

EURISCO as a support tool for AEGIS

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**Tailoring the Documentation of PGR in Europe to the Needs of Users
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Introduction

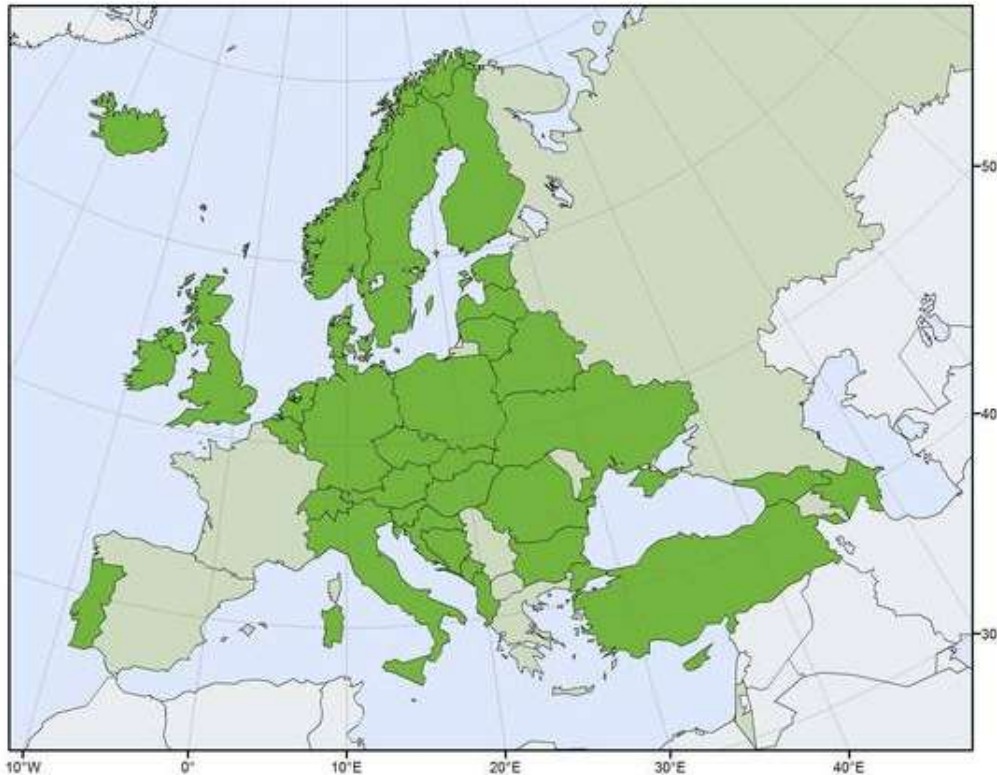
- Word of thanks
- AEGIS is an integrated initiative of ECPGR
- Strong focus on the establishment aspects, including the selection of accessions
- Since about 1 year European Collection
- Need to get (information related) elements in place for its efficient management
- AQUAS is largely based on information

AEGIS objective

- To create **A** **E**uropean **G**enebank
Integrated **S**ystem for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, aimed at **conserving the genetically unique and important accessions for Europe and making them available** for breeding and research. Such material will be safely conserved under conditions that **ensure genetic integrity and viability in the long term.**

AEGIS membership status

<http://aegis.cgiar.org/>



AEGIS Member Countries (April 2014)

1. **Albania** (06 May 2009) - Associate Members
2. **Austria** (05 December 2012) - Associate Members
3. **Azerbaijan** (16 July 2009) - Associate Members
4. **Belarus** (02 November 2011) - Associate Members
5. **Belgium** (01 June 2012) - Associate Members
6. **Bosnia and Herzegovina** (19 May 2010)
7. **Bulgaria** (02 December 2009) - Associate Members
8. **Croatia** (02 December 2009) - Associate Members
9. **Cyprus** (15 September 2012) - Associate Members
10. **Czech Republic** (23 July 2009) - Associate Members
11. **Denmark** (22 February 2010) - Associate Members
12. **Estonia** (22 May 2009) - Associate Members
13. **Finland** (02 December 2009) - Associate Members
14. **Georgia** (18 May 2009) - Associate Members
15. **Germany** (05 November 2009) - Associate Members
16. **Hungary** (22 November 2011) - Associate Members
17. **Iceland** (22 October 2010) - Associate Members
18. **Ireland** (22 July 2009)
19. **Italy** (03 March 2014)
20. **Latvia** (01 June 2012)
21. **Lithuania** (12 October 2010)
22. **Montenegro** (16 December 2010)
23. **Netherlands** (28 May 2009) - Associate Members
24. **Norway** (17 August 2009) - Associate Members
25. **Poland** (17 May 2010) - Associate Members
26. **Portugal** (20 November 2009)
27. **Romania** (14 April 2010) - Associate Members
28. **Slovakia** (17 June 2009) - Associate Members
29. **Slovenia** (21 September 2009) - Associate Members
30. **Sweden** (31 May 2011) - Associate Members
31. **Switzerland** (27 July 2009) - Associate Members
32. **Turkey** (14 November 2011) - Associate Members
33. **Ukraine** (30 April 2009)
34. **United Kingdom** (18 June 2010) - Associate Members

