



EUROPEAN MINOR USES  
COORDINATION FACILITY



# Workplan & Budget 2025

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## 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 2025 to meet the needs of Member Countries (MCs) and to improve its services. It takes into account the achievements in 2024, some resulting follow-up actions, recommendations of the Steering Group, and recommendations from MUCF's Commodity, Horizontal, and Residue Expert meetings. This Work Programme indicates a MUCF work outlook for 2026 to 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 (producer organisations, industry associations, research institutes, regulators, and government experts).

### **In 2025, 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 maintain and further develop the EUMUDA database (project 2: EUMUDA):
  - a. setting up a database to retrieve the extrapolation possibilities from the Technical Guidelines: On data requirements for setting MRLs, comparability of residue trials and extrapolation for residue data on products from plant and animal origin (SANTE/2019/12752).
- to finalise the abridged dRR Part A template and to elaborate a harmonized minor crop definition (PROJECT 3: INNOVATION and Explanatory note on minor uses)

### **Definitions and Abbreviations:**

The European Union Minor Uses Database ( <b>EUMUDA</b> ) 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 ( <b>CEGs</b> ), a Horizontal Expert Groups ( <b>HEG</b> ) and a Residue Expert Groups ( <b>ReEG</b> ).
All European countries that contribute to the funding of the MUCF regularly (preferably annually) are called “ <b>Member Countries</b> ”. 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 “ <b>Partner Countries</b> ”.
A “ <b>Minor use</b> ” 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 <b>minor use need</b> is an identified plant protection problem on speciality crops (niche crops) or against plant protection problems that are not routinely encountered. These needs are compiled in a “minor use needs table” in EUMUDA.
The <b>MUCF</b> 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 2025

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 and March on separate days in 2025, so that cross-participation for experts in several MUCF expert groups will be possible. The timing and location of the Autumn 2025 meetings will be discussed during the individual Spring meetings. The Autumn 2025 meetings are planned to be held as face-to-face meetings.

The CEGs work to close minor uses PPP solution 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, the Steering Group, aiming for harmonised procedures and creating a level 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 (MRL). 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 small 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: 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Steering Group meeting in 2025

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 2025. The final meeting dates (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting) and type (remote, hybrid) are to be decided by the Steering Group members.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Steering Group meeting (Summer Steering Group Meeting)

##### **Actions:**

- *The MUCF will deliver a draft Work Plan and Budget proposal for 2026, a financial overview of funding contributions received in 2025, a general work progress update for 2025, and a draft Annual and Financial Report for 2024.*

##### **Expected outcome:**

- *The Steering Group provides advice on the MUCF work in general, on the draft Work Plan and Budget proposal for 2026 and the draft Annual and draft Financial Report for 2024.*
- *The Steering Group provides advice on how and when to hold (remote or face-to-face, hybrid) the Annual General Meeting in Autumn 2025 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Winter Steering group meeting in 2025.*

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Steering Group meeting (Winter Steering Group Meeting)

##### **Actions:**

- *The MUCF provides an Annual and Financial activity and funding contribution update for the work year 2025.*

##### **Expected outcome:**

- *The Steering Group advises the MUCF about the work carried out in 2025 and on improvements for 2026.*
- *The Steering Group decides when and how (remote or face-to-face, hybrid) to hold the 1<sup>st</sup> Steering Group meeting in June 2026.*

### P1 Objective 3: Annual General Meeting 2025

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 2026 and an adopted Annual and Financial Report for 2024.*

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

### P2 Objective 1: Processing information

Making information available structured through databases and information hubs will be continued and, where needed, extended in 2025 and beyond.

How this will be further developed will be guided by the needs and recommendations of the MUCF community.

#### **A. Database on residue extrapolation**

In 2023, the MUCF started to explore the possibility of setting up and developing a database to allow users to easily access the extrapolation possibilities from the Technical Guidelines: On data requirements for setting MRLs, comparability of residue trials and extrapolation for residue data on products from plant and animal origin (SANTE/2019/12752). The information (e.g. established extrapolation possibilities from a major to minor crop) provided in the Technical Guidelines document will be used to set up this database. The aim is to make the residue extrapolation possibilities electronically available.

##### **Actions:**

- *The MUCF team explores the main fields and the structure and logic of the database.*
- *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 started developing a database to allow users to easily access information of data on residue and efficacy trial availability. A beta version access of the database has been shared with MUCF project leaders to validate the prototype on user friendliness (in 2024 contact points for each country were identified, and how to exchange the trial reports etc. was clarified).

