



# The FOREGS periodic table of stream sediment in Europe

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The FOREGS Geochemical Atlas of Europe is a cooperative project of the Geochemistry Task Group (presently the EuroGeoSurveys' Geochemistry Expert Group).

It is the first multi-national and multi-sample media continental-scale geochemical mapping project that followed the specifications of IGCP 259 '*International Geochemical Mapping*'<sup>(1)</sup> for the establishment of the European Geochemical Reference Network.

The project started in 1997 with the compilation of the FOREGS Geochemical Mapping Field Manual<sup>(2)</sup>, and the training of all sampling teams.

The sampling scheme used the Global Terrestrial Network (GTN) grid cells of 160x160 km. Five random points were generated in each GTN grid cell. For sampling, the nearest second order stream was selected, and its corresponding third order stream. Samples of active stream sediment, stream water, and residual soil (top and bottom) were collected from second order streams of <100 km<sup>2</sup> in area, and floodplain sediment from third order streams of 1000 to 6000 km<sup>2</sup> in area.

All stream sediment samples were analysed for the same suite of elements/parameters in the same laboratory, following a tight quality control scheme.

The project was completed in 2006 with the publication of a two-volume Geochemical Atlas, and the release of all the analytical data, text and maps through a dedicated website hosted by the Geological Survey of Finland (<http://weppi GTK fi/publ/foregsatlas/>).

