

Report on the outcomes of a Virtual Mobility¹

Action number: CA18201

Grantee name: Maja Lazarević

Virtual Mobility Details

Title: Database on the Conservation actions on threatened plant species in Europe – analysis and the overview of the results

Start and end date: 22/03/2024 to 10/04/2024

Description of the work carried out during the VM

Description of the virtual collaboration and activities carried out during the VM, with focus on the work carried out by the grantee. Any deviations from the initial working plan shall also be described in this section.

(max. 500 words)

During the VM following activities were done:

- Final cleaning of the data is done. All data are now presented in the uniform way in the Excel file. This enables statistical analysis to be performed, and represents the basis for the csv. file that will be uploaded in the online platform. At this point Database counts 3504 entries from 33 countries (including Lebanon). Number of entries per country varies from 1 to 927.

- The file for the upload in the online platform is prepared as csv. file. The data in this file had to be prepared in a different way compared to the file for the statistical analysis. Namely, the same type of data in one column had to be completely uniform to enable functionality of filters. For example, some contributors wrote “Yes”, others wrote “yes”. Filter in the platform would recognize that as two different answers. So, all answers of this type had to be changed to “Yes”. The other important aspect is a way how multiple data are separated in one column. While in the original Excel file we used “,” for the separation, for the online platform we had to introduce “|”, so that the system can recognize fields with multiple answers. Furthermore, the references had to be linked with the adequate rows, and coordinates had to be presented in a less precise way in order to protect sensitive geographic information about threatened plant species.

- Basic statistical analyses are done, so that we could obtain a clear overview of the gathered information in the Database. These analyses also represent the basic for the first article through which

¹ This report is submitted by the grantee to the Action MC for approval and for claiming payment of the awarded grant. The Grant Awarding Coordinator coordinates the evaluation of this report on behalf of the Action MC and instructs the GH for payment of the Grant.

we will present the Database to the public. Analyses revealed that plant conservation activities are usually done on the national level, while the cooperation among two or more countries is quite rare. Activities were more frequently done on a public land with some kind of protected status at the national level, while at the European level areas most often belong to Natura 2000 sites. Governmental institutions are most often leaders in this kind of actions. The Database comprises information about conservation actions on 945 plant taxa from 100 plant families, usually not estimated at global level, but with some degree of threatened status at the national level. Much more information will be presented in the article that is in preparation.

- The final communication with contributors has started with the request to send us their agreement to make the data publicly available, and to provide photographs of the species or their habitats that will be posted in the online platform. As the work on the gathering of the data includes more than 170 contributors, this phase will take some time.

Description of the VM main achievements and planned follow-up activities

Description and assessment of whether the VM achieved its planned goals and expected outcomes, including specific contribution to Action objective and deliverables, or publications resulting from the VM. Agreed plans for future follow-up collaborations shall also be described in this section.

(max. 500 words)

The Database is completely checked, and the data are now uniform and prepared both for statistical analyses and the upload in the online platform. Database will be hosted at the Faculty of Biology of the University of Belgrade at <https://conserveplantsdata.bio.bg.ac.rs/>, and will become publicly available before the submission of the CA18201 final report.

Basic statistical analyses have been done, and some of the results will be presented in the first article that is in preparation for which co-authorship will be offered to all contributors. Since the Database includes various type of information, the plan is to make further deeper analyses in the future that will allowed us to point to positive and negative aspects of plant conservation actions in Europe and provide some guidelines for future activities.

The Database gathered plant conservationists of different background around the same aim – to make information about plant conservation activities in Europe publicly available. This will enable exchange of knowledge and experience among them, potentially leading to collaboration and higher rate of the success in specific conservation activities.

The Database will be updated regularly, hopefully continuing to gather current and engaging some new contributors. Maintenance of the platform for now will be provided by the University of Belgrade and University of Coimbra. However, the plan is to form the Plant Conservation Consortium consisting of representatives from several European institutions with the aim of scientific and technical management of the online platform and the databases included in the platform.