

## Explanatory notes

( French or English )

- **Introduction on geographic setting**
- **Geological outline**
- **Hydrogeological regionalisation**
- **Description of hydrogeological regions**
  - characteristics of rock and groundwater bodies
  - hydrochemistry
  - groundwater use and water management
- **Bibliography**



# Applications of the International Hydrogeological Map of Europe 1 / 1 500 000

- **Science, teaching and public information**
  - cooperation of hundreds of geo-scientists
  - triggering national hydrogeological mapping
  - printed maps and explanatory notes
  - www based viewing system
- **EU Water Framework Directive**
- **UN-ECE studies on transboundary aquifers**



The International Hydrogeological Map of Europe (IHME) is a joint effort of the European Commission and the International Geosphere and Biosphere Programme (IGBP). It is a multi-scale, multi-theme map of Europe, showing the distribution of water resources and the hydrogeological conditions of the continent. The map is based on a common set of criteria and standards, developed by a working group of experts from various countries. The map is available in printed form and as a web-based viewing system.

**Legend**

Water bodies	Sea level
Groundwater	Groundwater
Surface water	Surface water
Groundwater	Groundwater
Groundwater	Groundwater

**Scale**

1:1 500 000

**Map of Europe**

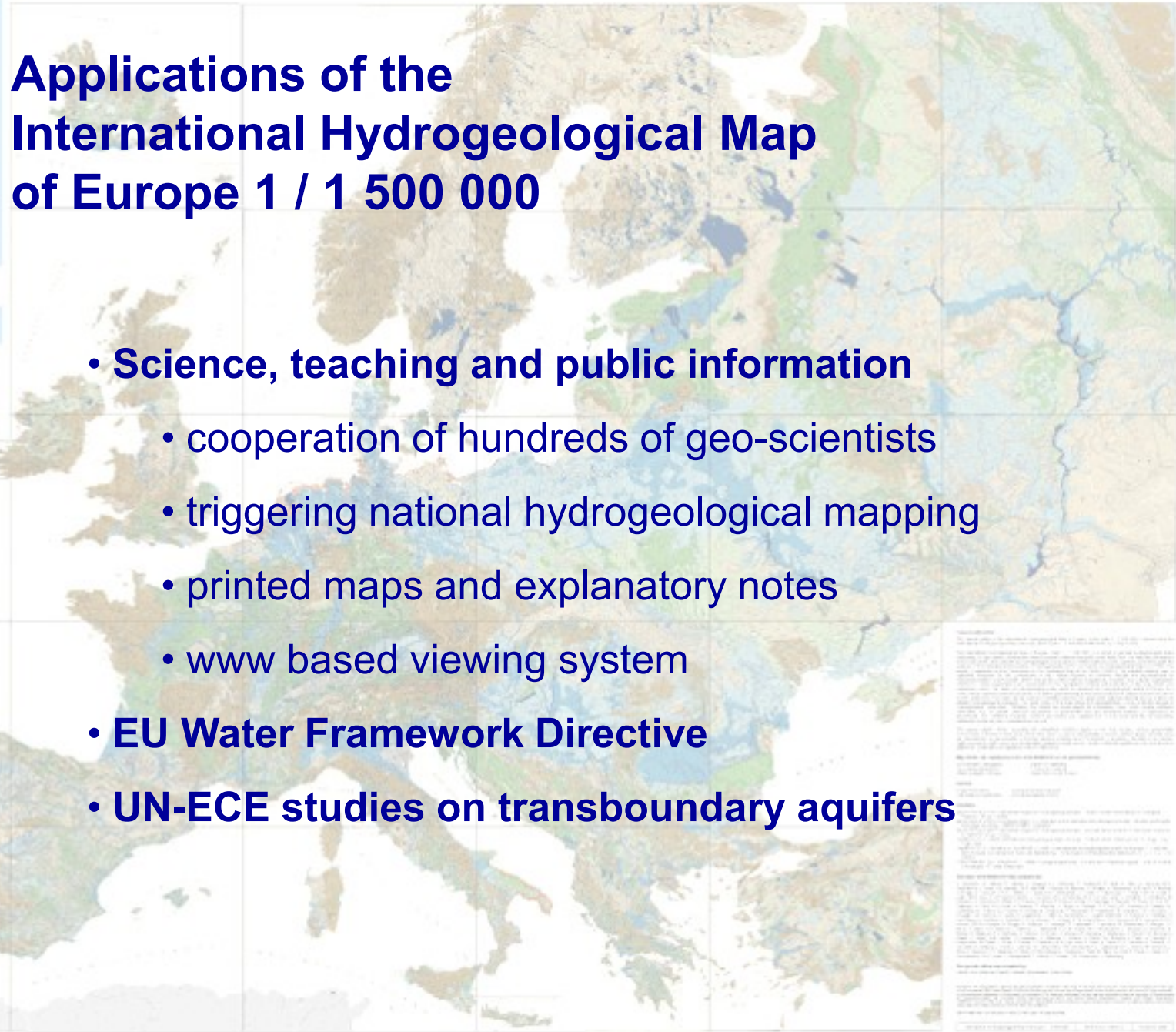
**Map of Europe**

**Map of Europe**

**Map of Europe**

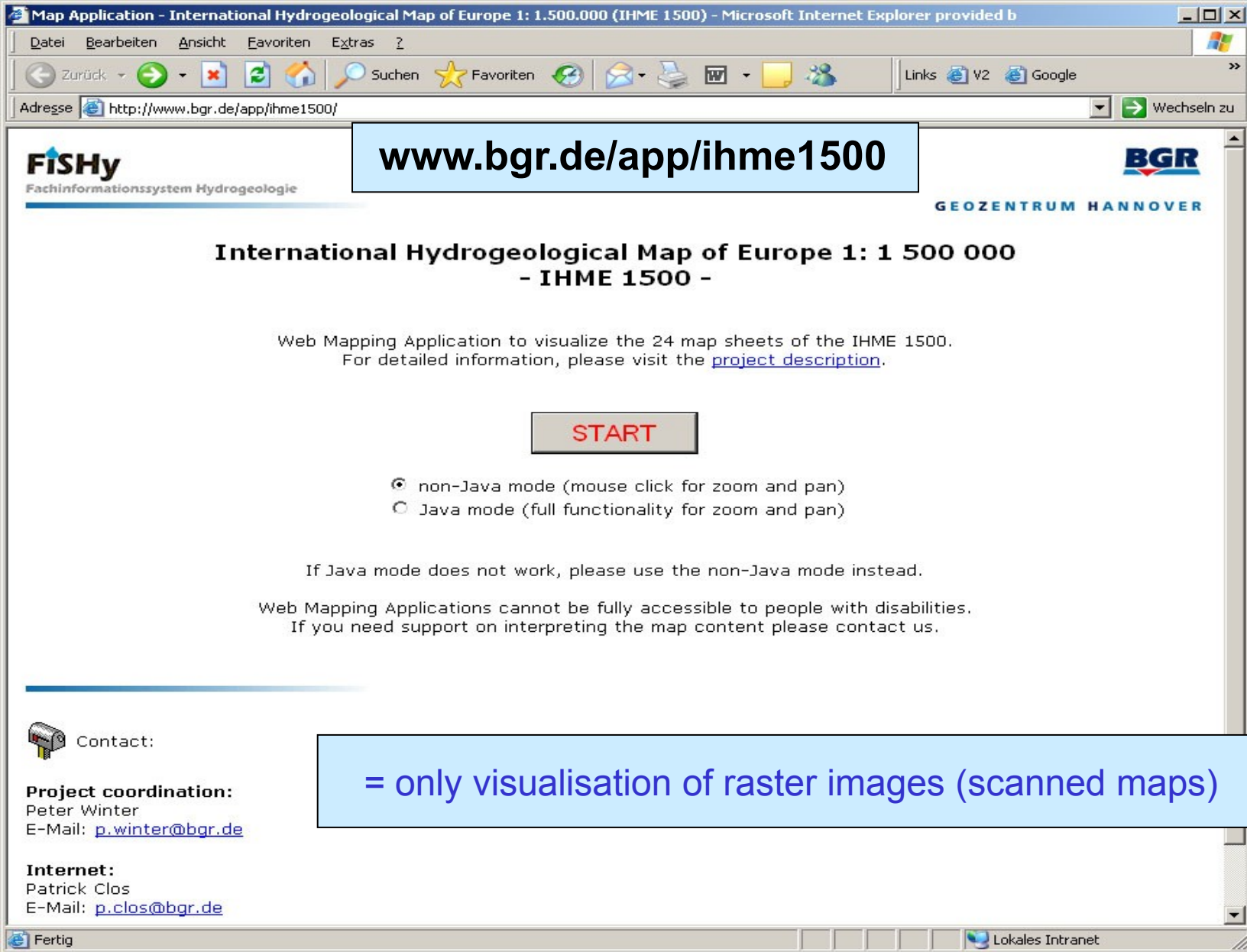
**Map of Europe**

**Map of Europe**



**Map of Europe**

The International Hydrogeological Map of Europe (IHME) is a joint effort of the European Commission and the International Geosphere and Biosphere Programme (IGBP). It is a multi-scale, multi-theme map of Europe, showing the distribution of water resources and the hydrogeological conditions of the continent. The map is based on a common set of criteria and standards, developed by a working group of experts from various countries. The map is available in printed form and as a web-based viewing system.



[www.bgr.de/app/ihme1500](http://www.bgr.de/app/ihme1500/)

## International Hydrogeological Map of Europe 1: 1 500 000 - IHME 1500 -

Web Mapping Application to visualize the 24 map sheets of the IHME 1500.  
For detailed information, please visit the [project description](#).

**START**

- non-Java mode (mouse click for zoom and pan)
- Java mode (full functionality for zoom and pan)

If Java mode does not work, please use the non-Java mode instead.

Web Mapping Applications cannot be fully accessible to people with disabilities.  
If you need support on interpreting the map content please contact us.

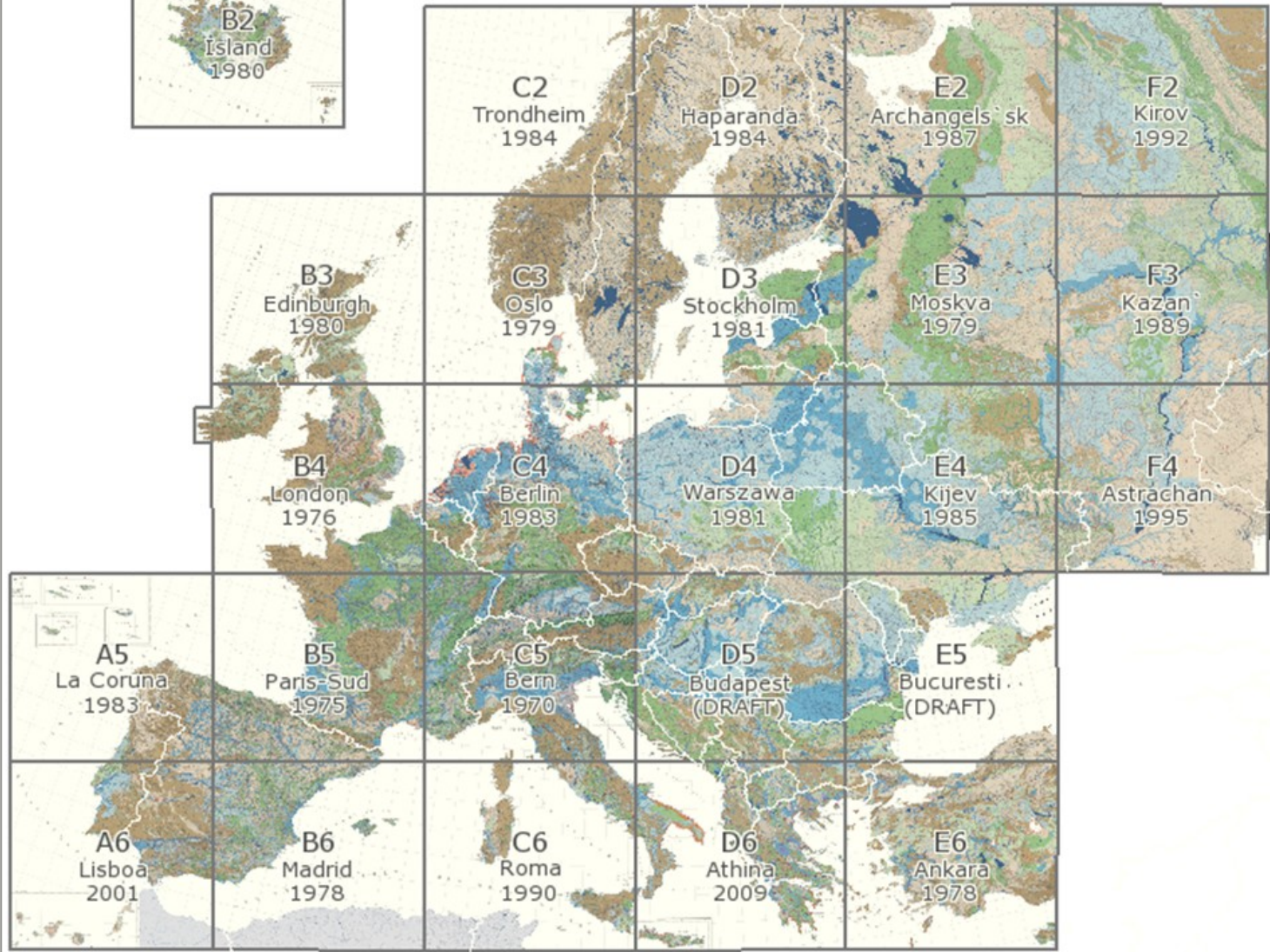
Contact:

**Project coordination:**  
Peter Winter  
E-Mail: [p.winter@bgr.de](mailto:p.winter@bgr.de)

**Internet:**  
Patrick Clos  
E-Mail: [p.clos@bgr.de](mailto:p.clos@bgr.de)

= only visualisation of raster images (scanned maps)

# IHME Map Application



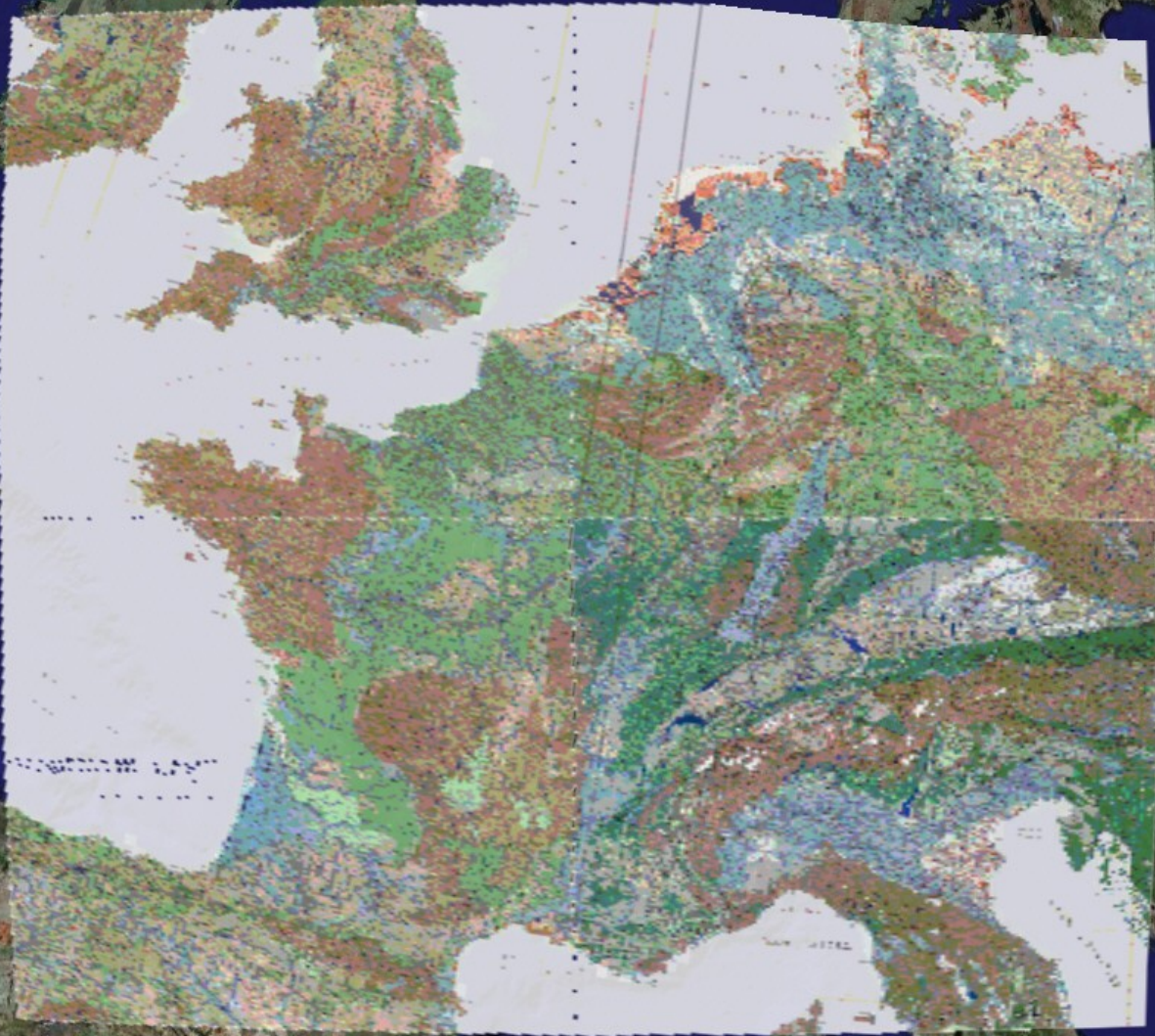
## IHME1500

- General Legend (simplified)
- POROUS AQUIFERS
    - highly productive
    - moderately productive
  - FISSURED AQUIFERS incl. KAR
    - highly productive
    - moderately productive
  - INSIGNIFICANT AQUIFERS
    - local and limited groundwater
    - essentially no groundwater
  - area of seawater intrusion
  - large freshwater lake
- Topography**
  - country borders
- Index**
  - sheet index
  - sheet number
  - sheet name
  - state of preparation
    - Map sheet and explanatory notes
    - Map sheet printed without explanatory notes
    - Map sheet print in preparation
  - year of publication



Scale 1:18573300

# Geo-referencing the IHME sheets





**Transboundary Aquifers in Europe**



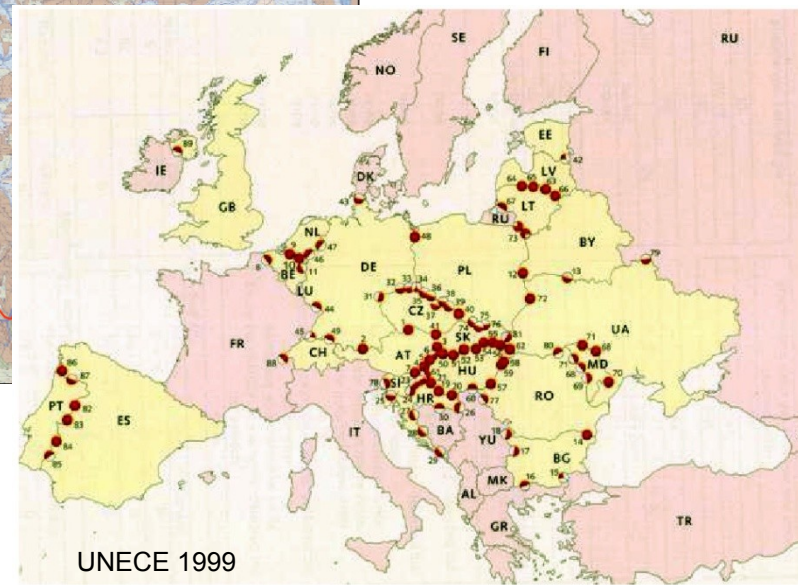
Source:  
 UNECE Task Force on Monitoring & Assessment  
 Working Program 1994/1995, Volume 1:  
 Inventory of transboundary groundwaters.  
 Authors: C. Amelary & C. Bédard.  
 Leyland, September 1999

Basemap:  
 International Hydrogeological Map of Europe, 1:1.500.000

Compiled by:  
 Peter Wähler & Hartmut Strub,  
 Federal Institute for Geoscience and Natural Resources (BGR),  
 Berlin, 2005



# Workshop on Groundwater Bodies in Europe Berlin, 25 - 26 October 2005

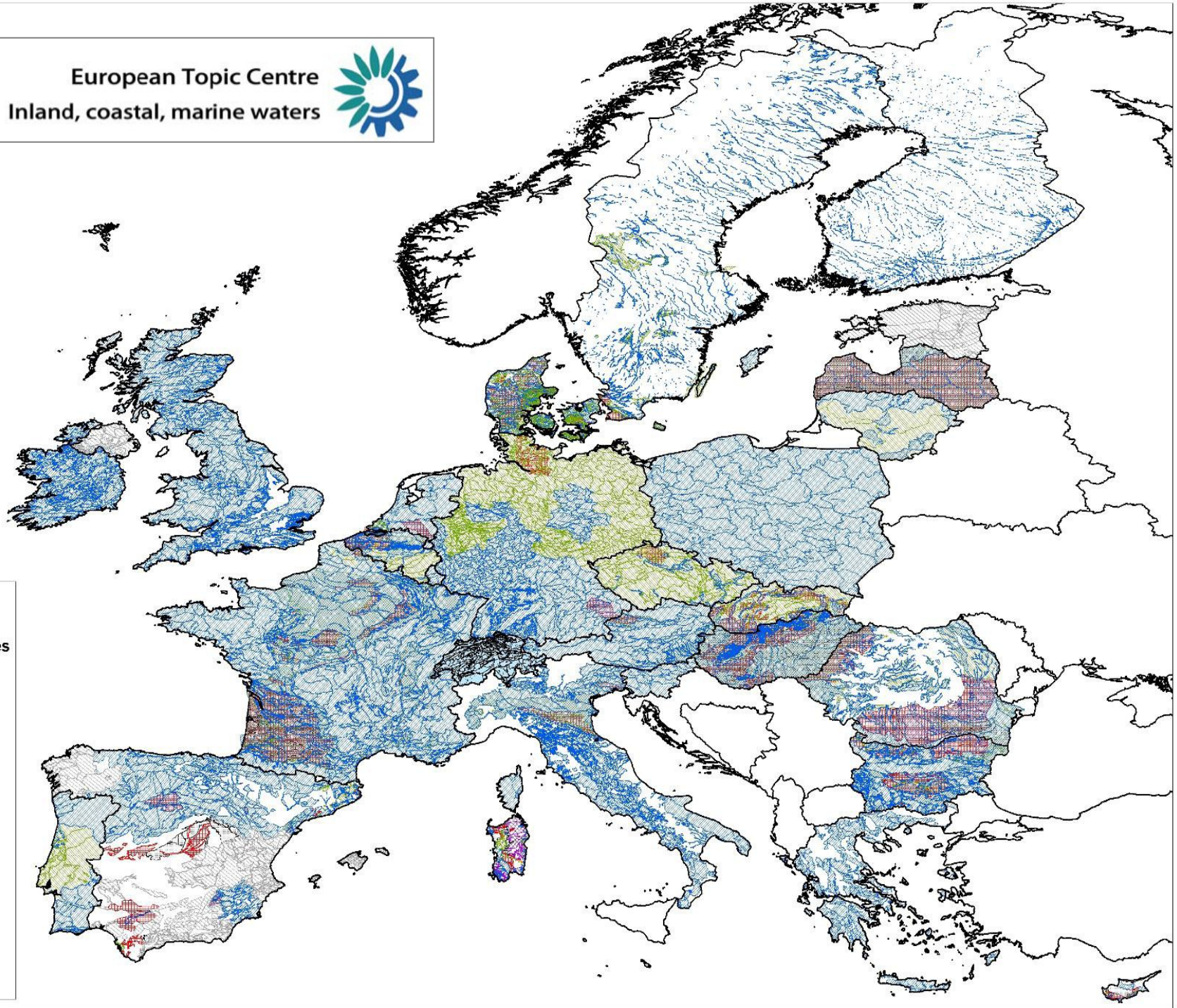






**Legend**  
Groundwater Bodies  
WFD article 13  
1st RBMP

- Groundwater horizon
- 1
  - 2
  - 3
  - 4
  - 5
  - 6 or 7
  - not specified
- Non WFD (CH)



(Status: June 2012)

# IHME results

- **25 printed map sheets at scale 1:1.5 Million**
- **18 Explanatory booklets**
- **IHME map application system and viewer (static)**
- **Scanned sheet data for download (total 1.5 GB, 17-90 MB/sheet)**
- **Integration of the map-app-sys into the WHYMAP map application and embedded WHYMIS (scans of larger scale national maps and links to national map servers)**
- **Digitisation of pertinent IHME map content (aquifers and groundwater characteristics, lithology of near surface layers, lithological boundaries, faults etc, seawater salinisation, springs)**
- **Geo-referencing and transformation of data sets and matching with modern topography (European V-map 1.1 M)**
- **Analysis of lithology data ( cf Andreas Günther)**
- **Comparison with EU-WFD Groundwater Body layer (cf Klaus Duscher)**
- **PEACEFUL COOPERATION of hundreds of European scientists !**

## Potential applications of IHME GIS data, eg.

- Superficial deposits mapping (EGS task force)
- Land slide modelling (JRC cooperation)
- Geochemical characterisation (EGS Expert Group)
