

ECPGR Working Group / Task Force / Thematic Network

Progress report for the period June 2006 – June 2008

Vitis Working Group

I. RESULTS			
a. Comparison of workplan (milestones) versus results obtained			
Workplan (milestones)	Which results have been obtained?	Which aims/goals have not been (fully) reached?	Completeness ratio (%)
Milestone 1 <i>Sustainable maintenance and update of the European Vitis Database</i>	<p>All partners received passport data extracted from the European <i>Vitis</i> database. These data have been transferred and completed in the EURISCO-format: 33 descriptors plus variety name, berry color, country of origin of the variety and year of breeding.</p> <p>A total of 28,241 accessions from 18 Institutions from 13 european countries are included in the European Vitis Database: Germany, Slovenia, Italy (4), Portugal, Hungary, Austria, France, Moldova, Bulgaria, Spain (2), Greece (2), Cze Republic, Switzerland.</p> <p>Passport descriptors include 54 Primary (33 ampelographic and 21 ampelometric) and 17 Secondary.</p> <p>Six microsatellite markers were determined for a high number of accessions and have been published in numerous journals.</p> <p>Included in several specific databases.</p> <p>Pictures of different parts of the plant in the mentioned database.</p>	<p>Updated information of some of the participants have not jet being received. Consequently the database in the EURISCO format is not jet available.</p>	<p>Estimated as 80%</p>

<p>Milestone 2 <i>Harmonization and promotion of commonly agreed primary, secondary and STMS-marker descriptors</i></p>	<p>EURISCO descriptors have been agreed by the partners (33 plus 5 specific ones). Six microsatellite markers (STMS) were adopted as the minimal number to be used in the molecular characterization, namely: VVS2 (Thomas and Scott 1993), VVMD5 and VVMD7 (Bowers et al. 1996), and ssrVrZAG47, ssrVrZAG62 and ssrVrZAG79 ssrVrZAG79 (Sefc et al. 1999).</p>	<p>Primary and secondary descriptors have been agreed in the Group. Microsatellite database is not compiled and available in the database, although fragmentary information in different publications can be obtained.</p>	<p>Estimated as 75%</p>
<p>Milestone 3 <i>Completion of characterization and evaluation of endangered grapevine cultivars</i></p>	<p>Endangered varieties have been described in every country in a variable number. Wild species have also been collected and morphological and molecular characterization has been carried out in different Institutions.</p>	<p>The number of clones needed for conservation of the existing variability has not been decided. Different strategies are under way.</p>	<p>Estimated as 60%</p>
<p>Milestone 4 <i>Checking of the true-to-typeness of accessions in grapevine collections by ampelographical and STMS-marker descriptors</i></p>	<p>Several complete catalogues have been published in different countries. A high number of synonymies has been detected, mainly within the country, but also among countries. Microsatellites are an important help in detection of synonymies. Complete descriptions of less known varieties are helping in the assertion of the true-to-typeness.</p>	<p>Detection of synonymies among varieties from different countries has still a long way to complete. Local names and incomplete descriptions make difficult the comparison among accessions at an international level.</p>	<p>Estimated as 60%</p>
<p>Milestone 5 <i>Improved management of European Vitis collections through characterization results</i></p>	<p>Documentation and inclusion of the information in internet databases is markedly improving the management of Vitis collections in Europe.</p>	<p>Exchange of information and plant material for comparison is under way.</p>	<p>Estimated as 75%</p>
<p>Milestone 6 <i>Conservation of genetic diversity within varieties</i></p>	<p>Strategies are different in each collection. Collections with a high number of accessions generally conserve a reduced number of clones except for the main varieties, that represent a reduced percentage of the total. The number of conserved clones also has a high variation.</p>	<p>Safe and precise characterization of clones is still a non solved problem.</p>	<p>Estimated as 60%</p>

b. Contribution to the four ECP/GR priorities for Phase VII
1. Characterization/evaluation (including modern technologies) Use of the OIV descriptors plus the minimum six microsatellite markers has been accepted and the results confirm their usefulness.
2. Task sharing Use of reference cultivars for comparison of the results, make possible the integration of the characterization in common databases.
3. <i>In situ</i> /on-farm conservation and development According to the most adequate environmental conditions for each varieties, the establishment of regional partial collections is becoming a needed condition. The use of a few common varieties for reference is also needed.
4. Documentation and information As far as the characterization information is provided in accessible databases, their usefulness is highly multiplied.
c. Relevance (regional / international)
Did your work and/or outputs have inter-regional dimension? (if it did, give precisions) The way for establishing a complete database for all the European grapevine varieties is under way. The advance to detect international synonymies will facilitate the task.
d. Lessons learnt (recommendations)
Which lessons learnt are also relevant for other Working Groups? Availability of funds and more frequent international meeting are needed in order to improve the benefits of international cooperation of the participants of the Group.

II. ANALYSIS	
a. Bottlenecks	
What were the experienced bottlenecks?	How do you plan to solve the bottlenecks?
Reduced communication among integrants of the group. Lack of information of the results obtained in each country.	Enhance communication and update of the related publications.
b. Internal support needed (Secretariat, Steering Committee, other Working Groups, etc.)	
c. External resources needed (collaboration, external funding)	
European projects in the area of characterization and conservation of Vitis collections.	