EURISCO Newsletter, No. 8   September 2019

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 January 2019, the number of accessions documented in EURISCO increased by 25,845, thus exceeding the threshold of two million accessions. By 30 September 2019, 2,009,221 accessions from 43 National Inventories and 396 individual holding institutions were documented. These accessions represent 6,396 unique genera and 43,174 species, respectively. The number of AEGIS accessions labelled in EURISCO rose by 10,245, reaching 57,294 in total. Details can be found on the EURISCO website.

Over the same period, the number of phenotypic data records rose by 189,133, reaching a total of 2,482,274. Thus, phenotypic data are currently available for 84,433 accessions and were provided by eight countries so far. More data will be welcome anytime.
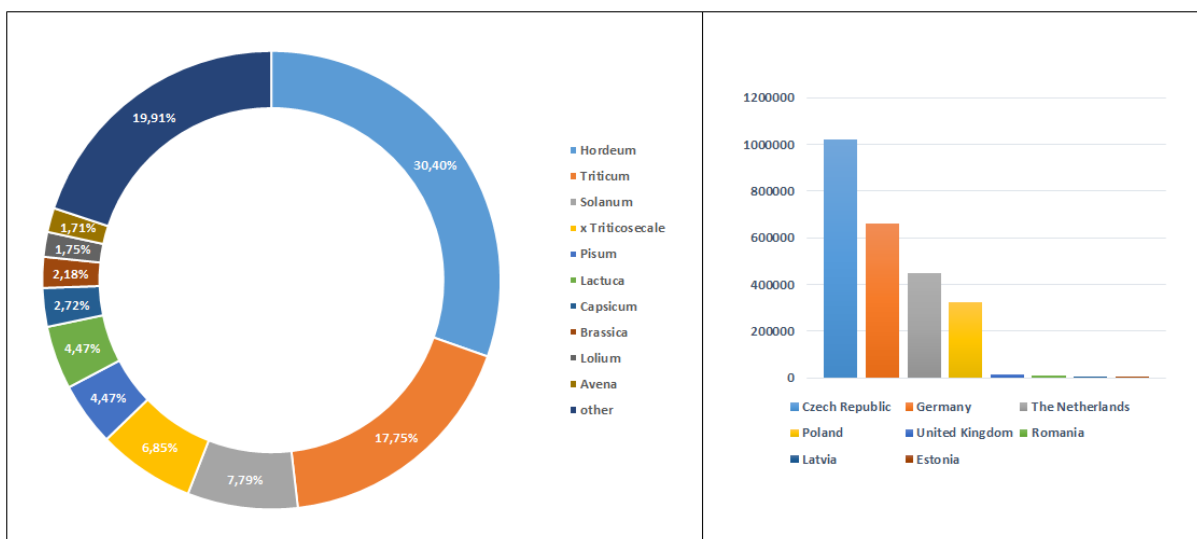

Figure 1: Overview of phenotypic data in EURISCO.

New features

The taxonomy search in EURISCO was further improved. In addition to the implementations that already took place last year, the synonym search for taxonomic data has now also been realised for the Advanced Search. Moreover, a fuzzy-based search has been developed that makes it possible to also find taxonomic entries with different (mis-)spellings and/or typos.

Various additional improvements of the web interface were performed, which aim at increasing the usability.

Figure 2: Results from an advanced search including taxonomic synonyms.

Project activities

The EURISCO coordination actively participated in a workshop of the ECPGR Grant Scheme Activity ImprovLoliumCol, which took place 17 September 2019 in Germany. In addition to several other topics, the newly developed prototype of the ECPGR Forage Portal was presented. Additional use cases were discussed, the feasibility of which will be checked promptly. The main request was to enable combined searches over both passport descriptors and phenotypic characteristics.

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

We will continue to actively participate in the preparation of further project proposals aiming at acquiring additional funding for developing certain aspects of EURISCO. Currently, we participate in three project proposals, which were submitted to the H2020 call "Adding value to plant Genetic Resources" (SFS-28-2019 B).

A three-year project for the "Implementation of the ECPGR European Evaluation Network (EVA) on wheat/barley and vegetable crops (carrot, lettuce and pepper)" was approved for funding by the government of Germany. Evaluation and genotypic data generated in this project will be included in EURISCO. EURISCO staff will need to analyse database requirements and provide an intranet platform for the partners, with three years embargo before making data widely public.

Dissemination

A presentation on EURISCO was given at the ECPGR Workshop for the establishment of a European Evaluation Network (EVA) on vegetables, 2–3 April 2019, Durrës, Albania. 2019.

The activity report for 2018 and the work plan for 2019 were published at the beginning of 2019.

A manuscript about EURISCO's taxonomy extension was prepared and submitted for publication to a scientific journal.

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