



European Minor Uses Coordination Facility

hosted by

European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization

MUCF ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Foreword from the Coordinator

2021 was a year of a new organisational strategy for the MUCF, and some activities had to be adjusted to fit within the COVID 19 restrictions and regulations to ensure the safety, health and well-being of all MUCF experts and the MUCF staff. Travelling was restricted and working, and meeting remotely became the rule. Inclusion was crucial for making sure everyone felt listened to. Some meetings planned as face-to-face meetings had to be changed into remote meetings at relatively short notice. Thanks to the great efforts of many experts in our MUCF Member Countries and the dedicated efforts of the staff of the MUCF Secretariat, most meetings could be held, and most of the tasks in MUCFs work programme for 2021 could be performed. The MUCF is looking forward to face-to-face meetings in 2022 but has already realized that that may not be possible for all experts involved. To adapt to the 'Next Normal' way of working, the MUCF has started to explore the possibilities of holding 'hybrid' meetings.

The year 2021 also requested much flexibility, meetings with stakeholders had to be postponed (visits will be realized in 2022), an intern for a part of 2021 could not be recruited, and the Scientific-Technical Officer position has been vacant since February 2020. Everything has been prepared for the Scientific-Technical Officer job description, secured funding, etc.) to recruit a new MUCF staff member in 2022. The recruitment procedures and interviews will start in the first half of in 2022. Due to the absence of a Scientific-Technical Officer, some targeted technical tasks were not tackled in 2021. The IT Officer supported the MUCF with 50 % instead of 30 % of working time and did in addition to IT tasks, also adopt technical work to gather scientific information.

Overall, 2021 has been a unique and unpredictable year for all of us, but a year with many achievements as presented in the 'Achievements' section.

On behalf of the MUCF Secretariat team, I thank you again for your support and co-operation in our work and the MUCF Secretariat team for its flexibility and adjustability. Without you, the achievements would not have been possible.

