



EUROPEAN MINOR USES
COORDINATION FACILITY



Annual & Financial Report 2023

FOREWORD from the Coordinator:

This Annual and Financial Report presents the main activities, outcomes, and achievements of the MUCF community and the MUCF team in 2023.

A key objective of the European Minor Uses Coordination Facility (MUCF) is to provide information on minor uses and related issues to all its contributing partners (i.e. representatives of European competent authorities, the European Commission, PPP industry & grower associations, researchers, technicians, etc.) in order to make better evidence-based decisions and actions to address and solve minor uses. Progress is being made.

A document summarising data and information from the “Minor Uses Survey 2022” is now published and accessible on the MUCF website. This document provides a solid foundation of information for further actions and decision on minor use issues, which in turn will enhance and benefit minor crop production in Europe. We would like to thank the MUCF Technical Contact Points who provided guidance, technical support and information/data input, as well as some members of the EPPO Secretariat, who have supported the compilation of the “Minor Uses Survey 2022 compiled data and

MUCF in numbers 2023

Meetings

- 322 attendees to 13 MUCF meetings, with registered experts from 24 European Countries.
- CEGs, HEG & ReEG Spring meetings were held remotely, Autumn meetings in-person in Athens, for most expert groups.
- 2 Steering Group meetings
- 1 AGM hybrid meeting



MUCF expert members

311 contacts (some experts participate in several expert working groups).
 CEG Fruits & Vegetables: 50 members
 CEG Herbs & Spices: 12 members
 CEG Hops: 16 members
 CEG Mushroom: 13 members
 CEG Ornamentals: 17 members
 CEG Seeds: 16 members
 CEG Tobacco: 18 members
 HEG: 82 members
 ReEG: 18 members
 Technical contact points: 30
 Financial contact points: 30
 PPP industry contacts: 17



Survey & question responses

22 "Minor Uses Survey 2022" responses.
 113 responses to questions on: MRL setting on radish leaves, Captan, Glyphosate, Hypochlorite.



EUMUDA minor/major crop database

1 new database on national minor/major crop statuses, with 15 data layers. Including data from: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, the Netherlands, Portugal, Switzerland, the United Kingdom.



2 MUCF newsletters
 2 EUMUDA latest news letters
 22 LinkedIn posts



3885 MUCF website visits
 6525 database visits
 221 LinkedIn followers



information" document. We advocate that the continued production and cultivation of minor, niche, and specialty crops (hereafter referred to only as "minor crops") holds a considerable significance that goes beyond their monetary value. Growing a wide variety of crops, including minor ones, plays a vital role in preserving agrobiodiversity and improving ecological resilience and could therefore be considered as an ecosystem service, enforcing European food security and the sustainability of European agriculture in the long term. Diversified crop production, especially incorporating minor crops, can result in habitat fragmentation of agricultural landscapes, which can benefit crop/pollination systems.

Diverse agricultural landscapes (e.g. greenscapes) and ornamental plants can have positive effects on human health and mental well-being.

Cultivating a range of crops also promotes nutritional diversity. Minor crops (e.g., some fruits and vegetables, mushrooms, or herbs and spices etc.) can confer noteworthy nutritional advantages owing to their specific nutrient profiles. Introducing a variety of minor crops into the diet can improve overall dietary diversity and contribute to public health.

Some minor crops possess cultural and traditional importance, in varying significance per European country. Minor crops are cultivated due to cultural (e.g. saffron in Spain, or Damask rose in Bulgaria) or traditional reasons (e.g. apricot in Austria, or strawberry in Norway) and serve as an integral part of the local food culture and heritage. The preservation and promotion of these crops can aid

in maintaining cultural legacy.

In terms of climate resilience, minor crops production can play a key role in building durable agriculture ecosystems that can better withstand the impacts of climate change. By diversifying crop rotations, incorporating crops with unique growing features countering therewith monocultural cropping systems, farmers can reduce the likelihood of crop failures and maintain productivity, even under changing environmental conditions.

The MUCF remained financially sound in 2023. We are grateful to all the European countries that have provided financial support and other institutions (e.g. Benaki Phytopathological Institute of

Athens, Greece and the Hellenic Ministry of Rural Development and Food) that have provided in-kind support to sustain the work of the Facility. Nevertheless, it is crucial to emphasise the importance of consistent and reliable funding from European countries as well as in-kind support. European countries benefiting from the services of the MUCF are encouraged to continue providing their support.

