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This document describes the work packages to be processed in 2021 for hosting and maintaining the European Search Catalogue for Plant Genetic Resources (EURISCO), and for coordinating the EURISCO network.

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1 Work plan for the EURISCO development

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

1.1.1 Rework of update mechanism

The current uploading/updating mechanism in EURISCO is based on a technology that can no longer be used due to changes in the licence conditions and restrictions in manufacturer support. 2020, the upload/update mechanism for passport data has already been technologically revised. Final tests are currently taking place; the new functionality will be made available on the EURISCO intranet as soon as possible. In 2021, the upload/update mechanism for phenotypic data will also be revised. The aim

here is to draw synergies from the already ongoing EVA project and the Horizon 2020 project AGENT, in particular from the (further) developments of data exchange formats that took place in 2020.

The well-established procedures of data integrity checks on database level will not be affected.

The new developments will be presented to participating National Inventory Focal Points at the 2021 training workshop. On this occasion feedback from the users can also be received.

1.1.2 Infrastructure for ECPGR EVA

In 2018, the ECPGR Steering Committee established the European Evaluation Network (EVA). For an initial project covering barley/wheat, vegetables and maize funding was granted by the German government.

Within the framework of this project, EURISCO's task is to develop the necessary infrastructure (data management and search functionalities in protected intranet site for project partners, definition of an embargo period etc.). Preparatory work was already done in 2020.

Furthermore, in 2020 a letter of agreement was concluded with the IPK as the hosting institute of EURISCO and the position of a software developer was advertised. The position was filled at the end of 2020 with a qualified developer who started work at the beginning of 2021.

The focus of this year's activities will be on the design and implementation of the necessary infrastructure; the aim is to deliver the first prototype in the current year.

1.1.3 Update how-to documents

In connection with the developments described above, the how-to documents for data providers will be updated.

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

1.2.1 Revision of the public web interface and general improvements

Both technologies and user behaviour continue to develop. Therefore, even established information systems need to be revised regularly. This was already planned last year, but was postponed due to changed priorities. In addition to the EVA developer mentioned above, a new EURISCO developer was also recruited at the end of the year, who started work in November 2020. Initial work on the public EURISCO interface has already been carried out and is considered a special focus of work for 2021.

The EURISCO web interface will undergo a regular technical revision. The focus will be on the implementation of a responsive design with a clearer layout and support of mobile platforms. In this context, a critical review will be carried out to determine which functionalities are used particularly heavily or very little. In the latter case, it may be necessary to decide which functionalities should be discontinued. In addition, new functionalities will be implemented based on the feedback received from users, in particular a combined search using passport data and phenotypic data.

1.2.2 Linking with genetic data

In recent years, users have regularly expressed the wish to make genetic data on the material documented in EURISCO available. This is not feasible with EURISCO's available resources, but it is not

necessarily needed. Genetic data are usually deposited in public repositories such as NCBI GenBank or EMBL-ENA/EVA. These data could be technically linked to the accessions documented in EURISCO with relatively little effort. Ideas for this have already been developed in the Horizon 2020 project AGENT with participation of the EURISCO coordination. It should therefore be evaluated to what extent this can be implemented in EURISCO.

1.2.3 Continue crop portal for forages

Depending on the feedback and data from the ECPGR Forages WG, the crop portal for forages will be further developed.

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	2021			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
1	Upload mechanism extension				
	Rework of update mechanism				
	Infrastructure for ECPGR EVA				
	Update how-to documents				
2	Extension of functionality of public application				
	Revision of the public web interface and general improvements				
	Linking with genetic data				
	Continue crop portal for forages				
3	Documentation and planning				

3 Coordination tasks

3.1 Coordination task 1: EURISCO network development maintenance

As in previous years, the contact to (potential) EURISCO stakeholders will also be intensified in 2021 as a continuous activity. 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 again 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. In this context, an important task is to make available missing or incomplete data sets and to update outdated data by providing targeted support to the respective National Inventory Focal Points.

Last year's training workshop for data providers unfortunately had to be cancelled due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. However, there is still the wish to hold the next workshop together with the genebank of the IPGR Sadovo, Bulgaria. However, as there is still no planning security due to the pandemic, it can be held in the second half of the year at the earliest. Due to the necessary preparation for the planning, the corresponding decision must be made in spring at the latest. All necessary training materials and test systems will be developed or updated. Should it become apparent by then that a physical workshop will still not be possible, online training will be considered as an alternative. However, this is not considered to be equally efficient.

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.

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 three Horizon 2020 projects "EUCLEG" (work package lead), "AGENT" (deputy work package lead, task lead) as well as "GenRes Bridge".

In addition, the EURISCO coordination is involved in the ECPGR European Evaluation Network, within the framework of which the infrastructure will be expanded.

A considerable amount of time will be involved in the management and supervision of the activities within the context of the third-party funds raised.