

DOCUMENTATION AND INFORMATION WG REPORT FOR PHASE IX (2014-2018)

Submitted to the 15th Steering Committee Meeting, Thessaloniki, Greece, May 2018
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Date of compilation: 13 March 2018

1. CONTRIBUTION TO ECPGR OBJECTIVES

1.1. Achievements and success stories

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.

The WG has organised three EURISCO regional training workshops: in 2015 (EURISCO National Focal Points Regional Training Workshop for Southeast Europe) in Tirana, Albania, in 2016 (EURISCO National Focal Points Training Workshop for Western Europe) in Angers, France, and in 2017 (EURISCO National Focal Points Training Workshop 2017) in Gatersleben, Germany. These meetings were funded in the framework of the ECPGR Activity Grant Scheme, the German one with additional support of the German Federal Office for Agriculture and Food. The meetings were attended by resp. 13, 14 and 15 sponsored participants plus various numbers of self-funded participants. The meetings were all organised by the EURISCI coordinator Stephan Weise (content), in collaboration with local organisers (logistics). A job very well done!

In addition to these EURISCO training workshops, a workshop was organised to allow representatives from European genebanks to study the functionalities of GRIN-Global (the open source genebank documentation system developed by the USDA with financial support of, among others, the Global Crop Diversity Trust: the GRIN-Global Workshop 2017 for European Genebanks, in Prague, Czech Republic. Apart from the 13 ECPGR-funded participants, an additional 9 participants funded from the Global Crop Diversity Trust participated. The meeting was jointly funded in the framework of the ECPGR Activity Grant Scheme and the Global Crop Diversity Trust. This meeting was organised by the hosting institution, the Crop Research Institute in Prague (Ludmila Papoušková) in collaboration with the Global Crop Diversity Trust (Matija Obreza).

Furthermore, the Documentation and Information Working Group has participated in various other Activity Grant Scheme projects to assure the relevant expertise was available to these projects. It also supported the EURISCO coordinator via the formal route of the EURISCO Advisory Committee and via informal feedback, requested or non-requested.

In regard to the *in situ*/on-farm documentation not much happened as no initiatives were taken from the respective WGs in this regard.

All in all ECPGR has, via this WG, contributed to the maintenance of the relative high level of genebank documentation in Europe and thus the quality and quantity of data in EURISCO and the functionality of the system.

Through the EURISCO training workshops, technical staff of European genebanks were given the opportunity to learn about standards and solutions regarding their field of expertise, and to increase their commitment to EURISCO. As a result the quality and quantity of data provided to EURISCO can be expected to improve.

Through a GRIN-Global training workshop, the opportunity was given to participants to study the GRIN-Global option, thus improving the management of their local documentation systems, to improve the quality and completeness of data provided to EURISCO.

1.2. Gaps or constraints identified

Although the GRIN-Global workshop provided the possibility to get a first acquaintance with this system, many genebanks are still unsure where to head regarding their documentation. Opinions vary regarding the suitability of GRIN-Global in specific settings, variables being the size of the genebank, the required functionality, the availability of funds and expertise. In the end the choice is the responsibility of the individual genebanks, but ECPGR could play a role in making this choice.

The desire from the on-farm and *in situ* communities to improve documentation has existed for a long time. Here the lack of proper data is the major hindering factor; it makes little sense to create a solution for managing and giving access to information that doesn't exist. This is an interesting problem that would deserve better attention in the respective WGs: what information should be organised and made available for what users. Partial solutions will be developed in the H2020 Farmers' Pride project. In this project small cases will be developed providing access to PGR users to material conserved *in situ* and on-farm.