As the Coordinator of the MUCF, I would like to acknowledge the excellent and dedicated work of the Chair(s) and Co-Chair(s) of the Expert Working Groups and the MUCF Steering Group. The MUCF Steering Group continues to provide essential governance oversight and advice on all long-term strategic plans of the MUCF (e.g. work plan, long-term funding initiatives, etc.). We would like to thank the previous Steering Group Chair, Jan Waespe (CH), who completed his term as Chair of the MUCF Steering Group in 2023, for his dedicated leadership over the past year, and Peter Windegger (AT), who has taken over as Chair of the Steering Group.

On behalf of the MUCF team, I thank everyone involved in the work of the Facility for their support and commitment. Only through collaboration will it be possible to fill minor use gaps and therewith to enable farmers in Europe to continue to produce high-quality crops for all the reason mentioned before.



Barbara Edler

Coordinator of the MUCF

May 2024

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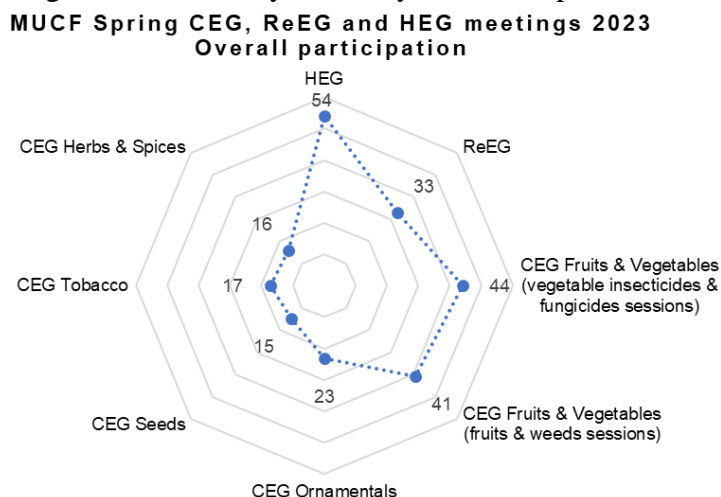
Achievements in 2023

1. Facilitating and Organizing Expert and MUCF Governance Meetings, coordinating expert groups, providing administrative support

1.1 MUCF expert group meetings: Commodity (CEG), Horizontal (HEG) and Residue Expert Group (ReEG)

1.1.1. CEG, HEG and ReEG Spring 2023 meetings

A total of 225 participants attended the online multi-day CEGs (138 participants), HEG (54 participants) and ReEG (33 participants) meetings in late February and early March. Experts from 21 European countries and from 10 organizations (e.g. International Biocontrol Manufacturers Association, Copa*Cogeca, Euroseeds, the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board) were present. The presenters and participants appreciated the convenience of the online meeting format, which allowed for cross-participation in the different meetings. A participation overview per expert group is displayed in the figure enclosed:



All CEG meetings included an exchange on the availability of active substances for minor use needs (crop x pest combination) per country. A status update on active substances that are (i) in the renewal of approval process, (ii) have been renewed, (iii) are approved, or (iv) have been withdrawn, was shared within each group. The experts noted that several active substances were withdrawn during the renewal of the approval process, making adequate and appropriate crop production difficult for the farmers/producers due to a lack of sufficient crop protection solutions. Consequently, this affects the CEGs project work.

CEG Fruits and Vegetables: Mr Peter Hartvig, co-Chair of CEG Fruits and Vegetables, section weeds, presented a summary of herbicide screening trials in vegetables and berries conducted in Denmark. Weed issues in fruits and vegetables generated a lot of interest and led to follow-up actions. The CEG Fruits and Vegetables carried out a questionnaire on the tools for weed management in different fruit crops, as well as the available alternatives in the event of the non-renewal of the authorisation of Glyphosate in the EU. The first results from this questionnaire were presented at the Autumn 2023 meeting.

