



Linking the Nutrient Status Initiative and ReSurveyEurope: data call

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ReSurveyEurope (for more info see http://euroveg.org/download/ReSurveyEurope_EVA_Call.pdf) and the Nutrient Status Initiative are opening a joint data call. If you are sampling new plots for ReSurveyEurope, we encourage you to also participate in the Nutrient Status Initiative, which is coordinated by Martin Wassen (Utrecht University, the Netherlands; m.j.wassen@uu.nl; <http://www.uu.nl/staff/MJWassen>).

The method for doing so is very simple. Vegetation scientists making a relevé in herbaceous vegetation are asked to clip living above-ground phanerogam vegetation in a representative square in or next to the relevé. The sample should be taken around the peak of the growing season. Samples should be stored in paper bags and air-dried. Typically, the size of a relevé should be 4-10 m² and the plot to be clipped 0.09-0.16 m². As plots for ReSurveyEurope will be of different size, often bigger (20-50 m²), this might pose a problem since Martin is calculating species numbers. So, his request is to provide him with a relevé that ideally should not be larger than 10 m² – but note that also larger plots can be submitted and equally valuable. The size of the clipping sample is optional. In cases where vegetation is very sparse or heterogeneous, a larger plot than 0.16 m² could be clipped, but refrain from clipping larger plots than 0.25 m². For methodological reasons, only the living herbaceous plant biomass is collected in the clipping sample (leaves, stems, flowers, seeds, inflorescences; not sorted, no litter or dead plant material, no woody material, no bryophytes).

Samples can be stored at room temperature under dry conditions and shipped at the end of the fieldwork period to Martin. He will oven-dry the samples and determine dry plant mass and C, N, P and K concentrations in his lab. The results and interpretation of the nutrient status will be given to the participants and free to use in their own research project. Following this, data will be added to the existing Nutrient Status database that already contains > 1000 data points. In 2022, it is planned to draw up an overview of the dataset. Martin will propose what a joint paper could be about. All colleagues who provided at least 15 plots will be offered co-authorship.

We encourage everyone re-surveying plots for ReSurveyEurope to consider participating also in the Nutrient Status Initiative. This will allow combining complementary data sets, and once a substantial number of ReSurveyEurope plots with information on vegetation nutrient status data becomes available, this will allow for further dedicated analyses taking into account both data dimensions. For such future publications, again, all contributors who provided a substantial number of plots (as specified above) will be offered co-authorship.

For planning purposes, it is important that colleagues who are interested in sampling plots for the Nutrient Status Initiative in advance send info to Martin on the location and number of samples they would like to take. Martin will then confirm / discuss potential issues individually.

Finally, if you are sampling vegetation plots that fulfill the criteria for the Nutrient Status Initiative but do not qualify for ReSurveyEurope, such data may also be highly relevant.



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Key references

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