

Cross-border journalism, the huge opportunity

Ana Tudela, DATADISTA



Let's make a huge international
newsroom serving national, regional,
local investigations.

And journalism will regain one
of its main goals.

We have so much in common

- Common problems
- Sometimes common regulation
- Globalised way of living
- More or less common markets
- We are producers and consumers, workers and employers, all possible migrants at a global dimension



The idea

- Something you want to investigate in your country and learn from others (the radar on)
- Or something you have already investigate in your country but can achieve a new dimension if open to a broader perspective
- Also an idea coming from others that can fits in your area of investigation (be opened)

1- Find the common point (s)

- A problem that exists in different countries
- A common legislation that should be accomplish
- A common way of presenting data/information

1.1 And the difference (s)

- The specificities of each country

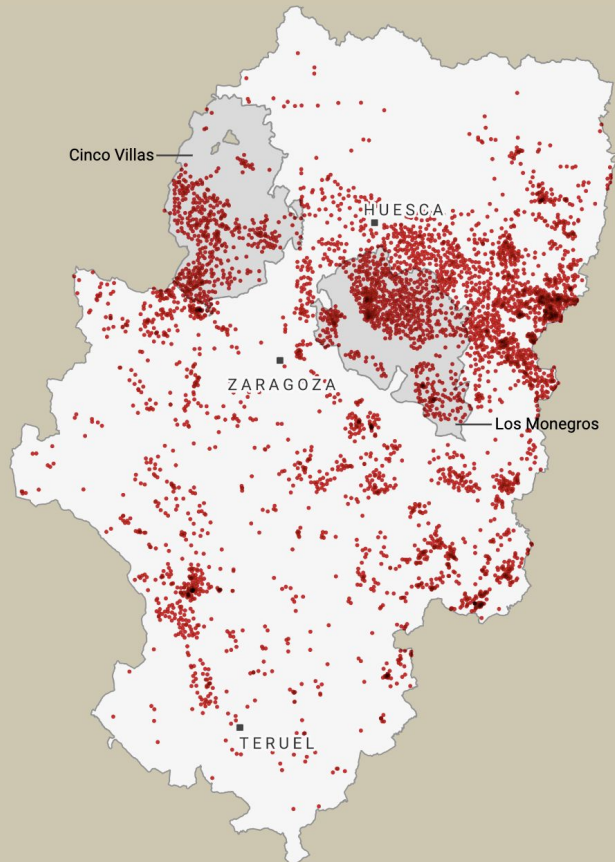


The dark trace in the water of the cheap meat big business

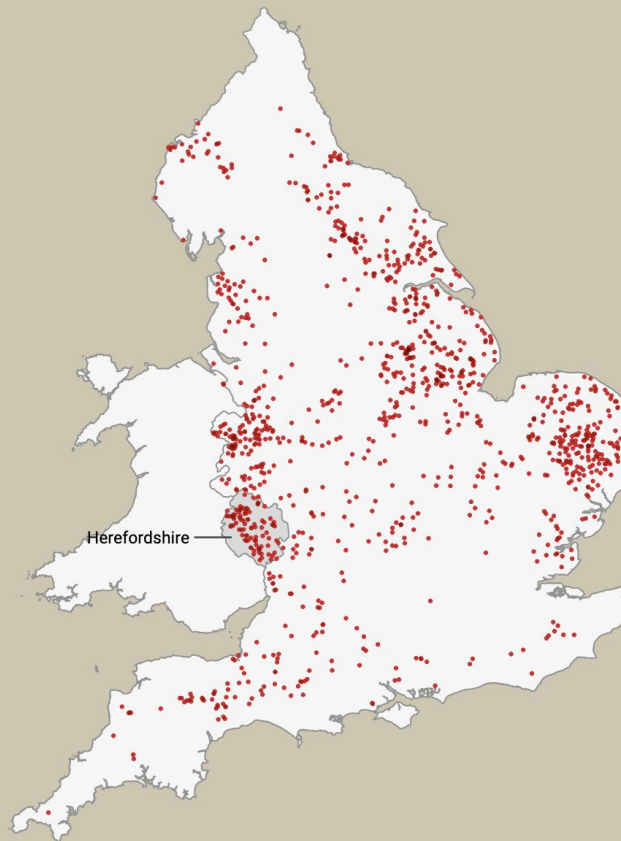
SUPPORTED BY:



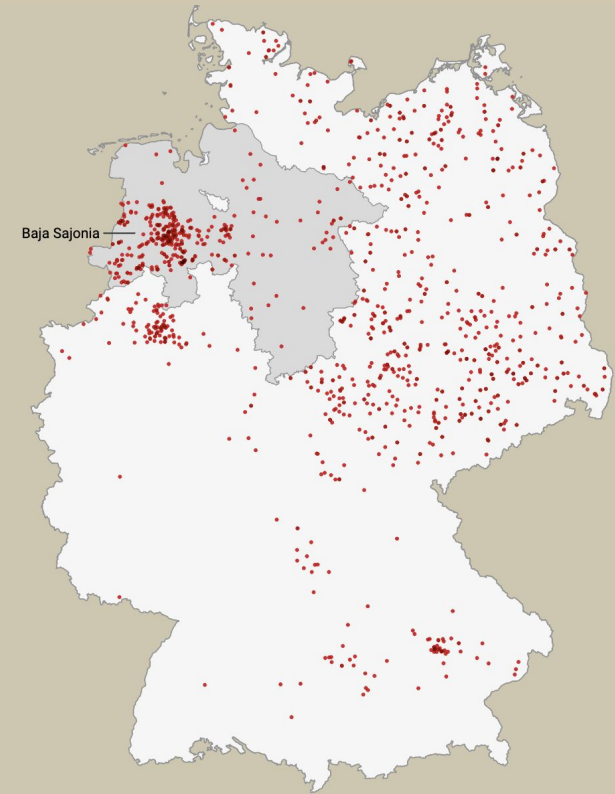
Journalismfund Europe
Strengthening democracy



The regions of Cinco Villas and Los Monegros have more than a million pigs in hundreds of industrial livestock farms | Source: Government of Aragon



More than a thousand poultry farms across England are licensed to hold 40,000 birds or more | Source: Environment Agency



In some areas in Lower Saxony - home to more than 7 million pigs - the density of pigs is four times the national average | Source: European Environment Agency

El oscuro rastro en el agua del negocio de la carne barata



- Climate Journalism Award 2023 (Datos) del European Journalism Center
- Premio API 2023 (Datos) de la Asociación de Periodistas de Investigación de España
- Nominado a los premios Gabo 2023 en la categoría de Cobertura
- Mención especial en los III premios Vicente Verdú de periodismo e innovación

Con el apoyo de:



2- Finding partners

2.1. WHO:

Staffers/ freelancers

- Advantages and disadvantages of both and the great idea of mixing partners.
 - Staffers: impact of a known media, they do not struggle with their Budget... but also: sometimes it is difficult to deal with some of them, be diplomatic to spread the culture of collaboration
 - Freelancers: Used to work with hard circumstances, very used to pitch, much easier for sharing their visuals, sometimes difficulties to meet the date compromises, they need money to be part of the project

2.2. WHERE:

Be part of the conversation

- Participate in forums, meetings, working groups...

(DATAHARVEST, PERUGIA INTERNACIONAL JOURNALISM FESTIVAL, VOICES, COLPIN, GABO FESTIVAL...) Be there, do networking, listen others job, pitch your ideas once and again

2.3. HOW:

Look what have been already done, who has already the crossborder culture

TIP: Have a look at Journalism Fund webpage and look who is used to do the crossborder

My initial experience looking for the Under the Surface Project Team



The amazing final team

Project initiators



Arena for Journalism in Europe coordinated this project and wrote the European story.

Journalists: Zeynep Sentek, Jelena Prtoric, Sarah Pilz

Design and web: Dominik Heusel, Benedikt Hebeisen

DATADISTA

Datadista in Spain collected, analysed and prepared the European data for each national partner, and designed the European map.