Barbara Edler
Coordinator of the MUCF
December 2021

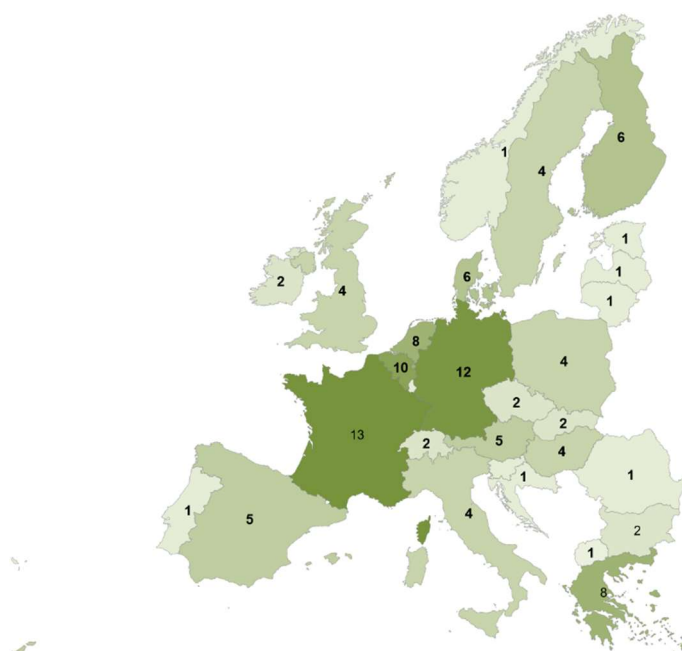
Achievements 2021

1) Facilitating and Organizing Meetings and Coordinating expert groups

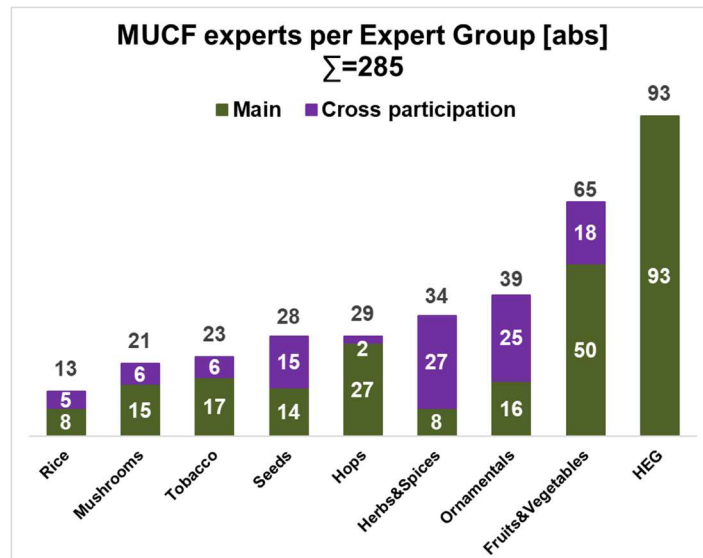
a) MUCF experts' participation per European country and CEG and HEG

The MUCF is an activity hosted by EPPO (the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection organization) since 2015. The work of the MUCF is supported by more than 30 countries (27 EU Member States, the UK, Norway and Switzerland) with currently 285 experts (e.g. from ministry/government, growers association, university, except plant protection industry and plant protection association contacts) participating in the Facilities activities. Experts participating per European country in the work of the MUCF are provided in the distribution map:

Experts per European Country distribution map [%]
participating in the work of the MUCF



Experts participating per working group in the work of the MUCF are provided in the bar chart:

