



## Data Request Form

To obtain data from the European Vegetation Archive (EVA), please first make an enquiry to the EVA database administrator Ilona Knollová (ikuzel@sci.muni.cz) whether the data meeting your needs are available. If they are, please fill in the form below and submit it to Ilona or another member of the EVA Coordinating Board.

- Applicant's name:

Prof. Dr. Jürgen Dengler

- Applicant's institutional address:

Vegetation Ecology Group, IUNR, Zurich University of Applied Science (ZHAW),  
Grüentalstr. 14, 8820 Wädenswil, Switzerland

- Applicant's e-mail:

juergen.dengler@uni-bayreuth.de

- Project title:

The semi-dry basiphilous grasslands of Europe (*Brachypodietalia pinnati*): a revised subdivision into alliances with an electronic expert system

- Brief description of aims and methods of the study:

The basiphilous semi-dry grasslands of Europe have been placed for a long time in various different geographically defined orders of the class Festuco-Brometea, despite their strong floristic and ecological similarity. With Mucina et al. (2016) many but not all of them have been united in the order *Brachypodietalia pinnati*, while finally Jansen et al. (2016) and Schaminée et al. (2016) united all of them as refined EUNIS habitat type E1.2a, equivalent to the *Brachypodietalia pinnati* in the sense of Dengler (2003). The *Brachypodietalia pinnati* are a flag-ship community of conservation in Europe as they host most of the small-scale world records in vascular plant diversity and likely more threatened species of animals and plants than any EUNIS habitat type of that level. At the same time they are a highly threatened element of traditionally managed non-eutrophicated landscapes which show strong declines throughout Europe due to abandonment, intensification and atmospheric deposition of nutrients.

With our study, following regional studies of eastern Central and East Europe (Willner et al. 2017, 2019) and the Balkan Peninsula (Vassilev et al., in prep. to be submitted soon), we aim at deriving a continent-wide consistent classification system of this order and habitat type into alliances. Our approach will build on the highly performant concept of Vassilev et al. (in prep.) who translate an initial unsupervised classification through an iterative optimisation process into a final classification in which diagnostic species and expert-system species are identical and only a small fraction of plots remain unclassified. The resulting classification system will be translated into an electronic expert system (allowing the automatic classification of new plots), and the delimited alliances be characterised in terms of diagnostic species, distribution and site conditions.

- Will someone else be involved in data editing or analysis in addition to the applicant?



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From Jürgen Dengler's lab: Eline Staubli, Stefan Widmer  
From EDGG: Wolfgang Willner, Kiril Vassilev, Idoia Biurrun, Iwona Dembicz, Anna Kuzemko, Steffen Boch, Jan Roleček  
Possibly from JUICE: Lubomir Tichý (not confirmed yet)

- Estimated time of delivery of results (e.g. manuscript submission):

Within 1 year after data delivery

- Geographic area needed (e.g. countries or range of geographic coordinates):

All

- Do you need plots to be georeferenced? If so, what is the minimum accuracy of plot location (in metres or kilometres) needed for your project?

No limits

- Vegetation types needed (syntaxa):

EUNIS habitat type E1.2a (according to Schaminée et al. 2016, Chytrý et al. in prep.) and all plots originally assigned to one of the following alliances: Brachypodium phoenicoidis, Bromion erecti, Chrysopogono-Danthonion, Filipendulo vulgaris-Helictotrichion pratensis, Gentianello amarellae-Helictotrichion pratensis, Polygalo mediterraneae-Bromion erecti, Potentillo splendentis-Brachypodium pinnati, Scorzonion villosae, Trifolion montani (and synonyms)

- Other data selection criteria:

None

- Envisaged publications:

One paper in Phytocoenologia (but potentially more papers are possible)

- Plant trait data from the TRY consortium. If you plan to combine your analysis of vegetation-plot data with plant trait data, you can also request for a dataset of 18 gap-filled traits for a large number of plant taxa prepared by the TRY consortium. These traits include Leaf area, Specific leaf area, Leaf fresh mass, Leaf dry matter content, Leaf C, Leaf N, Leaf P, Leaf N per area, Leaf N:P ratio, Leaf delta15N, Seed mass, Seed length, Seed number per reproductive unit, Dispersal unit length, Plant height, Stem specific density, Stem conduit density, and Conduit element length. This dataset can be provided to you from the EVA manager together with the vegetation-plot data. If you use this dataset, you must inform about your project the TRY data contributors who might be potentially interested and invite them as potential co-authors, assuming they will make an intellectual contribution to your paper. The list of the TRY data contributors will be sent to you together with the gap-filled trait dataset.

No

- Specification of the co-authorship arrangements in publications based on the requested data. Note that the EVA Rules recommend that co-authorship is offered to a representative of each database providing data that are particularly important for the project (e.g. unique vegetation types, under-represented geographic areas) or make up more than 10% of the final dataset (5% threshold can be considered too). These database representatives should be experts in the topic of the project (they do not need to be the custodians or deputy custodians) and they should contribute to the project more than just



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by providing the existing data, e.g. by intellectual contribution to the concept of the paper, preparation of new data, or helping with data analysis, interpretation of the results or writing parts of the paper (see the IAVS Code of Professional Ethics: <http://iavs.org/Governance/Code-of-Professional-Ethics.aspx>). The project leader should enable active participation by regularly informing potential co-authors about the progress of the project from its early stage. The project leader should also make final co-authorship arrangements based on the real input of the individual contributors.

Each database whose data are used in this project is entitled to nominate one contributor to be added to the preliminary list of co-authors within 3 weeks after receipt of this request from the EVA Database Manager. We expect the nominated person to be an expert of the focal vegetation type and to contribute actively to the analyses and/or the writing. We will accept one such nomination from each database that contributes at least 5% of the final dataset, but we might additionally consider nominations of opt-in authors from smaller databases if the opt-in mail convinces us that the nominated person will provide valuable expertise to the paper. All persons on the preliminary list of co-authors will regularly be informed about the status of the project and thus have multiple chances to contribute to analyses and/or writing. In accordance with the IAVS Code of Professional Ethics we will remove opt-in authors from the final author list at submission who did not make substantial intellectual contributions during the whole process.

- Eligibility of the applicant to receive EVA data. Specify to which EVA database the applicant has contributed; if the applicant is not the custodian or deputy custodian of an EVA database, give a name of a custodian or deputy custodian who supports this data request.

Jürgen Dengler is custodian of the Nordic-Baltic Grassland Vegetation Database and of the German grassland database GrassVeg.DE

I agree with the terms of EVA Data Property and Governance Rules as approved on 26 May 2012 (<http://euroveg.org/download/eva-rules.pdf>).

If I ask for the plant trait data from TRY, I agree to invite to my project the TRY data contributors following the list received from the EVA database manager.

Wädenswil, 21 February 2019