This document describes the work packages to be processed in 2022 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 mechanisms for data providers (permanent activity)

1.1.1 Rework of EURISCO update mechanism for phenotypic data

The upload/update mechanism for passport data for National Focal Points (NFPs) was revised in 2020/2021 and has been in productive use since the end of last year. A strategy for revising the mechanism for phenotypic data has already been prepared. The implementation is to take place in the current year. This is necessary because the technology used so far can no longer be used in the future due to changes in licensing conditions and restrictions on manufacturer support. The aim of the revision is to implement a purely web-based solution in analogy to the new upload/update mechanism for passport data. Third-party software and special firewall permissions will then no longer be required.

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

1.1.2 Infrastructure for ECPGR EVA

The EURISCO coordination is involved in the European Evaluation Network (EVA), which made it possible to provide additional funding for a software developer. In 2021, the basic intranet infrastructure for EVA has been developed. The database infrastructure for managing the data collected in EVA is available and a first version of a web-based intranet application has been completed. The productive import of all available passport and phenotypic data has been running since the end of 2021. This is an ongoing task that will continue in 2022.

In addition, the standardisation of the import templates is being driven forward. Currently, there are still some differences between the individual EVA crop consortia. However, standardisation is necessary to enable the project partners to upload their data into the EVA system in the longer term.

Another focus of activities is the extension of the intranet application based on feedback from users and in close consultation with the EVA coordinator. Possible additional reports and visualisations will be discussed at the crop consortia meetings in the coming months.

1.1.3 Extension of EURISCO backend for in situ passport data

Starting in summer 2022, work will begin on expanding EURISCO to include in situ passport data. Such an extension has been desired by various parties for some time. Based on preliminary work by the relevant communities, two proposals for the exchange of data on in situ CWR material and on-farm LR material have already been developed in the EU project Farmer's Pride with the participation of the EURISCO coordination, and a concept for the technical enhancement of EURISCO has been drawn up. It seems reasonable to focus on in situ CWR data for the time being. The corresponding proposal flowed, among other sources, into a project based at the ITPGRFA, in the course of which a first draft for an international data standard for in situ CWR was presented in 2021. In 2022/2023, the ECPGR will be able to provide additional funding for the corresponding extension of EURISCO due to a special grant. The work will start in the summer and will be based on the concept mentioned above as well as on a draft prepared for the EURISCO advisory committee.
1.1.4 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
The public EURISCO web interface was comprehensively updated last year. The necessary technical adjustments were made and the user interface was fundamentally revised in terms of responsive design. The use of the various existing functionalities was critically reviewed and additional functionalities were implemented. In the coming weeks, changes will be implemented on the basis of user feedback and extensive performance tuning will be carried out. The goal is to put the new portal into productive operation by spring 2022 at the latest.

In addition, changes and additions will be made on an ongoing basis.

1.2.2 Extension of EURISCO frontend for in situ passport data
Linked to the extension of the EURISCO backend for in situ CWR data (see above), it is necessary to expand the public web interface as well. This includes a number of additional search and filter options as well as visualisations. The requirements needed for this have already been gathered, but may need to be further specified. Depending on the extensions to the backend, implementation is expected to begin at the end of the year. The extent of the work itself depends on the availability of quantitatively and qualitatively sufficient data.

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

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3 Coordination tasks

3.1 Coordination task 1: EURISCO network development maintenance

As in previous years, contact with (potential) EURISCO stakeholders will be intensified as a continuous activity in 2022. The aim is to raise awareness of EURISCO among breeders, researchers and also at the political level by demonstrating the potential of this common European approach. In this context, public awareness materials will be continuously updated. Opportunities to present EURISCO (posters, lectures) will be exploited.

In addition, feedback to EURISCO users will be provided through the regular publication of the EURISCO newsletter (e-bulletin). We intend to again publish a newsletter twice a year (June/December).

This will be complemented by direct, personal communication with users, e.g. for supporting updates, providing specific database queries and special data export formats, discussing future developments, etc. An important task in this context is to provide data sets that have been missing or incomplete in EURISCO so far. In addition, an update of the existing passport data is aimed for at least once a year. Those National Inventory Focal Points whose last update was longer ago will therefore be specifically approached and supported in a targeted manner.

A training workshop for data providers is not planned for 2022. The last training was held as an online-only event as recently as November 2021. If a short-term and limited training need should arise (e.g. for the data providers of a country), this can be realised at short notice as online training.

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 Horizon 2020 project “AGENT” (deputy work package lead, task lead).
The EURISCO coordination is involved in the European Evaluation Network (EVA) of the ECPGR and is responsible here for setting up the intranet infrastructure for the management of EVA data. In addition to the planned development work (see above), the EURISCO coordination will provide appropriate support.

For the extension of EURISCO to include in situ passport data (see above), the EURISCO coordination has a number of tasks, in particular coordinating the exchange of data between EURISCO and the national authorities (data standard, training, general support) and planning the implementation.

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.