“On-farm inventory of minor grape varieties in the European Vitis Database (GrapeOnFarm)“

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MONTENEGRO
Montenegro is a small country of great wines.

- Montenegro has a very long tradition of grapevine growing - dates back from the pre-roman period
- Geographical specificity of Montenegro, ie. the influence of the Mediterranean climate in the south, continental in the north and moderate in the central part of the territory, made it possible for the genetic material of the vineyard to be rich and diverse.
Montenegrin viticulture regions explored:

1. **MONTENEGRIN BASIN OF SKADAR LAKE**  
   (sub regions: Podgoricki, Crmnicki, Rijecki, Bjeloplavicki, Katunski, Kucki and Piperski)
2. **MONTENEGRIN COST**  
   (sub regions: Bokokotorski, Budvansko-Barski, Ulcinjski, jadransko zaleđe)
3. **NUDO**
4. **MONTENEGRIN NORTH** (sub regions: Nikšićki, Bjelopoljski, Šćepan polje i Dragaljsko polje)
Winemaking-winegrowing sector of Montenegro
Permanent work on identification, characterization and preservation of grapevine germplasm in Montenegro, through realization and active participation in national and international projects.

REALIZED PROJECTS:

• SEEDnet project (2009-2010) - "Identification, characterization and conservation of old and autochthonous vine varieties in eastern European countries”

• SEE.ERA.NET project (2010-2012) "Preservation and establishment of true-to-type and virus free material of endangered grapevine cultivars in Croatia and Montenegro" ERA 91/04

• As a result of the work on the characterization of the Montenegrin grapevine germplasm, within the mentioned projects, Montenegro is the first time in 2012. presented its autochthonous varieties and officially joined the EU Vitis database.

• Participation in the COST ACTION FA1003 (East-West Collaboration for Grapevine Diversity Exploration and Mobilization of Adaptive Traits for Breeding) (2012-2014)

• Participation in ECPGR group "Increasing the efficiency of conservation of wild grapevine genetic resources in Europe) – InWiGrape project (2016)

• Project "Genetic diversity of vines in Montenegro", in cooperation with Institute of Vine and Wine (ICVV) in La Rioja, Spain (2013 - ongoing)
The work on the genetic identification of indigenous varieties of Montenegro continued through cooperation with the Spanish partner – Institute for vine and wine from La Rioja Grape. In the project are also includes the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Science, the National Association of winegrowers and winemakers of Montenegro and Biotechnical Faculty in Podgorica.

This project included:
- research of the genetic diversity of Montenegrin grapevine varieties,
- discovering of their origin,
- the study of the variability of the populations of varieties.

The most comprehensive research on grapevine in Montenegro. A total of 473 vines were marked and sampled (cultivated and wild Vitis sylverstris forms)

An analysis of 318 samples revealed the existence of 54 new grape genotypes. 21 found at more than 2 sites, indicating that these varieties were grown in Montenegro for centuries.
Through the project "On-farm inventory of minor grape varieties in the European Vitis Database (GrapeOnFarm)", activities continued on the study of minor and neglected grapevine varieties in Montenegro.

The producers are informed about the goals and activities of the project, through direct contacts as well as through the media and at the meetings of the National Association of Winegrowers and Winemakers.

Interested producers were contacted and a field expedition plan was started with the aim of finding, identifying and evaluating rare and forgotten grapevine varieties in the territory of Montenegro.
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- The field expedition during 2017 has visited interested producers from different viticulture localities;
- interviewed winegrowers and according to descriptors collected data on the site, history of breeding, names and synonyms of varieties, agrobiological and economic technological characteristics of the variety, manner of maintaining vineyards ...
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✓ Marked interesting vines (a total of 42 are marked in 2017) and positioned with GPS.
✓ Photographed and collected samples for analysis.
✓ The recommendation for their further expansion is given and during the winter the plan is to take cuttings for their further duplication and collecting.
The one of results of work on characterisation of grapevine germplasm is the formation of National Collection of autochthonous grapevine varieties, on Ćemovsko field. The Collection is planted with confirmed genotypes of autochthonous, neglected and indigenous grapevine varieties in Montenegro. The formation of the collection began in 2016. So far, a total of 160 have been planted, it will be continuously planted.
Producers who cultivate indigenous species / varieties / breeds and who agree to cooperate with the institution responsible for genetic resources in terms of delivering materials and providing the necessary information are entitled to support.

In plant production support is given:
- for perennial crops: cultivation and care of individual (up to 30 individuals) very old olive trees / vines or plantations of the estimated age over 200 years (for olives over 1000 years), breeding and care of individual trees (up to 30 individuals) or for others fruit species / varieties that are endangered by genetic erosion.
- In Montenegro, neglected varieties are enrolled without prior examination, but only for the needs of the local market (for the purpose of preserving a genetic resources).

- In the upcoming period, it is expected to be developed the Rule Book that will define this more precisely for the needs for outside of Montenegro.
Thank you for your attention!