Following the meeting of the CEG Vegetables, the MUCF established a dedicated writing group comprised of several CEG Vegetables experts from Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, and the Netherlands, regarding the setting of Maximum Residue Level (MRL) on radish leaves (for more information on the MRL classification, see https://food.ec.europa.eu/plants/pesticides_en). Due to the revision in 2017 (SANTE/10257/2017), new regulation rules apply under Regulation (EC) No 396/2005. This revision, which will enter into force in 2025, would allocate radish leaves to the MRL group 'Kales' (*Brassica oleracea* var. *viridis*, BRSOA, commodity code number according to Annex

I of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005: 0243020). This is creating difficulties for European radish producers. Radishes produced in EU countries would have to comply not only with the MRL rules set for radish roots, but also with the new MRL rules for the leaves of radishes sold with leaves, even though the leaves are not usually intended for consumption. The writing group advocated for the allocation of radish leaves to a more suitable MRL group than Kale. A position paper explaining the issue, and backing up the proposal with trial data, was circulated to the Pesticide Residues meeting of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (SCoPAFF) on 2023-05-10/11. The topic is still under discussion at the SCoPAFF.

Following the meeting of the CEG Fruits, the MUCF established a dedicated writing group comprised of several CEG Fruits experts from Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania and Ireland, regarding to maintain at least one safe field use for the active substance Captan. A statement was prepared and shared with EU Standing Committee on Plants Animals Feed and Food (SCoPAFF) Legislation to underpin the importance of the active substance Captan for stable production of numerous crops in Europe.

CEG Mushrooms: Following the meeting of the CEG Mushrooms, expert group members compiled an Excel list of the main harmful organisms in mushroom production. This document contains, among other information, pictures to help mushroom growers to identify these harmful organisms.

CEG Ornamentals: Following the meeting of the CEG Ornamentals, expert group members carried out a questionnaire on the control of thrips and soil-borne diseases management. The first results from this questionnaire were presented at the Autumn 2023 meeting.

CEG Seeds: Following the meeting of the CEG Seeds, expert group members drafted a position paper on Hypochlorite becoming a basic substance, which will be shared with the SCoPAFF once the subject will be addressed by SCoPAFF at a suitable meeting.

HEG: The HEG meeting focused on exchanging information on minor uses regulatory procedures and impediments regarding Reg. 1107/2009.

HEG experts decided to elaborate an abridged draft registration report Part A template for minor uses applications, which could be used on a voluntary basis by dossier applicants and evaluators. A dedicated working group, who will draft this template was established after the meeting took place.

A representative of a Directors Consulting Group (DCG, consisting of the directors of the Competent Authorities in the EU Member States) presented the work and scope of the DCG and asked for information on actions and responsibilities taken by the EU Member States, as requested by the EU Commission, on the REFIT¹ of Reg. 1107/2009. Following the meeting the HEG Chair Ms Jana Johansen Hladilova (NO) in cooperation with the MUCF team provided a written summary report of MUCF deliverables, recommendations, and possible measures to be taken to improve the situation for minor uses in Europe. This report was shared with the DCG in June 2023.

¹ Evaluations and fitness checks are tools that are used to implement the Regulatory Fitness and Performance programme (REFIT). REFIT is a rolling programme to keep the entire stock of EU legislation under review and ensure that it is 'fit for purpose'; that regulatory burdens are minimised, and that all simplification options are identified and applied (https://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/pesticides/refit_en).

Deliverable: Position document on setting MRLs on radish leaves. Position document on Hypochlorite. Position document on Captan. Summary report for DCG of MUCF deliverables, recommendations, and possible measures to be taken to improve the situation for minor uses in Europe. Circulated questionnaires on Glyphosate and on Thrips and soil-borne diseases control.

Several calls for Chair(s) and co-Chair(s) were made before and during the CEG, HEG and ReEG Spring meetings:

