



European Minor Uses Coordination Facility

BUDGET & WORK PROGRAMME

**20
26**

SUPPORTING EUROPEAN
STAKEHOLDERS IN CLOSING
CROP PROTECTION GAPS IN
MINOR USES.

Contents

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND	2
PROJECT 1: MEETINGS 2026	4
Technical meetings.....	4
Governance meetings	5
PROJECT 2: EUMUDA-further development, updates, and maintenance	6
A. Database on residue extrapolation (pending).....	6
B. Database on availability of data from residue and efficacy trials	7
C. Database on crop statuses (minor/major crop) extension with minor/major uses information	7
PROJECT 3: INNOVATION & Explanatory Note on Minor Uses	8
PROJECT 4: FINANCE	9
PROJECT 5: WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA.....	10
PROJECT 6: IT	10
PROJECT 7: PROMOTING AWARENESS & NETWORKING	11
Annex: MUCF Budget Estimation for 2026.....	12

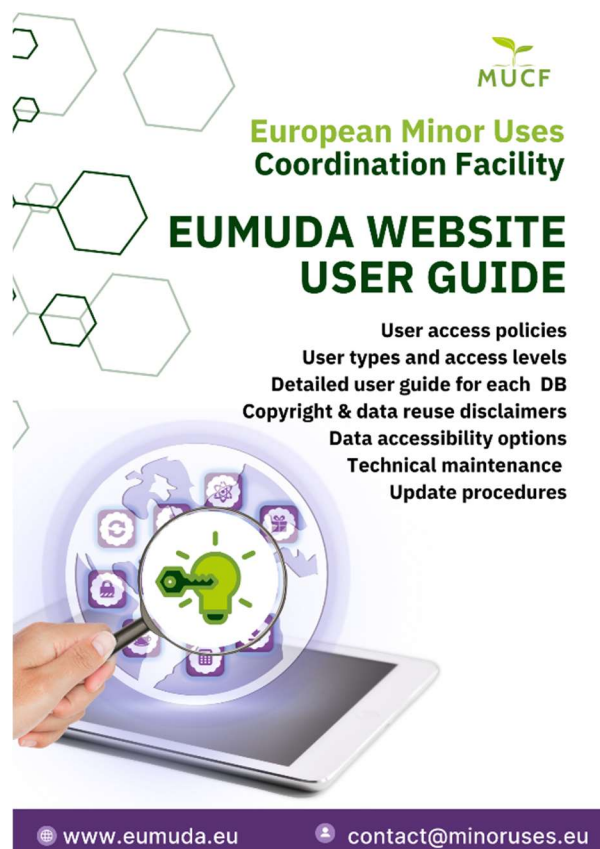
INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Work Programme presents seven Projects with their corresponding Objectives and Key Action Steps that the European Minor Uses Coordination Facility (MUCF) intends to undertake in 2026 to meet the needs of Member Countries (MCs) and to improve its services. It takes into account the achievements in 2025, some resulting follow-up actions, recommendations of the Steering Group, and recommendations from MUCF's Commodity, Horizontal, and Residue Expert Groups meetings. This Work Programme indicates a MUCF work outlook for 2027 and beyond for some activities, as some actions cannot be completed in one year. These activities are referred to as the Long-Term Work Activities (labelled **LTWA**).

The MUCF works in cooperation with and for the MCs and stakeholders (growers' organisations, industry associations, research institutes, regulators, and government experts).

In 2026, the MUCF will focus its activities primarily on the following key areas of work:

- to coordinate, organise and facilitate the work on minor uses between MCs (project 1: MEETINGS)
- to finalise the abridged dRR Part A template (if it could not be finalised in 2025) and to elaborate a harmonized minor crop definition (PROJECT 3: INNOVATION and Explanatory note on minor uses), if it was voted for to continue working on this task during the MUCF autumn 2025 meetings.
- to maintain and further develop the EUMUDA database and update and develop an EUMUDA website user guide (project 2: EUMUDA).



