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Supplementary Data S1. Sources and preliminary data selection.

GIVD: GIVD code for databases stored in EVA
M-C: Number of plots identified by the definition of the *Montio-Cardaminetea* class (Supplementary material S3) but including also presence-absence data, plots of extreme sizes, plots without coordinates, plots without determined bryophytes and bryophyte synusiae.
non-strat: Number of plots in *non-stratified* dataset (without presence-absence data, plots of extreme sizes, plots without coordinates, plots without determined bryophytes and bryophyte synusiae).
strat.: Number of plots in geographically stratified dataset.

GIVD	Database name	M-C	non-strat.	strat.
EU-00-004	Iberian and Macaronesian Vegetation Information System (SIVIM)	387	172	154
EU-00-011	Basque Country Database, BIOVEG	90	24	24
EU-00-018	Nordic Vegetation Database	18	0	0
EU-00-019	Balkan Vegetation Database	15	10	10
EU-00-022	European Mire Vegetation Database	1418	1237	956
EU-AL-001	Vegetation Database of Albania	3	0	0
EU-AT-001	Austrian Vegetation Database	217	155	139
EU-BE-002	INBOVEG	9	6	6
EU-BG-001	Bulgarian Vegetation Database	60	9	9
EU-CH-011	Monitoring Effectiveness of Habitat Conservation in Switzerland	9	7	7
EU-CZ-001	Czech National Phytosociological Database	716	571	518
EU-DE-001	VegMV	158	72	39
EU-DE-013	Veget Web Germany	94	33	28
EU-DE-014	German Vegetation Reference Database (GVRD)	99	43	38
EU-DE-020	German Grassland Vegetation Database (GrassVeg.DE)	5	5	5
EU-DE-040	Database Schleswig-Holstein (Northern Germany)	3	2	2
EU-FR-003	SOPHY	476	150	141
EU-GB-001	UK National Vegetation Classification Database	177	115	115
EU-HR-002	Croatian Vegetation Database	39	3	3
EU-HU-003	CoenoDat Hungarian Phytosociological Database	2	2	2
EU-IE-001	Irish Vegetation Database	25	21	21
EU-IT-011	Vegetation Plot Database - Sapienza University of Rome	166	18	18
EU-IT-021	AMS-VegBank - Alma Mater Studiorum - University of Bologna	20	1	1
EU-LT-001	Lithuanian Vegetation Database	2	2	2
EU-MK-001	Vegetation Database of the Republic of Macedonia	11	11	11
EU-NL-001	Dutch National Vegetation Database	91	63	61
EU-PL-001	Polish Vegetation Database	364	201	146

GIVD	Database name	M-C	non-strat.	strat.
EU-RO-008	Romanian Grassland Database	171	115	97
EU-SI-001	Vegetation Database of Slovenia	17	9	9
EU-SK-001	Slovak Vegetation Database	504	422	316
EU-UA-006	Vegetation Database of Ukraine and Adjacent Parts of Russia	8	3	3
EU-UA-012	Ukrainian Wetland Database	50	25	25
	private data [1]	1622	1472	1132
	Total number of vegetation plots	**7046**	**4979**	**4038**

[1] Private data: vegetation-plot data of vegetation scientists or their institutions not included in EVA: Liene Aunina, Claudia Biţă-Nicolae, Lisa Brancaleoni, Judit Deme, Yakiv Didukh, Daniel Dítě, Lyubov Felbaba-Klushyna, Emmanuel Garbolino, Renato Gerdol, Michal Hájek, Petra Hájková, Riikka Juutinen, Jasmina Kamberović, Jutta Kapfer, Tiina Kolari, Predrag Lazarević, Ringa Luostarinen, Melinda Lyons, Đorđije Milanović, Luca Miserere, Jesper Erenskjold Moeslund, Ladislav Mucina, Tomáš Peterka, Alessandro Petraglia, Marta Puglisi, Niina Sankari, Daniel Spitale, Eva Šmerdová, Teemu Tahvanainen, Marcello Tomaselli.

Vegetation plots from the databases were included into initial („working“) dataset if at least one species (*preliminary spring indicator*) from the following list was present in the plot:

Adiantum capillus-veneris
Allium schoenoprasum
Anthelia julacea
Arabis soyeri
Blindia acuta
Bryum cryophilum
Bryum schleicheri
Bryum weigelii
Cardamine acris
Cardamine amara
Cardamine nymanii
Cardamine raphanifolia
Cardamine rivularis
Carex remota
Chrysosplenium alpinum
Chrysosplenium alternifolium
Chrysosplenium oppositifolium
Cochlearia officinalis
Cochlearia pyrenaica
Cratoneuron filicinum
Dichodontium palustre
Epilobium alsinifolium
Epilobium anagallidifolium
Epilobium hornemannii
Epilobium nutans
Epilobium obscurum
Eucladium verticillatum
Glyceria nemoralis
Hygrohypnum diurusculum
Hygrohypnum luridum
Hygrohypnum molle
Hygrohypnum ochraceum
Hygrohypnum polare
Hygrohypnum smithii
Grimmia mollis
Hookeria lucens
Juncus biglumis

Juncus triglumis
Jungermannia atrovirens
Jungermannia exsertifolia
Koenigia islandica
Marsupella emarginata
Montia fontana
Myosotis stolonifera
Nardia compressa
Palustriella commutata
Palustriella decipiens
Palustriella falcata
Pedicularis limnogena
Pellia endiviifolia
Pellia epiphylla
Pellia neesiana
Philonotis caespitosa
Philonotis calcarea
Philonotis fontana
Philonotis seriata
Philonotis tomentella
Pinguicula alpina
Pinguicula balcanica
Pohlia ludwigii
Pohlia wahlenbergii
Platyhypnidium riparioides
Rhizomnium magnifolium
Rhizomnium pseudopunctatum
Rhizomnium punctatum
Saxifraga aquatica
Saxifraga stellaris
Scapania nemorea
Scapania uliginosa
Scapania undulata
Sedum villosum
Silene pusilla
Stellaria alsine
Swertia perennis
Trichocolea tomentella
Viola biflora