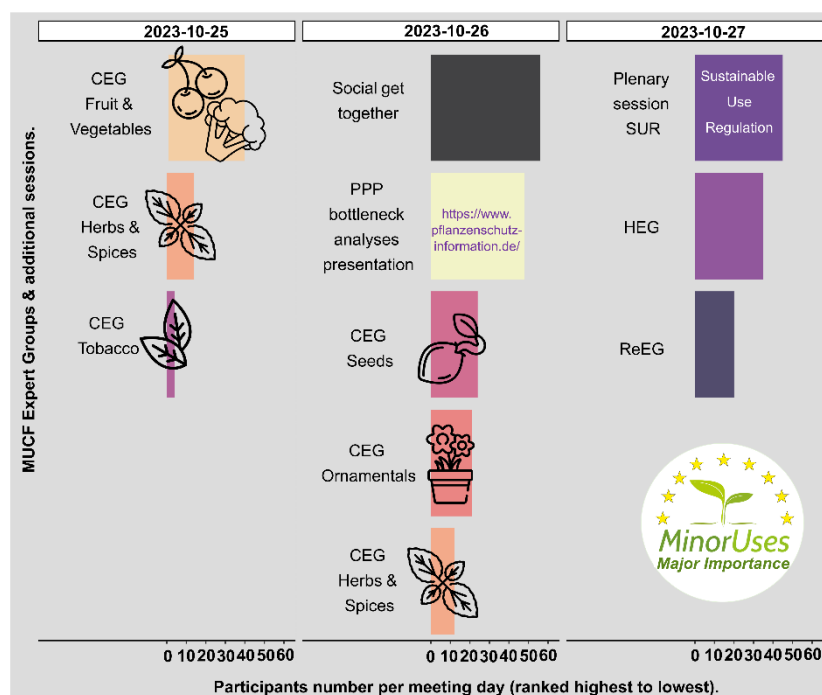
- Ms Theodora Nikolopoulou (GR) was appointed as co-Chair of CEG Vegetables, section Fungicides and Insecticides. The MUCF would like to thank the resigning co-Chair, Ms Gabriele Leinhos (DE) for her dedicated work leading the working group until Spring 2023.
- Mr Jose-Luis Alonso-Prados (ES) was elected as Chair of ReEG, and Mr Karsten Hohgardt (DE) as co-Chair. The ReEG was established in 2022 and will work on screening residue trials for possible new MRL extrapolation possibilities proposals.

We wish to thank all the experts for their participation and the fruitful discussions during these meetings.

Deliverable: The MUCF coordinated the procedure of nominating and electing/appointing the Chair and co-Chairs.

1.1.2. CEG, HEG and ReEG Autumn 2023 meetings

In Athens, CEGs Fruits & Vegetables (39 attendees), Seeds (24 attendees), Herbs & Spices (14 attendees), Ornamentals (21 attendees), Tobacco (7 attendees), ReEG (20 attendees) and the HEG (35 attendees) met for a 2.5-day long meeting on 2023-10-25/27, attended by a total of 71 participants (figure enclosed). Experts from 19 European countries and several organizations and plant protection companies (e.g., Euroseeds, IBMA, Copa*Cogeca, CropLife Europe, Syngenta) were present in person or connected to the meetings remotely to give a presentation.



The MUCF team would like to thank the Benaki Phytopathological Institute and the Greek Ministry of Rural Development and Food for their support in organising and hosting the meetings.

As requested by MUCF experts during the Spring 2023 meetings, a plenary session was organised on the topic of the Sustainable Use Regulation (SUR). Ms Gea Bouwman & Ms Amalia Kafka (Euroseeds), Ms Marina Antonova (Copa*Cogeca), Ms Jennifer Lewis (International Biocontrol Manufacturers Association, IBMA), and Mr Michal Kicinski (CropLife Europe) provided their perspectives on the Regulation and the various implications of its implementation for their future work, which led to a lively Q&A session on this topic.

During the common session Mr Marc Muszinski (Syngenta Germany, presenting on behalf of the German Industry Association), provided a bottleneck-analysis overview detailed per crop and pest illustrating the decrease in chemical control options during the last decade at the level of crop + pest + mode of action. The database tool (in German) to conduct the bottleneck analysis was developed and is maintained by the German Dienstleistungszentrum Ländlicher Raum Rheinland (DLR). The tool provides an overview of the number of registered active substances and allows the search to be refined for specific crops and pests.

All CEG meetings focused on exchanging information on the availability of active substances and crop protection issues.

- CEG Mushroom (2023-10-10) held their Autumn meetings remotely. Key topics related to mushroom production and protection, including bacterial blotch disease and sciarid flies were discussed.
- CEG Hops held its Autumn meeting in Nürnberg, Germany, on 2023-11-27. The meeting was hosted by the Barthhass Company. Key topics related to hops' production and protection, including *Verticillium* diseases, downy mildew, exceptional weather conditions leading to higher pest pressure (especially for aphids), and spider mites were discussed.
- CEG Rice did not meet in the Autumn meeting cycle as the group is currently without a Chair.

