

VITIS WG REPORT FOR PHASE IX (2014-2018)

Submitted to the 15th Steering Committee Meeting, Thessaloniki, Greece, May 2018
by: Thierry LACOMBE

Date of compilation: 27 February 2018

1. CONTRIBUTION TO ECPGR OBJECTIVES

1.1. Achievements and success stories

Outcome 1. AEGIS is operational. Accessions in AEGIS are characterized and evaluated. (standards)

The AQUAS quality system was adopted and implemented by the WG through the approval of the “Three protocols for germplasm sustainable conservation” agreed by the COST Action FA1003 (see section 4).

In October 2017, 132 grapevine accessions were officially flagged with AEGIS status in EURISCO database.

Outcome 2. Quantity and quality of data in EURISCO, including in situ and on-farm data, have been increased. Functionality of EURISCO meets users' expectations (InWiGrape, GrapeOnFarm)

In October 2017, 30 022 grape accessions were registered in EURISCO database.

Outcome 3. In situ and on-farm conservation and management of priority crop wild relative (CWR) and landrace (LR) populations are implemented throughout Europe. Mechanisms are in place for more effective utilization of the conserved germplasm (InWiGrape, GrapeOnFarm)

Outcome 5. Relations with users of germplasm are strengthened (GrapeOnFarm)

Summary for InWiGrape Activity (2nd ECPGR Grant Scheme)

The ECPGR Working Group on *Vitis* initiated the InWiGrape Activity to harmonize protocols referring to genetic resources of wild grapevine (*Vitis vinifera* subsp. *sylvestris*). The various aspects of conservation including bibliographical references, identification in the wild, *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation have been discussed. The Partners' meeting was held on 5 July 2016 in Split, Croatia. A distribution map of *Vitis vinifera* subsp. *sylvestris* populations in Europe was produced, with online access through the [European Vitis Database](#). The research article about basic principles for *Vitis vinifera* subsp. *sylvestris* conservation has been published in the [Vitis Journal of Grapevine Research \(Vol. 56, No 3\)](#). The descriptors and the map will assist different stakeholders working on biodiversity and ecosystems in more effective conservation of wild grapevine genetic resources.

Summary for GrapeOnFarm Activity (3rd ECPGR Grant Scheme)

European activities on grape germplasm safeguard raised the awareness and interest of wine growers about the existence of minor and neglected grape varieties. An inventory of farmers of these varieties was intended as a framework information addressed to other grape growers and nurseries, wine consumers, wine merchants and journalists. Besides promoting the effective utilization of rare germplasm, the Activity also envisages its monitoring. Actions include publication in national specialized magazines, agreement on descriptors and an on-farm section in the European *Vitis* Database.

Contacts with wine growers revealed the interest to support the on-farm objectives. Descriptors and criteria were validated:

- [GrapeOnFarm descriptors](#), with four categories accepted: grower (12 descriptors), variety preserved (17 descriptors), vineyard description (17 descriptors) and commitments (6 descriptors).
- [Criteria to determine vulnerability of rare historical varieties](#) were assembled to evaluate the degree of threat of minor grape cultivars.
- National procedures for inclusion of a minor variety in the national variety catalogue were listed.

On-farm data collected by GrapeOnFarm Activity will be included in the European *Vitis* Database in March 2018.

1.2. Gaps or constraints identified



Our group used to work with the support of important European programmes (GenRes#081, GrapeGen#06, COST#FA1003-Grapenet). But despite recent efforts (Spanish and Italian coordination) our community didn't succeed in getting funded again (rejection of COST-Eugrape and H2020-Grape-goes-Erasmus). In this context, human and financial resources are not available for the members to work effectively on the objectives of ECPGR for Phase IX and individual efforts are perceived as volunteer work.

Major gap identified for AEGIS initiative: absence of MoU signature for some ECPGR member states (e.g. France, Spain or Greece). For example in October 2017, 802 additional accessions were proposed for an AEGIS status but still not flagged in EURISCO due to this situation.