- Hydrochemical background values (EGS Water Expert Group)
- Transboundary aquifer assessment (TWAP, UNECE, EU-WFD)
- Water accounting and water balance modelling (EEA, JRC)
- Integration of GW in IWRM in Europe (WFD, RBD)

**.... so this Workshop concludes the „traditional IHME“ and may open the door into the digital IHME era, finally ....**



# **International Hydrogeological Map of Europe 1 / 1 500 000 ( IHME )**

## **Conclusions & Recommendations**

- **Harmonised background information for greater Europe**
- **Generally suitable for pan-European projects**
- **e. g. EU Water Framework Directive  
( Groundwater Daughter Directive )**
- **e. g. UN-ECE study on transboundary aquifers**
- **Digital Map soon available**
- **INSPIRE (INfrastructure for SPatial InfoRmation in Europe)**
- **Subsidiarity: European data sets and nested national data**



# Thank you for your attention

... and thanks to the whole IHME team:

**Herbert Karrenberg**, Deike Bollhagen, Patrick Clos, Klaus Duscher, Andreas Günther, Martin Krombholz, Sepp Krüger, Solveig Mix, Christian Neumann-Redlin, Uta Philipp, Andrea Richts, Bernhard Schmidt, Hartmut Strub, Wilfried Weinmann, Peter Winter

... and of course biggest thanks to more than 330 national IHME contributors



European Topic Centre  
Inland, coastal, marine waters