Journalists: Ana Tudela, Antonio Delgado

Le Monde

Le Monde, France

Journalists: Raphaëlle Aubert, Léa Sanchez

Designers: Léa Girardot, Elsa Delmas

FACTA

Facta, Italy

Journalists: Elisabetta Tola, Marco Boscolo

Project partners

dS De Standaard

De Standaard, Belgium

Journalists: Ine Renson, Maxie Eckert

Information

Dagbladet Information, Denmark

Journalist: Marie Saehl

investico onderzoeksjournalisten

Investico, the Netherlands

Journalist: Marieke Rotman

REPORTERS UNITED

Reporters United, Greece

Journalists: Myrto Boutsis, Eurydice Bersi

Supporters



Journalismfund Europe provided the project with reporting grants for journalists in Spain, Italy and Greece, as well as funds to complete the European map.



Arena for Journalism in Europe's Climate Network funded the project's preliminary data work and coordinated the media partners. The Climate Network is supported by European Climate Foundation and Laudes Foundation.

(TIP: never be afraid or ashamed of your idea or your size, think big and go for it any time you can)

3 -The compromise: sign a MOU

Crossborder has a lot to do with confidence and trust between each other but the more is written, **the better.**

The nicest and longest relationships start with a:

“This is a Memorandum of Understanding and a Non-Disclosure-Agreement for the (name of the investigation),

a cross-border and cross-field project investigating (the issue)”



PARTS OF THE MOU:

- 3.1- BACKGROUND

- What is going to be investigated
- Which are going to be the elements (a repository, a map, a landing page that you pretend to produce...)
- Who is going to do what for the common parts.
- What are the rest going to do

- 3.2- PURPOSE AND SCOPE

- Starting point
- What do you pretend to discover and why it is better on a cross-border approach
- By which method (s): FOIA requests from multiple countries, on the ground work, data/maps
- Who is going to be part of the Project/sign the MOU

- 3- TEAM MEMBERS

- 4- TEAM ETHICS

- Basic points
- Way to solve problems

- 5- COORDINATION (Who and for what)

- 6- RESPONSABILITIES OF TEAM MEMBERS
 - Basic principles
 - Obligations of sharing
 - WHAT IS GOING TO BE SHARED (PHOTOS, VIDEOS, INTERVIEWS...)
 - Obligations for publishing (date, media, Lol...)
 - Conditions for leaving the Project
 - Conditions for changing the compromises (date of publishing...)

Examples:

“The freelancers are responsible for finding their landing publications in their respective countries”.

“Team members who drop out of the investigation are required to not publish information collected during the research. The material they have collected can be used by the team”.

- **7 - TIMELINE**

- How to decide the publication date
- Compromise not to publish anything before that date
- Reasons for not to publish on the date decided and how to communicate it to the team

- **8 - WORKFLOW AND COMMUNICATION**

- Channels
- Periodicity
- How and where sensible information will be shared

- 9 - LEGAL ISSUES

 - The partners are aware of... whatever risks

 - They are responsible of possible... whatever situations

 - The Project does not provide... legal, personal...

 - Threats must be shared.

- 10 - CREDIT

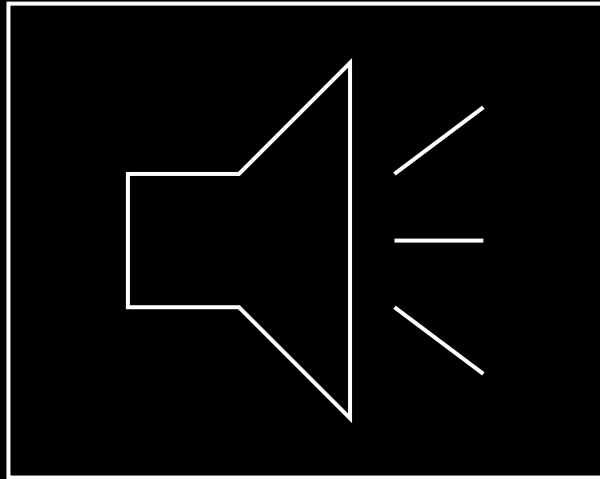
 - Of the Project

 - Of the grants that support the Project

- 11 - AWARDS

Budget & Allocation for Grant Applications

VERY IMPORTANT: When preparing your budget (specially for a grant application), it is essential to clearly separate it into two main categories:



1. EXPENSES

2. WORKING TIME

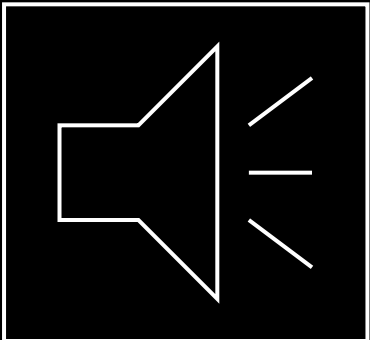
Divide it properly from the beginning

1. Expenses

- **Definition:** Costs associated with project execution.
- **Could include:** Transportation (gasoline), business services (access to company accounts), payments to freelancers (photographers, audiovisual specialists), accommodation (hotel stays).
- **Exclusions:** Meals and equipment purchases are not covered.
- **Guidelines:**
 - **Reimbursement:** Payments are made after providing invoices.
 - **Budget Limits:** Do not exceed the total invoiced costs, although some flexibility is allowed.

2. Working Time

- **Definition:** Compensation for the work performed.
- **Calculation:**
 - **Estimate Hours:** Projected time commitment.
 - **Hourly Rate:** Assign an average cost per hour.
- **Considerations:**
 - Take into account cost of living differences across countries.
 - A common solution is to maintain consistent hourly rates for all team members to ensure fairness.



The critical decision

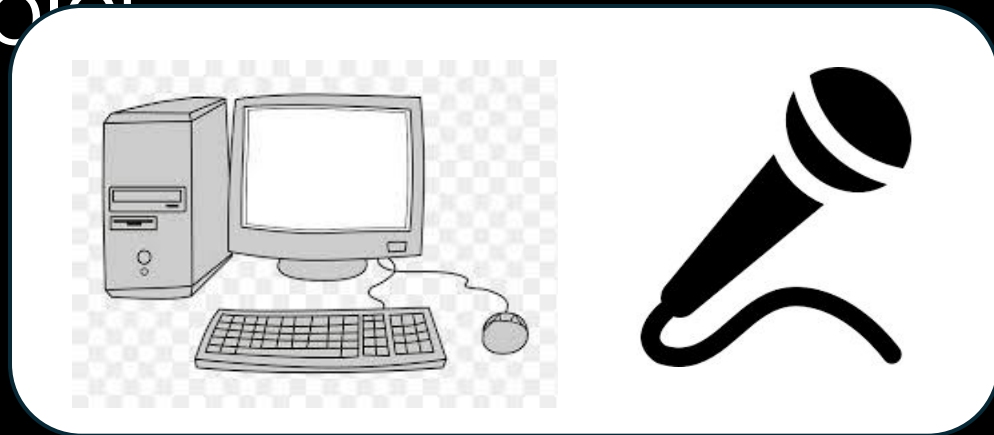
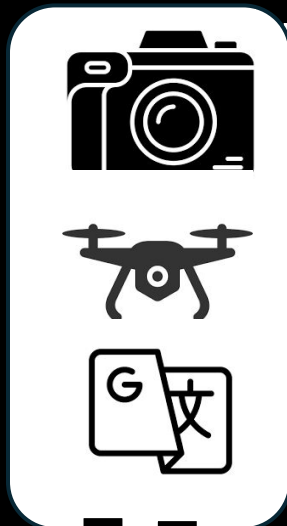
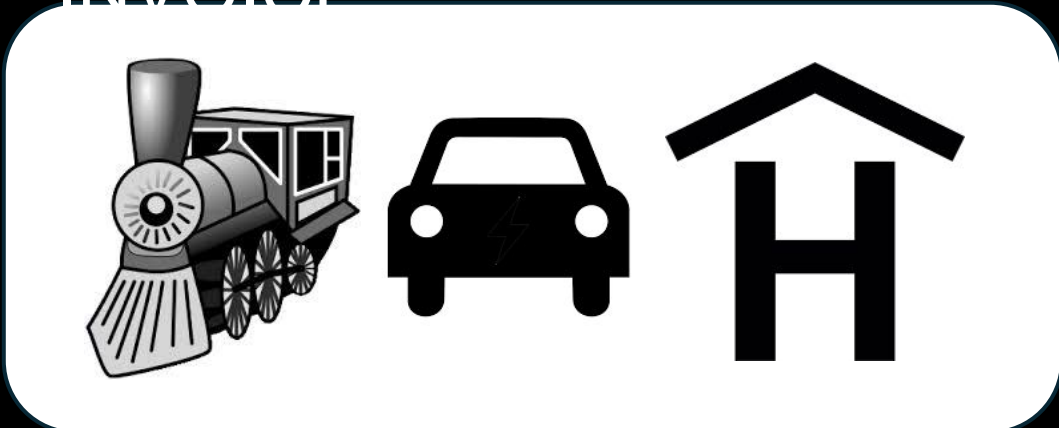
Expenses (EXTERNAL)

