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This document describes the work packages to be processed in 2018 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 Obtain feedback on new data exchange format

In December 2017, the final switch to the new passport data exchange format (based on MCPD2) was made. Experiences with the new format will be obtained from the data providers. In case of change requests, those will be evaluated for feasibility and will be implemented.

1.1.2   Improved taxonomy support

In order to improve the quality of taxonomic data in EURISCO, in 2017 the one-year project "EURISCO taxonomy" (May 2017 – April 2018) started. The necessary database structures as well as procedures for mapping taxonomic terms from EURISCO onto taxonomic repositories, such as GRIN and Mansfeld, were already developed in 2017. In 2018, the major focus of the ongoing project will be on using the taxonomy mappings for improving the web search functionality in order to enable users to search material on taxa via synonyms, including similarity search. However, it is also reasonable to use the developed procedures for improving the support of National Inventory Focal Points during data uploads. The aim is to perform an automatic mapping of the provided taxonomic terms, thus providing suggestions in case of unclear taxonomic terms, each time a new dataset has been uploaded to EURISCO.

1.1.3   Update how-to documents

In connection with the improved taxonomy support (section 1.1.2), the how-to documents for National Inventory Focal Points will be updated.

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

1.2.1   Evaluate user feedback

In 2017, a user survey was conducted among the National Inventory Focal Points/National Coordinators in order to gather structured feedback and to collect new requirements for the public EURISCO web application. The main feature requests are

- improvements of the search and filter as well as the download possibilities,
- adding accession images,
- standardise crop names,
- adding additional reports,
- additional statistics for C&E data.

While some simple requests have already been implemented (e.g. case insensitive searches) or are being implemented within the "EURISCO taxonomy" project, further requirements need to be evaluated for feasibility. A priority list for implementation will be developed.

In addition to the requirements mentioned above, on the 10th ECPGR Executive Committee meeting the wish was expressed that the topic of including genetic data should remain for consideration on the agenda of the EURISCO coordination. Thus, the possibility of including SSR data will be explored. Furthermore, a feature for downloading experiment-level C&E data was requested.

In general, possibilities of updating the user-specific export functionalities of EURISCO will be explored. Besides the full dump in MS Access format, all other download features provide data in CSV format only. Due to the strong accustoming of the users to MS Excel files, it seems reasonable to also provide data in this format.

1.2.2 Implementation of improvements

The public web interface of EURISCO will be extended/improved in accordance with the outcome of the user feedback evaluation (section 1.2.1). This task will be one of the main activities of the EURISCO development in 2018.

End of 2018, two structured interviews will be performed with selected users in order to check if the improvements meet the users' needs.

1.3 WP3: Documentation and planning of the next steps

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

Furthermore, the next development steps (WP1-2) will be specified in detail.

2 Schedule

	Work package	2018			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
1	**Upload mechanism extension**				
	Collect feedback of new data exchange format	■	■		
	Improved taxonomy support		■	■	
	Update how-to documents				■
2	**Extension of functionality of public application**				
	Evaluate user feedback	■			
	Implementation of improvements		■	■	■
3	**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 2018. 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.

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 2018 a regional meeting will be organised. A workshop location will be identified as soon as possible. All necessary organisational tasks will be performed. Training materials will be adopted accordingly.

Additional support will be provided for National Inventory Focal Points for possible questions arising from the recent update of the passport data exchange format as well as for cleansing/compiling C&E data for inclusion in EURISCO.

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 activities under the ECPGR Grant Scheme (esp. with regard to C&E data).

A report summarising all EURISCO developments/activities performed in ECPGR phase IX will be compiled in preparation of the End-of-Phase Steering Committee meeting to be held 15–17 May 2018 in Thessaloniki, Greece. The EURISCO coordination will participate in this meeting in order to demonstrate the new functionalities of EURISCO and to promote the upload of C&E data by the National Inventory Focal Points.

In addition, a draft plan will be developed on the basis of the ECPGR objectives for phase X.

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.

Support/supervision will be provided for ongoing projects. Currently, the EURISCO coordination participates in the two Horizon 2020 projects "EUCLEG" (work package lead) and "Farmer's pride" (task lead) as well as in the ECPGR project "EURISCO taxonomy" (coordination). The recently approved proposal "Farmer's Pride" officially started in November 2017. This project is being coordinated by the University of Birmingham and focusses on the development of a network of *in situ* sites and stakeholders. The task of the EURISCO coordination will be the development of a concept for the extension of EURISCO for *in situ* data. This task will be started in 2018.

In addition, the EURISCO coordination will participate in the proposal "GenRes Bridge – Joining forces for genetic resources and biodiversity management", which is a joint proposal of the three European networks for plant, animal and forest genetic resources (ECPGR, ERFP und EUFORGEN).