

EURISCO Newsletter, No. 11

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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 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

During 2021, the number of PGR accessions documented in EURISCO increased by 28,014. As of 15 December 2021, 2,071,296 accessions from 406 institutions in 43 countries were listed in EURISCO. These include 6,727 genera and 45,231 species. The total number of AEGIS accessions is 59,684.

Against the background of the increasing global exchange of data on plant genetic resources, permanent and unique identifiers (PUIDs) are becoming increasingly important. For this purpose, genebanks are more and more registering accessions for Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs). Currently, 228,916 accessions from eight countries have a PUID in EURISCO, which is a DOI for most of them. Details can be found on the EURISCO website.

In 2021, the number of phenotypic data records rose by 170,035, reaching a total of 2,683,302. They are provided by 17 countries and comprise 90,647 accessions. More data will be welcome anytime.

EURISCO training

This year's training workshop for EURISCO data providers was held as an online-only event due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. It brought together 24 participants and focussed on the topics of passport and phenotypic data, data quality and DOIs. The workshop report is available [here](#).

EURISCO infrastructure

The upload process for accession passport data by EURISCO data providers has been completely revised. This became necessary because the technology previously used for this is no longer supported. The new infrastructure, including a new intranet interface, was presented at this year's training workshop and has since been used productively.

The main focus of the EURISCO developer this year was the reengineering of the public web interface. Besides a necessary revision of the underlying technology, a particular goal was to provide a more modern and user-friendly design. The existing functionalities were critically reviewed; proven and frequently used functionalities were incorporated into the new interface and new functionalities were added based on user requests. The new interface was presented to a selected group of users. Currently, adjustments resulting from their feedback are being made. It is planned to put the new interface into productive operation next spring, following tests and performance tuning that are still pending.

EURISCO Advisory Committee

The EURISCO Advisory Committee met in July 2021 and discussed, inter alia, about the future scope of EURISCO, with some thoughts about the options to include *in situ* crop wild relative data and single seed descent data. Regarding phenotypic data, the developments experimented through the AGENT project, moving towards full MIAPPE compliant data formats for new data, while maintaining the traditional simplified data format for historical data, was supported by the Advisory Committee. Also, the future development of a standardised ordering system of the germplasm in EURISCO was discussed, with the intention to develop a prototype API to connect EURISCO with the ordering systems initially of CGN and Nordgen. The full report of the meeting is available [here](#).

EURISCO-related activities

The EURISCO coordination is involved in the European Evaluation Network (EVA) of the ECPGR. As part of this initiative, an intranet extension of EURISCO is being developed to temporarily host the evaluation data generated by the network in a protected environment. After three years of embargo, this data will become fully public within EURISCO. The new EVA developer started his work as planned at the beginning of 2021. After preparing a requirements analysis, he started implementing the necessary database infrastructure. Subsequently, a first prototype of the user interface of the intranet application was developed for the EVA project partners. This interface was presented to various EVA consortia and expanded based on the feedback received. In December 2021, work began on importing the first evaluation data.

Another focus of this year's activities has been to participate in projects involving EURISCO, including several Horizon 2020 projects such as GenRes Bridge, Farmer's Pride and EUCLEG.

Particular attention was also paid to the AGENT project, in which EURISCO plays a central role for the management of new data deriving from the European wheat and barley collections.

We will continue to actively participate in the preparation of further project proposals aimed at acquiring additional funding for developing certain aspects of EURISCO.

Dissemination

A presentation on EURISCO was given at the *34th Meeting of the EUCARPIA Fodder Crops and Amenity Grasses Section in cooperation with the EUCARPIA Festulolium Working Group*, 6–8 September 2021 (online event).

Another talk was given by video conference at the meeting *Biodiversität der Nahrungspflanzen – Datenbank der Vielfalt*, Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES), Linz, Austria, 20 September 2021.

In addition, EURISCO was presented in the *EUCLEG Workshop on Genomics assisted breeding in forage and grain legumes*, 30 September – 1 October 2021 (online event).

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