(INTERNAL) 

INVOICE



- Working Time



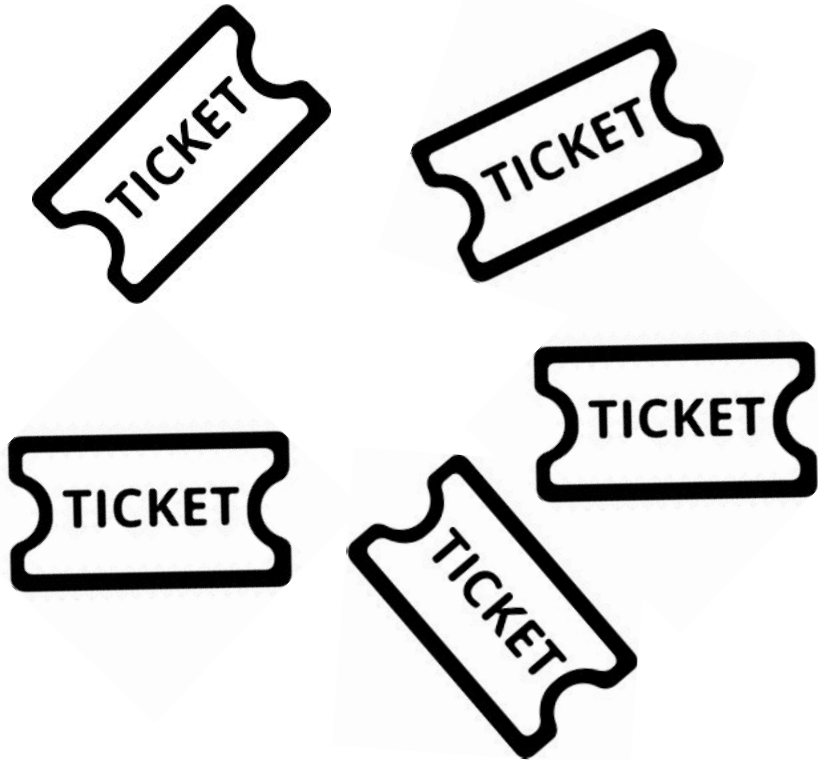
REASONS:

A. BE AWARED that once you received the grant and the investigations evolve may be you will have the chance to reallocate part of the budget if very well justified but as soon as you do not cross the line between expenses and working time.

B. This distinction ensures a well-organized and transparent budget that aligns with grant requirements and clearly defines each team member's involvement.

TIPS

- Save the tickets, invoices... WITH YOUR OWN LIFE
- Encourage your partners to do the same.
- BE ORGANIZED.