Definitions and Abbreviations:

The European Minor Uses Database (EUMUDA) is an important tool to collect the minor use needs from Member Countries to follow up on these needs and to manage all projects.
The MUCF currently hosts several Commodity Expert Groups (CEGs), a Horizontal Expert Groups (HEG) and a Residue Expert Groups (ReEG).
All European countries that contribute to the funding of the MUCF regularly (preferably annually) are called “ Member Countries ”. All European countries that contribute in-kind (e.g., with expertise on relevant minor uses information, providing meeting rooms for expert group meetings, etc.) but do not commit to funding are “ Partner Countries ”.
A “ Minor use ” means the use of a plant protection product in a Member State on plants or plant products which are (<i>according to Article 3(26) of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009</i>): (a) not widely grown in that Member State; or (b) widely grown, to meet an exceptional plant protection need.
A minor use need is an identified plant protection gap on speciality crops (niche crops) or against plant harmful organisms that are not routinely encountered. These needs are compiled in a “Table of Needs” in EUMUDA.
The MUCF supports European stakeholders in closing crop protection gaps in minor uses. It coordinates collaboration and information exchange to improve the availability of sustainable crop protection solutions within an IPM framework. The objective is to enable farmers to produce high-quality crops and contribute to sustainable European agriculture.

PROJECT 1: MEETINGS 2026

The MUCF will facilitate and organise the meetings.

Technical meetings

P1 Objective 1: Spring and Autumn Commodity Expert Group (CEG), Horizontal Expert Group (HEG), and Residue Expert Group (ReEG) meetings

Participants will meet to discuss the progress of minor uses projects and issues. The CEG, HEG, and ReEG Spring meetings are planned to be held as remote meetings in February/March/April on separate days in 2026. The timing and location of the Autumn 2026 meetings will be discussed during the individual Spring meetings. The Autumn 2026 meetings are planned to be held as face-to-face meetings.

The CEGs work to close minor uses gaps, via MUCF projects, by finding PPP solutions within an IPM framework. The CEGs consist of national minor uses experts and representatives of the respective growers' associations or grower groups.

The HEG discusses general issues related to minor uses, as identified by the CEGs and the Steering Group, aiming for harmonised procedures and a levelled playing field among Member & Partner countries. The HEG consists of national minor use experts from all Member & Partner Countries, high-level representatives of respective growers' associations or grower groups, and representatives of pesticide industry associations.

The ReEG works to close minor uses PPP solution gaps by finding and proposing new extrapolation possibilities for setting Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs). The ReEG is comprised of national residue experts, representatives of the respective growers' associations or grower groups, representatives of European pesticide industry associations, and pesticide industry representatives.

Actions:

- *Providing assistance for the Chair(s) and co-Chair(s) of each group in establishing an agenda and inviting speakers for the meetings.*
- *Facilitation of follow-up actions, e.g. drafting a position paper on issues raised in the meetings or establishing a dedicated writing group to work on specific topics in more detail.*
- *Updating ongoing CEG projects and newly generated projects in EUMUDA.*
- *Exploring work areas within the groups where the MUCF can contribute to support the Member & Partner Countries.*
- *Taking on precise tasks within the groups where the MUCF can have added value, e.g. compiling, and sharing questionnaire on pest issues or pesticide needs.*

Expected outcome & success measures:

- *CEG project updates are shared via the "EUMUDA latest News" e-letter.*
- *Information from the meetings is communicated via the "MUCF general newsletter" (to be shared at least biannually) and/or as LinkedIn posts.*
- *Key presentations of the groups are published on the MUCF website to highlight their work and raise interest in participation.*

- *Effective and improved support to stakeholders, e.g., PPP solution availability in countries shared, addressing stakeholder questions at the HEG for discussion, etc.*
- *A centralised platform provided, for exchanging and tackling minor uses issues together.*

Governance meetings

P1 Objective 2: 1st & 2nd Steering Group meeting in 2026

The Minor Uses Steering Group comprises representatives from Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Ireland, Italy, and Lithuania and supervises and supports the work of the MUCF.

The European Commission and the Director-General of EPPO attend the meetings as permanent observers.

