

EUPHORIA Newsletter No. 1: Winter

The project “**EUPHORIA - European plant phenology research in aquatic systems**”, awarded as Fresh Project 5.0, **officially started on 01.01.2025**. The EUPHORIA project aims to improve the understanding of aquatic plant phenology across Europe and its environmental correlations, while fostering a diverse and collaborative network of early career researchers (ECRs) in limnology.

The main focus during the first months of the project was to **assemble the EUPHORIA project team**. The team now consists of 110 members working in 22 European countries (Fig. 1 a), bringing together ECRs from all different career stages (Fig. 1 b) and 13 different EFFS-affiliated societies (Fig. 1 c). These include 10 EFFS-Federated funding societies, which provided and transferred a project budget of 9,650 €. Thank you!

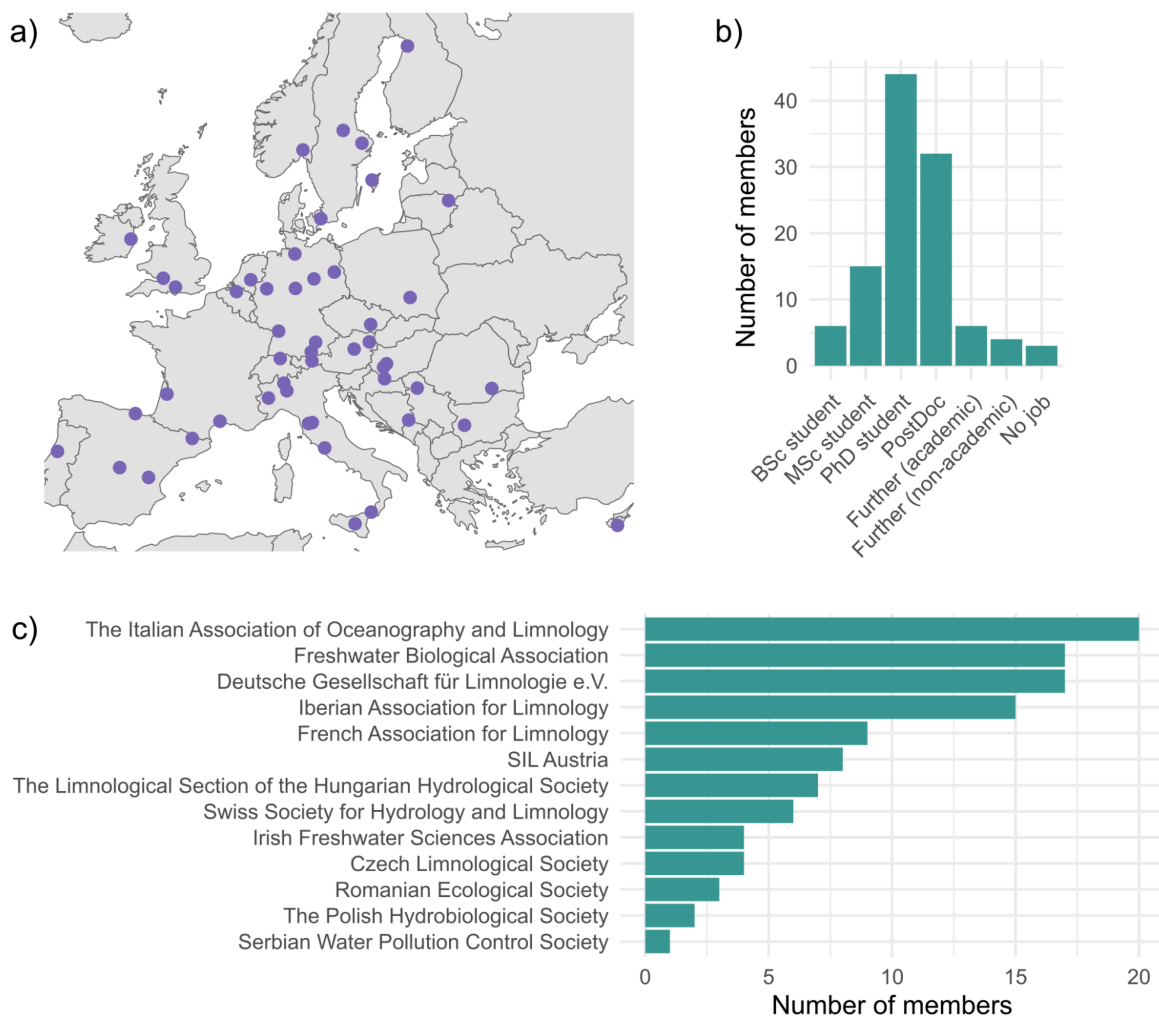


Figure 1: Sampling sites (a), current career stages of project members (b), and memberships in limnological societies(c).

Furthermore, we **refined and prepared the field methods** by collaboratively writing detailed fieldwork guidelines and field sheets. We decided to sample 15 phenological traits of five species from different growth forms: submerged (*Myriophyllum spicatum*, *Elodea nuttallii*, *Elodea canadensis*), floating-leaved (*Nuphar lutea*) and emergent species (*Phragmites australis*). Furthermore, we will sample environmental parameters and characterise the sites. The team members are organised in 50 field work teams, each sampling one or multiple freshwater systems (Fig. 1 a).