##### **Actions:**

- *To incorporate national databases of residue and efficacy trial availability information, such as the German database or the French database into the MUCF EUMUDA database.*

##### **Expected outcome & success measures:**

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

#### **C. Database on crop statuses (minor/major crop)**

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 will be continued in 2025.

##### **Actions:**

- *To incorporate national crop status information (minor/major crops) from European countries.*

##### **Expected outcome & success measures:**

- *Searchable and updated minor/major crop database to retrieve crop status 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 the 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 will be supported by a regulatory consultant in the development of this template in 2024. Support from a regulatory consultant to finalise this template is also expected in 2025 (salary costs for the regulatory consultant is included in the 2025 budget proposal).

### **Actions:**

- *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 workshop “Minor Uses and Speciality Crops: The way forward in Europe”, held in Paris in 2020, the idea was developed to draft a discussion paper on the topic “*Establishing a harmonised minor crop status and creating a single EU or zonal list of major crops*”. The information collected in the Minor Uses Survey 2022 will be used as a basis for this task. Furthermore, during the Zonal Authorisation Procedure Improvements and Developments (ZAPID) workshop in 2023, it was concluded that MUCF experts should discuss the feasibility of a harmonised list of major and/or minor crops in the EU. At the Autumn 2024 HEG meeting, the MUCF team will have presented some ideas on how to develop a list of major and/or minor crops and propose ideas for a harmonised minor crop definition (advantages and disadvantages of the different ideas will be presented). This task of developing some ideas on how to harmonise the definition of minor crops will be supported and worked

on by a consultant in 2024. Support from a consultant to continue this task is also expected in 2025 (salary costs for the consultant is included in the 2025 budget proposal). In 2024 it is expected that the MUCF experts will decide and finalise one of the proposed ideas.

The development of the idea and the advantages and disadvantages of a harmonised minor crop definition and thus a single EU or zonal list of major/or minor crops for Europe should be described in a discussion paper.

**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 addressed as an AOB point in an EU Agriculture and Fisheries Council configuration (AGRIFISH) meeting. Upcoming presidencies (held by MUCF Member Countries) of the EU Council are Denmark (July-December 2025), Cyprus (January-June 2026), and Ireland (July-December 2026).

**Expected outcome & success measures:**

- *Secured long-term funding of the MUCF and new Member Countries.*

## 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 2025.

#### Actions:

- *The MUCF IT tools will be reworked allowing the following:*
  - *Migration of the EUMUDA and MUCF websites to PHP 8. Potentially merging them into one website.*
  - *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 2025.

#### Actions:

- *The Facility promotes cooperation with the PPP industry to organise “PPP priority setting” meetings. The goal for 2025 is to engage with at least 6 PPP industry companies and discuss minor uses needs.*
- *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 2025

	Expenditure	k€	Remarks
<b>1</b>	<b>Salaries &amp; Staff Expenses</b>	<b>353</b>	
1.01	Salaries and related costs: MUCF Staff Office-Based		Salary costs are based upon percentages of full-time salary: 80% of Coordinator & 80% of Scientific-Officer. Related costs include social security, insurance, & pension.
1.01.01	MUCF IT Officer (Full Stack Developer) Office-Based		170 effective workdays per year, 7.5 hours per day. First two months in 2025, as employed via Kicklox, an IT service provider, next 10 months employed by EPPO as an individual contractor.
1.01.02	Consultants Home-Based		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		Salary costs are based upon percentages of full-time salary: 30% of Administrator*, 3% of Director-General EPPO, 3% of Editor EPPO and 1% Accounting Service EPPO. Related costs include social security, insurance, & pension.
<b>2</b>	<b>Administrative &amp; Governance meetings</b>	<b>28</b>	
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	28	2 SCoPAFF meetings per year (4 days [d] x 1 person [p]) 6 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 <sub>2</sub> emission footprint; accommodation costs at an assumed daily average of 120 € plus daily allowance.
<b>3</b>	<b>IT &amp; Communication</b>	<b>16</b>	
3.01	Infrastructure	12	Office rent, hosting MUCF server etc.
3.02	Software, services & fees	2	e.g. Zoom subscription, server service fee, Visa Card
3.03	Miscellaneous	2	Printing costs for meeting posters etc.
<b>4</b>	<b>Technical Meetings</b>	<b>24</b>	
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>
	<b>Overhead (7%)</b>	<b>29</b>	
	<b>Subtotal Expenditure</b>	<b>450</b>	

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