

Transboundary groundwater bodies assessment in Gauja-Koiva and Salaca-Salatsi river basins

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Project closing event

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Joint actions for more efficient management of common groundwater resources

WP2 Assessment of common groundwater resources in Gauja-Koiva and Salaca-Salatsi river basins

WP2 A.T2.2 Asessment of the status of transboundary GWBs according to harmonized principles

Subtasks included in the activity:

- > Transboundary GWB delineation in Gauja-Koiva and Salaca-Salatsi river basins;
- Initial characterization of transboundary GWBs;
- Overall status assessment;
- Recommendations for future.

1. Transboundary GWB delineation in Gauja-Koiva and Salaca-Salatsi river basins



1. Data collection. Information exchange on geological/hydrogeological settings and GWBs: data stored on pCloud & created joint google document;



2. Harmonization. Unified stratigraphy, GWBs grouping (by aquifer systems);



3. Transboundary GWBs identification (developed maps, cross-sections, GW flows, watersheds, discussions).

Stratigraphic unit comparision of geological formations in Latvia and Estonia

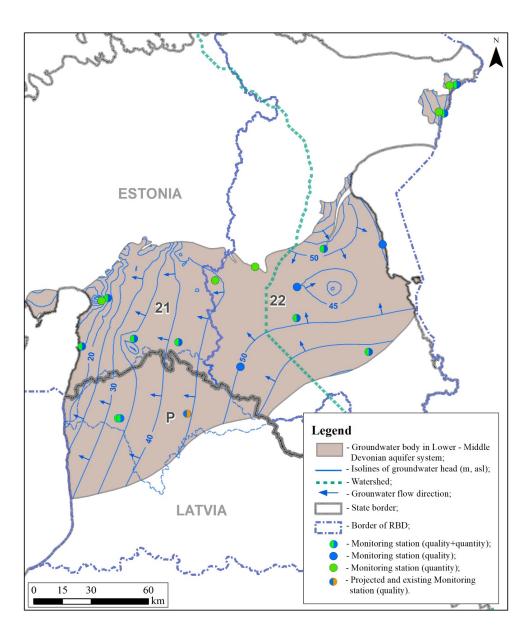
Aquifers	Geological index (LV)	Geological index (EE)	Dominant sediments	Aquifer system (GWBs)
Quaternary	Q	Q	Sand, loam	Quaternary (attached to each GWB)
Stipinai	D ₃ stp	-	Dolomite, marl	
Katleši-	D₃ <i>og</i>	-	Sandstone, marl	Pļaviņas-
Ogre	D ₃ kt	-	Sandstone, marl	Stipinai
Daugava	D₃ <i>dg</i>	D ₃ dg	Dolomite, limestone	(LV GWBs D6
Salaspils	D ₃ slp	D ₃ db	Marl, gypsum, limestone	and
Pļaviņas	D ₃ pl	D ₃ pl	Dolomite, limestone	EE GWB 26)
Amata	D₃am	D ₂ am	Sandstone, siltstone	Aruküla-Amata
Gauja	D₃ <i>gj</i>	D2 <i>gj</i>	Sandstone, siltstone	(LV GWBs A8
Burtnieki	D ₂ br	D ₂ br	Sandstone, siltstone	and A10, EE
Aruküla	D ₂ ar	D ₂ ar	Sandstone, siltstone	GWBs 23, 24 and 25)
Narva reģion	al aquitard D	2 nr	Marl, clay	
Pärnu	D ₂ pr	D ₂ pr	Sandstone, siltstone	Lower-Middle
Rēzekne	D ₁ <i>rz</i>	D ₁ rz	Marl, sandstone	Devonian (LV
Ķemeri	D₁ <i>km</i>	D₁ <i>km</i>	Sandstone, siltstone	GWB P, EE
Gargždai	D₁gr	-	Sandstone, siltstone	GWBs 21 and
Tilžė	-	D ₁ tl	Sandstone, siltstone	22)
Ordovician and Silurian regional aquitard O-S		Marl, solid limestone		
Cambrian	С	Са	Sandstone, siltstone	Vendian-
Vendian			Sandstone, siltstone, gravelite	Cambrian
Archean and Proterozoic crystalline basement AP-PR			Gneiss, granite	

within and and GWBs in Latvian-Estonian border area 22 Identification **ESTONIA** • 10 GWBs in LV-EE border area (6 EE and 4 LV) 21 23 24 • Harmonization – grouped in 3 groups (by hydrogeological settings – aquifer systems) A10 25 1. Lower-Middle Devonian (A); **A**8 D6 2. Middle-Upper Devonian (B); 3. Upper Devonian (C); С В А ESTONIA ESTONIA ESTONIA 24 A10 26 26 LATVIA **A8** 21 22 LATVIA LATVIA

Identification of transboundary GWBs

1.GWBs in Lower-Middle Devonian aquifer system

GWBs	GWBs 21, 22, P						
RBDs 3 (East and West-Estonian RBDs, Gauja RBD)							
Situation							
 Deeper GWBs not strictly related to RBDs; Hydrogeologicaly connected; 							
	22 – not in Gauja/Koiva or						
Salac	a/Salatsi river basin;						

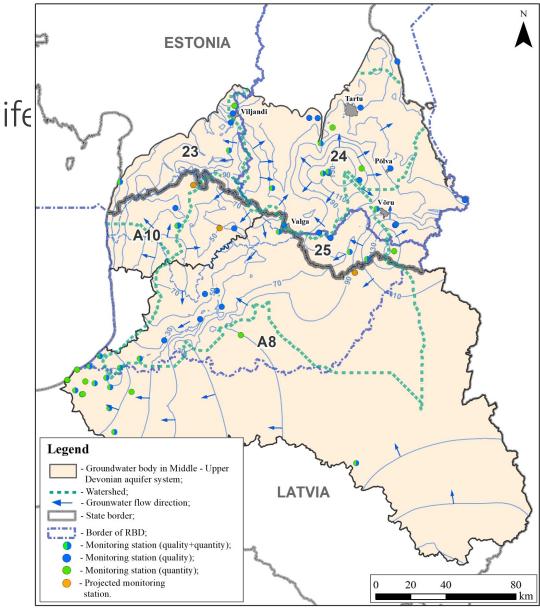


Identification of transboundary GWBs

2.GWBs in **Middle-Upper Devonian** aquifessystem

GWBs	23, 24, 25, A10, A8		
RBDs	3 (East and West-Estonian RBDs, Gauja-Koiva RBD		
Situation			

