

News

EDGG Fund for Ukrainian Scientists Call for financial donations

EDGG is shocked by the Russian war of aggression against the peaceful Ukraine. A whole country is suffering, thousands of people have been killed and millions had to flee their towns or their country. This war also negatively affects Ukrainian grassland scientists with whom we closely collaborate. Some female scientists could flee to other European countries and obtain a paid position through one of the support programs for Ukrainian refugees. However, the majority of Ukrainian scientists remain in Ukraine, but suffer from cancellation of projects, cut salaries or the impossibility of field work in most parts of the country, or they could flee the country but were too late to get benefit from the support programs.

Many EDGG members have expressed their wish to help our Ukrainian colleagues to continue their scientific career and have asked the Executive Committee how they could do this. Thus, we are glad that finally we can open the EDGG Fund for Ukrainian Scientists. We call for donations, small or large, to our mother organisation IAVS which will then forward the money to EDGG to spend it in agreement with the aims of the fund. If each of our 1400 EDGG members on average would give only 10 EUR (or every fifth member 50 EUR), then we could already support a dozen Ukrainian colleagues for some time. Of course, non-members are also welcome to make donations.

Aim and organisation of the fund:

- The EDGG Fund for Ukrainian Scientists is governed by the Funding Committee comprising Didem Ambarli, Idoia Biurrun, Iwona Dembicz, Jürgen Dengler, Rocco Labadesa and Stephen Venn, and takes all decisions on the Fund with a simple majority.
- Project ideas could either be proposed by EDGG or by the applicant. Projects should be outlined in a way that they can be conducted under prevalent conditions regarding the war.
- Currently, EDGG offers work options in two such projects, namely in its regional vegetation-plot databases (GrassVeg.DE and Nordic-Baltic Grassland Vegetation Database), for digitising and georeferencing plot data from the literature.
- Ukrainian members can propose their own project ideas, e.g. concerning the analysis of data or the writing of a manuscript.
- If EDGG members have project ideas which they wish to propose, they should contact the Funding Committee.
- Any Ukrainian member can apply to the Funding Committee to receive a grant.



Steppe with *Stipa lessingiana* and *S. ucrainica* in Azovo-Syvaskyi National Nature Park, now occupied by Russian troops, Kherson oblast, Ukraine. Photo: A. Kuzemko

- Decisions on the assignment of grants to applicants will be made by the Funding Committee whenever sufficient money and applications have accumulated.
- The decisions will normally given in 500-EUR tranches, but smaller amounts are possible if there are many applicants or only limited funds. If there is enough money available, the Funding Committee can assign another tranche to the same applicant for the continuation of the same project or for another project.
- For each project, the Funding Committee appoints at least one mentor from outside Ukraine whose job is to remain in contact with the grantee and support her/him in the project.
- For each tranche assigned to a grantee, a short, written document will be created that formulates the scientific task to be addressed and its specifications (e.g., in the case of plot databases: the number of plots to be digitised for the amount of money agreed). The grant is paid prior to the start of the project. After the completion of the project, the grantee and mentor together compile and send a short (1 paragraph) report on the achievements of the project.
- From time to time, the Funding Committee will provide summarizing reports on all running projects on the EDGG website and in Palaeartic Grasslands.

How to make donations:

You can make donations, large or small, to our fund either by credit card via our online form or by money transfer to

IAVS' Dutch bank account. Please note that the money will go through the accounts of IAVS. Therefore, it is crucial that you indicate the purpose of your payment precisely as stated below, because otherwise the money might not reach EDGG's Fund.

(A) With credit card via the online platform

- You can make your payment here: <https://www.iavs.org/donations/donate.asp?id=21837>
- Please indicate whether you wish your name as donator to be publicized or not
- Fees: **0.20 USD per transaction**

(B) With bank transfer to IAVS' Dutch bank account

- BIC/Swift code: **SNS BNL 2A**
- IBAN: **NL40 SNSB 0921 5290 23**
- Recipient: **INTERNATIONALE VERENIGING VOOR VEGETATIEKUNDE**
- Subject line: **EDGG Donation Fund for Ukraine**
- Fees: **0.07 EUR per transaction**

If you consent to your name being listed as donator, please send an e-mail with your name, date and amount of the donation to dr.juergen.dengler@gmail.com

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF
UKRAINIAN SCIENTISTS IN NEED!**



Participants of the 15th EDGG Field Workshop in in Chorna Dolyna steppe depression, now occupied by Russian troops, Kherson oblast, Ukraine. Photo: I. Smelansky.