The Steering Group will meet to discuss and provide guidance on the work of the MUCF.

The first Steering Group meeting is planned for the beginning of June, and the second Steering Group meeting for December 2026. The final meeting dates (1st and 2nd meeting) and type (remote, hybrid) are to be decided by the Steering Group members.

1st Steering Group meeting (Summer Steering Group Meeting)

Actions:

- *The MUCF will deliver a draft Work Plan and Budget proposal for 2027, a financial overview of funding contributions received in 2026, a general work progress update for 2026, and a draft Annual and Financial Report for 2025.*

Expected outcome:

- *The Steering Group provides advice on the MUCF work in general, on the draft Work Plan and Budget proposal for 2027 and the draft Annual and draft Financial Report for 2025.*
- *The Steering Group provides advice on how and when to hold (remote or face-to-face, hybrid) the Annual General Meeting in Autumn 2026 and the 2nd Winter Steering group meeting in 2026.*

2nd Steering Group meeting (Winter Steering Group Meeting)

Actions:

- *The MUCF provides an Annual and Financial activity and funding contribution update for the work year 2026.*

Expected outcome:

- *The Steering Group advises the MUCF about the work carried out in 2026 and on improvements for 2027.*
- *The Steering Group decides when and how (remote or face-to-face, hybrid) to hold the 1st Steering Group meeting in June 2027.*

P1 Objective 3: Annual General Meeting 2026

The Annual General Meeting (AGM), inviting all funding Member Countries, will meet in Autumn (preferably at the end of September or early October). The AGM will probably be convened as a remote meeting. However the AGM may/can also be arranged as an in-person meeting if it can be held back-to-back with another MUCF meeting at which relevant country representatives are present. The role of the AGM will be to approve the Budget and Work Programme for the year to come and to approve the Annual and Financial Report from the previous MUCF work year.

Expected outcome & success measures:

- *Approved Work Plan and Budget for 2027 and an adopted Annual and Financial Report for 2025.*

PROJECT 2: EUMUDA-further development, updates, and maintenance

P2 Objective 1: Processing information

Making information available structured through databases (DB) and information hubs will be continued and, where needed, extended in 2026 and beyond. Further developments will be informed by feedback from the MUCF community, gathered through expert group discussions, user testing, and ad hoc consultation.

Action:

- *A comprehensive update and expansion of the EUMUDA website user guide will be undertaken. This document will describe the structure, purpose, and content of all existing EUMUDA sub-databases, including the Table of Needs, Minor/Major Crop and Use Status Database, Trial Availability Database and Project Database. In addition, the guide will provide an overview of MUCF data services, including:*
 - *User access policies (e.g. login requirements for restricted databases)*
 - *User types and access levels*
 - *A detailed user guide for each database*
 - *Copyright and data reuse disclaimers (with clear indication of any restrictions)*
 - *Data accessibility options*
 - *Technical maintenance and update procedures*

Expected outcome & success measures:

- *Published EUMUDA website user guide accessible on the EUMUDA website.*

A. Database on residue extrapolation (pending)

In 2023, the MUCF initiated exploratory work on the development of a dedicated database to facilitate user access to residue data extrapolation possibilities outlined in the European Commission's Technical Guidelines on data requirements for setting maximum residue levels (MRLs) (SANTE/2019/12752). The proposed system would enable electronic access to approved extrapolations, by structuring the information currently embedded in the static guideline document.

However, the MUCF has since been informed that the European Commission is undertaking efforts to digitise this content. To avoid redundancy and ensure alignment with EU-level developments, the MUCF has paused its internal database development. Nevertheless, the concept remains under consideration pending further clarification on the scope and timeline of the Commission's initiative.