- Hydrogeologicaly connected: 23 with A10; 25 with A8;
- GWB 24– not in Gauja/Koiva or Salaca/Salatsi river basin;

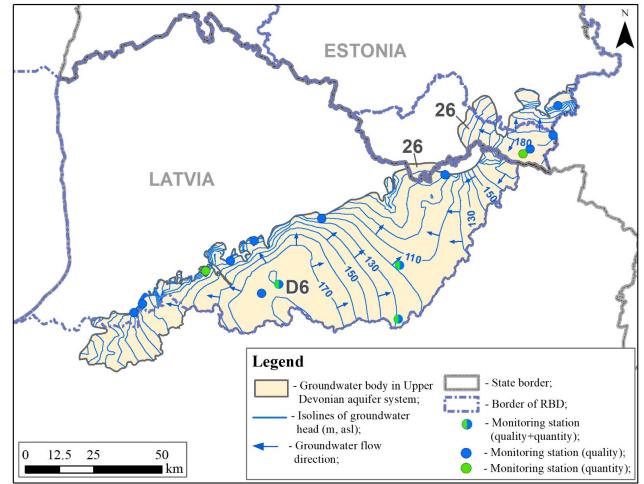


Identification of transboundary GWBs

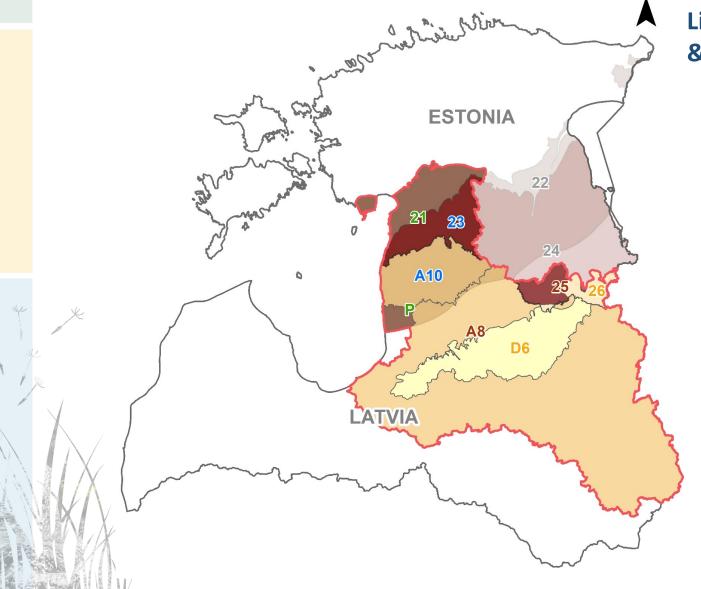
3.GWBs in **Upper Devonian** aquifer system

GWBs	26, D6					
RBDs	Gauja-Koiva RBD					
Situation						
More related to RBD;						

• Hydrogeologicaly connected;



Result of Latvian-Estonian transboundary groundwater body delineation



List of transboundary GWBs in Gauja/Koiva & Salaca/Salatsi RBs

Latvian GWBs	Estonian GWBs			
Upper Devonian aquifer system				
D6	26			
Middle - Upper Dev	onian aquifer system			
A8 A10	25 23			
Lower - Middle Devonian aquifer system				
Р	21			

Transboundary	Nation	Total	Area	Aquifer characterization		Main	Overlying	Criteria for
GWB	al GWB	Area (km²)	(km²)	Aquifer Type	Confined	use	strata (m)	importan ce
GWB-1 Upper	D6	5617.1	4891	F, P	Yes	DRW, IND	0-180	GW
Devonian	26	5017.1	726.1	r, r ies		0-180	resources; GW use	
GWB-2 Upper- Middle	A8	28 671	27349	Р	Yes	DRW, IND	0-200	GW resources;
devonian	25		1322					GW use
GWB-3 Upper- Middle	A10	5662	3321	Р	Yes	DRW, IND	0-155	GW resources;
devonian	23	5001	2341	•			0 100	GW use
GWB-4 Middle-	Р		4394	_		DRW, IND		GW resources;
Lower Devonain	21	8844	4450	Р	Yes		0-280	GW use

Aquifer Type – P- Porous, K - Karstic, F - Fissured

Main use - DRW = Drinking water / AGR = Agriculture / IRR = Irrigation / IND = Industry / GW resources, DRW protection, dependent ecosystems; > 4000 km², GW use, GW resources SPA = Balneology / CAL = Caloric energy / OTH = Other. Multiple selections possible.