DATADISTA crossborder experience



The hidden crisis in Europe's groundwater

WITH THE SUPPORT OF

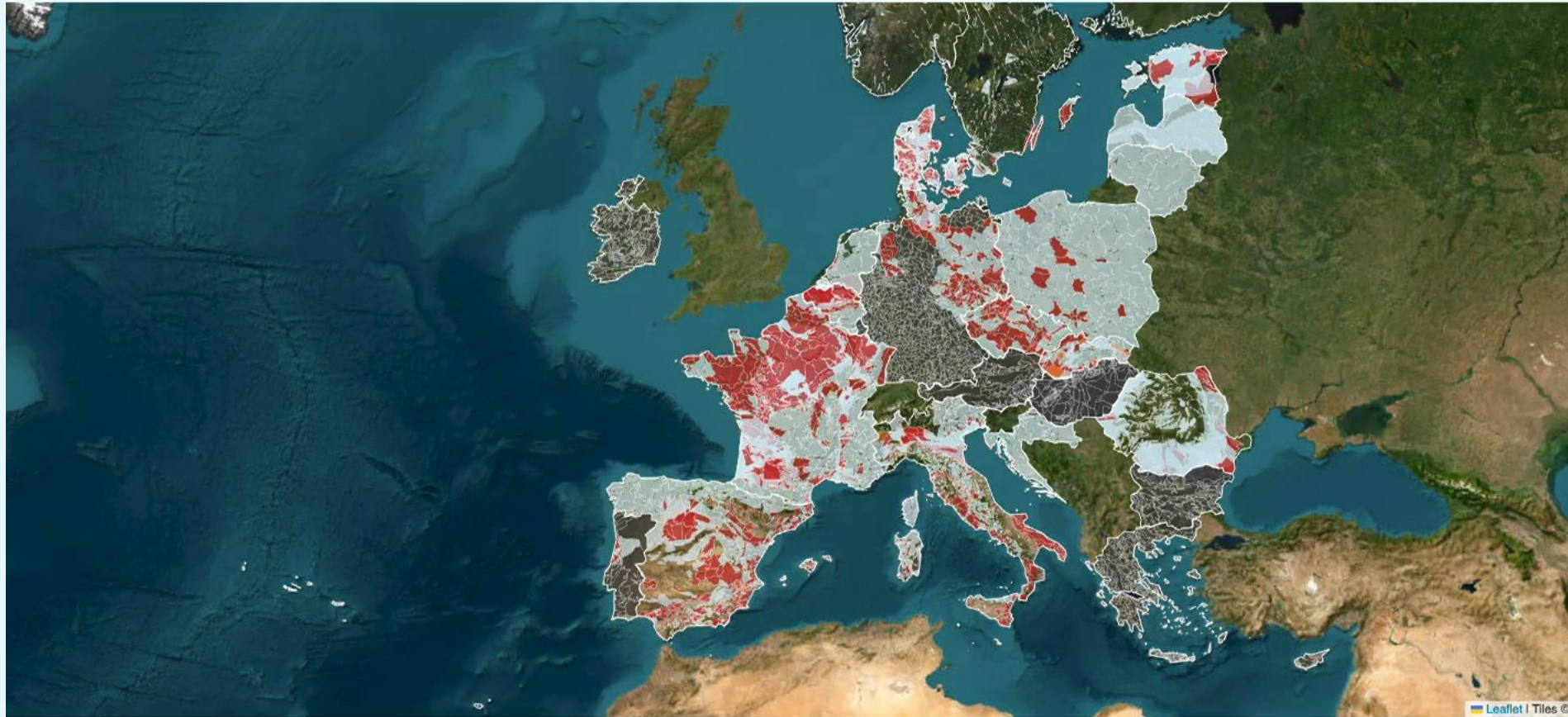


Journalismfund Europe



INTERACTIVE MAP: Know the status of the European Union groundwater

■ Good status ■ Poor status ■ Unknown status ■ Mandatory data not yet reported and/or disclosed



Situation of 10,867 groundwater bodies according to third cycle plans (2022-2027) | Source: European Environment Agency. Data updated as May 13, 2024

IMPACT DESCRIPTION OF THE RISK

- L** Groundwater level decrease (aquifer depth, water volume) due to extractions.
- N** Nutrient pollution, mainly from fertilizers and animal waste, above the legal limit (50 mg/l) or close to the limit with an upward trend.