During this early phase of the project, we organised and offered “EUPHORIA TALKS” to lay the foundations for the upcoming work (Flyer in Fig. 2). The **online series of six talks and workshops** covered the following topics: macrophytes (general introduction and traits, species identification, phenology), former FreshProjects (PhytoPlastic and EUROPONDS), the EUPHORIA sampling methods, and citizen science. Presenters were from within the project as well as external ECRs. All presentations were recorded and are available on YouTube to all project members and upon request.

To increase **public outreach**, we set up a project [website](#) and social media accounts on [LinkedIn](#) and [Bluesky](#).

Furthermore, we presented the project at the following conferences and seminars:

- Nov. 2024: Veg seminar at Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (presenter: Anne)
- March 2025: 7th Fresh Blood for Fresh Water Conference (presenter: Anne)
- March 2025: Virtual seminar series of the SGHL: Presentation of EUPHORIA together with the last two FreshProjects (presenter: Benjamin)
- April 2025: Seminar series of the WasserCluster Lunz (presenter: Benjamin).

While some water bodies in northern Europe are still covered by ice, the **first field samplings in southern Europe have already started** with the coming spring.

So, stay tuned!

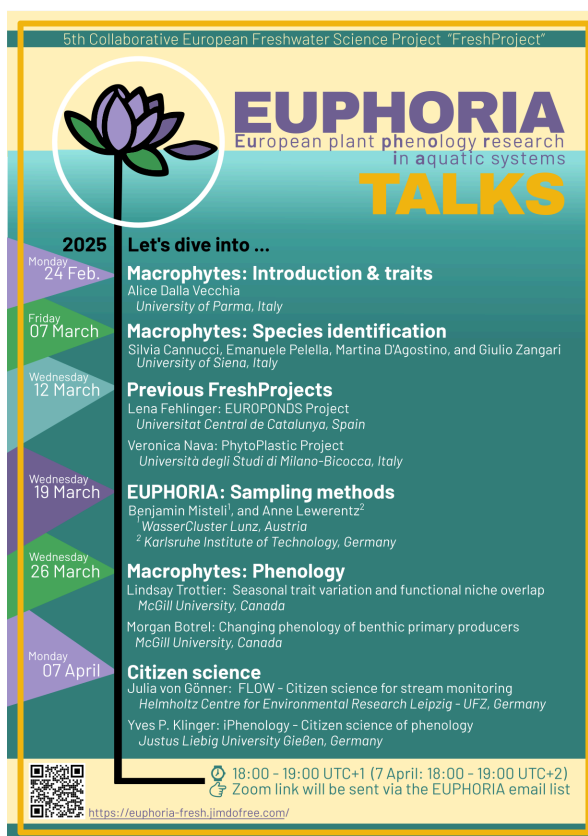


Figure 2: The Flyer for the EUPHORIA Talks series