Deliverable: All Spring and Autumn meeting presentations and reports are accessible on the MUCF extranet.

Deliverable: The MUCF provided administrative and technical support to the CEGs, HEG and ReEG in organising and facilitating the Spring and Autumn meetings.

1.2. MUCF Governance meetings, MUCF governance and administration

1.2.1. MUCF 1st Steering Group meeting

The first Steering Group meeting of the year took place on 2023-06-30 as a hybrid meeting held at EPPO's premises in Paris. 6 Steering Group Member Countries (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Italy, Lithuania, and Switzerland) participated along with EPPO's Director General and one EU Commission representative in the meeting.

At this meeting, an activity update on the work of the MUCF in the first months of 2023 and an overview of funding contributions received from 2018 to 2023 was given, it was agreed on when and how the Autumn AGM 2023 would take place. Input on the draft Work Programme for 2024 and the Budget proposal for 2024 as well as on the draft Annual and Financial Report 2022 were given. The revised "MUCF invited Guests and Travel and Subsistence expenses procedures" document and the draft Terms of Reference for the new MUCF Residues Expert Group (ReEG) were approved.

Mr Jan Waespe (CH) announced his intention to finish his term as Chair of the MUCF Steering Group and noted that Switzerland will end its term as MUCF Steering Group Member Country at the end of December 2023.

Furthermore, the work of the Coordinator and the current work of the MUCF were evaluated during the meeting. The Coordinator was provided with feedback on potential improvements. Additionally, a future work focus for the MUCF was discussed.

Deliverable: Revised “MUCF invited Guests and Travel and Subsistence expenses procedures” document is available upon request and the Terms of Reference for the new MUCF Residues Expert Group (ReEG) is accessible under <https://minoruses.eu/expertgroups/index>

1.2.2. Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2023

The AGM took place on 2023-10-13 as an online meeting. 12 representatives from MUCF Member Countries participated along with EPPO’s Director General and a EU Commission representative. At this meeting, the Work Programme and Budget for 2024 were approved, the Annual and Financial Report for 2022 was adopted, an overview of the funding contributions received from the MUCF Member Countries in the years of 2018-2023 were provided, a MUCF work activity update on the first 9 months of 2023 were given and the MUCF Steering Group composition and the future chairing of the MUCF Steering Group were discussed.

Deliverable: Adopted Annual and Financial Report 2022. An abridged version is published on the MUCF website for the public: <https://minoruses.eu/mucf/reports>

Deliverable: Approved Work Programme and Budget 2024. An abridged version is published on the MUCF website for the public: <https://minoruses.eu/mucf/workplan>

1.2.3. MUCF 2nd Steering Group meeting

The second Steering Group meeting of the year took place on 2023-11-30 as a remote meeting. 4 Steering Group Member Countries (Belgium, Denmark, Lithuania, and Switzerland) participated along with EPPO’s Director General, a EU Commission representative, and an invited Member Country (Ireland).

An activity update on the MUCF work in 2023 and an overview of funding contributions received from 2018 to 2023 was given, it was decided on when and how to hold the next Steering Group meeting in 2024 (remote meeting, 2024-06-17) and what the MUCF should focus their future work on was discussed.

The basis for the discussion was a roadmap developed as an outcome of the MUCF Workshop 2020, which was hosted by the French Ministry of Agriculture and Food. The Workshop, entitled ‘Minor Uses and Speciality Crops: The way forward in Europe’, was held on 18-20 February 2020. It was decided that this topic should be readdressed at the next Steering Group meeting in 2024.

It was decided that a potential increase of the MUCF funding contribution amount to cover increased expenses due to inflation and the necessity of this increase should be rediscussed during the Summer Steering Group meeting in 2024. In comparison, EPPO has increased its contribution by 3% in 2023 and by 8.5% in 2024. Therefore, an increase in the funding contribution to the MUCF of approximately 11.5% could be considered.

It was concluded that, for the time being, no reimbursement of MUCF experts should be engaged, besides experts are invited as guest by the MUCF. However, an exception could be made for Chair(s) and co-Chair(s) of the MUCF working groups, if participating in the work of the working groups would otherwise not be possible. This matter should be further discussed by the Chair(s) and co-Chair(s) in the relevant MUCF working groups.