IMPACT DESCRIPTION OF THE RISK

- Q** Decrease in surface water quality associated with chemical or quantitative impact.
- I** Alterations in the direction of water flow due to saline intrusion.
- S** Saline intrusion or contamination.

REKES WATERNOOD

Uitgeput, vervuild, verwaarloosd: het drama van het Europese grondwater



De Standaard



DATADISTA

elDiario.es
Periodismo a pesar de todo



REKES WATERNOOD
Zelfs in het natte Vlaanderen wordt water schaars

DATADISTA

MEDIOAMBIENTE SALUD PÚBLICA

Veneno en el grifo: ruta por la España sin derecho al agua potable

Por Ana Tudela y Antonio Delgado

26 DE MAYO DE 2024

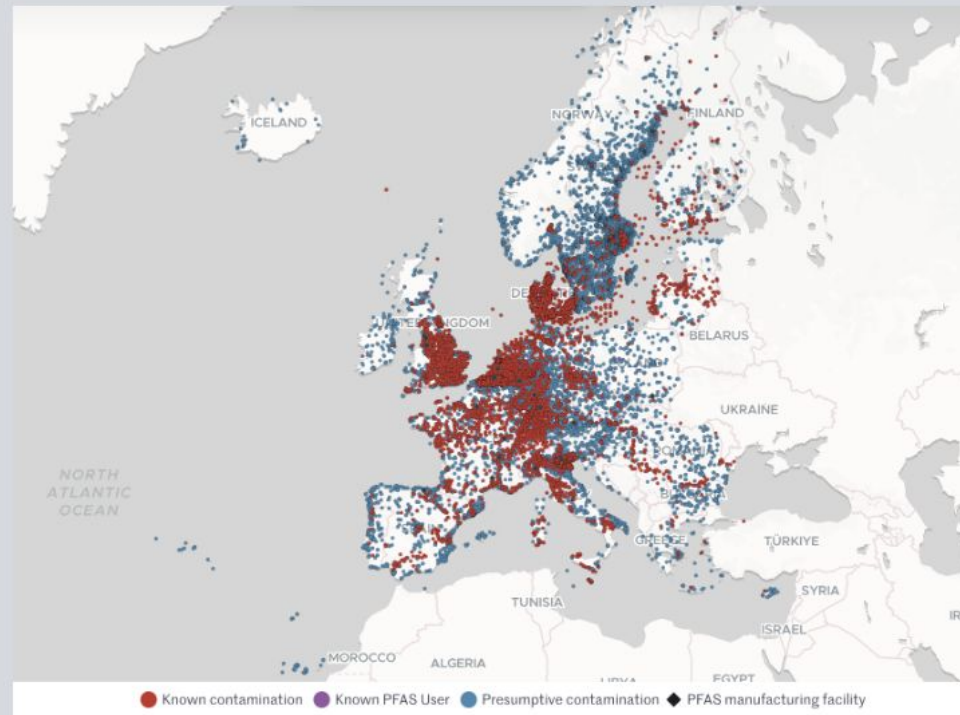
MEDIA

The Forever Pollution Project

Journalists tracking PFAS across Europe

In early 2023, the Forever Pollution Project showed that nearly 23,000 sites all over Europe are contaminated by the “forever chemicals” PFAS. This unique collaborative cross-border and cross-field investigation by 16 European newsrooms revealed an additional 21,500 presumptive contamination sites due to current or past industrial activity. PFAS contamination spreads all over Europe.

► [Read more](#)



Thanks!

hola@datadista.com

adelgado@datadista.com

ana.tudela@datadista.com