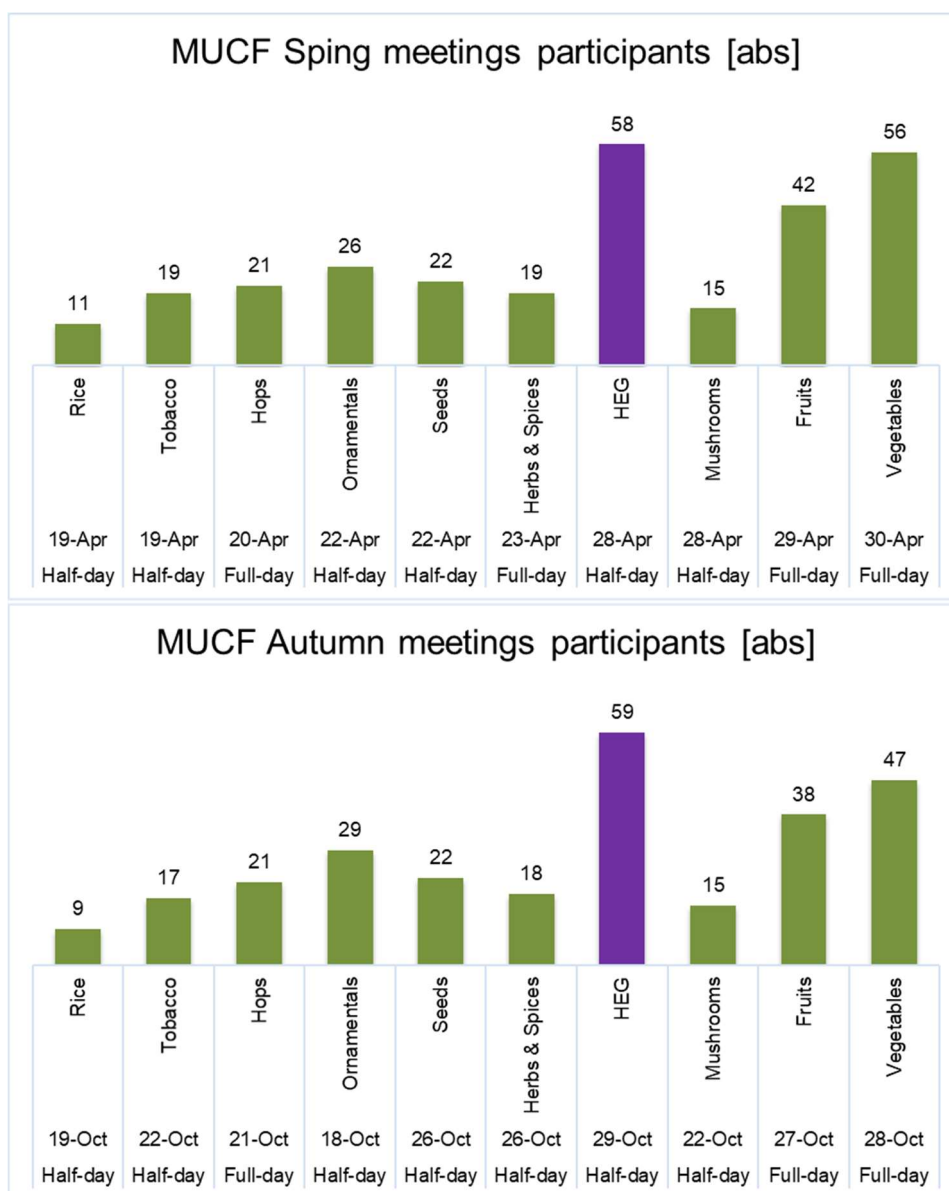


b) MUCF Meetings

The 2021 'meeting' year began with the Annual General Meeting held as a videoconference on 23rd March for all to the funding of the MUCF contributing Member Countries, the Minor Uses Steering Group members, the EU Commission, and EPPOs Director-General. The MUCF annual report and financial report of 2020, the work programme and budget for 2021 were approved.

Deliverable: The MUCF provided administrative and technical support to the AGM in organising and facilitating the meeting and preparing the relevant documents.

CEG and HEG spring and autumn meetings were held as video conferences in 2021. This allowed cross participation of experts in different expert working groups. Meeting participation details are provided in the bar chart for the Spring and Autumn meetings:



Deliverable: The MUCF continued to provide administrative and technical support to the CEGs and HEG in organising and facilitating the meetings.

All CEG meetings focused on sharing and exchanging information on the availability of active substances in a crop/pest combination per country. A status update on active substances that are (one) in the renewal of approval process, (two) have been renewed, (three) are approved, or (four) 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 due to the lack of available protection options. Consequently, this affects the CEGs project work. If a project worked on an active substance that has been withdrawn in the course of a project, the project status would be set on 'stopped'. This has been the case for two projects in 2021. A PPP authorization was granted for a crop/pest combination need for eight projects. Eighteen new projects concerning needs in Fruits & Vegetables, Seeds, Ornamentals, Herbs & Spices have been set up. For 26 out of a total of 129 projects, the project progress statuses were updated. Detailed

information on project progress was shared for the first time with the 'EUMUDA Latest News' letter. This newsletter shares project status updates on CEG projects within selected CEG and HEG members.

Deliverable: 1st EUMUDA Latest News. Emailing to 200 contacts (all HEG and CEG contacts – except industry contacts).

Several expert groups (e.g. Hops, Ornamentals) addressed the different regulatory authorisation approaches in individual European countries (e.g. the mutual recognition procedure was not possible in some cases for some active substances). This was found to hamper the process of product availability and lead to an unequal crop production situation for European farmers. The Chair of CEG Ornamentals addressed this issue at the Autumn HEG meeting. She pointed out that a level playing field should be sought for European farmers. She highlighted the importance of harmonised procedures for minor crop production in Europe.

Repeatedly, a hot topic in all CEG and HEG meetings has been the setting of maximum residue levels (MRLs) for minor crops. The co-Chair of Herbs & Spices noted the issue in an open addressed position letter during the Autumn HEG meeting and explained the MRL situation in herb production. Because MRLs will be and are of importance for minor crops production, it was decided to explore the possibility of setting up a 'new Expert Working' group that focuses explicitly on MRLs. A Spanish HEG member wrote an outline of what a new group could work on for this purpose. Due to time shortage at the Autumn HEG meeting, it was decided by the members to discuss this proposal again in the HEG Spring meeting in 2022.

