

The 'EURISCO e-bulletin' is a series of electronic bulletins that provide feedback to National Focal Points (NFPs) and serve as a dissemination vehicle for NFPs and others to put forward their contribution regarding plant genetic resources issues/themes. 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 e-bulletin. Thematic papers, ideas, comments, suggestions and questions are all [welcome](#).

This e-bulletin provides information on: [Recent and ongoing activities, Dissemination activities and News, and Planned meetings](#)

### [Recent and ongoing activities](#)

#### **New EURISCO website has been launched**

The portal has been revised, the functionalities and search capacity upgraded, providing users with more accurate results of the taxonomy searches and ensuring that synonyms are also captured in the search. Besides upgrading the search functionalities, some light cosmetic touches were made to the website, making it more attractive and user-friendly (for more details, see [E-Bulletin November 2011](#)).

This and more is what you will find. Please [take a look](#) and send us your feedback and/or suggestions via the [website](#). We value your input and suggestions.

### [Dissemination activities and News in 2011](#)

#### **New National Inventory (NI) available in EURISCO in 2011**

The newest NI to join the EURISCO Catalogue this year was that of **Republic of Moldova**, adding more value to the information available in EURISCO. With this newcomer, the Catalogue now represents 42 European countries.

We hope that the countries yet to provide their NIs – Belgium and Malta - will join in the coming months.

#### **GRIN-Global Version 1.0 released**

The USDA/ARS, Bioversity International and the Global Crop Diversity Trust are pleased to [announce the release of GRIN-Global System version 1.0](#) .

#### **GRIN-Global in EUROPE**

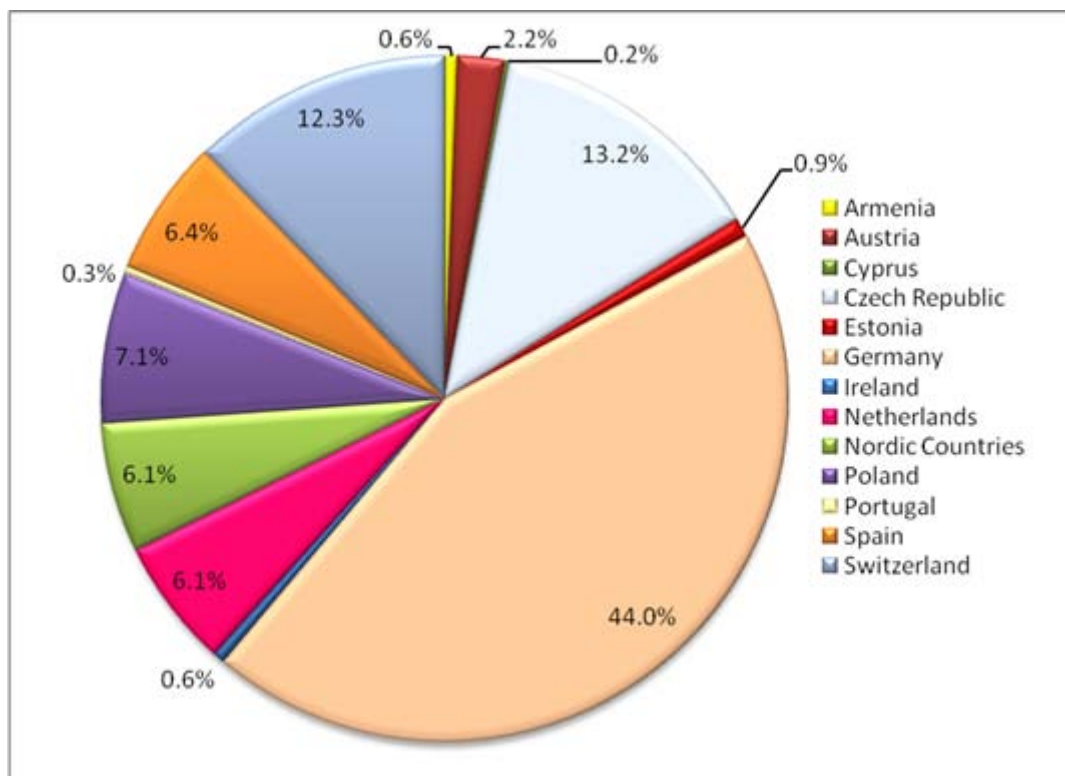
More than 40 people have evaluated GRIN-Global from 12 European genebanks as a result of the evaluation/dissemination action by Bioversity International. Of these some are in the process of preparing their data and re-organizing their work flows to move to the phase of adoption. The interest in the tool is very high and the expectation for further support for adoption is in high demand.

