Consent Form for the Collection and Processing of Personal Data in the Context of the Technical User Study within the IsoGW Research Project

This consent form consists of three parts: information about the research project, important notes, and the consent declaration. Attached are definitions of terms and legal bases.

1. Research Project

The project **"IsoGW"** creates an interpolated and dynamically adaptable distribution overview of stable water isotopes and tritium concentrations in groundwater for all of Germany. The new isoscape and database will be freely, interactively, and sustainably available for public use and further development. The public presentation and visualization of all data will take place through an internet application hosted by the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR).

The first prototype of the internet application is now complete. A technical user study will evaluate the usability and user-friendliness of the application. The study will assess whether the web tool is easily understandable and whether users can apply it effectively in their respective fields.

Conducting Institution:
Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nuremberg (FAU), GeoZentrum Nordbayern, Schlossgarten 5, 91054 Erlangen

Project Leader:
PD Dr. Robert van Geldern, robert.van.geldern@fau.de

Interview Documentation:
Handwritten notes, as well as any materials developed during the interview.

2. Important Notes

For the effective and proper execution of the research project, the Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nuremberg, as the responsible party, must process personal data. This means that the personal and professional data you voluntarily provide will be stored in accordance with applicable data protection regulations for the duration of the project and for an additional ten years. The interviews will be documented by hand and pseudonymized. Your experiences with the web tool and professional feedback will be used exclusively within the IsoGW project to improve the tool and will not be shared with third parties. Only the IsoGW project team will have access to the data.

The following personal data/categories of data will be collected during the user study:

- Biographical and personal data
- Expertise and opinions related to the research topic
- Contact details for follow-up questions and future information about the web tool

Data collection will take the form of handwritten notes and materials developed during the interview. The results will be processed according to Article 28 of the GDPR.

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3. Participant Information

Your consent is voluntary. You can decline to give consent without facing any disadvantages.

You may withdraw your consent at any time by notifying Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nuremberg. From the point of withdrawal, no further processing of your personal data will take place. Withdrawal does not affect the legality of data processing conducted prior to your withdrawal.

You have the right to request access to your personal data, to correct or delete it, to restrict its processing, to object to its processing, and to request data portability. You also have the right to lodge a complaint with a supervisory authority.

The attached "Definitions" provide relevant explanations of key terms.
The attached "Legal Bases" summarize the legal framework and your rights under the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

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4. Consent Declaration

I hereby consent to the collection and analysis of my personal data by the above-mentioned institution within the framework of the IsoGW research project. Data will be collected through personal and professional information shared during the interview and documented by hand. These data will be stored, secured, transcribed, and used internally within the IsoGW project to further develop the IsoGW web tool.

Handwritten notes and any materials created during the interview will be processed and analyzed in accordance with Article 28 of the GDPR.

I consent to the processing of my personal data for the technical user study of the IsoGW web tool as outlined above. I understand that this consent may be revoked in writing at any time with effect for the future.

If I provide special categories of personal data, these will also be covered by this consent declaration.

I have been fully informed, verbally and in writing, about the nature and scope of data collection and analysis.

☐ I have read, understood, and received the annexes “Legal Bases” and “Definitions.”
☐ I consent to the use of the collected data for the technical development of the IsoGW web tool.
☐ I consent to the use of my contact details for follow-up questions and information about the web tool

_____

Surname First Name

Date, Place Signature

Consent for secondary use of my data in the context of scientific work

☐ I agree ☐ I do not agree

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Annex: Definitions

“Personal Data” (pdD):
According to Art. 4(1) GDPR, personal data refers to any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person. An identifiable person is one who can be identified, directly or indirectly, by reference to an identifier such as a name, identification number, location data, online identifier, or other factors related to their identity (physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural, or social).

“Special Categories of Personal Data”:
According to Art. 9(1) GDPR, this includes data revealing racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership, as well as the processing of genetic data, biometric data for identification purposes, health data, or data concerning a person’s sex life or sexual orientation.

“Secondary Use”:
Reuse of collected research data for new analyses or research questions by the institution. Data may be used wholly or partly in a new research context.

“Processing”:
According to Art. 4(2) GDPR, any operation performed on personal data such as collection, recording, organization, storage, alteration, retrieval, consultation, use, disclosure, dissemination, deletion, or destruction.

“Anonymization”:
Altering personal data so that identification of individuals is no longer possible, or only possible with a disproportionate amount of effort.

“Pseudonymization”:
Processing personal data so that it can no longer be attributed to a specific individual without additional information, which is stored separately and securely.

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Annex: Legal Bases (Art. 13 GDPR)

Purpose of Data Processing / Project Goal:
The "IsoGW" project is developing an interpolated, dynamically adaptable map of stable water isotopes and tritium concentrations in Germany's groundwater. The isoscape and database will be available for public use through a web application of the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR). The user study aims to assess the usability of this tool.

Legal Basis:
Personal data will be processed based on your consent according to Art. 6(1)(a) GDPR. If special categories of personal data are involved, processing will be based on your consent according to Art. 9(2)(a) GDPR.

Recipients:
The collected data will be used solely to further develop the IsoGW web tool.

Data Processing:
Interviews will be documented by hand and pseudonymized. Names, locations, job titles, and contact details will be replaced or stored separately. Only the project team will have access to personal data. No automated decision-making or profiling will occur (Art. 22 GDPR).

Categories of Data Processed:
Open interviews may naturally include various types of data, including special categories of personal data.

Data Storage Period:
Data will be anonymized and securely stored for ten years in accordance with good scientific practice. If you consent to secondary use, the storage period may be extended.

Your Rights:
In accordance with legal requirements, you have the right to:

- Withdraw your consent at any time
- Be informed about how your data is used
- Confirm whether your data is being processed
- Access your data and details of its processing
- Correct inaccurate data
- Request deletion
- Restrict processing in specific cases
- Receive your data in a structured, commonly used, machine-readable format for transmission to yourself or a third party

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