The MRL Expert Group work-outline proposal is accessible in the MUCF Extranet in the HEG meeting folder.

Several CEGs have started to prepare a long-term work plan or discuss the possibility to set-up a long-term work plan. CEG Fruits & Vegetables presented a work plan proposal for the upcoming five years in the autumn meeting. The work plan was shared beforehand for country consultation. It is currently under amendment and will be shared with eligible members on the MUCF extranet and within different working groups to be used as a template.

During the Spring CEG Hops meeting, it was expressed that the EPPO Standard PP 1/239 (3) Dose expression for plant protection products which was recently published and gives guidance on Leaf Wall Area (LWA) trial performance for crops, including hops, is not well adapted for this speciality crop. After the full trellis height of 7 m has been reached, the biomass of the plants is still increasing considerably. Therefore, LWA has limitations in being suitable for calculating a necessary maximum dose rate by the factor height alone. Following the meeting, it was agreed that the CEG and the MUCF would provide information to the EPPO Secretariat PPP team to collaborate on this issue for future revisions.

Deliverable: EPPO Secretariat plant protection product team is informed about the considerations and comments of the hops group, and contact details of hops experts are exchanged with the EPPO Secretariat plant protection product team for future collaboration on this issue.

At the Spring CEG Fruits and Vegetables meeting, an MRL issue of concern in radish production was discussed. The members of this group decided to compile a position paper and address the concerns at SCoPAFF. Five countries (Italy, Germany, France, the Netherlands, and Belgium) shared information

on radish production and protection, and the MUCF facilitated the data sharing and compiling work and the finalization of the document. The document was shared and presented at the SCoPAFF Phytopharmaceuticals Pesticide residue on 2021-06-14. An extension of the transitional period in the legislative measure until the end of 2025 was voted for at SCoPAFF. This provides CEG Vegetable experts some more time to commence discussions on this issue (e.g. assigning radish leaves to a different MRL commodity group rather than kale) and generate additional residue studies on radish leaves, both for indoor and outdoor uses.

Deliverable: Position paper is accessible in the MUCF Extranet in the respective CEG Vegetable folder.

All the work done in the CEGs and HEG cannot be presented in detail, but some meeting highlights were summarized this year for the first time by the Chairs and co-Chairs of each respective group and shared via the MUCF newsletter in June 2021.

Deliverable: 14th MUCF newsletter.

c) Chairing and co-Chairing MUCF meetings

Several calls for Chairs and co-Chairs were made during the CEG and HEG meetings:

- Claire Donkin was elected as Chair of the CEG Herbs & Spices on 23rd April 2021. Gabriele Leinhos and Hans van den Mheen were appointed as co-Chairs of CEG Herbs & Spices during the Spring meeting.
- Martina Cappelletti was elected as Chair of the CEG Tobacco on 22nd October 2021. The position of co-Chair the CEG Tobacco remained vacant.
- Jana Johansen Hladilova was elected as Chair of the HEG on 28th April 2021.
- The position of co-Chair of CEG Fruits &Vegetables remained vacant.

Deliverable: The MUCF coordinated the procedure of nominating and electing Chair and co-Chairperson(s).

2. EUMUDA-further development, updates, and maintenance

Deliverables:

- *An automatic mail is now sent to the MUCF whenever a CEG project is updated or created new, or an authorization has been granted in a country.*
- *To ease the work in EUMUDA for the CEG Chairs, a downloadable Excel list of projects dedicated for the internal CEG use only was created. This allows a quicker project overview which improved the user-friendliness of EUMUDA.*
- *A proposal was made to the experts during the CEG autumn meetings for an easier way of adding/amending projects and a proposal for a database for MRL and efficacy study data availability within EUMUDA. This will improve the user-friendliness and usability of EUMUDA.*
- *The 2021 surveys on minor/major crops, minor crop definition criteria, minor/major uses and the table of needs were launched for 27 EU Member States + the UK, NO and CH. All updated tables will be available and displayed on the MUCF website.*

