

EURISCO Newsletter, No. 6

October 2018

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

Since the last issue of the EURISCO Newsletter (No. 5, December 2017), the number of accessions documented in EURISCO increased by 18,046, reaching a total of 1,982,108 accessions from 43 National Inventories and 381 individual holding institutions by 23 October 2018. These accessions represent 6,438 unique genera and 43,965 species, respectively. The number of AEGIS accessions labelled in EURISCO rose during the same period by 13,669, bringing the total number to 47,012. Details can be found on the EURISCO website.

Over the same period, the number of characterisation and evaluation (C&E) data records rose by 1,027,650, reaching a total of 1,652,613. C&E data are currently available for 68,814 accessions and were provided by seven countries so far. More data will be welcome anytime.

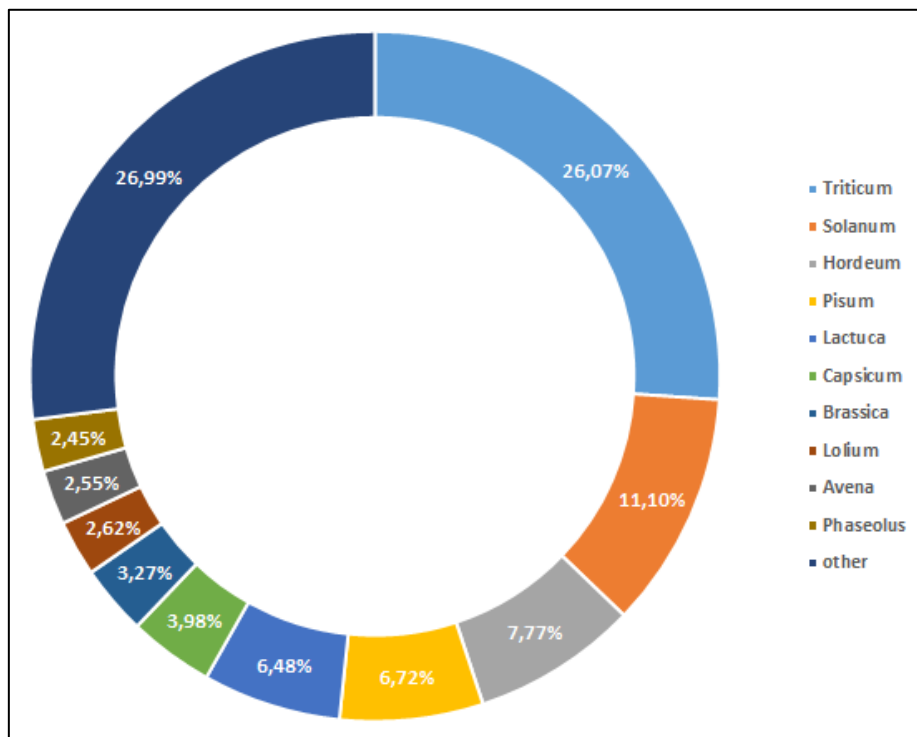


Figure 1: Percentage of C&E data records by genus.

Training

The 2018 training workshop for National Inventory Focal Points took place 9–11 October. It was organised in collaboration with the Leibniz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research (IPK) and brought together 13 participants. The focus of this workshop was, besides providing the basic training elements, on increasing the volume of characterisation and evaluation (C&E) data records in EURISCO.

The presentations given during the workshop will be made available at the workshop website. [\[link\]](#)

Back-to-back with the training, the bi-annual meeting of the EURISCO Advisory Committee took place on 11 October 2018.

New features

The EURISCO taxonomy project was finished. In the course of the project, the database structure of EURISCO was extended to store information from taxonomic reference repositories as well as mapping information. Data from GRIN-Taxonomy and Mansfeld-Taxonomy were integrated. PL/SQL procedures for mapping the provided data onto these repositories were developed and tested. The EURISCO intranet was extended to automatically provide suggestions with regard to accepted or synonym names for each uploaded dataset. In addition, the search functionality of the public EURISCO web interface was improved, thus allowing to enrich search results by accessions with synonym taxonomic names. After successful tests, the new version of the web interface was made publicly available in June 2018.

Several additional improvements of the web interface were performed, aiming at increasing the usability.

The EURISCO coordination continues to participate in the ongoing Horizon 2020 projects EUCLEG and Farmer's Pride.

Dissemination

An overview presentation on EURISCO was given at the Genesys Catalogue partners meeting, 5–7 March 2018, Crop Trust, Bonn, Germany.

Another talk focussed on the role of EURISCO in a European Evaluation Network and was given at the Private Public Partnerships workshop, phase II, 27–28 March 2018, Rome, Italy.

A progress report covering the period of April 2014 – April 2018 was presented at the 15th ECPGR Steering Committee Meeting, 15–17 May 2018, Thessaloniki, Greece.

A presentation about the integration of C&E data into EURISCO was given at the BETANET meeting "Improving a cooperation network between actors involved in conservation and utilization of *Beta* genetic resources", 19–20 June 2018, Venice, Italy.

A talk about the challenges of setting up a repository of phenotypic data was given at the SPNHC+TDWG 2018 conference "Collections and Data in an Uncertain World", 25th August to 1st September 2018, Dunedin, New Zealand.

An activity report 2017 and a work plan for 2018 were finalized and are available from the EURISCO website (under Statistics and documents, Plans/reports).

For more information, please contact:

Stephan Weise

EURISCO coordinator

c/o Leibniz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research (IPK), Gatersleben, Germany

phone: +49 39482 5-744

email: eurisco@ipk-gatersleben.de