

Accessions to be included in the European Collection (AEGIS)**Discussion of preliminary selection criteria proposed by the European *Vitis* Database Manager and determination of final criteria**

E. Maul indicated that one option is to start with the following categories:

- European cultivars (traditional cultivars of minor importance or in danger of extinction: local cultivars, historical cultivars or cultivars of cultural importance)
- Cultivars and genotypes with outstanding traits for breeding and research (also of non-European origin)
- *Vitis* species (wild grapevine from America, Asia and Europe representing the genetic diversity of the species).

On the other hand, no candidate accessions would be selected for the time being among:

- Cultivars protected by Plant Breeders' Rights
- Widely grown cultivars.

The proposal would then be to start with:

1. **Rare cultivars to the best available knowledge**, e.g. only one single accession maintained over all repositories (based on available data) or a local neglected cultivar under evaluation (SAMPSTAT 350) or in danger of extinction (SAMPSTAT 360);
2. **Genetically unique to the best available knowledge** (not related to any other cultivar) (assessment based on SSR marker data). It is still an ambitious objective, as genetic fingerprints of all accessions maintained in collections are not available and comparison of fingerprints between collections still needs to be done.

It is suggested building up from a small base, starting with minor and neglected cultivars of European countries.

The above presentation was prepared on the assumption that only accessions for the European Collection that correspond with established priorities would be included. However, the ensuing discussion proceeded on the understanding that all unique and important accessions should be considered for inclusion in the European Collection.

Discussion

E. Maul wanted to know what should be done with collections in institutions that are not AEGIS Associate Members. L. Maggioni replied that as all ECPGR member countries are expected to sign the AEGIS agreement in the near future, all the important collections are expected to become Associate Members.

J. Engels remarked that the Group should decide which material of a given variety and with what genetic pattern should be included in the European Collection (all clones of a variety or a selection?).

O. Failla clarified that the COST Action focuses on a core collection for association genetics studies. He agreed with the approach proposed in the presentation and suggested adding the category of "like-to-type" accessions to the existing categories.

D. Maghradze agreed with the criteria proposed by E. Maul for the prioritization of the European Collection accessions.

L. Maggioni clarified that including accessions in the European Collection implies a long-term commitment for conserving the material according to standards agreed by the WG and making it available by issuing the Standard Material Transfer Agreement.

The WG Chair requested WG members to indicate if any accessions conserved in their country qualified as old autochthonous and neglected varieties that could become part of the European Collection. Table 2 below is a compilation of the replies received.

Table 2. Proposed number of autochthonous varieties to be included in the European Collection

Country	Estimated number of old autochthonous and neglected cultivars	Remarks
Albania	106	47 are duplicated in another collection
Austria	30-40	
Azerbaijan	500-600	70% are local cultivars
Bosnia and Herzegovina	30	Some are probably from other countries
Croatia	128	Some of the unique autochthonous cultivars are duplicated in the country, 40-50 need safety-duplication
Cyprus	15	
Czech Republic	1	
Georgia	525	Some of them are duplicated in the country
Germany	20	
Hungary	100	Duplicated to some extent in the country
Israel	15-20	All from the Middle East, all duplicated in the country
Italy	500	Neglected cultivars exist only in collections. To a high extent, duplicated in the country
Montenegro	16	From 203 old cultivars that originated in the country
Poland	76	Possibly of Polish origin, all are duplicated
Serbia	30-40	Most of them are duplicated in the country
Slovakia		Not to be defined at the moment
Slovenia	30	Duplicated to a great extent in the country
Spain	350	Duplicated to a great extent in the country

Recommendations

- It was recommended that each WG member provide a list of proposed accessions for inclusion in the European Collection.

Workplan

- All WG members will send to the Chair and DB Manager their lists of accessions proposed for inclusion into the AEGIS European Collection, together with information on country of origin, accession name, accession number, berry colour, VIVC variety number and common use, **not later than 30 November 2012.**
- All WG members proposing accessions for AEGIS will send the passport data of the proposed accessions to their respective National Inventory Focal Point for inclusion into EURISCO, **not later than 30 November 2012.**
- All WG members will send the lists of accessions proposed for inclusion into AEGIS that are conserved by an AEGIS Associate Member institute to their respective National Coordinator for approval and immediate flagging as “part of AEGIS” in the appropriate EURISCO descriptor, **not later than 30 November 2012.** If the Associate Membership Agreement (AMA) has not been signed by that date, the action will be carried out **upon signing of the AMA.**

- The DB Manager will prepare a Web page in the European *Vitis* Database to display the list of candidate accessions that have been proposed but not yet entered into AEGIS by **January 2013**.
- For countries having signed the AEGIS MoU but not the Associate Membership Agreement (AMA) with the *Vitis* germplasm holding institute, the *Vitis* WG member should contact the National Coordinator to sign the AMA **as soon as possible**, if this is intended by the two parties to the AMA.
- The WG Chair, with support of the DB Manager, will monitor the above-described process and accelerate inclusion of additional accessions into the European Collection.

Safety-duplication of European Accessions (AEGIS)

Introduction to AEGIS policy

J. Engels pointed out the importance of safety-duplication of existing and future accessions in the European Collection and referred to the specific points related to safety-duplication in the AEGIS Quality System (AQUAS), the “Strategic Framework Policy Guide”⁴ and the AEGIS MoU. He presented the principles that underpin safety-duplication and introduced the draft “AEGIS Safety-duplication Policy” and the next steps proposed for its finalization.

Proposal of standards for safety-duplication arrangements of European *Vitis* accessions

(General discussion)

J. Ortiz distinguished the two concepts: the conscious “safety-duplication” of individual accessions at another genebank and the existence of “duplicates” of accessions that are conserved in other genebanks. For *Vitis*, the latter are accepted in the European Collection to increase the level of conserved clonal variability of a given variety.

Priority should be given to accessions that are not duplicated anywhere, and measures taken to ensure that they are safety-duplicated at least within the country.

J. Ortiz reported that the Spanish national collection is located in Madrid and largely duplicated in southern Spain. In addition, the regional collections maintain their own material; therefore most of the accessions are duplicated within the country.

M. Gardiman reported that his institute (Consiglio per la Ricerca e la Sperimentazione in Agricoltura - Centro di Ricerca per la Viticoltura (CRA-VIT) in Conegliano, Italy) has safety-duplicated part of its material at a site near Rome. There are more than 40 *Vitis* collections in Italy; it can therefore be assumed that most of the accessions have several duplicates within the country, although this is not clearly established. About half the Italian accessions are maintained in 4-5 collections; it should therefore be possible to clarify the situation at least for the major collections.

E. Maul commented that it is necessary to decide whether duplication within countries is an acceptable form of safety-duplication; how many plants should make up the duplicate; and which recipient genebanks are prepared to accept and maintain safety-duplicated material.

J. Ortiz proposed that each genebank should inform the WG how many safety-duplicates it can maintain.

E. Maletić commented that it is very expensive to graft the duplicates.

⁴ ECPGR. 2009. A Strategic Framework for the Implementation of a European Genebank Integrated System (AEGIS). A Policy Guide. European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources (ECPGR). Bioversity International, Rome, Italy.
(See http://aegis.cgiar.org/documents/constitutional_documents.html).