2. GRANT SCHEME ACTIVITIES

- **Grant Scheme proposals (submitted: 4; approved: 4)**
 1. [EURISCO National Focal Points Regional Training Workshop for Southeast Europe 2015 – First Call \(2014\)](#)
 2. [EURISCO National Focal Points Regional Training Workshop 2016 – Second Call \(2015\)](#)
 3. [EURISCO National Focal Points Regional Training Workshop 2017 – Third Call \(2016\)](#)
 4. [GRIN-Global Workshop 2017 for European Genebanks – Fourth Call \(2016\)](#)

- **Total number of partners involved: 63 from 37 countries**
 - ECPGR-funded: 39 from 28 countries
 - Self-funded: 16 from 9 countries
 - Trust-funded: 10 from 10 countries

- **Meetings held**
 1. EURISCO Training Workshop 2015, 19-21 May 2015, Tirana, Albania.
 2. EURISCO Training Workshop 2016, 12-14 October 2016, Angers, France.
 3. EURISCO Training Workshop 2017, 12-14 September 2017, Gatersleben, Germany.

4. GRIN-GLOBAL Workshop 2017 for European Genebanks, 29-31 August 2017, Prague, Czech Republic.

- **Reports and related data**

EURISCO Training 2015  [Final report](#)
EURISCO Training 2016  [Final report](#)
EURISCO Training 2017  [Final report](#)
GRIN-Global  [Workshop report](#)

- **Funds mobilized**

- ECPGR granted funds: € 55 050
- Inputs in-kind declared in Grant activities: € 12 360

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

- **Cross-Working Group activities**

1. Grant Scheme

- Joint proposals with
 - Forages WG [ECPGR WG for Forages towards 2020s "Forages 2020"](#)
 - Beta WG [Genetic diversity of *Patellifolia* species \(GeDiPa\)](#)
 - On-farm WG [Assessing linkages between genebanks and direct users \(LINKAGES\)](#)
- Participants in the training workshops included members from several WGs in their capacities of National Focal Points.

2. Workshop devoted to EURISCO, the European CCDBs, and related topics ['Tailoring the Documentation of Plant Genetic Resources in Europe to the Needs of the user'](#), 19-22 May 2014, Prague, Czech Republic.

- **Introduction of DOIs**

Based on the needs, expressed among others by the WG, for permanent unique identifiers for genebank accessions, the secretariat of the International Treaty on PGRFA created a facility to provide Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) to genebanks at no costs. EURISCO (and the uploading format) has been adapted to accommodate these DOIs, and the first National Inventories include this descriptor in their uploads.

- **Others**

- The EURISCO coordination and members of the WG participated in the proposal for the Horizon2020 proposal "PGR Gold". Despite the high rating (14.5 out of 15) of this proposal it was not funded.
- The Horizon2020 proposal "Farmer's Pride" with the participation of the EURISCO coordination and WG members was approved and officially started in November 2017. This project is being coordinated by the University of Birmingham and focusses on the development of a network of *in situ* sites and stakeholders. The task of the EURISCO

coordination will be the development of a concept for the extension of EURISCO for *in situ* data.

- In addition, the EURISCO coordination will participate in the proposal “GenRes Bridge – Joining forces for agro-forest systems and biodiversity management”, which is a joint proposal of the three European networks for plant, animal and forest genetic resources (ECPGR, ERFPA und EUFORGEN).
- The WG Chair participated in various platforms related to PGR documentation: the EURISCO Advisory Committee, the GeneSys Advisory Committee and the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) of the Global Information System of the International Treaty on PGRFA (GLIS).
- A paper on EURISCO appeared in the influential scientific journal *Nucleic Acids Research*. This paper was authored by the EURISCO coordinator, the ECPGR coordinator and the WG Chair.

4. WORKING GROUP DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS

Weise S, 2015  [Data exchange standard for uploading characterisation and evaluation data from National Inventories to EURISCO](#)

Weise S, Oppermann M, Maggioni L, Hintum Th van. 2017. [EURISCO: The European search catalogue for plant genetic resources](#). *Nucleic Acids Research* 45 (D1):D1003-D1008 [DOI: https://doi.org/10.1093/nar/gkw755](https://doi.org/10.1093/nar/gkw755)

5. EXPECTED ADDITIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES

The regional EURISCO trainings are expected to continue in the future, provided that funding can be made available and local hosts can be found.

The opportunities provided by the H2020 project will hopefully resolve some of the issues related to the documentation of *in situ* and on-farm resources.

The inclusion of phenotypic data (characterisation and evaluation data) in EURISCO will end its testing phase and can be evaluated in the near future. Based on the conclusions the next steps can be defined.