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**HARMONISATION OF DATASETS ON SOIL DISTRIBUTION USING WRB – EXPERIENCES FROM A FRENCH-GERMAN CROSS-BOUNDARY SOIL MAP IN THE FRAMEWORK OF INSPIRE**

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*Cross-boundary harmonised information on soil distribution is still a deliverable in the European Union. This has recently been addressed by the INSPIRE directive by giving rules how existing digital data on spatial distribution of soil should be formatted in order to be interoperable, i.e. exchangeable between electronic systems and connectable to spatially adjoining datasets without much effort. Harmonisation of such connecting datasets has been defined as a deliverable that has to be addressed if feasible only. One of the components of harmonisation is the use of the international soil classification World Reference Base for Soil Resources (WRB), for which a simplified structure is implemented in the INSPIRE Data Specifications Soil. Within the framework of the eContentPlus project GS Soil, we produced a French-German 1 : 250.000 draft soil map covering an area between south-western Germany (Baden-Württemberg) and the Région Alsace. The data originate from DONESOL soil database of INRA on the French side, and from the German soil database 1 : 200.000 (BÜK 200) from BGR. With this example, we evaluate the overall suitability of WRB, and the need of a minimum set of core parameters of soil profiles to correlate between the French and German map legends, and how the INSPIRE structure fits the ideas of the “Guidelines for constructing small-scale map legends using the World Reference Base for Soil Resources”. The example gives insights into capabilities and challenges of harmonisation between mapping projects with different philosophies and approaches.*