The Coordinator informed the Steering Group of her intention to reduce her working hours. In 2024, she will reduce her working time from 100% to 80%, and it is intended to hire a Consultant to work for 20% of her reduced hours (the 20% Coordinators work time reduction equates to approximately 30 000 EUR). The Consultant will work on regulatory matters.


An additional change in staff was announced. As of 1 January 2024, Ms Nathalie Boutron will step down from her role as IT Officer at the MUCF and focus on EPPO’s IT work. This will result in an open MUCF IT Officer vacancy in 2024. The MUCF team expresses their gratitude to Ms Boutron for her contributions to the MUCF IT work over the past eight years.

The Steering Group appointed and welcomed Ireland as a new MUCF Steering Group Country and nominated Mr Peter Windegger (AT) as new MUCF Steering Group Chair.

A visual summary of the MUCF Steering Group Member Countries and their terms in service is provided in the table below:

MUCF Member Countries	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Austria						*	*	
Belgium								
Denmark								
Germany			END					
Italy								
Lithuania								
Netherlands	*	*	*	*END				
Slovak Republic				END				
Sweden				END				
Switzerland					*END			
Ireland								

 MUCF Steering Group Member Countries appointed in 2022-2023.

 Countries continue in office after the end of their first term.

 MUCF Steering Group Member Countries in 2021.

 New MUCF Steering Group Member Country in 2024.

*Chair

Deliverable: The MUCF organised and facilitated the MUCF Governance meetings.

2. EUMUDA-further development, updates, and maintenance

2.1. EUMUDA - minor and major crop database

The database has been launched and made public on the MUCF website. The database of the crop status in the European countries includes for now the information of 15 countries: Austria, Belgium,

Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, the Netherlands, Portugal, Switzerland, the United Kingdom.

Moreover, the national criteria to define a minor/major crop have been updated on the EUMUDA homepage. A summary of these criteria is also available within the minor/major crops database.

The database is accessible under:

https://www.eumuda.eu/database/minor_major_crops

Deliverable: EUMUDA minor/major crop database with 3242 entries.

2.2. EUMUDA – residue and efficacy trial availability database

Progress was made on the residue and efficacy trial availability database and a beta version access to the database has been shared with MUCF project leaders for feedback. Which information should be displayed in this database still needs to be explored, e.g., who is the contact point for a country, how to exchange on the availability of the trial reports etc. This database is currently not open for the public and only accessible by MUCF project leaders.

2.3. EUMUDA - residue extrapolation database

The MUCF did not start the work on the residue extrapolation database in 2023. The aim is to digitalise the residue extrapolations proposed in the ‘Technical guideline on data requirements for setting MRLs, comparability of residue trials and extrapolation of residue data on products from plant and animal origin’.

2.4. EUMUDA Projects

In 2023, eleven new projects concerning minor uses needs (in Ornamentals and Fruits & Vegetables) have been set up:

- *Fusarium* (1FUSAG) on *Cyclamen* sp. (CYZSS), Greenhouse
- *Phytophthora cinnamomi* (PHYTCN) on ornamental woody plants (3ORWC), Greenhouse
- *Echinothrips* sp. (ECHTSP) on ornamental plants (terrestrial) (3ORTC), Greenhouse
- *Otiorynchus sulcatus* (OTIOSU) on ornamental woody plants (3ORWC), Outdoor or field use
- Aphididae (1APHIF) on strawberry (FRAAN), Greenhouse
- *Halyomorpha halys* (HALYHA) on hazelnuts (CYLAV), Outdoor or field use
- *Cerotelium fici* (KUEHFI) on figs (FIUCA), Outdoor or field use
- weeds (3WEEDT) in chicory (CICIN), Outdoor or field use
- *Peronospora destructor* (PERODE) on small radish (RAPSR), Greenhouse
- *Peronospora destructor* (PERODE) on small radish (RAPSR), Outdoor or field use
- *Peronospora destructor* (PERODE) on onion (ALLCE), Outdoor or field use

A new PPP authorisation was granted for 6 EUMUDA projects in 2023. The MUCF team identified correlated minor uses needs (collected in the EUMUDA Table of needs) and suggested where the newly authorised PPP could be used as a solution to solve this need.

