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This document describes the work packages to be processed in 2017 for hosting and maintaining the European search catalogue for plant genetic resources (EURISCO), and for coordinating the EURISCO network.

Content

1 Work plan for the EURISCO development

1.1 WP1: Extension of the intranet support mechanism for National Inventories (permanent activity)

1.1.1 Improved AEGIS support

In 2016, the AEGIS support was improved. Procedures for checking the AEGIS status in case of an accession removal and/or de-flagging were developed and tested. In 2017, these procedures will be embedded into the EURISCO intranet application so that the National Inventory Focal Points will be

redirected to the AEGIS de-flagging policies and will be asked to provide a reason for de-flagging. This information will then be sent to the ECPGR Secretariat.

1.1.2 Taxonomy checks

The quality of taxonomic data is still a weak point in EURISCO. Thus, as a starting point a prototypic PL/SQL package for checking taxonomic terms provided to EURISCO against GRIN taxonomy was implemented in 2016. In 2017, the functionality of the PL/SQL package will be extended and tested. All necessary reports for providing feedback to the NFPs will be developed and embedded into the intranet web interface.

1.1.3 How-to documents

Except for slides of presentations given at several occasions, no written how-to documents (handbooks) for data uploads are available yet. How-to documents for both passport and C&E data uploads by NFPs will be developed comprising step-by-step instructions as well as assistance for troubleshooting.

The how-to document for passport data uploads will be updated after the implementation of MCPD2 (see section 1.3).

1.2 WP2: Extension of functionality of the public EURISCO application (permanent activity)

1.2.1 Gathering of user feedback

A user survey will be prepared in order to gather structured feedback and to collect new requirements from users of EURISCO. The requirements will be evaluated for feasibility; a priority list for implementation will be developed together with the EURISCO Advisory Committee.

1.2.2 Implementation of improvements

The public web interface of EURISCO will be extended/improved in accordance with the collected requirements. So far, especially case insensitive simple searches (already implemented for advanced searches) as well as extended filter possibilities and additional reports are existing requirements that will be implemented with priority.

1.3 WP3: Implementation of MCPD2

This task will be one of the main activities of the EURISCO development in 2017.

Right now, the EURISCO passport data exchange format is still based on MCPD1 (2001), including some extra fields. However, the MCPD evolved since then; the current version (v2.1) was published end of 2015 and includes several additional descriptors. At the 2016 Advisory Committee meeting in Angers, France, it was decided to implement MCPD2 for EURISCO (including additional descriptors) in the first half of 2017.

This will come along with the need of changes of the underlying database schema as well as revisions of the import/check procedures and the user interface. The implementation will be made as a hard switch; afterwards the old data exchange format will not be supported any longer.

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	**Upload mechanism extension**				
	Improved AEGIS support			▩	
	Taxonomy checks			▩	
	How-to documents	▩			▩
2	**Extension of functionality of public application**				
	Gathering of user feedback		▩		
	Implementation of improvements			▩	▩
3	**Implementation of MCPD2**	▩	▩		
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 2017. 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 will be updated continuously. Potentials for presenting EURISCO (posters, talks) will be exploited. In 2016, a first EURISCO publication created positive feedback. Thus, the possibility of a follow-up 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 years, also in 2017 a regional meeting will be organised. This workshop will take place in September 2017 at IPK Gatersleben, the home of the EURISCO hosting. All necessary organisational tasks will be performed. Training materials will be adopted accordingly, especially with regard to the planned implementation of MCPD2.

It was proposed that besides NFPs, also other persons such as genebank curators, should be able to upload C&E data to EURISCO, provided that the NFPs maintain the ultimate authority and responsibility to approve uploaded datasets before they are published. Thus, draft instructions will be prepared and circulated to the NFPs, National Coordinators and Bioversity International legal office for approval.

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.

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. In this context, the EURISCO coordination will participate in several activities under the ECPGR Grant Scheme (esp. with regard to C&E data).

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.