Possible actions:

- *The MUCF team further explores the main fields and the structure and logic of the database and observe the development of the EU plans to make this data electronically available.*
- *Extrapolation rules from the Technical Guidelines document are integrated into EUMUDA as a new database (prototype).*
- *MUCF experts to validate the structure of the residue extrapolation database prototype and the MUCF team starts entering the data (LTWA).*

Expected outcome & success measures:

- *Searchable database to retrieve existing residue extrapolation possibilities as listed in the Technical Guidelines document.*

B. Database on availability of data from residue and efficacy trials

In 2023, the MUCF initiated the development of a database to facilitate user access to information on the availability of residue and efficacy trial data. A beta version was released to MUCF project leaders in 2024 to assess usability and validate key functionalities. In 2025, the MUCF began incorporating initial datasets into the system, including contributions from Germany.

Actions:

- *A call will be done to request to share additional residue and efficacy trial data availability information with the MUCF.*
- *To incorporate more national residue and efficacy trial availability information, such as the Swedish or the French information into the MUCF EUMUDA database.*
- *National contact points have to be designated. These individuals will serve as liaisons for accessing trial data packages, and clear procedures for data exchange must be established to ensure consistent and secure transmission of trial reports.*

Expected outcome & success measures:

- *Searchable database to retrieve residue and efficacy trial availability information.*

C. Database on crop statuses (minor/major crop) extension with minor/major uses information

In 2023, the MUCF launched the minor/major crop database with crop status information from 15 countries. In 2024 the MUCF added some crop status information from other countries e.g. Slovakia and Italy. Adding and updating crop status information was continued in 2025, with adding information from Slovenia, Lithuania, Poland, Norway and Spain. For some countries the MUCF also holds

information on the minor/major uses status. In 2026 the MUCF will work on to extend the minor /major crop status DB with minor /major uses information,

Actions:

- *To incorporate national minor /major uses information from European countries.*
- *Renaming the DB to minor /major crop status and uses.*

Expected outcome & success measures:

- *Searchable and extended minor/major crop database with minor major uses information to retrieve crop status and uses information.*

P 2 Objective 2: Data comparison

Overview of Emergency authorisations (Art. 53.) granted on minor uses needs (**LTWA**). The MUCF Table of Needs were updated in 2024. New updated Table of Needs to be compared with Art. 53 granted on a minor uses need.

Actions:

- *To provide and elaborate an overview of Emergency authorisations (Art. 53.) granted on MUCF collected minor uses needs.*

Expected outcome & success measures:

- *A document on Emergency authorisations (Art. 53.) granted on minor uses needs is made available. To provide a basis for discussion in the respective MUCF expert working groups.*

PROJECT 3: INNOVATION & Explanatory Note on Minor Uses

P3 Objective 1: abridged dRR Part A template

In 2024, a dedicated drafting group consisting of MUCF experts started to explore the possibility of developing and drafting an abridged dRR Part A template to be used on a voluntary basis by the Competent Authority or the applicant. The drafting group was supported by a regulatory consultant in the development of this template in 2025. Depending on the work progress, this document could be finalised in 2025. If this is not achievable in 2025, the support from a regulatory consultant to finalise this template is further expected in 2026 (salary costs for the regulatory consultant is included in the 2026 budget proposal).

Actions (if not finalised by 2025, the following actions will be carried out in 2026):

- *To finalise an abridged dRR Part A template which will be supported by a regulatory consultant, to become an addendum of the Explanatory Note on Minor Uses.*
- *To update the general text of the Explanatory Note on Minor Uses, with the guidance and expertise of the regulatory consultant.*
- *To present the updated Explanatory Note on Minor Uses, with the new addendum (abridged dRR Part A template) at a SCoPAFF Legislation meeting for endorsement.*

Expected outcome & success measures:

- *Updated and further developed Explanatory Note on Minor Uses.*

P3 Objective 2: Harmonised definition of a minor crop and discussion paper (LTWA):

During the 2020 workshop ‘Minor Uses and Speciality Crops: The Way Forward in Europe’, held in Paris, the concept of establishing a harmonised EU-wide definition of minor crops—and creating a unified EU or zonal list of major crops—was initiated. This initiative gained renewed momentum following the 2022 MUCF Minor Uses Survey, which provided essential baseline data for the development of a structured proposal. Subsequently, the 2023 Zonal Authorisation Procedure Improvements and Developments (ZAPID) workshop identified the need for further discussion among MUCF experts on the feasibility of a harmonised list or criteria to define a minor crop. In response, the MUCF presented preliminary concepts during the Autumn 2024 Horizontal Expert Group (HEG) meeting, outlining a potential model and trying to analyse the respective advantages and limitations. To support this work, an external consultant was engaged throughout 2024 and 2025 to refine the conceptual framework. The outcome of these efforts will be further evaluated during the Autumn 2025 expert group meetings, at which point a decision will be made on whether to pursue further this task. Should the initiative move forward, continued consultant support is anticipated in 2026 and has been provisionally included in the MUCF budget for 2026.

