



European Vegetation Archive Data Request Form



To obtain data from the European Vegetation Archive (EVA), including the ReSurveyEurope Database, please first enquire the EVA database administrator Ilona Knollová (ikuzel@sci.muni.cz) whether the data that meet 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 (or ReSurveyEurope Board if you ask for data from the ReSurveyEurope Database).

- Applicant's name:

Karl Ruf

- Applicant's institutional address:

space4environment sàrl
48, rue Gabriel Lippmann
L-6947 Niederanven

- Applicant's e-mail:

ruf@space4environment.com

- Project title:

EU Grassland Watch

- Are you asking for core EVA data (non-repeated vegetation surveys) or for ReSurveyEurope data (repeated vegetation surveys)?

Both

- Brief description of the aims and methods of the study:

The project aims to provide a remote Sensing based mapping and characterisation of grasslands from 1994-2024 within grassland rich Natura 2000 sites across Europe. Please refer to <https://ec.europa.eu/eu-grassland-watch/> for additional information on the project. The data within the project is derived from Sentinel 2 and Landsat imagery as well as a range of existing Copernicus layers. The planned outputs include a land cover and grassland specific layers. The later include grassland productivity, grassland management (mowing& ploughing) as well as grassland type (~European Nature Information System (EUNIS) habitats).

EVA relevé's that contain information regarding their EUNIS habitat classification would be highly beneficial specifically to train the classification model of grassland type as well as verify the accuracy of the classifier. A publication of the data is therefore not intended, only the final products (i.e. the actual classification output and derived layers) are intended for public use. At no stage do we intend to publish or deposit any EVA data.

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

Yes. The project consists of a consortium. All members handling data are contractually bound by a consortium agreement.



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Data will only be used for internal training and / or verification of the land cover / grassland type classification model.

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

May 2026

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

All EU 27 member states

- 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?

Yes, 100m (uncertainty of location should equal or below 100m)

- Vegetation types needed (syntaxa):

Only EUNIS Level 3 classification

- Other data selection criteria:

Year \geq 1994, EUNIS Expert System Level 3 Habitat Codes R* (All grassland habitats)

- Envisaged publications:

None, data shall be exclusively used for internal training of model. The published outcome takes the form of an operational data service.

- **Data deposition.** Some journals require data used for the analysis to be stored in a public repository to ensure the repeatability of the analysis. According to EVA Rules, you are not allowed to store the original vegetation-plot data obtained from EVA. However, if you plan to publish in such a journal, you may deposit a reduced EVA-derived dataset that (1) would make it possible to repeat the analysis published in the paper and (2) does not contain any information not used in the analysis. For example, such a dataset can contain only a subset of species (e.g., only angiosperms or only neophytes), or replace species names with codes, or replace species cover values with presences/absences, or remove all the header data, or replace the exact plot coordinates by coarse grid-cell coordinates etc. If you plan to deposit reduced information from vegetation plots, please describe here what might be deposited. If the project developed so that you needed to deposit more information than specified here, you would need to ask specific permission from the Custodians of the EVA databases used in your analysis before the dataset is deposited.

The project does not foresee a publication within a scientific journal. Data will only be handled internally.

- **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 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 by 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, we do not require any plant trait data.



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- 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., a relatively large proportion of the final dataset used in the analyses or data from unique vegetation types or under-represented geographic areas). This database representative should be an expert in the topic of the project (not necessarily the custodian or deputy custodian), and this person should contribute to the project more than just 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: https://www.iavs.org/page/governance_code-of-professional-ethics). 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.

The project does not foresee a publication within a scientific journal. However, we strongly encourage user-uptake of the (to be) provided service. We welcome any exchange and co-operation with interested expert individuals and entities.

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

The applicant is not a custodian. Stephan Hennekens - stephan.hennekens@wur.nl has agreed to be assigned as reference to this data request.



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- 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 ReSurveyEurope data, I agree with the terms of ReSurveyEurope Data Property and Governance Rules as approved on 6 April 2022 (<http://euroveg.org/download/resurveyeurope-rules.pdf>).
- In any result obtained based on EVA core data (non-repeated vegetation surveys), I will cite the EVA report article (Chytrý et al. 2016; <https://doi.org/10.1111/avsc.12191>). In any result obtained based on the ReSurveyEurope data (repeated vegetation surveys), I will cite the ReSurveyEurope report article as soon as it is published. In addition, I will cite individual source databases used in my project (if possible, in the list of References; if not possible, at least as a list of databases in the electronic supplementary material).
- 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.

Niederanven (LU) , 08/11/2024

[place, date]

Karl Ruf

[applicant's name]