Progress statuses were updated for 9 out of a total of 158 MUCF projects. However, these 9 projects are not closed yet, as additional trial data is still being generated.

Detailed information on the EUMUDA project progress was shared for the third and fourth time in the “EUMUDA Latest News” e-letter in September and December 2023. This e-letter shares project status updates on CEG projects among selected CEG and HEG members to maintain data confidentiality integrity.

Deliverable: 3rd and 4th EUMUDA Latest News e-letter. Emailing to ~200 contacts (all HEG and CEG contacts – except industry contacts).

3. Minor Uses Survey 2022 compiled data and information

The MUCF conducted a survey in 2022 focusing on minor uses regulatory procedures regarding Plant Protection Products Regulation (EU) No. 1107/2009 and impediments to the implementation of these procedures. The objectives of this survey were to update and extend the available information on minor uses work in European countries and to provide valid data for future discourse, analysis, synthesis and actions related to minor uses and associated issues. In total, 22 out of 30 MUCF National Contact points participated in the survey 2022. The published document can be accessed: https://minoruses.eu/media/files/resources/MUCF_MU_Survey_2022_Compiled_Information_final.pdf.

Deliverable: “Minor Uses Survey 2022 compiled data and information” document.

4. Communication and awareness raising

4.1. MUCF Newsletter

CEG, HEG and ReEG 2023 meeting highlights and general minor uses information was circulated via the MUCF newsletter in June 2023 and in January 2024 (prepared in December 2023, but circulated in January 2024).

Deliverable: 18th & 19th MUCF newsletter. Newsletters can be accessed: <https://minoruses.eu/mucf/newsletters>

4.2. MUCF Social Media

The MUCF posted 22 LinkedIn posts in 2023 on the Facilities’ activities, MUCF meetings, and on minor uses developments. Posts are made under the hashtags #MUCF and #minoruses.

Deliverable: MUCF LinkedIn appearance. To be accessed under: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/european-minor-uses-coordination-facility/>

4.3. MUCF meeting participation

- The MUCF (Coordinator) participated in the OECD 38th Meeting of the Working Party on Pesticides on 2023-03-01 and provided an update on the work developments in several MUCF working groups. As a meeting follow-up the MUCF contributed data and information to the “OECD Guidance Document on addressing minor uses”. The guidance document collates a variety of existing information regarding the registration of pesticides for minor uses in a centralised document.

The document was published at the end of 2023 and is accessible under:
[https://one.oecd.org/document/ENV/CBC/MONO\(2023\)40/en/pdf](https://one.oecd.org/document/ENV/CBC/MONO(2023)40/en/pdf)

- The MUCF (Coordinator) gave a presentation at SCoPAFF Residue meeting 2023-05-22 on the topic of MRL setting on small radish leaves on behalf of CEG Vegetables experts to advocate for a change of Appendix I of EU Regulation 396/2005 by taking out radish leaves of small radishes (*Raphanus sativus* var. *radicula*) from the group of Kale (0243020 Part A) and placing them into the group of lettuces and salad plants (0251000 Part A), allocated with Roman rocket/Rucola/Wild rocket (0251060).
- The MUCF (Scientific-Officer) attended the EU Workshop on Zonal Authorization Procedure Improvements and Developments (ZAPID), organised by the Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL, Germany) in cooperation with the European Commission, from 5-7 December 2023. The workshop gathered more than 70 participants from the Member States, the European Commission, EFSA etc.

A presentation on the structure and latest updates of the Facility were given. The presentation highlighted the different databases hosted by the MUCF, the summary document on the Minor Uses Survey 2022 and the Explanatory Note on Minor Uses. ZAPID participants were appreciative of the work of the MUCF.