Overlying strata Indicates a range of thickness (minimum and maximum in meters)

Conceptual model (characterization)

- A common table for characterization / conceptual understanding was developed (WP1, AT1.1)
- *Compiled information used for GWB assessment*

Example: Situation for GWB-1 (D6 & 26)

Characte		Groundwater bodies in Opper	Devonian aquifer system (GWB-1)
Groundwater body number/code		26	D6
River basin district		East Estonian/Koiva	Gauja
Aquifer system		Quaternary, Upper Devonian	Quaternary, Upper Devonian
Area (km²)		726,1	4891
Physiographic characteristics		height of the terrain varies from about 100 to 230 m a.s.l. Small part of	Territory has a changing relief - in the western part there is a plain, the central part and the eastern part are formed by highlands, while the rest of the area formed by wavy plains. The absolute height of the terrain varies from about 90 to 265 m a.s.l., but the relative height is about 176.6 m a.s.l.
	Lithology	The lithological composition of the aquifer-forming rocks is quite homogenous. The aquifers are hosted by thick-bedded limestone and dolomitized limestone of the Upper Devonian Plavinas Stage and the overlying Quaternary sediments. The lower part of the formation consists of domerite and marl of the Snetnaja Gora Formation, which can be viewed as a local semi-permeable aquitard.	Geological structure that forms the aquiter system are composed of sandstone and dolomite. The local aquitards consist mainly of dolomite ma siltstone and clay. Dominated by porous rock material. Moraine loam, moraine loam, sand and clay are common in the overlanning Quaternary.
Hydrogeological	GWB thickness	The thickness of the bedrock aquifers is in the range of 30–40 m; the thickness of the overlying Quaternary deposits is mostly in the range of 5–10 m, locally up to 20 m.	The thickness of the bedrock reaches up to 105 meters, the average thickness 30 m; the thickness of the overlaying Quaternary sediments in the plains is i range of 5-25 m up to 75-135 m in the hills. The average thickness of Quaternary sediments is about 50-60 m.
characteristics	Overlying aquitard	The Quaternary sediments overlying the bedrock aquifers consist mainly of loamy till, which has a hydraulic conductivity of 0.1–1.0 m/d.	The Quaternary sediments overlying the bedrock aquifers consist mainly of moraine loam, sand and clay.
	Underlying aquitard	The domerite, marl and clay of the Snetnaja Gora Formation	The clay, dolomite marls and clayey siltstones of Amata formation or lower part of Plavinas formation
	Groundwater level	The aquifers are mostly phreatic. Groundwater level is usually about 20–30 m below ground surface. The absolute height of the groundwater level is in the range of 165–175 m.	Theight of the groundwater level in the highlands reach about $1/(0-200)$ m in
	Flow direction	The most important groundwater divide in the area is the Haanja Heights, from where the groundwater flows to the south and west towards the edges of the height. Groundwater seeps out in the river valleys and a portion of its volume also infiltrates deeper into the Middle-Devonian aquifers.	The main groundwater flows are from Vidzeme Heights, Alūksne Heights and Haanja Heigths (Estonia) in the direction of lower areas - Gauja river valley
Hydrodynamics	Filtration coefficient	The transmissivity of the aquifers forming the groundwater body is in the range of 30–300 m ² /d (Perens et al., 2012). The lateral flow velocity of groundwater is in the range of 1–10 m/d and can reach up to 50 m/d in karst aquifers (Ibid.).	The transmissivity of the aquifers forming the groundwater body is in the
	Recharge and regime	The groundwater flows radially away from the Haanja Heights and the local hillocks towards topographically lower regions throughout the year. The amount of infiltrating water depends on the composition of local Quaternary cover. In areas with waterlogged soils or in areas underlain by clayey deposits the infiltration rate can be negligible.	Main recharge areas are located in central part of Vidzeme highland and eastern part of Alüksne highland, discharge in topographically lower region:
		Groundwater in the groundwater body is mainly of the Ca-HCO3- type, with TDS concentrations ranging from 200 to 600 mg/L. The chloride concentrations are usually <15 mg/L. The concentrations of NO3? are also low and do not exceed 5 mg/L in most cases. In terms of	Ca-Mg-HCO3 type freshwaters with mineralization up to 1 g/l predominate. Elevated concentrations of sulphate ions above 250 mg / l have been observed in local areas in the Z part of the facility.

GWB-1 Upper Devonian aquifer system

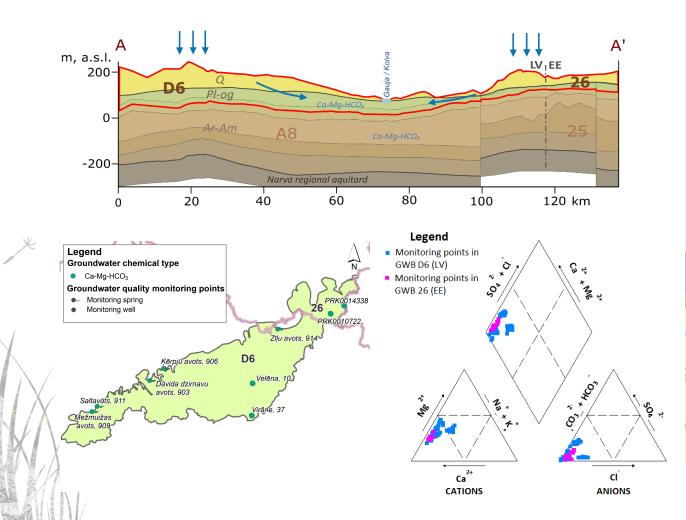
- Total area: 5617.1 km² (D6 4891 km²; 26 726.1 km²)
- Aquifer type fracturated;
- **Geology** dolomites, limestones, also sandstones;
- Water use drinking water, industrial (in Estonialocally);

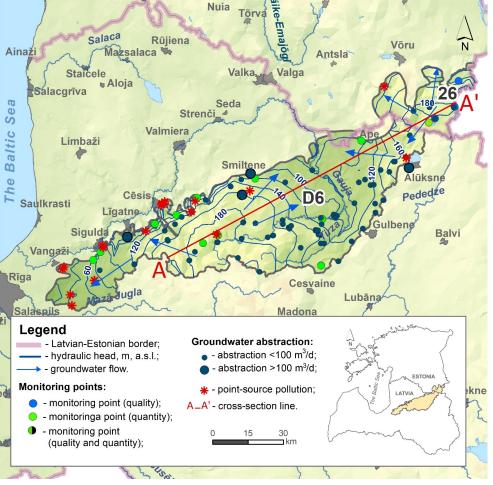


Anthropogenic pressure:

