

SE European Dry Grassland Vegetation Database

Kick-off Workshop, Hamburg, 27 February – 1 March 2010

- Protocol, updated version 2010-04-14 -

Participants of the Kick-off Workshop

(participants from Iran and Turkey are guests)

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SEEDGG

- **Name: South-East European Dry Grassland Group (SEEDGG)**
- **A regional subgroup of the European Dry Grassland Group (EDGG)**
- **Aims:**
 - establishing a comprehensive database of steppe vegetation and related grasslands in SE Europe
 - using the database for analyses of diversity patterns, large-scale consistent classifications and for conservation planning
 - joint field work to collect high-quality data on grassland diversity in little known regions of SE Europe
 - connect the researchers from the different countries in this region of Europe to exchange ideas about methods

- **SE Europe is defined as:**

- Hungary
- Slovakia
- Poland (southern part)
- Serbia
- Macedonia
- Bulgaria
- Romania
- Moldova
- Ukraine
- Russia (southern sector [i.e. forest-steppe + steppe zone + semi desert] of European part)
- Kazakhstan (European part)
- Azerbaijan
- Georgia
- Armenia [included despite belonging to Asia in order to cover the Caucasus completely]

Organisation of SEEDGG

- **Structure of SEEDGG:**

- all members: 133 (as of 11 April 2010)
- one representative per country or region (see list below, call to find at least one per country)
- Steering Committee for the joint database (for technical implementation & documentation (manual), species lists, header data fields, rights management): see list below, but open to other persons
- Contact person/chair of the Working Group: Iva

- **Members:**

- all from the covered countries
- Inge + Jürgen + Erika Schneider-Binder + Bodo Mösel + Laura Sutcliffe
- ask all EDGG members whether they wish to join
- Iva + Hristo will ask colleagues from Serbia and Macedonia to join
- Claudia will ask colleagues from Moldova
- Jürgen will ask colleagues from Univ. of Greifswald regarding Azerbaijan **DONE**
- Alexey will ask colleagues from Kazakhstan

- **Chair: Iva Apostolova**

- coordinating the Steering Committee
- contact person for members and interested persons

- **Steering Committee:** those who do the actual work...

- Iva Apostolova (iva@bio.bas.bg)
- Alexey Sorokin (an-sorokin@yandex.ru)
- Claudia Bită-Nicolae (bclaud_ro@yahoo.com)
- Jürgen Dengler (dengler@botanik.uni-hamburg.de)
- Hristo Pedashenko (hristo_pedashenko@yahoo.com)
- Inge Paulini (ipaulini@uni-bonn.de)
- Monika Janišová (monika.janisova@savba.sk)
- Anna Kuzemko (anya_meadow@mail.ru)

- **Contact persons/co-ordinators per country:**
 - Romania (except Transylvania): **Claudia Biță-Nicolae**
 - Romania (Transylvania): Marius Bărbos or Eszter Ruprecht? (Jürgen will contact him)
 - Russia: **Alexey Sorokin**
 - Ukraine: **Anna Kuzemko**
 - Hungary: Eszter Illyés? (Iva will contact her)
 - Slovakia: **Monika Janisova**
 - Moldova: ?
 - Kazakhstan: ?
 - Azerbaijan: **Jan Pepper**
 - Georgia: ?
 - Armenia: ?
 - Serbia: ?
 - Macedonia: ?

Vegetation database of SEEDGG

- **Programme used to store the database: Turboveg**
- **Database structure: One joint database for SE Europe**
 - with future option to combine with other regional databases (Nordic-Baltic, German, Mediterranean,...) for Europe-wide analyses
 - master copy hosted by Iva (and her team)
 - secondary copies are regularly distributed to representatives from the included countries
- **Selection criteria for including relevés into the database:**
 - **Ecological / syntaxonomical criteria:**
All grasslands (and closely related communities) are included except for wet and ruderal grasslands:
 - sandy grasslands (e.g. *Koelerio-Corynephoretea*)
 - xeric and meso-xeric grasslands (e.g. *Festuco-Brometea*)
 - montane-alpine grasslands (e.g. *Seslerietea*, *Carici-Kobresietea*)
 - mesic grassland (e.g. *Arrhenatheretalia*, *Nardetalia*)
 - forest-edge communities (e.g. *Trifolio-Geranietea*)
 - halophytic grasslands (e.g. *Festuco-Puccinellietea*)
 - **Required formal criteria:**
 - (1) complete species list (at least vascular plants)
 - (2) cover information (any scale)
 - (3) plot size 1-100 m²; information
 - (4) information on geographic position (10 km radius or less)
- **Species list:**
 - vascular plants: Flora Europaea (FE) or Atlas Florae Europaeae (AFE): always the more recent source
 - mosses: Hill et al. (2006)
 - liverworts: Grolle & Long (2000)
 - lichens: Santesson & al. (2004)
 - Steering Committee decides about additional taxa, aggregates, hybrids and segregates; these will be documented in metadata

- **Establishing of species list:**
 - Jürgen will try to get hold of digital versions of the existing lists
 - if not available start with existing lists following the standards (mosses from Bulgarian National Database; vascular plants from Nordic-Baltic Database + Jürgen's Romanian relevés)
 - additional taxa from Nordic-Baltic Database as a starting point
 - taxa from Caucasus (and Ural) will be added on demand (i.e. when occurring in a relevé to be entered)

