

6.7.2 France

Components:

Metropolitan France comprises mainland France plus Corse, this is the customary recording region.

Provinces: Régions followed by Départements, a long tradition in publications.

Mapping agency:

The French mapping agency, IGN (Institut national de l'information géographique et forestière at <http://www.ignfi.fr/en?redirect>), produces paper maps and provides a range of GIS services to Metropolitan France and all overseas territories.

6.7.2.a Method

Region	France: Metropolitan France, outline map		
Applications	QGIS		
Geospatial data	IGN's "France_admin_LII.zip" (from http://georezo.net/jparis/Data/) TDWG country outlines (from http://www.kew.org/gis/tdwg/index.html) [Other sources http://download.geofabrik.de/europe/france.html and http://professionnels.ign.fr/geofla#tab-3]		
Grid ref	UTM	CRS	Lambert EPSG:3035
Project	new (always use copies once constructed, never this original)		
Save project	/ F:\MapData\World\Europe\France France_[nn].qgs		

- 1 Open a new QGIS project
- 2 Layer|Add layer|Add vector layer - in the browser change the file type to Map-Info and select F:\Maps\World\Europe\France\France_admin_LII\Limites_France.TAB
- 3 Layer|Add layer|Add vector layer - in the browser change the file type to ESRI Shapefiles and select F:\Maps\World\TDWG\level4\level4.shp
- 4 Filter this layer with: "Level_4_Na" not like "France" and "Level_4_Na" not like "Corse"
- 5 Adjust Styles colours appropriately (see Lillethun, 2011 Map Colour Guide): TDWG layer to use the gray "Outside data coverage" and black for the Country outline (Limites_France).
Also set the Project Properties General Background colour to the Sea surface colour recommended in the guide.
Note the slight mismatches between the France outlines of each layer, the IGN layer is better, note also that this layer is a polyline rather than a polygon so the sea-coloured background shows through.
- 6 Add the IGN layers for **Régions & Départements**.
Set the Styles for each layer, place them in groups and adjust their positions in the Layers stack. Duplicate layers where necessary to create appropriate background colours. **Limites_France** may be at the top of the stack, it has no background to interfere with other layers.
- 7 Adjust the projection of the project via **Project Properties** | **CRS** and select ETRS89 / ETRS-LAEA (EPSG:3035) which is a Lambert Azimuthal Equal

Area projection.

- 8 Add the Grid layer *fr_100km*, make the tiles transparent, colour the lines according to Lillethun, 2011 and make them a little thicker than the default.
- 9 Zoom in to one of those squares and add *fr_10km*, colour similarly.
- 10 Adjust the scale dependent visibility of this layer (partially to prevent the processing time required to draw thousands of tiny objects on the screen and partially so that those objects do not obscure other features when you are zoomed out). **Layer | Properties | General** then choose a Minimum and Maximum scale (suggested 1:500,000 and 1:50,000 respectively)
- 11 Repeat steps 9 & 10 with the *fr_1km* layer (scales 1:50,000 and 1:5,000)
- 12 **Project | New print composer** then add the map. Set extents as follows:

QGIS	Value
Xmin	3,100,000
Ymin	2,000,000
Xmax	4,400,000
Ymax	3,200,000

- 13 Save the project and composer template

Options:

- Label various layers as desired using **Layer properties | Labels** and selecting an appropriate field for the label name.
- Group layers appropriately and adjust their sequence in the Layers panel.

- 14 In the composer panel, export to an image: et voila!

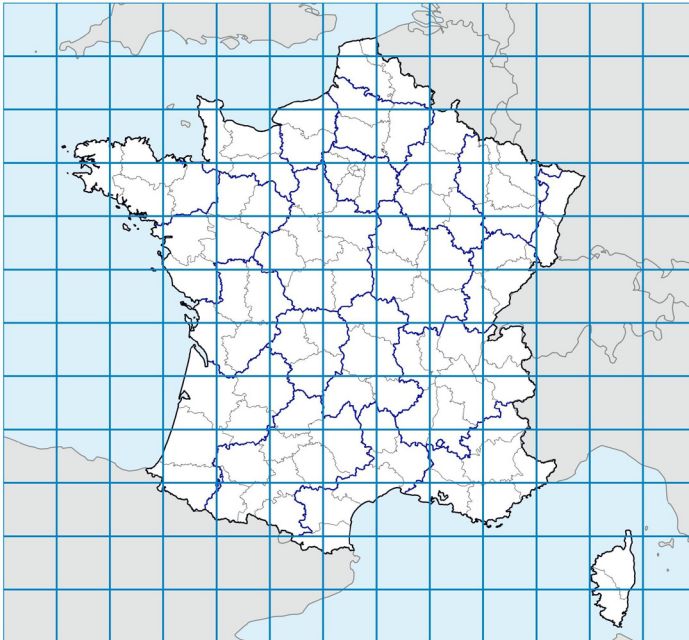


Figure 21. Mainland France, Régions and Départements with UTM grid. [Lambert EPSG:3035]