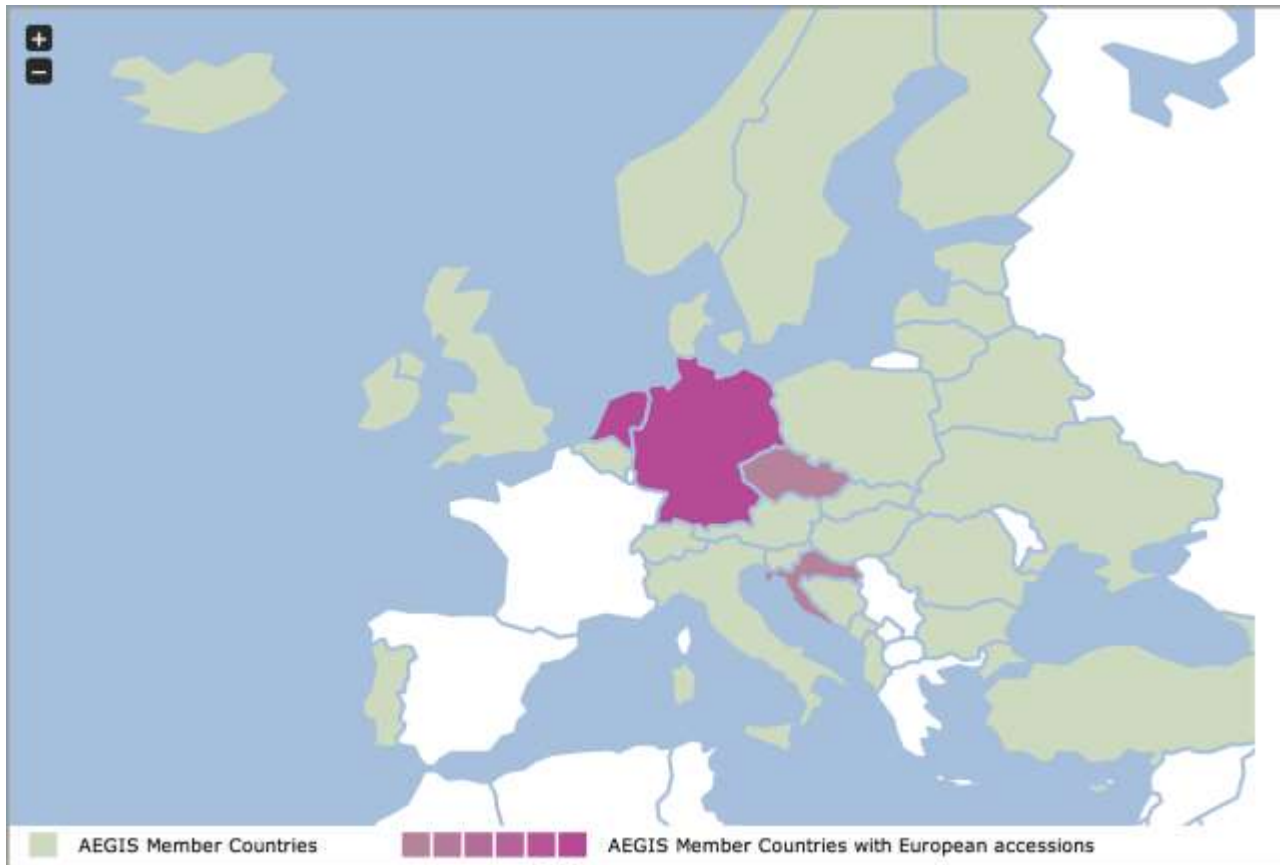
At present:

34 Members (signed MOUs)

54 Associate Members' Agreements

The European Collection today

11 504 accessions



The Netherlands: 5864
Germany: 5324
Czech Republic: 226
Croatia: 90

Simplified Selection Procedure for European Accessions

- 1) Associate Member** institutes/genebanks propose to their National Coordinator list of accessions they maintain, for inclusion into the European Collection
- 2) National Coordinator** consider proposal and make the final decision, ensuring that the established conservation and availability conditions will be met
- 3) Approved accessions** are flagged by National Focal Point in **EURISCO** as part of the European Collection

AQUAS elements

1) **Template for operational genebank manual**

- All Associate member institutes are expected to compile and upload their manual onto AEGIS Website
- **5** genebank manuals are online; several in progress

2) **Generic operational genebank standards**

- Generic standards for seed, field and *in vitro*/cryopreservation genebanks approved by FAO Commission in April 2013
- Accepted by SC as basis for AEGIS operation

AQUAS elements

- 3) Agreed minimum crop-specific technical standards (complementing generic standards)**
 - 6 WGs have agreed on crop-specific standards for one or more routine operations (using FAO standards as reference)
- 4) AEGIS Safety-duplication Policy**
 - Approved and on the AEGIS website
- 5) AEGIS Distribution Guideline**
 - Approved and on the AEGIS website
- 6) Record keeping, monitoring and reporting system**
 - Under development

Information needs for the management of the European Collection of AEGIS - 1

1. Comprehensive and good quality **passport data**: essential for **selection of accessions**, **identification of possible duplicates** and gap analysis to **identify collecting priorities**
2. Flagging of the selected accessions for European Collection consists of ticking EURISCO descriptor **“AEGIS status”**.

Agreed procedure: *“The final step of including accessions in the European Collection is their flagging in EURISCO as European Accessions by filling in the corresponding field (‘AEGIS status’). This flagging is done by the EURISCO National Inventory Focal Point, under instructions from the National Coordinator.”*

Descriptor available; see also de-flagging

Information needs for the management of the European Collection of AEGIS - 2

3. Recording **which accessions** have been **safety-duplicated** at **which genebank**

- **Descriptors** available: EURISCO:DUPLSITE; MCPDv2: DUPLINSTNAME
- Possible to add descriptor on **date** of safety duplication?

4. **Characterization and evaluation** data

- Critically important to facilitate use
- Important information to decide on choosing accession from a group of duplicates
- **Decision made to include these data in EURISCO**
- **Encouragement to proceed quickly!**

Information needs for the management of the European Collection of AEGIS - 3

5. Germplasm distribution information

- An important indicator for relevance of germplasm, especially for genebank and country
- Complementary to IT reporting (which is on number of accessions; not accession specific)
 - Not essential but **desirable** to have
 - Unclear **how much effort** needed to provide data
 - How **feasible to add** such a descriptor?

Information needs for the management of the European Collection of AEGIS - 4

6. Tool to monitor changes in composition of European Collection

- In Art. 6 iv of MOU **withdrawal** of accessions foreseen; 12 months notice; NC to inform WG Chair concerned
- In the revised simplified **selection procedure** Article 6 addresses the issue of **de-flagging**:

European Accessions flagged in EURISCO are expected to be only un-flagged in specific cases, including: the death of a given accession; an agreement between two or more countries on the most appropriate accession among duplicates; the occurrence of a force majeure situation. EURISCO will allow changes in the composition of the European Collection to be tracked.

- In case of **death** of accession or **change in conservation responsibility** no prior notice required; changes to be updated in EURISCO accordingly

Information needs for the management of the European Collection of AEGIS - 5

6. Tool/device to monitor changes in composition of European Collection (cont.)

- Suggestion to develop **automatic 'warning message'** in case of **de-flagging** an accession
- Proposed to only allow **de-flagging after 12 months notice** and a reason for de-flagging is provided

7. Link between AEGIS and EURISCO

- For automatic updating of holding information on European Collection on AEGIS website (as has been implemented at present by Bioversity)
 - **Bioversity** is prepared to continue; if so agreed, is there a need for an **agreement**?
 - Or should **IPK** take over this responsibility?

Conclusions

- EURISCO is an important tool for AEGIS and the European Collection
- A few additional functions in EURISCO would further strengthen AEGIS
- Comprehensive and good quality passport information is essential
- C&E data are important to add value to accessions

Thank you for your attention!



*Orchis
purpurea*