A formal discussion document should be prepared to document the development process, outlining the proposed model, and assessing the implications—both regulatory and practical—of adopting a harmonised EU definition of minor crops. This paper is expected to form the basis for expert consensus and future regulatory alignment.

Actions:

- *To establish a writing group, which will be supported by a consultant to draft a discussion paper on the topic of “Setting a harmonised status of a minor crop and the creation of a single EU or zonal list of major/minor crops”.*

Expected outcome & success measures:

- *Drafted discussion paper.*

PROJECT 4: FINANCE

P4 Objective 1: MUCF Funding

The MUCF will continue to depend on annual (and other regular) voluntary contributions from Member Country governments for its funding. The sustainability of this approach will depend on the continued timely payment of contributions.

Actions:

- *The MUCF explores having the funding situation of the MUCF as well as the topic of minor uses and crops and their importance for the European agriculture addressed as an AOB point in an EU*

Agriculture and Fisheries Council (AGRIFISH) meeting during Ireland's presidency (July-December 2026). The objective is to elevate political recognition of the strategic importance that minor crop production plays in European agriculture and to foster momentum for coordinated and sustained support at both national and EU levels. This includes addressing structural challenges associated with the “lock-in” situation for minor uses, enhancing coordination, and securing dedicated funding - particularly for research, staffing at national and competent authority levels (for trial data generation, and authorisation procedures), and the continued operation of the European Minor Uses Coordination Facility (MUCF).

Expected outcome & success measures:

- *Reignite political momentum around the unresolved structural issues facing minor crop production and protection in Europe.*
- *Build consensus on the need for strategic investment, regulatory simplification, and long-term support mechanisms (e.g. secured long-term funding of the MUCF).*
- *Provide Member States with an opportunity to exchange views, present national experiences, and align on a coordinated path forward.*
- *Empower the MUCF to serve as a central knowledge-sharing platform and technical interface for multi-stakeholder collaboration on minor uses.*

PROJECT 5: WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

P5 Objective 1: Content-rich website

The MUCF website serves as both a communication and information hub and is regularly updated with news, survey results, a calendar of events, etc.

Actions:

- *Regularly updated website.*

Expected outcome & success measures:

- *Increased numbers of users accessing the MUCF website.*

P5 Objective 2: Social Media

The MUCF joined LinkedIn at the end of 2022, to further communicate and share information on minor uses. It posts under the hashtags #EuropeanMUCF, #minoruses, #MinorUsesMajorImportance & #LetsTalkAboutMinorUses.

Actions:

- *Regularly post on LinkedIn (i.e. meeting schedule, news on minor uses etc.).*

Expected outcome & success measures:

- *Increased numbers of LinkedIn followers and improved visibility of the work of the MUCF.*

PROJECT 6: IT

P6 Objective 1: Improvement of the IT Infrastructure

The MUCF will undertake the following IT tasks in 2026.

Actions:

The MUCF IT tools will be reworked allowing the following:

- *To have a unique list of contacts for all the MUCF tools (MUCF extranet, MUCF internal contact database and EPPO Secretariat Management System (SMS)). At the moment, all these tools are working with different contact lists which have to be kept updated separately.*
- *A common login page for all the MUCF tools (the experts may currently have different accounts for the MUCF Extranet and the restricted access parts of the MUCF website).*
- *To give Expert Group members the possibility to exchange files directly within the Extranet.*
- *To give the possibility to send formatted emails directly from the Extranet to all participants from a working group.*
- *Implement a SharePoint tool on the MUCF extranet.*
- *Export of the results from the survey tool directly into a MS-Word format.*

Expected outcome & success measures:

- *Have one common tool to manage the MUCF contact databases and make it easier to keep them updated.*
- *Improved user-friendliness of the MUCF Extranet and group several MUCF IT tools together.*

PROJECT 7: PROMOTING AWARENESS & NETWORKING

P 7 Objective 1: Promoting awareness and networking meetings.

