



- GrassPlot Newsletter No. 2 -

8 May 2017

Dear current and potential members of the GrassPlot Consortium,

Two months after the start of our project, we want to report on its dynamic development since then and ask for your input concerning several issues.

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Final deadline for data contributions for the first series of papers

We are now close to the point of closing the data collection for the first series of papers, in particular the Long Database Report in *Phytocoenologia* and our "Benchmark" paper for a good international journal. Since there are currently so many datasets in the pipeline or announced for the near future, we extended the deadline by two weeks and will consider in these first two papers all data that have reached our database manager, Idoia Biurrun (idoia.biurrun@ehu.es), **until 14 May 2017**. All contributors who joined our Consortium until this deadline will automatically become co-authors of the first two papers. Thus we encourage you to use the remaining week to send us additional data of yourself or invite further colleagues to join. For this purpose you can also use the attached call from the recent EDGG Bulletin.

Those of you who have only provided their richness and metadata, but not the compositional data yet, be reminded that **for the majority of the planned papers we will need your full relevés** and you can only become co-author if you have provided the data before the start of the respective paper project.

GrassPlot content (vers. 58)

Since the first Newsletter, thanks to your input and advertisement, we could significantly increase our coverage, while at the same time intensively working on harmonizing/completing metadata and header data as well as preparing the harmonized file with the composition data. Even more important than the absolute increase in plot numbers is our improving spatial and

syntaxonomic coverage. Among the newly added countries are China, Serbia, Norway, United Kingdom and Croatia. Note that many more datasets are in preparation, including some from Japan and Turkey. Currently the countries with the biggest numbers of datasets are Germany (16), Italy (10), Czech Republic (9), Russia (8) and Spain (6).

As of 8 May 2017, GrassPlot had the following content (in brackets increase compared to 20 March 2017):

- **87 datasets** (78 in March)
- **116 data owners** (110)
- **29 countries** (25)
- **1144 nested-plot series** with at least four grain sizes
- **27,355** (24,707) **plots** with vascular plant data, **12,278** (10,887) additionally with bryophyte and lichen data
- **Number of plots per standard grain size:**
 - 0.0001 m²: **1,735** (1,599)
 - 0.001 or 0.0009 m²: **2,423** (2,359)
 - 0.01 m²: **3,185** (3,047)
 - 0.1 or 0.09 m²: **1,965** (1,891)
 - 1 m²: **7,826** (6,722)
 - 10 or 9 m²: **4,460** (4,279)
 - 100 m²: **2,966** (2,623)
 - 1000 or 1024 m²: **176** (136)



Fig. 1. Overall distribution of GrassPlot data (8 May 2017) in the Palearctic biogeographic realm (Source of base map: GoogleEarth).