	Aquifer system	GWB	Point source pressure	Diffuse source pressure	GW abstraction
X	1. Upper	26	Not significant	Not significant	Not significant
/1	Devonian	D6	Not significant	Not significant	Not significant

Conceptual model for GWB-1 (D6 & 26)





GWB-2 Upper-Middle Devonian aquifer system

- Total area: 28671 km² (A8 27349 km²; 25 1322 km²);
- Aquifer type porous;
- Geology sandstones;
- **Overlying aquifers** Upper Devonian GWBs;
- ^{>>} Water use drinking water, industrial;

Anthropogenic pressure:

Aquifer system	GWB	Point source pressure	Diffuse source pressure	GW abstraction	Jein
2. Upper- Middle	25	Not significant	Not significant	Not significant	
Devonian	A8	Significant	Not significant	Not significant	



Legend Groundwater abstraction: **Conceptual model for GWB-2 (A8 & 25)** Latvian-Estonian border; abstraction <100 m³/d; - hydraulic head, m, a.s.l.; abstraction >100 m³/d; ESTONIA + - point-source pollution; Monitoring points: A_A'- cross-section line: - overlying Upper Devonian monitoring point (quality); ΔΤΥΙΔ aquifer system. monitoringa point (quantity); LV , EE • monitoring point (quality) nitrate vulnerable zone m, a.s.l. Q and quantity); 20 40 Pl-oa 0-25 Ar-Am A8 Ca-Mg-HCO3 Salaca Ainaži Ð Salacgrīva S Baltic -500-S1 80 200km 0 20 40 60 100 120 140 160 180 The Alüksne Saulkra PRK0011495 PRK0011890 Legend Monitoring points in 25 PRK0010890 GWB A8 (LV) PRK0013376 Monitoring points in Dukulu spring GWB 25 (EE) Lielās ellītes spring icamavots 👝 - Līdumnieku sprina **A8** Inčukalns Varaklāni Inesciems Salasnils Legend Groundwater chemical type Ca-Mg-HCO3 Na-HCO3 A Na-Cl No dominant type Ca-SO4 Groundwater quality monitoring point Ca Monitoring spring CATIONS ANIONS ●▲■ Monitoring well Distribution of overlying

Upper-Devonian aguifer system (GWBs D6 & 26)

GWB-3 Upper-Middle Devonian aquifer system

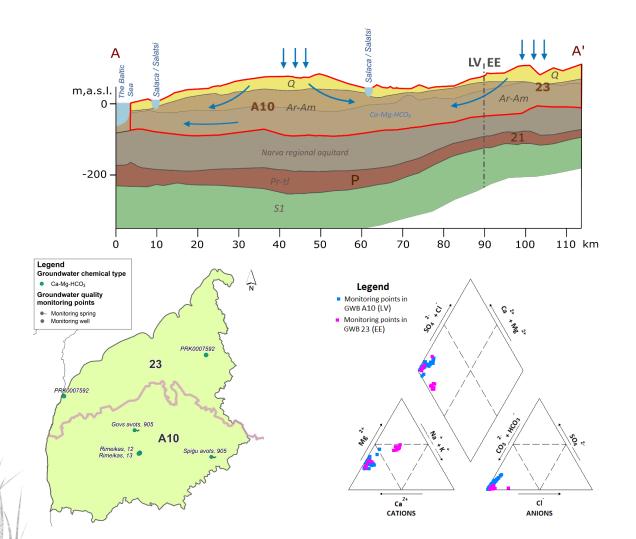
- Total area: 5662 km² (A10 3321 km²; 25 2341 km²)
- Aquifer type porous;
- Geology sandstones;
- Water use drinking water, industrial;

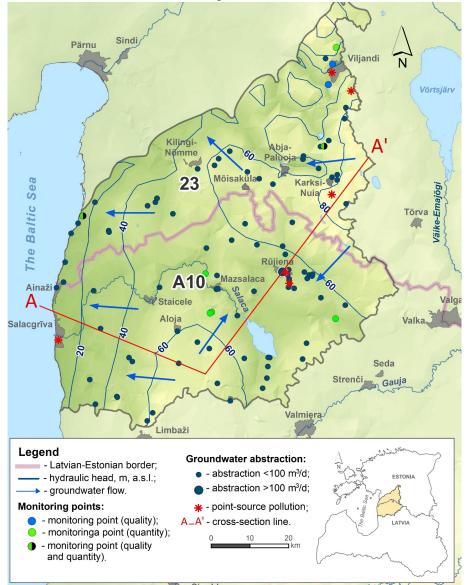
Anthropogenic pressure:

Aquifer system	GWB	Point source pressure	Diffuse source pressure	GW abstraction
3. Upper- 23		Not significant	Not significant	Not significant
Middle Devonian	A10	Not significant	Not significant	Not significant



Conceptual model for GWB-1 (A10 & 25)



