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This report describes the activities carried out by IPK in 2016 for hosting and maintaining the European search catalogue for plant genetic resources (EURISCO), and for coordinating the EURISCO network.

Content

1 EURISCO development

In 2016, EURISCO was further developed in accordance with its work plan. The following activities were carried out:

1.1 Extension of EURISCO for C&E data

During the year 2015, EURISCO was extended for the upload and management of characterisation & evaluation (C&E) data. A prototype extension of the public EURISCO user interface for searching and filtering C&E data was developed. In 2016, this prototype was tested extensively. Feedback was collected from selected experienced users and several extensions were implemented. High emphasis was put on performance tuning tasks.

The new C&E data extension, publicly released in July 2016, provides different possibilities for searching characterisation and evaluation data. Searches can be started by genus, experiment, trait, and by the combination of species and trait, respectively. The generated reports are available for download.

427,602 records of C&E data from the Netherlands and from Latvia were made publicly available and can be searched. More data is under preparation.
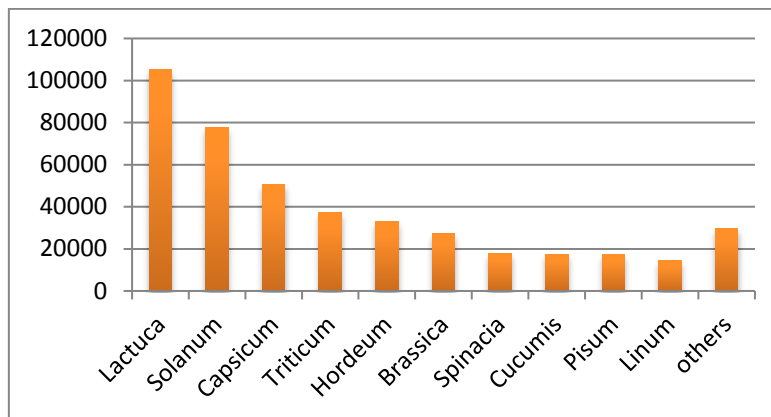
Fig. 1: Number of C&E data records grouped by genus.

1.2 Extension of the upload mechanism for National Inventories (permanent activity)

In 2016, a new version of the web interface of the EURISCO intranet (extended for C&E data) was tested and made publicly available.

In addition, the AEGIS support was improved. Procedures for checking the AEGIS status in case of an accession removal were developed. These procedures will be embedded into the EURISCO intranet application in 2017.

The data quality/integrity checks, which are performed during data imports, were improved (to be continued in 2017). In addition, a prototypic PL/SQL package for checking taxonomic terms provided to EURISCO against GRIN taxonomy was implemented. In 2017, its functionality will be extended and embedded into the web interface.

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

Besides the C&E data search (see section 1.1), also the advanced search as well as the export functionalities were completely reworked.

The advanced search, which allows users to freely combine all available fields within a single search, now supports multiple selection. The usability of the advanced search was improved significantly.

Besides the previously existing export by National Inventory passport dataset, users are now enabled to create user-specific export sets on species level. In addition, a full dump of the whole EURISCO dataset is still available, but was switched from CSV format to MS Access format.

Several pages were extended by dynamic actions in order to increase the user-friendliness of the web interface.

Finally, several bugs were fixed and a variety of adjustments "under the hood" were made.

However, the extension of the EURISCO web interface is a permanent task, which will be performed continuously.

1.4   Documentation and planning of the next steps

All technical developments were documented.

2   EURISCO coordination

Starting in 2015, the series of regional EURISCO training workshops was revived with a first training focussing on South-Eastern Europe, which was held in Tirana, Albania. In 2016, the training series was continued with a second training focussing on participants from the Western European region. It was held 12 – 14 October 2016 in Angers, France.

The workshop, organised in collaboration with the French National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA), brought together 13 participants. Besides passport data upload, the participants were also trained in uploading C&E data, using their own data. In order to run the training, all necessary training materials as well as a test environment for a hands-on training were updated.

The report and the presentations given during the workshop can be found under http://www.ecpgr.cgiar.org/working-groups/documentation-information/eurisco-training-workshop-2016/.

Subsequent to the training workshop, the first meeting of the re-established EURISCO Advisory Committee took place. A progress report on EURISCO was given on this meeting and the minutes are available at here.

The third training workshop will be held in 2017 in Germany. The workshop date will be announced in a timely manner.

An article about EURISCO was accepted for the 2017 annual database issue of Nucleic Acids Research (DOI: 10.1093/nar/gkw755), which was published 4 January 2017. It will help increasing the awareness of EURISCO among a wider audience.

A talk on EURISCO was given at the TDWG (Biodiversity Information Standards) 2016 Annual Conference "Standards Supporting Innovation in Biodiversity Research and Conservation", 5 – 9 December 2016, Santa Clara de San Carlos, Costa Rica.

A presentation on EURISCO and the European Information Infrastructure as a tool for the implementation of the ITPGRFA was coauthored with Lorenzo Maggioni, who delivered it at the First Meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee on the Global Information System of Article 17 of the Treaty 24-25 November 2016, Rome, Italy.

A poster on EURISCO was presented at the German Plant Breeding Conference, 8 – 10 March 2016, Bonn, Germany.

The bi-annual EURISCO newsletter was sent around in August and December 2016, respectively. This is considered very important for providing feedback to the EURISCO users.

The EURISCO coordination provided substantial legwork to the preparation of project proposals (Horizon2020 and others) aiming at acquiring additional funding for developing certain aspects of EURISCO. A Horizon2020 proposal, EUCLEG, with the participation of the EURISCO coordinator was recently approved. This project starting in 2017 will be coordinated by INRA. One of the tasks is to identify gaps in European alfalfa, red clover, pea, faba bean and soybean collections. Additional data

(passport and phenotypic) will be provided to the respective NFPs in order to include it in EURISCO. Further proposals are still under development/evaluation.

Much effort was invested into providing a helpdesk "behind the scenes". Direct, personal communication took place with National Inventory Focal Points and National Coordinators (e.g. support for updates, provision of specific database queries and special data export formats, discussion about future developments).

In 2016, 24 productive updates of National Inventory datasets were performed, either completely or in parts. Within the last 12 months, the number of accessions increased by 5,157, reaching a total of 1,842,538 accessions from 43 National Inventories and 378 individual holding institutions by 31 December 2016. These accessions represent 6,233 unique genera and 41,653 species, respectively.

Both data quality and update frequency are still issues, which need to be further improved.