Survey information details are provided in the table below:

Survey minor and major crops	
Responses	20 countries responded and shared a list of minor and or major crops. 2 additional countries requested more time to respond*. 19 countries could provide a list of minor/major crops. 1 country could only provide a list of major crops.
Criteria to define a minor crop	21 countries responded and provided a minor crop definition. 2 additional countries requested more time to respond*. 17 countries use <u>cultivation area</u> to define a minor crop (and some of them also use additional criteria): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - either less than ... % of cultivation area: <2%: PL <1%: EE - or less than ... ha of cultivation area: <500 ha for vegetables: CH (other surfaces according to crop type) <2500 ha: NO <5000 ha: LT and NL <6000 ha: HU <8000 ha: FI <10000 ha: AT, CZ, DE, IE, LV, PT, SK, (in the future: LT) <20000 ha: FR, IT LU does not have its own criteria to define a minor crop and uses lists from neighbouring countries. DK, GB and ES did not provide a definition criteria.
Additional ways to define a minor crop	<u>Production volume</u> : EE, FR, DE <u>Daily intake</u> contribution and /or production: EE, FR, DE, PT <u>Protected cultivation areas</u> : NL (<1000 ha), FI <u>Very minor crops</u> : <0,0035% (SK)

	<p>according to the <u>crop group</u>: CH: Field crop (<1000ha), vegetables (<500 ha), fruits (<200 ha), berries (<40% of berries: all berries except strawberries)</p> <p>Some non-agricultural crops:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forestry: IT, PT (if less than 30000 ha) - Ornamentals (IT, FI)
Survey on minor and major uses	
Responses	<p>20 countries responded.</p> <p>2 additional countries requested more time to respond*.</p> <p>No official list of minor uses exists in DK, EE, ES, LU.</p>
List of minor/major uses	<p>List of <u>minor uses on minor and major crops</u>:</p> <p>AT (2216 uses), NO (290 uses)</p> <p>List of <u>minor and major uses</u>:</p> <p>DE (4860 uses), FR (6061 uses), IT (2772 uses), SK (more than 2000 combined uses, in SK language-> translation is anticipated)</p> <p><u>Minor uses on major crops</u> (all uses on minor crops are minor):</p> <p>LV (1), LT (40), PL (40), PT (60), NL (10)</p> <p><u>Major uses on major crops</u> (all uses on minor crops are minor):</p> <p>FI (100) + list of minor pests on minor and major crops (40), HU (220), IE (33)</p> <p><u>Minor and major uses on major crops</u> (all uses on minor crops are minor):</p> <p>CZ (328 uses including 55 minor uses)</p> <p>List of <u>major pests on minor / major crops</u>. Major pest on a minor crop is a minor use. All other uses are minor: GB</p>
Survey on the Table of Minor Uses needs	
Responses	<p>13 countries responded.</p> <p>3 additional countries requested more time to respond*.</p> <p>In 2019, 21 countries responded. More responses were anticipated, so MUCF sent a reminder in October 2021 and will follow up with countries to get more responses before complete data compilation.</p>
* no response received to date	

3. Website & Communication

Deliverables:

- *To keep the MUCF members' contact list up to date, a 'MUCF contact survey' was launched at the beginning of 2021. MUCF has 303 experts from several European countries who participate in the work of the MUCF(+industry and crop protection association contacts) who shared some basic background information. To facilitate this work, the IT officer created an online contact tool with all contacts and CEG/HEG/national contact point information that can be now updated by any staff member, including GDPR follow up (for names appearing on the website or names appearing in the EUMUDA latest news). All consisted mailing lists were updated accordingly.*
- *EUMUDA now forms a part of the MUCF website, and the menu has been reorganized.*
- *A dedicated section for the CEGs to provide information about their group (CEG seeds provided content) was created.*

4. Guidance document on Minor Uses - Explanatory Note on Minor Uses

Finalising the Guidance Document on Minor Uses was discussed during the Spring HEG meeting. At the meeting, the EC presented four possibilities for proceeding with the document:

1. The document will become an official EC Guidance Document.
2. The document will be a MUCF document.
3. The document will be renamed to Explanatory Note (Procedure for finalization would be less strict, and 'Note taking' at SCoPAFF would therefore be possible).
4. To split the document (one part will become an official EC Guidance Document, and the second part will be a MUCF document).

The members of the HEG decided to proceed with possibility number three. The anticipated 'Guidance Document on Minor Uses' was renamed to Explanatory Note on Minor Uses, and the MUCF secretariat amended several paragraphs. The Explanatory Note on Minor Uses (ENMU) according to Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 was created as an informative guide. The work has been developed and peer-reviewed in co-operation with selected experts from several EU Member States (BE, DE, DF, FR, HU, IT, IR, LT, NL, ES, and SE), the UK, NO, CH, and with support of DG SANTE's Legal Service. The last revision of this document is accessible at the MUCF Extranet and was presented at the December 2021 SCoPAFF meeting for commenting.

Deliverable: Amended Explanatory Note on Minor uses (Revision Nr. 8).

5. Governance and funding of the Coordination Facility

The MUCF relies on voluntary 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 contribution.

Deliverable: The MUCF has received contributions for 2021 from 14 Member Countries in 2021.

The following Member Countries contributed for 2021: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France*, Germany, Ireland, Lithuania, Portugal, Slovakia, Sweden, and Switzerland.

*France's contributions for 2020 and 2021 were accounted in the MUCF accounting system for the years 2019 and 2020.

Deliverable: The MUCF has received contributions for 2018, 2019 and 2020 from 1 Member Country in 2021.

Italy contributed to the funding of the MUCF for the years 2018, 2019 and 2020 in the year 2021.

The MUCF generated a total income of 430 000 EUR in 2021. As the total expenditures of the Facility amounted to 222 374 EUR, this resulted in a positive balance of 207 626 EUR. The expenses were considerably lower than budgeted due to fewer travel costs, costs for meetings as a result of the COVID-19 restrictions, and not being able to recruit a Scientific-Technical Officer.

With a positive total carryover of 208 950 EUR from 2020, this leads to a **total carryover from 2021 of 416 576 EUR.**

Details are provided in the statement of revenues and expenditures in the Annex for a detailed overview.

**Annex: Statement of revenues and expenditures for the period 1st January - 31st December
2021 of the MUCF (updated 2022-06-09)**

All costs are given in EUR.

Minor Uses Coordination Facility

Expenditure - from 1st January to 31st December

01 - Salaries and Staff expenses	190,769
02 - Administrative meetings and Governance	1,927
02.01 - Steering group	0
02.02 - Annual General Meeting	0
02.03 - Stakeholder Advisory Forum	0
02.04 - Staff travel and subsistence	1,927
03 - IT - Communication - other costs	15,130
03.01 - Infrastructure	12,000
03.02 - Software and services	2,347
03.03 - Communication	492
03.04 - Miscellaneous	291
04 - Technical meetings	0
04.01 - Spring Meeting	0
04.01.01 - Room rental and lunch	0
04.01.02 - Reimbursement experts (travel and accommodation)	0
04.02 - Autumn Meeting	0
04.02.01 - Room rental and lunch	0
04.02.02 - Reimbursement experts (travel and accommodation)	0
04.03 - Other meetings (CEG Chairs meetings, Workshop)	0
04.03.01 - Room rental and lunch	0
04.03.02 - Reimbursement experts (travel and accommodation)	0
Overheads (7%)	14,548
TOTAL Expenditures	222,374
Incomes	
MCs Annual Contributions received for 2021*	280,000
MC Contribution received in 2021 for previous funding years	150,000
Registration fees and other reimbursements	0
TOTAL Incomes	430,000
Grand total	
<i>Balance from 2020</i>	<i>208,950</i>
Grand total year 2021	416,576

*The financial contribution of France for 2020 and 2021 were accounted in the MUCF accounting system for 2019 and 2020.