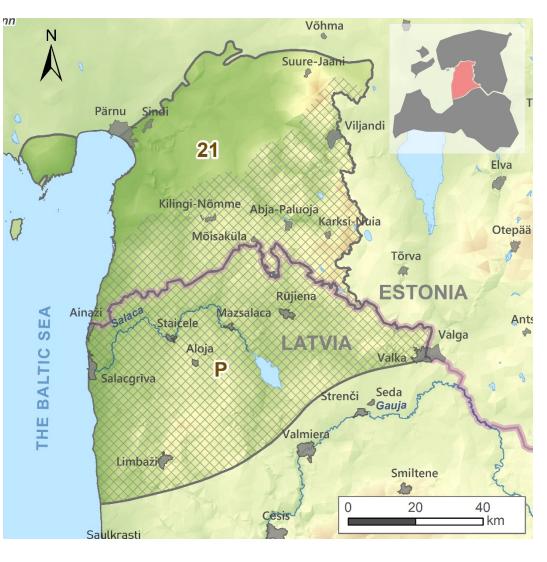


GWB-4 Lower-Middle Devonian aquifer system

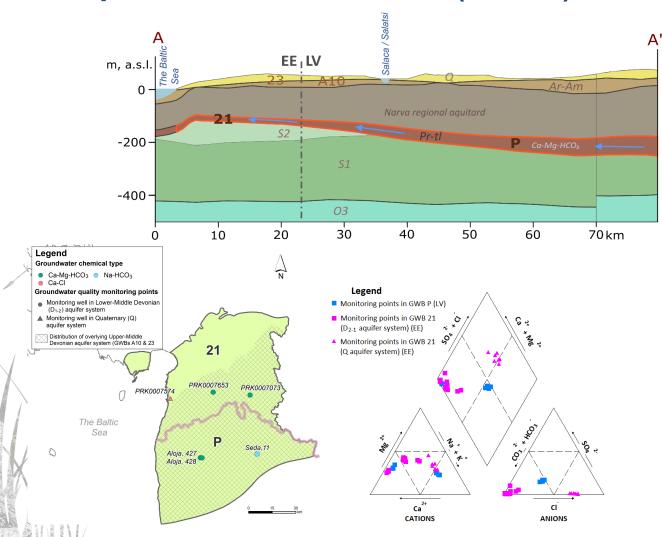
- Total area: 8844 km² (P 4394 km²; 25 4450 km²)
- Aquifer type porous;
- Geology sandstones;
- Water use drinking water, industrial;

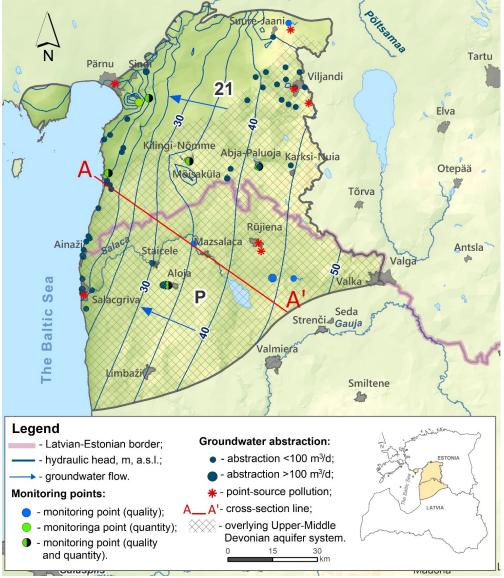
Pressure assessment:

Aquifer system	GWB	Point source pressure	Diffuse source pressure	GW abstraction
4. Lower-	21	Not significant	Not significant	Not significant
Middle Devonian	Ρ	Not significant	Not significant	Not significant



Conceptual model for GWB-4 (P & 21)





3. Status assessment of transboundary GWBs

Assessment carried out based on harmonized principles (WP1)

1. Chemical status assessment tests:

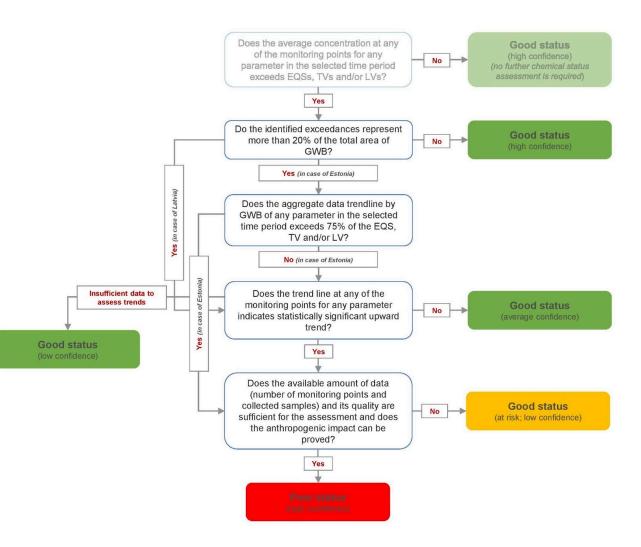
- 1. General quality assessment;
- 2. Saline or other intrusions;
- 3. Groundwater associated aquatic ecosystems;
- 4. Groundwater dependent terrestrial ecosystems;
- 5. Drinking water protected areas.

2. Quantitative status assessment tests:

- 1. Water balance assessment test;
- 2. Saline or other intrusions;
- 3. Groundwater associated aquatic ecosystems;
- 4. Groundwater dependent terrestrial ecosystems.

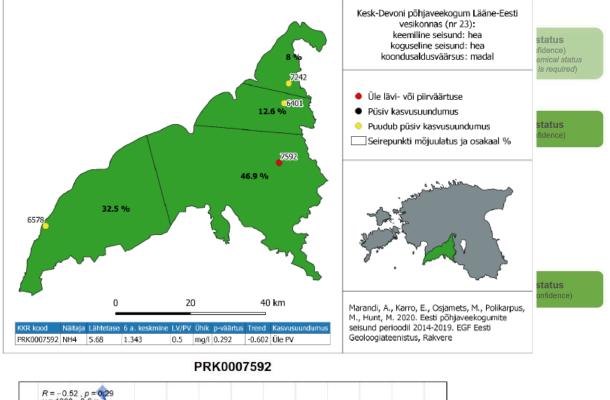
Test 1. General quality assessment

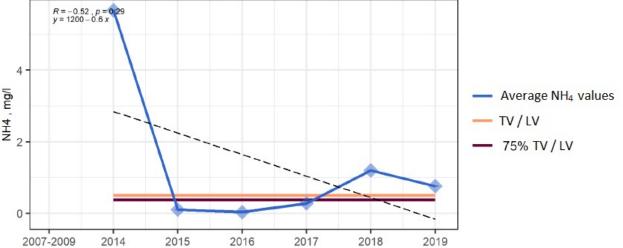
- In Latvia exceedences of TVs in GWB D6 & A8 do not exceed the 20% criterion - good status with high confidence;
- In Estonia exceedences of TVs/LVs detected in GWB 23 & 21;
 - in GWB 21: mean COD values > TV, do no exceed 20% criterion – GWB in a good status (high confidence);
 - in GWB 23: mean NH₄ values > TV; represents > 20% criterion; no significant upward trend detected - good status with low confidence;
- In GWBs A10, P, 25 and 26 no exceedences detected – good status (high confidence), no further chemical status assessment required!