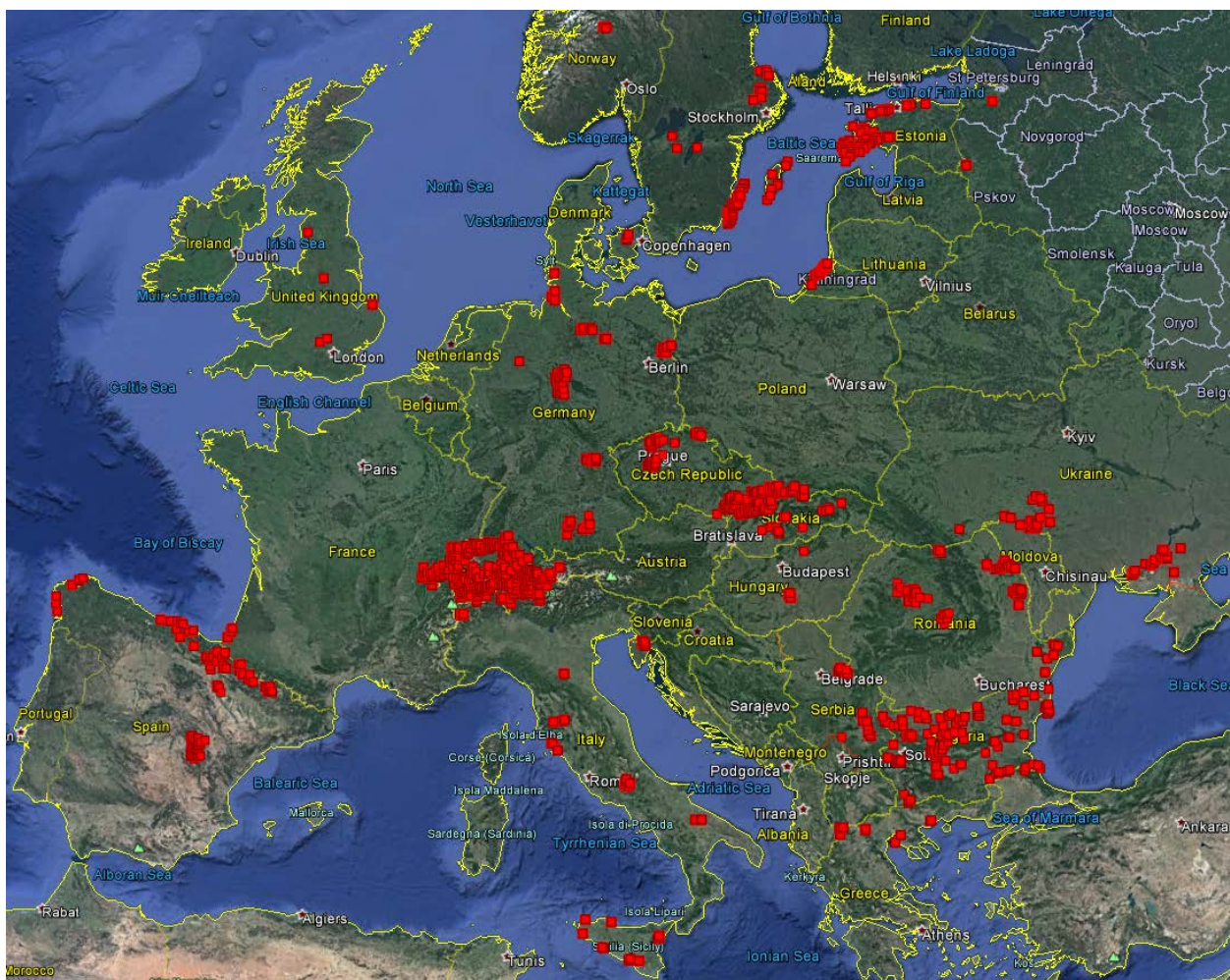


Fig. 2. The highest density of GrassPlot data is currently in hemiboreal – temperate - submediterranean Europe (Source of base map: GoogleEarth).

GrassPlot on conferences

During the **10th Specialist Meeting on Macroecology in Vienna**, 19-21 April, we presented two GrassPlot posters, one on our current content and one with some first results of analyses. The pdf's of the posters are available from our webpage: <http://bit.ly/2ppOhfS>. During the conference we could attract some additional major data owners to contribute their valuable datasets.

The next conference with a GrassPlot presentation (talk by Jürgen Dengler) will be **IAVS Symposium in 19–24 June in Palermo**, Italy. Since many members from the GrassPlot Consortium likely will attend the IAVS Symposium, this would give us the chance to organise a small meeting to exchange ideas on the next steps and forthcoming paper projects. Let Jürgen and Idoia know if you will be there and interested to join.

GrassPlot and other databases: your feedback needed

Our understanding is that GrassPlot is a highly specialised database, **not competing** with any other of the existing supra-national databases, namely the **European Vegetation Archive (EVA)** and the **global database "sPlot"**. Actually, from the GrassPlot Steering Committee Jürgen and Idoia are also in the Coordinating Boards of EVA and/or sPlot – ensuring close

collaboration and avoidance of any undue duplication of work. From our perspective, the small number of plots that is suitable both for GrassPlot and for EVA/sPlot, should be available in both types of databases. This way, you will have the advantage of the possibility to participate in the projects using EVA and sPlot data, as well as those using GrassPlot data, with minimal effort from your side.

Thus we kindly ask those of you who have contributed data to GrassPlot that would also be suitable for "normal" vegetation-plot databases (i.e. with grain sizes of 1–100 m² and cover data), to let us know whether these data are already in an EVA/sPlot member database. If yes, please indicate us in which. If they are not yet included, we encourage you to do it in the case of European data through an already existing database (see <http://euroveg.org/eva-database-participating-databases>). You can also ask us to provide contact to suitable regional/national EVA member database. For data from Asia and Africa, it is enough that you indicate us your willingness for including them in the global database sPlot, and we can contribute them to the next release of sPlot.

GrassPlot logo

We meanwhile got three proposals for the new GrassPlot logo (two of them with a couple of variants). Now we would need someone to bring them into final shape before we can vote in the Steering Committee.

Best regards,

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