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This document describes the work packages to be processed in 2016 for hosting and maintaining the European search catalogue for plant genetic resources (EURISCO), and for coordinating the EURISCO network.

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1 Work plan for the EURISCO development

1.1 WP1: Extension of EURISCO for C&E data

This task will be one of the main activities of the EURISCO development in 2016. It will comprise the continuation of tests of the existing prototype developed in 2015, the collection of user feedback as well as the improvement of the C&E data search interface based on the collected feedback.

1.1.1 Continuation of tests and gathering of user feedback

In 2015, the data exchange format for C&E data was finalised and the EURISCO database schema (both the EURISCO staging area and the EURISCO web schema) was extended to allow for storing

C&E data. Tools for parsing and uploading C&E data as well as all necessary data integrity checks were implemented and tested. Two large test datasets from CGN and IPK were imported (for testing and for demonstrating the benefits of C&E data in EURISCO). A prototype extension of the EURISCO user interface for searching and filtering C&E data was developed and is currently being tested.

After successful tests, the new C&E feature will be published. The users will be asked for feedback and for requirements for functionality extension, which will be collected and evaluated for feasibility.

1.1.2 Improvement of C&E data interface

Based on the feedback and the requirements collected from the users of the prototype, the interface for searching/filtering of C&E data in EURISCO will be extended.

A priority list for implementation will be developed together with the EURISCO Advisory Group.

1.1.3 Request of C&E data from participating countries

After successful tests and necessary improvements of the C&E data interface, an official request of C&E data from the participating countries of EURISCO will be launched. Therefore, a comprehensive how-to document will be prepared describing all necessary steps in detail.

1.2 WP2: Extension of the upload mechanism for National Inventories

1.2.1 Improved AEGIS support

In 2015, an automatic tracking mechanism was developed, thus enabling to follow the AEGIS status of an accession. In case of adding/removing of AEGIS accessions or in case of changing the AEGIS status of existing accessions, the ECPGR Secretariat is informed automatically. Right now, this mechanism only documents changes. In 2016, the update mechanism of the EURISCO intranet will be extended. In case of the attempted removal of an accession from EURISCO, its AEGIS status will be checked automatically. If this accession is flagged for AEGIS, the respective National Inventory Focal Point will be pointed to the AEGIS de-flagging policies and will furthermore be asked to provide a comment describing the reason of the de-flagging (e.g. internal duplication, change of the record's identifier). The ECPGR Secretariat will be informed automatically so that it can become active in case the de-flagging did not follow the AEGIS policies.

1.2.2 Improve data quality checks performed during import

For the new upload mechanism, the quality checks performed during the data import will be improved. The work on this task that started in 2015 and will be continued in 2016, will mainly focus on the extension/improvement of reporting mechanisms and checks of taxonomy as well as of geographic coordinates.

1.3 WP3: Extension of functionality of the public EURISCO application (permanent activity)

With the launching of the new public EURISCO application, the users were asked for feedback and for providing requirements for functionality extension. Several developments already took place in 2015; as a permanent activity, this work will also be continued in 2016. Here, the main focus will be on more sophisticated search functionalities and reports. Moreover, we will evaluate the feasibility of

rising EURISCO onto an updated technological basis, thus allowing, among others, the use on mobile devices.

EURISCO will be continuously developed in the future, driven by the demands formulated by its user community. In support of this task, at least two structured interviews per year with EURISCO users will be performed (personally or by telephone) in order to get feedback regarding both existing features of the web application and new requirements. The results of the interviews will be documented and will form a basis for further improvements.

1.4 WP4: Documentation and planning of the next steps

In parallel to the implementation processes, all developments will be documented.

Furthermore, the next development steps (WP1-3) will be specified in detail.

2 Schedule

	Work package	2016			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
1	Extension for C&E data				
	Tests and gathering of user feedback				
	Improvement of C&E data search interface				
	Request of C&E data from participating countries				
2	Upload mechanism extension				
	Improved AEGIS support				
	Improvement of data quality checks				
3	Extension of functionality of public application				
4	Documentation and planning				

3 Coordination tasks

3.1 Coordination task 1: EURISCO network maintenance

As a continuous activity, the contact to (potential) EURISCO stakeholders will also be intensified in 2016. The aim is to raise the awareness of EURISCO for breeders, researchers and also on political level by demonstrating the potentials of this common European approach. In this context, public awareness materials (such as flyers, posters) will be updated. Potentials for presenting EURISCO (posters, talks) will be exploited. The possibility of a EURISCO publication will be evaluated.

Furthermore, feedback to the EURISCO users will be provided by regularly issuing the EURISCO newsletter (e-bulletin). We aim at issuing a newsletter twice a year (June/December).

This will be complemented by direct, personal communication with the users, e.g., for supporting updates, provisioning of specific database queries and special data export formats, discussion about future developments etc.

Regular training for data providers will especially be critical for C&E data and also in case of staff changes. As in the previous year, also in 2016 a regional meeting will be organised. A proposal for financing a second regional training workshop for Western Europe was submitted to the Second Call of the ECPGR Activity Grant Scheme (Phase IX) in July, and accepted in November 2015. This workshop will be organised together with the French National Inventory Focal Point. All necessary organisational tasks will be performed. Since the training will focus more strongly on C&E data, training materials will be adopted accordingly. Furthermore, all possibilities for organising training workshops on a regular basis will be exploited.

In order to improve the support for the National Inventory Focal Points, detailed documentations (handbooks) describing the procedures for importing passport data as well as C&E data will be compiled.

3.2 Coordination task 2: Coordination of the EURISCO development

The coordination of the future EURISCO development mainly comprises (i) the definition of new services, (ii) the advancement of current standards and (iii) the discussion and definition of new standards. Besides the tasks described in 1.1 – 1.3, particular attention will be paid to the challenges connected with the introduction of Permanent Unique Identifiers (PUIs), which are currently under preparation by the International Treaty and which should also be adopted by EURISCO in the future.

For reaching common goals, the EURISCO coordination will explore all possibilities for coordination with initiatives such as Genesys and the GLIS under the International Treaty, respectively.

In order to improve the coverage of EURISCO, we will focus on bilateral communication with the respective National Focal Points / National Coordinators. This will be a permanent activity.

3.3 Coordination task 3: Participation in project proposals

An indispensable task of the EURISCO coordination is to participate in the preparation of project proposals in order to acquire additional funding for the future development of EURISCO.