Moreover, the MUCF participated in the breakout group n°2, dedicated to “Harmonising zonal decision making – Special focus on Mutual Recognition, minor uses, and assessment of co-formulants” of the ZAPID workshop. Regarding minor uses, the discussions revolved around the different tools available to authorise new PPPs on minor uses, as well as the impediments which prevent these tools from being used to their full potential. As a conclusion of this breakout group, the following actions were marked as priority to continue the work on minor uses in Europe:

- The national lists of minor crops and uses should be published and kept up to date. They are displayed on the MUCF website.
- The MUCF experts should discuss the feasibility of a harmonised list of major and minor crops in the EU.
- The MUCF is to act as a coordinator and continue working on the topic of minor uses.
- The Member States should upload the assessments on CIRCABC and increase the dissemination of information on completed projects, in the context of Art. 51.
- The MUCF (Scientific-Officer) provided support to the organising committee for the 4th Global Minor Uses Summit (Madrid, 2024-02-5/9), organised by the US Minor Use Foundation during 2023. The Organizing Committee set up 8 sessions, drafted the agenda, discussed the key topics to be addressed and chose speakers for the different keynotes for the summit.

Deliverable: Awareness raising of European minor uses issues and capacity building.

5. MUCF Finances

5.1. Revenues and expenditures in 2023

The MUCF relies on voluntarily assessed contributions from Member Countries. All Member Countries were approached with a funding request. The MUCF has contacted some Member Countries to follow up on their contributions from previous years.

Deliverable: The MUCF has received in 2023 from 15 Member Countries the funding for the contribution year 2023.

The following Member Countries contributed for 2023: Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Lithuania, Portugal, Slovakia, Sweden, and Switzerland.

Italy contributed in 2023 to the funding of the MUCF for the year 2022.

All MUCF Member countries which did not contribute to the funding of the MUCF by June 2023 received a note requesting contributions for the respective years.

Deliverable: The MUCF has received in 2023 the contribution for 2022 from 1 Member Country (IT).

The MUCF generated in 2023 a total income of **395 000 EUR**. The total expenditures of the Facility amounted to **345 961 EUR**, whereas the expenditure for the 2023 had been budgeted for 392 000 EUR. This resulted in a positive result of 49 039 EUR in 2023.

Expenditure in 2023 was significantly lower than in an average MUCF working year due to reduced travel by the MUCF team and lower than budgeted costs to facilitate the MUCF Autumn Meetings, which were co-hosted by the Benaki Phytopathological Institute of Athens, Greece, and the Hellenic Ministry of Rural Development and Food, which provided in-kind support in the form of meeting rooms.

With a positive carryover of **610 176 EUR** from the previous year and the result of **49 039 EUR** from 2023, this leads to a positive carryover from 2023 to 2024 of **659 215 EUR**.

Details are provided in the statement of revenues and expenditures in the Annex.

Annex: Statement of revenues and expenditures for the period 1st January - 31st December 2023 of the MUCF.

All costs are given in EUR.

Minor Uses Coordination Facility

Expenditure - from 1st January to 31st December 2023

01 - Salaries and Staff expenses	285 884
01.01 - Salaries and related costs: MUCF Staff	267 791
01.02 - Salaries and related costs: EPPO Staff	18 094
02 - Administrative meetings, Governance and staff travel	4 955
02.01 - Steering group	50
02.02 - Annual General Meeting	0
02.03 - Stakeholder Advisory Forum	0
02.04 - Staff travel and subsistence (i.e. MUCF autumn meetings, ZAPID workshop etc.)	4 905
03 - IT - Communication - other costs	14 123
03.01 - Infrastructure	12 000
03.02 – Software, hardware, subscriptions, and services (i.e. Canva, Zoom etc.)	1 045
03.03 – Communication (i.e. mobile phone fee, business card etc.)	560
03.04 – Miscellaneous (i.e. bank fee, MUCF credit card fee etc.)	517
04 - Technical meetings	18 366
04.01 - Spring Meetings (remote meeting)	0
04.01.01 - Room rental and lunch	0
04.01.02 - Reimbursement guest experts (travel & accommodation)	0
04.02 - Autumn Meetings (in person meeting, Athens)	18 366
04.02.01 - Room rental and lunch	13 483
04.02.02 - Reimbursement guest experts (travel & accommodation) and retirement presents	4883
Overheads (7%)	22 633
TOTAL Expenditure	345 961

Income

MCs Annual Contributions received for 2023	345 000
MCs Contributions received in 2023 for previous funding years*	50 000
TOTAL Income	395 000

Grand total

<i>Balance carried over from previous year</i>	<i>610 176</i>
<i>Result 2023</i>	<i>49 039</i>
The grand total year 2023	659 215

*The financial contribution received in 2023 from Italy for 2022.