- **Header data:**

- **Obligatory fields:**

- **Cover scale:**
 - ask **Stephan Hennekens** for additional scales (e.g. percentage 0.1 and 0.01; Dengler scale)
- **Biblio reference:**
 - central list handled by Iva (Excel files to be sent to Iva) [Data input possible only after the bibliographic reference was entered into the central list and the updated version of the list was sent back?]
 - article title both in English translation and in original version (transliterated from Cyrillic)
 - field "published" to be split into 4 fields journal title (full), volume, pages, place of publication
- **Number of table & relevé in publication:**
 - use Arabic numerals
 - always number relevés even if no number is in the original source
 - when there are two numbering systems, use the one from the table
- **Project code:**
 - name of database from which the data came
 - or name of the digitizing person
- **Author:**
 - the person who made the relevé (if not indicated in publications then first author)
- **Date:**
 - date of relevés!
 - if no precise data of field work available enter end of range in date and start of range in "start_range"
- **Syntax:**
 - should be a flat list of alliance names (as published in the source; empty if none is indicated)
- **Community (new field):**
 - name as in the source (association, subassociation, variant or rankless community; empty if none is indicated)
- **Political unit (required):**
 - country (ISO-2 country code, as implemented in Turboveg)
 - region (either ISO second level or EU region code; **Jürgen** will check and compile)

- **Locality (facultative):**
 - plain text
- **Coordinates (required):**
 - Lat-Long in WGS84 (as precise as possible)
 - new field for precision (m)
 - UTM not filled in
- **Cover values:**
 - ask Stephan:
 - * additional fields (e.g. moss+lichen combined)
 - * -1 for data not available (how to handle already entered data)
- **Mosses identified & lichens identified:**
 - yes/no (enter yes if no species occurred)
- **Optional fields:**
 - Field number (string!)
 - wood margin (yes/no)
 - height information on layer
 - aspect of wood margin (similar to slope aspect)
 - land use (pull down menu: grazed, mown, grazed+mown, unused, formerly grazed or mown, former arable field; <empty> = no data)
 - years since abandonment
 - soil depth (cm)
 - microtopography (cm) (= hight of topography between higher / lower parts)
 - pH of upper soil (water)
 - pH of upper soil (buffer solution)
 - soil texture (pull down menu: sand, silt, clay, loam, perhaps more precise; Jürgen will search for international standard)
 - soil skeleton (as percentage weight)
 - soil chemical parameters (e.g. humus content, CEC, H-value, S-value, base saturation, carbonate content, electric conductivity, concentrations of individual anions and cations): details will be settled after discussion within the whole working group
- **Further fields (agreed, limited lists needed):**
 - geology (e.g. carbonate, sandstone, serpentine,... Jürgen will check)
 - soil type (e.g. FAO/WRB; Jürgen will check)

How to proceed...

- **Next steps:**
 - Membership list: Jürgen will provide it to Iva (now and future updates) [1 March] **DONE**
 - Protocol: Jürgen will prepare the a draft and send it to the participants of the meeting [until 6 March] **DONE**
 - when the draft is agreed upon, Iva and Jürgen will send it together with an invitation to cooperate to the members of the Working Group & EDGG in general [until 13 March] **DONE HEREWITH**
 - Invitation for further national representatives after the protocol has been sent out

- Short report/information for next Bulletin of EDGG (until 15 March); Jürgen will inform Monika Janišová **DONE**
- Iva will prepare information for EDGG homepage to be incorporated by Solvita & Michael **DONE**
- Meeting of the Working Group (Steering Committee, National Representatives, interested members):
 - EVS meeting in Pécs (end of April): Inge, Hristo, Iva, Alexey, Jürgen
 - EDGG meeting in Smolenice (end of May): Inge, Hristo, Jürgen, Claudia
 - joint field work of the Subgroup in Ukraine (10-25 July): Jürgen, Alireza, Alexey, Claudia, Inge, Mousa, Kiril?
- Announcement of Field work in Ukraine (very fast: approx. 2 March); priority for Steering Committee members **DONE**
- For Pécs & Smolenice:
 - Steering Committee will discuss and decide whether it makes sense to schedule a “real” workshop (i.e. handling of data) of 0.5-1 day or rather just an informal meeting.
- Preparing of overview tables during next weeks / month (see below)
- **Copyright: basic ideas**
 - work load of those who contributed data or established the database (i.e. the Steering Committee) should normally be acknowledged via co-authorship
 - all relevés are flagged into several groups (published = freely available; restricted use; use only with specific consent of the author,...)
 - Steering Committee will develop a Data Sharing Protocol for contributors and users of the data (Jürgen will provide draft; final version to be settled during the next months before first relevés go into the database).
- **Funding:**
 - FAN(B) (www.fan-b.de): Jürgen will write application **DONE**
 - DBU (www.dbu.de): Exchange programme: Jürgen will collect and distribute data about criteria
 - DAAD (www.daad.de) and others: all are invited to collect data about criteria
- **Overview table(s):**
 - (1) Coarse overview based on databases & national compilations (next weeks)
 - (2) Detailed overview similar to that of the Nordic-Baltic group (started in next months and continuously updated; Jürgen will send example from Nordic-Baltic group to all Steering Committee members)

> both will be used to prioritize future capturing of data
- **Possible first publication projects based:**
 - Database report to conference volume of Biodiversity & Ecology (deadline 30 June 2010)
 - Publications based on data analyses will be discussed at the EVS and EDGG meetings