

Working Group on *Malus/Pyrus* - Workplan 2012-2013 – follow-up and status at 15 October 2013

(based on the workplan agreed at the fourth meeting of the Malus/Pyrus Working Group, 7-9 March 2012, Weggis, Switzerland; report of the meeting available [here](#))

Activities	Responsibility	Deadline	Status at 15/10/2013
Characterization and evaluation descriptors for apple and pear			
Finalize the work on apple descriptor lists, integrating the valuable work of Szalatnay (2006)	Task Force composed of: M. Lateur, D. Szalatnay, E. Dapena	Mid-June 2013	
Distribute the agreed apple prioritized PDF draft descriptor list to Working Group members for comments	Chair	Mid-June 2013	
Send comments on the above to the Chair	All WG members	End August 2013	
Compile the comments and circulate the final draft list to WG members for use as a working document until publication of final document; provide the final draft list to the ECPGR Secretariat for uploading on the Web site	Chair	End October 2013	
Use the list as a working document until publication of final document	All WG members	(depending on date of final publication)	
Explore solutions for publishing the final document in the form of a robust and practical field manual to be used in the evaluation orchards	Task Force composed of: M. Lateur, D. Szalatnay, E. Dapena with support of ECPGR Secretariat	End 2013	
Follow the same procedures as above for pear descriptors, taking advantage of the fact that many descriptors and methods are rather similar	Task Force composed of: M. Lateur, D. Szalatnay, E. Dapena with support of ECPGR Secretariat	(same schedule as above; final draft document available by mid-June 2013)	

Activities	Responsibility	Deadline	Status at 15/10/2013
SSR markers for apple and pear and common methodology			
Compile the relevant information on SSR markers across <i>Malus</i> , <i>Pyrus</i> and <i>Prunus</i> and produce a practical manual for publication on the ECPGR Web site	Task force composed of: Henryk Flachowsky (Coordinator), Larissa Gustavsson, Felicidad Fernández, Charles-Eric Durel (contacted by Henryk)	End March 2013	In progress
Databases and documentation			
Inform the Database Managers of the release of the updated FAO/Bioversity Multi-crop passport descriptor list	ECPGR Secretariat	As soon as the revised MCPDs are available	Done (20 June 2012)
Request updates from WG members according to the updated MCPD list	DB Managers	End February 2013	Request sent by <i>Malus</i> DB Manager (email 01/03)
Supply updated accession lists through appropriate channels to the <i>Malus</i> and <i>Pyrus</i> CCDBs and to EURISCO	All WG members	End April 2013	
Finalize the upgrading of the <i>Pyrus</i> Database according to the structure of the new <i>Prunus</i> Database	Chair and INRA-Bordeaux (Teresa Bareneche and Emilie Balsemin)	End June 2013	
European Fruit books' pomologies			
Circulate the list of pomological references to WG members for comment and addition of further references and Web links to available texts	Chair	End February 2013	
Send replies to Chair	WG members	End April 2013	
Send the finalized list to the ECPGR Secretariat for uploading on the <i>Malus/Pyrus</i> WG's Web site	Chair	End May 2013	

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Integrate pomological reference list into the Central Crop Databases to be used for referencing cultivar names	Chair and DB Managers	End June 2013	
Synonyms			
<i>Workplan for apple and pear</i>			
Make the link between Brogdale's synonym DB and the last version of the ECPGR Malus Database and match all the information	<i>Malus</i> DB Manager	End March 2013	
Add "preferred name" to the synonym list with the link to the referenced literature compiled by Jacobus Bosschaerts	<i>Malus</i> and <i>Pyrus</i> DB Managers	End March 2013	
Add as far as possible the literature source for each already existing synonym name	<i>Pyrus</i> DB Manager	End March 2013	
Add the most probable historical country of origin and the most probable date of raising	<i>Malus</i> & <i>Pyrus</i> DB Managers	End March 2013	
Send back to the curators their respective lists of apple and pear accessions extracted from the last version of the ECPGR DBs with the added synonyms list, asking the curators to check and validate their list and provide a ranking of synonym names as follows: 1 = Preferred name 2 = Useful or commonly used synonym 3 = No longer used or never heard-of synonym name 4 = Wrong synonym, as checked and confirmed by local experts. If possible, provide the literature source or the link of this "false" synonym to the right cultivars.	<i>Malus</i> and <i>Pyrus</i> DB Managers	End April 2013	
Provide responses of ranking to the DB managers	Curators	End June 2013	

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Based on their good knowledge of their cultivars and reference books, rank the global quality of the mentioned literature sources according to the following scale: 1 = Mostly reliable information found in the book 2 = Some doubtful information found 3 = Very often doubtful information found and provide ranking to the DB managers	Experts attending the ad hoc meeting on synonyms, under the coordination of the Chair and DB Managers	End June 2013	
Include this information in the respective DBs	<i>Malus</i> and <i>Pyrus</i> DB Managers	September 2013	
Enhancement of collaboration within the WG			
Include the list of activities and expertise (already partially completed during the meeting) in the draft report of the meeting	Chair and ECPGR Secretariat	(at time of production of draft report)	Done (draft report 31 January 2013)
Validate and complete the lists for inclusion in final report	WG members and meeting participants	(according to request from Chair/ECPGR Secretariat)	Data provided were compiled and published in the report (Appendix IV) <i>(N.B. some members did not provide data)</i>
Implementation of AEGIS			
Send to each WG member a standardized form (MCPD format) to be used to list the first accessions of national interest along with priority passport data	DB Managers	End May 2013	
Return completed forms to Database Managers	All WG members	End July 2013	
Analyse the data and propose a list of candidate European accessions to the WG	DB Managers, Chair, Vice-Chair	End September 2013	

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Crop-specific standards			
Analyse the Commission-approved field genebank standards and decide if and which crop-specific technical standards are required and subsequently, develop these.	All WG members	Within 6 months after publication of final standards →November 2013	Final standards published May 2013
Enhancement of the efficiency of the <i>Malus/Pyrus</i> Working Group			
Consider the possibility to apply for a COST action	Gordana Đurić,, Henryk Flachowsky, Matthew Ordidge and Marc Lateur	End March 2012	Done (a project proposal was developed by the group and submitted but unfortunately failed).
Set up a mailing list for circulation of documents and information within the Working Group	Vice-Chair, with support of ECPGR Secretariat	End February 2013	List of emails sent by Secretariat to Vice-Chair 30 January 2013 + Email Distribution List made available online by ECPGR Secretariat (March 2013)
Organize an annual consultation of the progress made for each activity of the workplan and provide the WG members with a brief update on key developments.	Vice-Chair, with the help of Eva Maria Gantar and Chair	End March 2013 and annually thereafter	