EURISCO: the European *Vitis* Database (EVDB, <http://www.eu-vitis.de>) was created in 1997 during the European project GenRes#81 and improved in 2007 during European project GrapeGen06. It is maintained by German partner (JKI) and continuously updated with new data and new functions. This database is linked to the powerful VIVC database (<http://www.vivc.de>) dealing with international bibliography on grape varieties. In this context, members of *Vitis* WG are actually less interested in the EURISCO database. For instance, data for France, Hungary, Serbia and Slovenia are in EVDB but not in EURISCO due to delay of upload via national processes and/or focal points.

Another problem is the non-payment of ECPGR contribution for more than two years: these countries are thus non eligible to participate to an activity as funded partners. In the case of grapevine, it was a major problem for Spanish partner who wanted to coordinate a new activity but couldn't succeed due to this administrative point.

2. GRANT SCHEME ACTIVITIES

- **Grant Scheme proposals (submitted: 3; approved: 2)**
 1. [Increasing the efficiency of conservation of wild grapevine genetic resources in Europe \(InWiGrape\)](#) –Second Call (2015)
 2. [On-farm inventory of minor grape varieties in the European Vitis Database \(GrapeOnFarm\)](#) –Third Call (2016)
- **Total number of partners involved: 18 from 17 countries**
 - ECPGR-funded: 14 from 14 countries
 - Self-funded: 4 from 3 countries
- **Meetings held**
 1. InWiGrape meeting, 5 July 2016, Split, Croatia.
 2. GrapeOnFarm meeting, 10 October 2017, Geilweilerhof, Germany.
- **Reports and related data**
 1. **InWiGrape**
 -  [InWiGrape Final Activity Report](#) (351 KB)
 -  [InWiGrape Bibliography](#) (292 KB)
 2. **GrapeOnFarm**
 - Working Group documents produced: see section 4
 - Final Activity report: will be finished in March 2018 (when database ready).
- **Funds mobilized**
 - ECPGR granted funds: € 30 000
 - Inputs in-kind declared in Grant activities: (none)

3. OTHER ACTIVITIES (CROSS-WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES, LINKS WITH OTHER NETWORKS, PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES)

- **Cross-Working Group activities:** none
- **Others**

Collaboration with COST Action FA1003.

Adoption of the “Three protocols for germplasm sustainable conservation” (see below, Publications)

4. WORKING GROUP DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS

Working Group documents produced in the framework of the GrapeOnFarm Activity

-  [GrapeOnFarm descriptors](#) (158 KB)
-  [Criteria to determine vulnerability of rare historical varieties](#) (260 KB)
-  [National procedures for inclusion of a minor variety in the national variety catalogue](#) (14 KB)

Publications

Zdunić G, Maul E, Eiras Dias JEJ et al. 2017. [Guiding principles for identification, evaluation and conservation of *Vitis vinifera* L. subsp. *sylvestris*](#). *Vitis* 56 (3):127–131.

 [Three protocols for germplasm sustainable conservation](#) (207 KB) (final results of the COST Action FA1003, October 2014)

This document includes:

- Phytosanitary rules for grapevine (*Vitis vinifera* L.) propagation material introduction into EU for germplasm conservation and scientific purposes
- Field genebank standards for grapevines (*Vitis vinifera* L.)
- *Vitis* spp. operational field genebank collections manual

Note: These protocols have been formally endorsed by the *Vitis* WG.

They were further published in a special issue of the VITIS Journal for Grapevine Research: Faltus M, Failla O, Frausin C, Bianco PA. 2015. [Phytosanitary rules for grapevine \(*Vitis vinifera* L.\) propagation material introduction into EU for germplasm conservation and scientific purposes](#). *VITIS* 54 (Special Issue):271–272.

Maghradze D, Maletic E, Maul E, Faltus M, Failla O. 2015. [Field genebank standards for grapevines \(*Vitis vinifera* L.\)](#). *VITIS* 54 (Special Issue):273–279.

The following document was also developed in the framework of the COST Action FA1003: Ocete R, Fevereiro P, Failla O. 2015. [Proposal for the wild grapevine \(*Vitis vinifera* L. subsp. *sylvestris* \(Gmelin\) Hegi\) conservation in the European countries](#). *VITIS* 54 (Special Issue):281–282.

5. EXPECTED ADDITIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES