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HOW TO COORDINATE SOIL INFORMATION ACROSS POLITICAL BOUNDARIES. A 1:200,000 APPROACH

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To coordinate soil information in Germany, a network of soil specialists of the respective authorities of the 16 federal state agencies and the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR) has been formed. This network, the "Ad-hoc-AG Boden" synchronizes data sets, soil maps and methods across the 16 federal state areas. In 1990, this network started to develop a mutual basis for a common German soil map at scale 1:200,000. This map became the first German soil map under a standard, decided to be the only common cross border dataset for soil information of Germany. One of the most important steps in preparing a mapping manual for the 1:200,000 scales was the definition of a soil regions concept, which was later enlarged to the area of the European Union in close cooperation with the members of the European Soil Bureau Network (ESBN) (HARTWICH et al. 2006). This regional concept has turned out to be one of the most crucial prerequisites for the compilation of harmonized soil maps for the different regions. Now, where about 80 % of the German area is covered by printed maps, it seems to be necessary to review the soil regions concept again, to recheck the consistency of the developed data bases, and to think about the development of an updated soil map of Germany at scale 1:1,000,000.