The MUCF will continue exploring how to improve some recurring actions in 2026.

Actions:

- *The Facility promotes cooperation with the PPP industry to organise “PPP priority setting” meetings.*
- *The Facility participates in (international) events/conferences and meetings such as a Copa*Cogeca Agriculture Roundtable meeting, CropLife meetings, the Annual Biocontrol meeting (ABIM) in Basel, Switzerland, SCoPAFF and OECD meetings to raise awareness on minor uses matters and to provide updates on the work and activities of the Facility.*

Expected outcome & success measures:

- *Improved visibility of the MUCF’s work in Europe and internationally.*
- *Raised awareness of minor uses needs within the PPP industry.*

Annex: MUCF Budget Estimation for 2026			
	Expenditure	k€	Remarks
1	Salaries & Staff Expenses	371	
1.01	Salaries and related costs: MUCF Staff Office-Based	262	Salary costs are based upon percentages of full-time salary: 100% of Coordinator & 80% of Scientific-Officer (11 months). Related costs include social security, insurance, & pension.
1.01.01	MUCF IT Officer (Full Stack Developer) Office-Based	64	170 effective workdays per year, 7.5 hours per day. Employed by EPPO at a rate of 375 € per day as an individual contractor.
1.01.02	Consultants Home-Based	20	Employed by EPPO on a consultancy basis for approx. 20 effective workdays per year and 7.5 hours per day. (i.e. dRR Part A for 8 d, harmonised minor crop definition for 12 d; for continuation of tasks).
1.02	Salaries and related costs: EPPO Staff	25	Salary costs are based upon percentages of full-time salary: 30% of Administrator*, 1% of Director-General EPPO, 2% of Editor EPPO and 1% Accounting Service EPPO. Related costs include social security, insurance, & pension.
2	Administrative & Governance meetings	20	
2.01	Steering Group (SG)	0	Summer & Winter SG are planned as remote meetings.
2.02	Annual General Meeting	0	The AGM is planned as a remote meeting in Autumn.
2.03	Staff travel and subsistence	20	2 SCoPAFF meetings per year (4 days [d] x 1 person [p]) 4 PPP industry meetings (1 d x 2 p) to discuss minor uses solutions and issues. 1 Copa*Cogeca (1 d x 1 p), 1 ABIM (2 d x 1 p) meeting MUCF team participation in Autumn CEGs, HEG and ReEG (4 d x 4 p). Travel costs at an assumed average of 300 €. Train as a preferred means of transport to reduce CO ₂ emission footprint; accommodation costs at an assumed daily average of 120 € plus daily allowance.
3	IT & Communication	16	
3.01	Infrastructure	12	Office rent, hosting MUCF server, server service fee etc.
3.02	Software, services & fees	2	e.g. Zoom and CircleBack subscription, Visa Card
3.03	Miscellaneous	2	Printing costs for meeting posters etc.
4	Technical Meetings	24	
4.01	Spring CEG, HEG & ReEG	0	Spring meetings are planned to be held remotely.
4.02	Autumn CEG, HEG & ReEG	24	2 days CEG meetings, 0.5-day HEG and 0.3-day ReEG are planned as a face-to-face meeting.
04.02.01	Room rental and lunch	20	
04.02.02	Invited guest expert travel grant	4	<i>Per se no reimbursement of costs for experts. Guest experts invited on request might receive a travel allowance. To be considered on a case-by-case basis.</i>
	Overhead (7%)	30	
	Subtotal Expenditure	461	

*Administrative staff are listed under the EPPO rather than the MUCF staff, representing a change from the listing in 2023/24.