Comparison of GrassPlot vs. GrassVeg.DE (and other EVA member databases)

Parameter	GrassPlot	GrassVeg.DE (similar for other EVA member databases)
Vegetation types	"Grasslands" in the very widest sense (i.e. everything that is not forest, shrubland, aquatic or segetal vegetation)	
Territory	Whole Palaearctic biogeographic realm	**Only Germany**
Plot sizes	**Only eight standard sizes allowed (0.0001; 0.001 or 0.0009; 0.01; 0.1 or 0.09; 1; 10 or 9; 100; 1000 or 900 or 1024 m²) or alternatively nested-plot series with at least 4 different grain sizes**	Any between 0.25 and 400 m²
Shape and delimitation of the plot in the field	**Regular shape (square, rectangle, circle), precisely delimited in the field (usually with metal pins in the corners and a measuring tape at the perimeter)**	Any shape allowed (but not "composites" of several incontiguous subplots)
Coordinates	Usually GPS precision, exceptionally plots that are located within a circle of 1 km or so are allowed	Any precision (in the worst case only the federal state is known)
Structural and environmental data determined in the plot	Often extensive	Variable
Species sampling	**Plots thoroughly sampled with ample time and the aim of completeness**	Also more sloppy traditional phytosociological relevés are accepted
Compositional (species) data	It is possible to provide only species richness (but for many of the planned papers also composition is needed)	Must be provided
Species importance measure for species	Presence-absence or any importance measure is admissible	**Species importance must be provided as % cover or on an ordinal cover-abundance scale (Br.-Bl., Londo or similar); pure presence-absence data are not accepted**

Parameter	GrassPlot	GrassVeg.DE (similar for other EVA member databases)
Aims of the database	To provide data for own paper projects of the GrassPlot Consortium (see GrassPlot Newsletter No. 1)	To fill with GrassVeg.DE important data gaps that the European Vegetation Archive (EVA) has in Germany; no separate analyses of GrassVeg.DE data planned
Authorship options	All contributors by 14 May 2017 become automatically co-authors of the first two GrassPlot papers (opt-out papers) and will be invited to become active co-authors of any subsequent GrassPlot paper (opt-in papers) that uses their data	All contributors until certain deadlines in spring and autumn 2017 will become automatically co-authors of a planned report & call in *Tuexenia* and a Long Database Report in *Phytocoenologia*; for EVA and sPlot papers that use GrassVeg.DE data usually we can propose one of our contributors as active co-author
URL	http://bit.ly/2qKTQt2	http://bit.ly/2qUkzTY
Custodian	Jürgen Dengler (juergen.dengler@uni-bayreuth.de)	
Deputy Custodian	Idoia Biurrun (idoia.biurrun@ehu.es)	Thomas Becker (beckerth@uni-trier.de)
Database Manager (to whom data contributions should be sent)	Idoia Biurrun (idoia.biurrun@ehu.es)	Jürgen Dengler (juergen.dengler@uni-bayreuth.de)

There is a **small overlap** of plots that are welcome both in GrassPlot and GrassVeg.DE, i.e. grassland plots from Germany with areas of 1, 9, 10 or 100 m² that had been precisely delimited in the field and very carefully sampled with importance measure given per species. These few plots that meet the criteria of both databases could and should be provide to both of them.