

EURISCO Newsletter, No. 4

August 2017

The EURISCO Newsletter is a series of electronic bulletins that provide feedback to National Focal Points (NFPs) and serve as a dissemination vehicle for NFPs and other partners to put forward their contributions regarding plant genetic resources issues/themes. The new EURISCO Newsletter is the successor of the previous EURISCO e-bulletin. In order to ensure that the EURISCO Catalogue is sustainable and meets the NFPs' and other users' needs, everyone is invited to contribute to this newsletter. Thematic papers, ideas, comments, suggestions and questions are all welcome.

Coverage of EURISCO

In the first seven months of 2017, the number of accessions documented in EURISCO increased by 120,062, reaching a total of 1,962,601 accessions from 43 National Inventories and 380 individual holding institutions by end of July 2017. These accessions represent 6,356 unique genera and 42,997 species, respectively. The number of AEGIS accessions labelled in EURISCO rose by 3,890, bringing the total number to 32,791. Details can be found on the EURISCO website.

Until end of July 2017, 36 National Inventory datasets have been updated, either completely or in parts.

Usage

The use of the EURISCO web interface increased continuously. Between January and July 2017, EURISCO was visited 20,992 times by 7,337 unique visitors reaching a total of 385,809 hits.

Training

Starting in 2015, the series of regional EURISCO training workshops was revived. The third training workshop will take place in Gatersleben, Germany, 12–14 September 2017. The preparations for the workshop are in full swing.

New features

In the past few months, the EURISCO infrastructure was updated to fully support the MCPD version 2.1. This included changes of the database schema, upload and check procedures as well as the public web interface. After finishing the last tests, the new EURISCO version will be made publicly available soon. EURISCO will then adopt the MCPD v2.1 format plus four EURISCO-specific descriptors and data will only be accepted in the new format for technical reasons.

Recently, the ECPGR Steering Committee approved a procedure for uploading C&E data to EURISCO. This procedure provides an additional option of uploading C&E data by enabling data provider institutions to directly submit data to EURISCO. The new procedure is being implemented presently. The National Inventory Focal Points were encouraged to provide C&E data to EURISCO in order to fill the new C&E data module with life. [\[link\]](#)

In May 2017, the EURISCO team was extended by means of the one-year project “EURISCO taxonomy”, which is funded by ECPGR thanks to a contribution from the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture. This project will focus on the improvement of the taxonomic backbone as well as on the user-friendliness of the web interface of EURISCO.

Further extensions of the web interface are under development.

Dissemination

A poster on EURISCO was presented at the EUCARPIA Conference in Montpellier, France, 8–11 May 2017. [[link](#)]

EURISCO was presented by a talk at the workshop “Private Public Partnerships for the use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture”, Bonn, Germany, 7–9 June 2017. [[link](#)]

Another presentation on EURISCO was given at the 13th International Symposium on Integrative Bioinformatics, 22–23 June 2017, Odense, Denmark, in order to strengthen the connection with the bioinformatics community.

The EURISCO coordination provided substantial legwork to the preparation of project proposals aiming at acquiring additional funding for developing certain aspects of EURISCO. Besides the EURISCO taxonomy project mentioned above, the EURISCO coordination will participate in the two Horizon 2020 projects “EUCLEG” and “Farmer’s Pride”, starting in 2017 and 2018, respectively.

An activity report for 2016 as well as a work plan for 2017 were published at the beginning of 2017 and are available from the EURISCO website.

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