



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:

Milan Chytrý

- Applicant's institutional address:

Masaryk University, Brno, Czechia

- Applicant's e-mail:

chytry@sci.muni.cz

- Project title:

EVA-OpenStrat

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

EVA core only.

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

Science is changing towards adopting the FAIR principles of open science. An increasing number of funding agencies and journals require that published studies be based on open data. Some European vegetation databases, such as the Dutch and the Czech, have published their entire content online (<https://doi.org/10.15468/ksqxep>, <https://czechveg.github.io/>). Most EVA databases have also published many of their vegetation plots online as part of sPlotOpen, a global open dataset of vegetation plots selected to reduce regional imbalances in sampling density and to representatively cover most global climate types (Sabatini et al. 2021). However, sPlotOpen contains only 15,920 plots from Europe collected until 2016 and excludes wetlands, anthropogenic vegetation, bryophytes, and lichens. This may be sufficient for global analyses, but is clearly insufficient for analyses at the European scale. The research on European vegetation diversity would be greatly enhanced if researchers could conduct quick pilot analyses using a representative, ready-to-use dataset as a proof of concept, and, if results were promising, continue with robust analyses based on the full EVA dataset.

This project aims to create and publish an open subset of approximately 10% of EVA vegetation plots, selected using the stratified resampling procedure that was recently developed for the Czech Vegetation Database (see <https://czechveg.github.io/> - tabs Data stratification and Data resampling). We will a priori exclude plots that database custodians indicate as non-publishable due to data property restrictions.



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The resulting dataset, called EVA-OpenStrat, will provide a balanced representation of different European environments and will contain unified species concepts and names. It will be used by a broad ecological community to teach the analysis of vegetation-plot data and to explore coarse patterns of European vegetation diversity.

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

Jan Divíšek, Martin Večeřa, Ilona Knollová, Irena Axmanová and possibly other members of the Vegetation Science Group at Masaryk University

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

2026

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

The whole EVA area, excluding Greenland, North Africa, the Middle East, Anatolia, Caucasus countries, Russia, Kazakhstan, and Belarus.

- 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?

Accuracy below 1 km or no accuracy reported.

- Vegetation types needed (syntaxa):

All.

- Other data selection criteria:

Plots with sizes of 1-1000 m², sampled after 1975. We ask data contributors to indicate which plots cannot be included in open-access datasets. These plots will be excluded from the project.

- Envisaged publications:

One article in an international scientific journal and a dataset publication on Zenodo.

- **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.

Approximately 10% of EVA plots will be published. It may be less for databases that contain data from widespread environmental conditions or more for databases that contain data from relatively rare environmental conditions. The published plots will include species lists, cover-abundances of species and layers, coordinates and their



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uncertainty, date, slope, aspect, author, biblioreference and other information commonly reported in plot header data.

- 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

- 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.

This will be an opt-out article, meaning the custodian of each database contributing to EVA-OpenStrat will be automatically offered co-authorship. In addition, each custodian can nominate one additional co-author for their database; this person should opt in by filling out the EVA online form.

- 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 a custodian of the Czech Vegetation Database.

- 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



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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.

Brno, 31 March 2026

Milan Chytrý