EVA Annual report (2017)

The European Vegetation Archive (EVA) is now a consolidated database serving to international scientific research and nature conservation assessments and surveys. Here we start a series of annual reports summarizing the progress of EVA and the status of the projects using the data stored by the EVA consortium.

In February 2017, EVA consisted of 73 databases and 1,334,950 plots, of which 86% were georeferenced and 59% were assigned to phytosociological syntaxa. 71% of plots could be accessed under semi-restricted regime and 25% under restrict regime, while the other 4% were open access.

Until June 2017, EVA data were provided to 50 projects (see the full list here). We asked the leaders of 36 projects that received the data before 1 January 2016 about the progress of each project and the achievements made so far. Eight EVA projects are already finished, resulting in published papers or reports, while other five have been cancelled (see the lists below).

Overall, EVA projects resulted in 13 scientific papers that have been already published or submitted, one bachelor thesis, six reports and 38 presentations at conferences or workshops (see an updated list of EVA publications here).

The paper published in 2016 to describe EVA (Chytrý et al. 2016, Applied Vegetation Science 19: 173-180) has been reported as a *highly cited paper* in the Web of Science (by January-February 2017), reflecting and supporting the impact of the database in the scientific community. Moreover, EVA was a key tool for the development of the European Red List of Habitats (Part 2 – Terrestrial and freshwater habitats) recently published by the European Union with the support of IUCN and ALTERRA.

EVA is also playing a key role as the European database contributing to sPlot, the global consortium of vegetation databases. Currently there are 15 sPlot projects making use of global vegetation data including EVA (see details here), and it is expected that the first publications will appear soon.

We thank the EVA Council and everyone who was involved in the first steps of EVA with all the achievements made so far, and hope for a very successful follow-up of our network in the coming years.

Borja Jiménez-Alfaro, Ilona Knollová and the EVA Coordinating Board

12 June 2017

LIST OF FINISHED EVA PROJECTS AND RELATED PUBLICATIONS

Formalized classification of *Alnion incanae, Alnetea glutinosae* and *Salicetea purpureae* in Europe. - Jan Douda

   ✓ Douda et al. 2016. Vegetation classification and biogeography of European floodplain forests and alder carrs. Applied Vegetation Science 19: 147–163.

Ecological niche of sclerophyllous forest in southern and western Europe. - Emiliano Agrillo.

   ✓ A manuscript has been submitted.

European Red List of Habitats. - John Janssen

   ✓ Janssen et al. 2016. European Red List of Habitats – Part 2. Terrestrial and freshwater habitats. Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg.

Floristic classification of the European beech forests. - Wolfgang Willner.

   ✓ Willner et al. 2017. Classification of European beech forests: a Gordian Knot? Applied Vegetation Science 20.

Review of grassland habitats of the EUNIS habitats classification. - Stephan M. Hennekens.

   ✓ Schaminée et al. 2016. Review of grassland habitats and development of distribution maps of heathland, scrub and tundra habitats of EUNIS habitats classification. Report EEA/NSV/15/005. European Environment Agency, Copenhagen.
   ✓ Schaminée et al. 2016. Development of distribution maps of grassland habitats of EUNIS habitat classification. Report EEA/NSV/16/005. European Environment Agency, Copenhagen.

Vegetation affinity of *Juncus castaneus* and *Juncus triglumis*. Michal Hájek.

   ✓ Dítě et al. 2017. Arcto-alpine species at their niche margin: The Western Carpathian refugia of Juncus castaneus and J. triglumis in Slovakia. Annales Botanici Fennici 54: 67– 82.

How much biodiversity is in Natura 2000? Stephan M. Hennekens.

   ✓ Sluis et al. 2016. How much Biodiversity is in Natura 2000? Alterra Report 2730B, Wageningen, The Netherlands.

LIST OF CANCELLED PROJECTS:

Predicting plant demography across geographic ranges: what can we infer from correlative distribution models? - Úna FitzPatrick

Evolution of the genus *Rhinanthus* (Orobanchaceae). - Vinciane Mossion

Geographical distance versus within region differentiation in community assemblies – the example of *Sphagnum* rich habitats in Central Europe. - Florian Jansen

Identify the relationship between latitude and elevational range for plant species using global species-specific elevational data. - Jürgen Dengler, Severin Irl, Jan-Niklas Nuppenau

Mixed functional and phytosociological classification reveals alternative patterns of plant community assembly in Mediterranean dry grasslands dominated by *Lygeum spartum*. - Riccardo Guarino, Corrado Marcenò