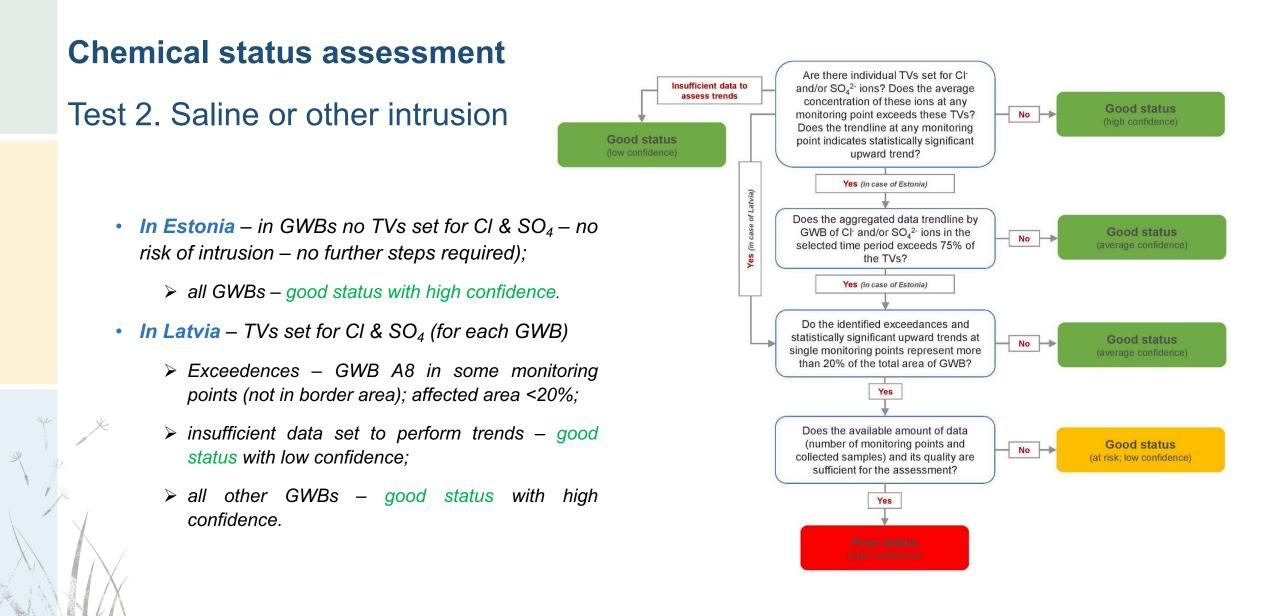


Test 1. General quality assessment

- In Latvia exceedences of TVs in GWB D6 & A8 do not exceed the 20% criterion - good status with high confidence;
- In Estonia exceedences of TVs/LVs detected in GWB 23 & 21;
 - in GWB 21: mean COD values > TV, do no exceed 20% criterion – GWB in a good status (high confidence);
 - in GWB 23: mean NH₄ values > TV; represents > 20% criterion; no significant upward trend detected - good status with low confidence;
- In GWBs A10, P, 25 and 26 no exceedences detected – good status (high confidence), no further chemical status assessment required!







Test 3. Groundwater associated aquatic ecosystems (surface waters)

In Latvia – results from UL project (2021)*

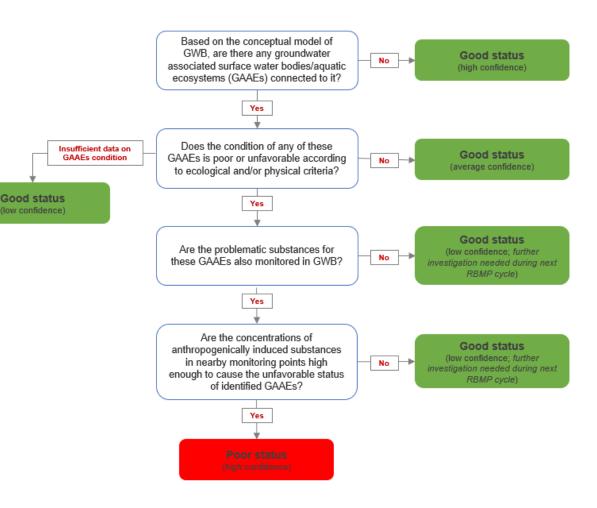
GAAEs identified in GWB A8 & D6.

- GWB D6: no poor quality GAAEs good status (low confidence);
- GWB A8 4 poor quality GAAEs were identified poor ecological quality not related to groundwater – GWB A8 is in good status (low confidence).

