



EUROPEAN UNION MINOR USES COORDINATION FACILITY

EU Minor Uses Coordination Facility – Overview of Tasks

The activities and tasks of the Coordination Facility according to the *'Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the establishment of a European fund for minor uses in the field of plant protection products: Brussels, 18.2.2014 COM(2014) 82 final'* are:

- sharing of information and experience gained at national level;
- coordination of minor use work between Member States and stakeholders;
- creation and maintenance of a data base on minor uses;
- stimulation of harmonisation (e.g. crop group and pest group definitions, extrapolation tables, development of guidance).

This document describes in more detail the tasks of the EU Minor Uses Coordination Facility in relation to the Steering Group, the Expert Groups, EUMUDA, the Minor Uses Extranet, Harmonisation, C-IPM Eranet and other Stakeholders.

Steering Group

- The Coordination Facility will have regular contacts with the Steering Group, and prepare documents for consideration and decision-taking by the Steering Group.
- The Coordination Facility will prepare an action plan and progress against this action plan for approval by the Steering Group.
- The Coordination Facility will prepare and organize approval by the Steering Group of the work plans (overview of activities) and the annual reports of the Expert Groups.
- The Coordination Facility can identify with the help of the Expert Groups issues for resolution by the Steering Group.

Expert Groups

- The Coordination Facility will provide administrative and technical support to the Commodity Expert Groups (CEG) and the Horizontal Expert Group (HEG). It will be responsible for:
 - organizing meetings
 - creating and distributing invitations, agendas, minutes via the Minor Uses Extranet
 - practical and administrative arrangements for meetings including re-imbusement of expenses
- The Coordinator will attend meetings of the Horizontal Expert Group.
- The Coordination Facility will prepare the report of the meeting of the Horizontal Expert Group.
- The Coordination Facility will attend meetings of the Commodity Expert Group regularly.
- The Coordination Facility will develop guidance and criteria as for any new Commodity Expert Groups which may be established on the request of Member States or growers' associations.
- The Coordination Facility will analyze information generated by the Commodity Expert Groups to identify issues of general interest aimed at solving multiple minor use gaps across the different sectors and discuss these in the Horizontal Expert Group. It will also address issues identified by the Commodity Expert Groups arising from Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 to the Horizontal Expert Group.
- The Coordination Facility can identify with the help of the Expert Groups issues for resolution by the Steering Group.
- The Expert Groups in collaboration with the Coordination Facility have to prepare at the start of each calendar year an overview of activities it will work on in that calendar year and will prepare at the end of each calendar year an annual report of its activities.
- The Coordination Facility will support the activities of the Expert Groups by providing, maintaining and filling the European Minor Use Database EUMUDA.
- The Coordination Facility will support the work of Commodity Expert Groups as regards managing the projects.
- The Coordination Facility will in close cooperation with the chairs of the Expert Groups develop guidance for the CEGs and HEG. The Coordination Facility will draft guidelines in relation to:
 - rules regarding data processing
 - sharing of trials and studies on minor uses;

- confidentiality of generated data and Intellectual Property matters;
- how to start a new Commodity Expert Group;
- other issues faced by the Expert Groups or Steering Group.

These guidelines will be presented to the Steering Group for agreement and to the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed for approval.

- The terms of reference, as approved by the Steering Group, can be amended based on a proposal from the Horizontal Expert Group, the Coordination Facility or the Steering Group.

EU Minor Uses Data Base (EUMUDA)

- The Coordination Facility will support the activities of the Commodity Expert Groups by providing, maintaining and filling the European Minor Use Database EUMUDA.
- The Coordination Facility will encourage all Member States to provide important information such as national needs lists, available trials and studies, acreage of crops, national lists of minor/major crops/uses to be filled in EUMUDA as an essential basis for the cooperation of all parties.
- The Coordination Facility will promote the use of such a database to stakeholders, including the Agri-Food Chain partners. It will stimulate crop protection companies to appoint a minor use contact point at EU level.

Minor Uses Extranet

- The Minor Uses Extranet will be further developed as a tool to facilitate the work of the Expert Groups.

Harmonisation

- The Coordination Facility will stimulate and support further harmonization e.g. in relation to crop group and pest group definitions and in that respect will work closely with the EPPO Working Party on Plant Protection Products and its Expert Panels.

C-IPM Eranet

- The Coordination Facility will contribute to the development of non-chemical and IPM routes to solve minor use problems. In that respect the Coordination Facility will establish a strong link with the ERANET C-IPM, aiming at finding sustainable methods to solve minor use gaps. It will see to it that the ERANET C-IPM and the Commodity Expert Groups will be complementary to exploit solutions to the fullest extent possible.

Stakeholders

- The Coordination Facility will liaise with all relevant EU stakeholders and organize stakeholder meetings regularly, including at least an annual meeting open to all Member States and stakeholders.
- Internationally the Coordination Facility will stimulate the co-operation between existing networks on Minor Uses, such as OECD, GMUS and IR-4, including contact with IR-4 to investigate the terms under which residue data could be made available.