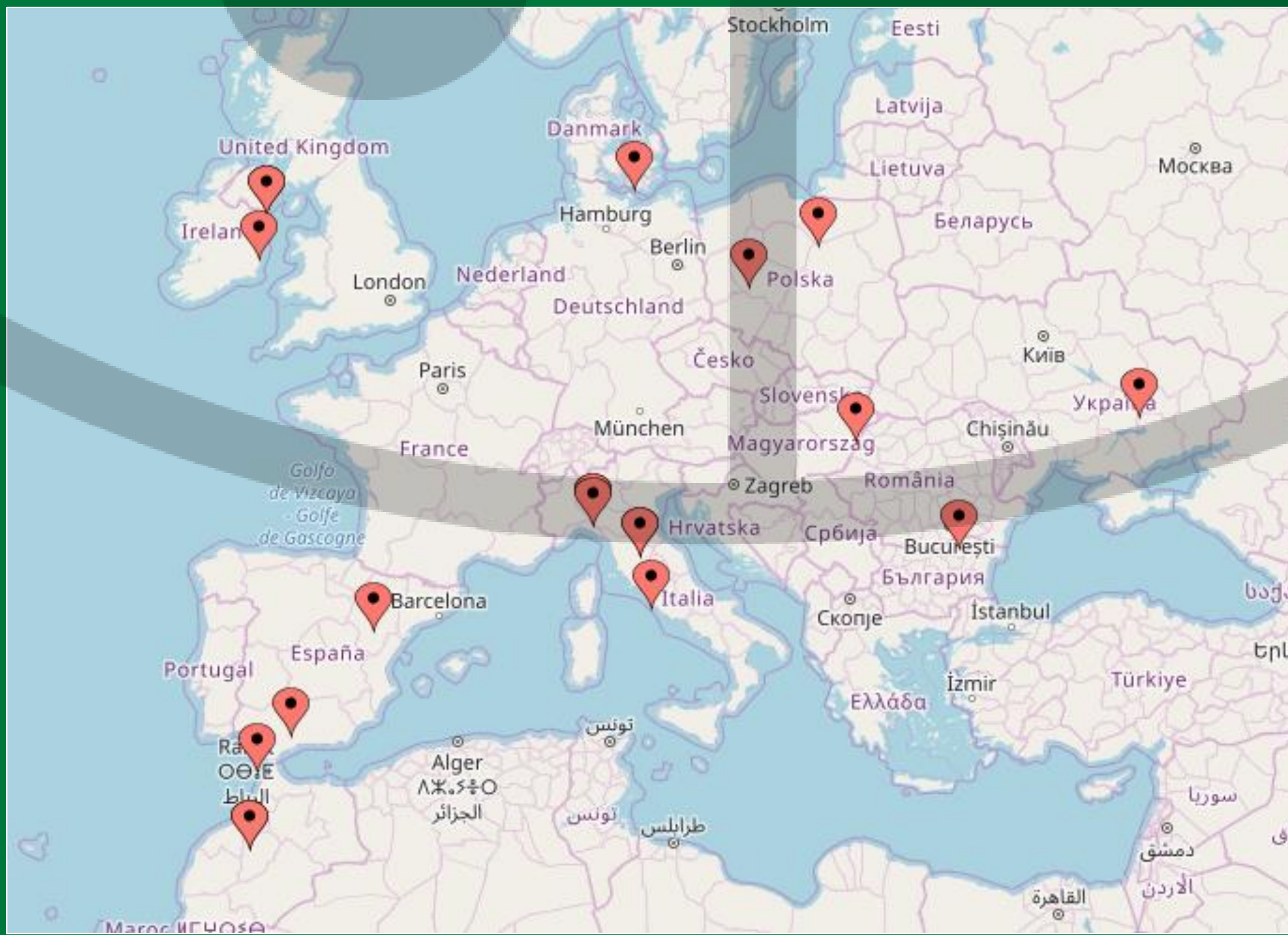


INNOVAR

Next generation variety testing for improved cropping on European farmland

A Horizon 2020 'Research and Innovation Action' project

InnoVar is project lasting 4.5 years which addresses the topic of 'Innovations in plant variety testing'. It has funding of almost €8M shared between 21 partners from 10 countries. This project was developed, and is coordinated by the team at AFBI Crossnacreevy Plant Testing Station.



Objectives:

1. Identify crop characteristics and **sustainability** criteria which indicate the capacity of varieties to **maintain yield under more variable conditions**.
2. Develop precise, rapid and automated methods for DUS testing.
3. Revise and develop performance trialling processes to include sustainable crop management practices.
4. Exploit synergies between variety testing methods.
5. Apply the methods and techniques developed for wheat to other cereals and other crop types, including grasses, legumes and maize.
6. Develop new tools for the evaluation and detection of variety characteristics.
7. Analyse and review existing systems for providing and delivering information about varieties.



Phenotyping and Phenomics

InnoVar will combined a database of historic phenotypic data which with harmonised data generated from the InnoVar trial series, gathering using the latest cutting edge technology.

Genomics

Existing and new genetic data for selected varieties will be combined with the phenotypic and phenomic data to assess variety traits of interest.

Variety Recommendations and Decision Support

InnoVar will create an online App to provide a decision support system to enable growers to select wheat varieties that are best suited for specific growing scenarios.

Translating Knowledge to Other Crops

InnoVar will apply the lessons learned from wheat to provide road-maps for other crop groups with more detailed work on grass, maize and legumes.

High Performance Low Risk (HPLR) Categorisation

Combining the field data, genomics and data analytics, our researchers will provide varieties with HPLR categorisation based on their field performance, agro-climatic zone, environmental conditions and end-use. This will provide growers an accessible and comprehensible tool to select varieties suited to their specific growing conditions, maximising the profit of their farming enterprise whilst minimising inputs.



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