In Estonia – GAAEs identified in all transboundary GWBs (21, 23, 25, 26);

- According to GQA test no need to assess GWB 25 & 26
- in GWB 21: 1 poor GAAE, lack of data good chemical status with low confidence;
- In GWB 23: 3 poor GAAEs, but not because of GW good chemical status with average confidence;

*No pazemes ūdeņiem atkarīgo ekosistēmu identificēšana un novērtēšana Latvijas pazemes ūdensobjektu līmenī (Identification and assessment of groundwater dependent ecosystems at the level of Latvian groundwater bodies). Project No. 1-08/205/2020. University of Latvia, 2021



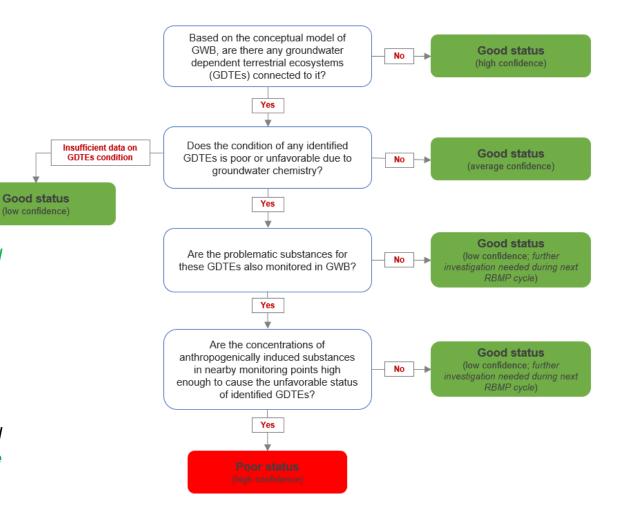
Test 4. Groundwater dependent terrestrial ecosystems (GDTEs)

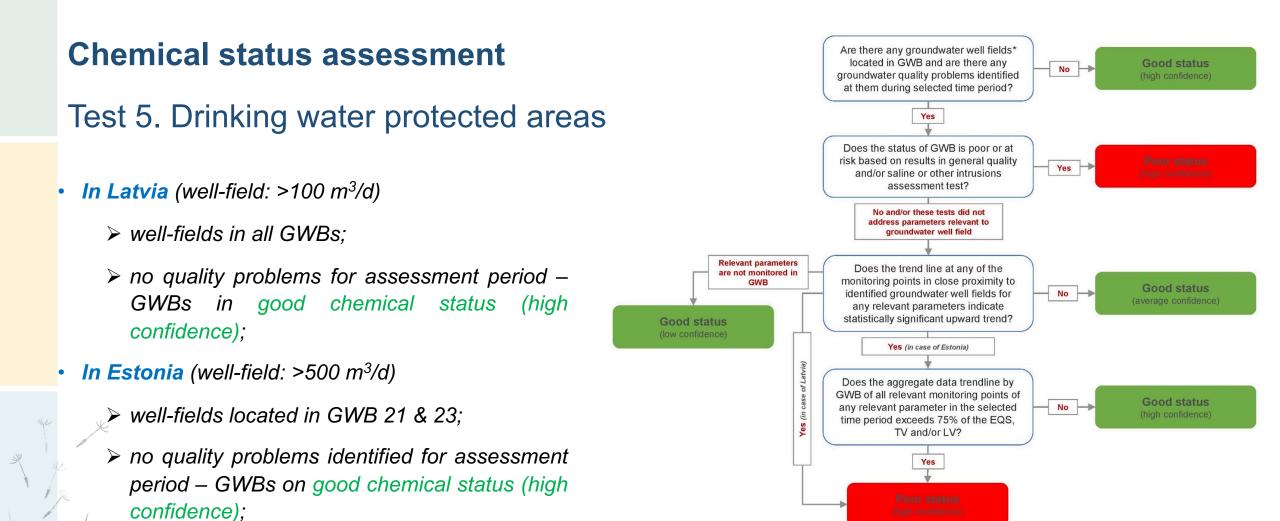
In Latvia – GDTEs identified in GWBs D6, A8 & A10.

- According to GQA test no need to assess GWB A10;
- GDTEs in poor or unfavorable status D6, A8;
- Poor status of GDTEs not because of GW GWBs in good status (low confidence);

In Estonia – GDTEs identified in GWBs 23, 25, 26;

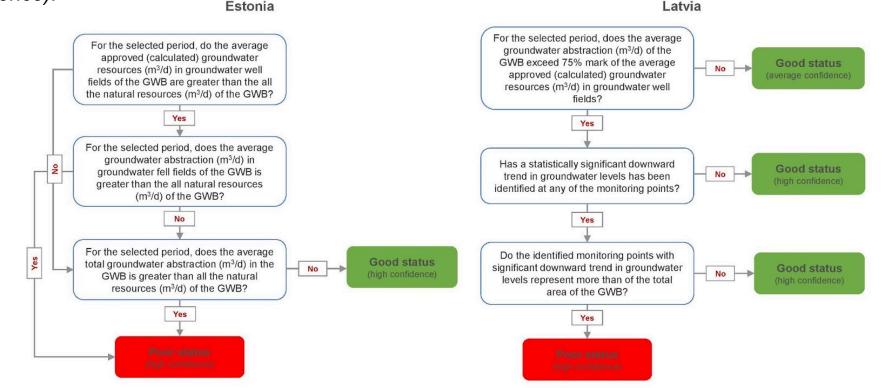
- According to GQA test no need to assess GWBs 25, 26;
- In GWB 23 no GDTEs with status lower than good identified – GWB in good chemical status with average confidence

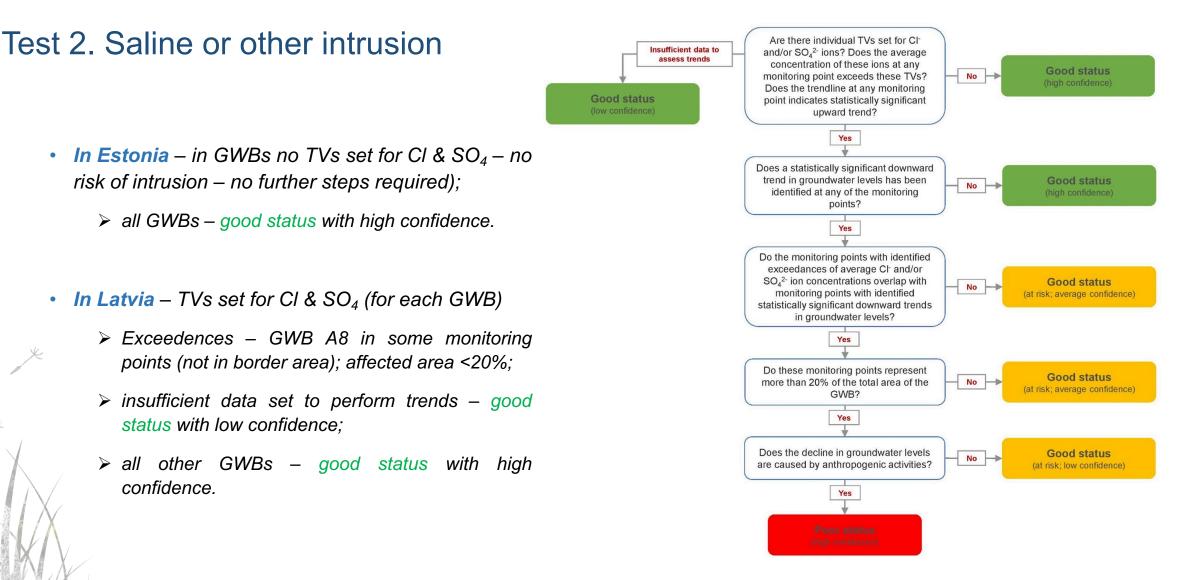




Test 1. Water balance assessment test

- **Different approaches** not possible to harmonize;
- GW abstraction in 2018 compared to natural GW resources (in Estonian case) or approved resources (in Latvian case);
- For both sides, GW abstraction do not exceeds the natural/approved resources GWBs are in good quantitative status (average/high confidence).





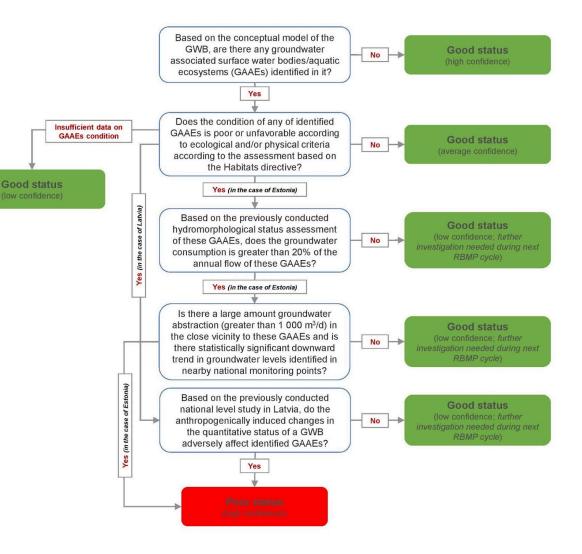
Test 3. Groundwater associated aquatic ecosystems (surface waters)

In Latvia – GAAEs identified in GWB A8 & D6;

- In GWB D6 are no poor GAAEs good status (average confidence);
- GWB A8 4 GAAEs with poor quality not because of GW– GWB A8 is in good status (low confidence);
- > No GAAEs in GWB A10 & P good status with high confidence.

In Estonia – GAAEs identified in all transboundary GWBs (21, 23, 25, 26).

- GWB 25 all GAAEs in good quality GWB in a good status (high confidence);
- Poor quality GAAEs in GWBs 21, 23, 26;
- GWB 23 poor GAAEs not because of GW GWB in a good status (average confidence);
- GWBs 21 & 26: Water abstraction <20 % of annual flow (rivers) GWBs are in good quantitative status with low confidence and further investigation is required in the next RBMP planning period.



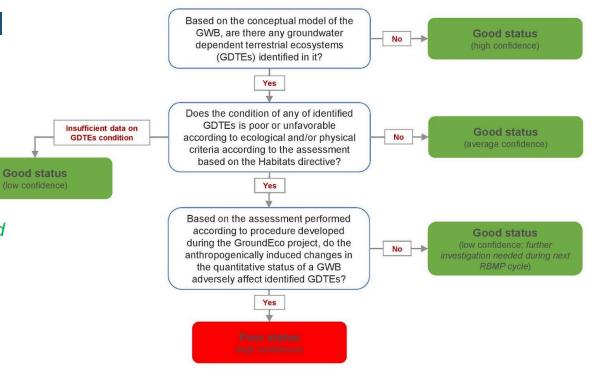
Test 4. Groundwater dependent terrestrial ecosystems (GDTEs)

In Latvia – GDTEs identified in GWBs D6, A8 & A10.

- > No GDTEs in GWB P good status (high confidence)
- ➢ GDTEs in poor or unfavorable status − D6, A8 & A10;
- Poor status of GDTEs not because of GW GWBs in good status (low confidence);

In Estonia – GDTEs identified in GWBs 23, 25, 26;

- No GDTEs in GWB 21 good status (high confidence)
- In GWBs 23, 25, 26 no GDTEs with status lower than good identified – GWB in good chemical status with average confidence



Summary of transboundary GWBs assessment

1. Chemical status assessment tests:

- 1. General quality assessment *good status*;
- 2. Saline or other intrusions *good status*;
- 3. Groundwater associated aquatic ecosystems *good status*;
- 4. Groundwater dependent terrestrial ecosystems *good status*;
- 5. Drinking water protected areas *good status*.

2. Quantitative status assessment tests:

- 1. Water balance assessment test *good status*;
- 2. Saline or other intrusions *good status*;
- 3. Groundwater associated aquatic ecosystems *good status*;
- 4. Groundwater dependent terrestrial ecosystems *good status*.

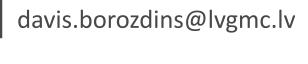
Recommendations for further TB groundwater management

- Cooperation improvement (agreements updated, establish a working group, projects);
- Periodic meetings, discussions and harmonized activities good tool for cross-border cooperation and development of TB water management plans in RBMPs;
- For LV-EE common GW resources in future more focus on Gauja-Koiva RB;
- 4. According to developed **TB monitoring program data exchange.**



Thank you!







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