## EURISCO in numbers in 2011

### ITPGRFA in EUROPE: Multilateral System (MLS) registrations in EURISCO

In 2011, material covered by the MLS of the ITPGRFA, registered through EURISCO, reached almost 22.5% of the total material listed in EURISCO.

- Altogether, 17 NIs have registered 246,216 accessions in the MLS (see chart 1 below), representing around 22.5% of the total material searchable in EURISCO.
- Covering more than 65% of the genera from Annex I of the ITPGRFA.



**Chart 1 –** Percentage of the MLS accessions by NI registered through EURISCO in 2011.

### Monitoring impact –assessing use

- **Who is searching EURISCO?**

During the period January – October 2011, the EURISCO portal's user interface had a total of 6737 searches.

<b>6737</b>	<b>Visits</b>
<b>4023</b>	<b>Absolute Unique Visitors</b>
<b>50.959</b>	<b>Page Views</b>
<b>9.56</b>	<b>Average Page Views</b>
<b>00:04:52</b>	<b>Time on Site</b>
<b>40.49%</b>	<b>Bounce Rate</b>
<b>56.40%</b>	<b>New Visits</b>

- **Traffic sources**

Access to EURISCO originates from the following online traffic sources:



The analysis shows that 73.71% of users go directly to EURISCO compared with 63.61% from last year. These results indicate that many users also discover EURISCO through web search engines such as Google. As a result of the increased direct access a lower number of users are accessing EURISCO through links from third-party websites (see graph).

- Site visitors' origin**

The "monitoring-of-visitors" log in the EURISCO website provides a good overview of what type of users are looking for information and on what. In 2011, the traffic of EURISCO site visitors originated in 113 countries, a slight increase from 2010 when the traffic originated in 109 countries.

**Fig 1-** Traffic map of country of origin site visitors (January-October 2011)

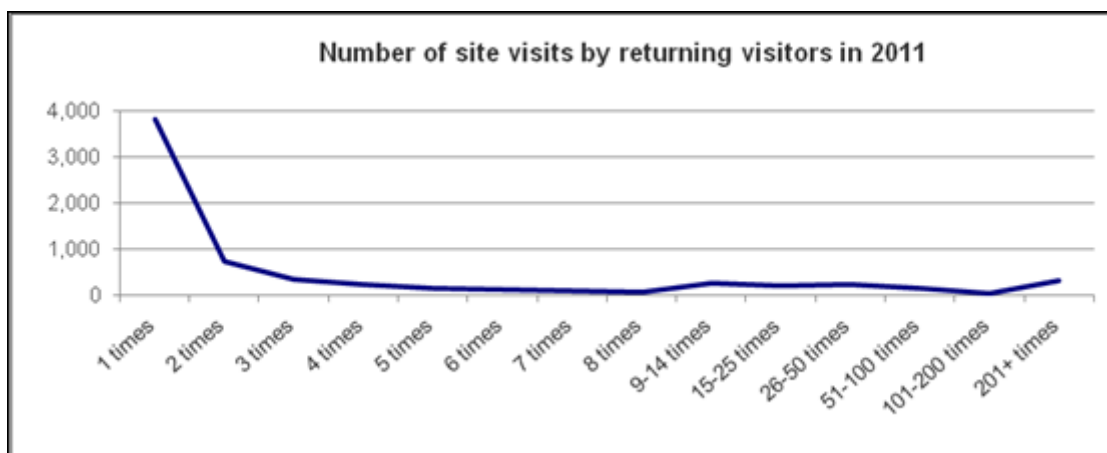


**6,737 visits came from 113 countries/territories**

- 2011 users' loyalty**

Statistics show that a significant number of visitors are browsing the EURISCO Catalogue more regularly and consistently (e.g. between 9 and 50 times). This suggests that users' loyalty is increasing and visitors to the EURISCO Catalogue are returning during 2011.

**Figure 2 –** Number of visits by returning visitors to the website in 2011



## Summary of facts and figures - impact of changes and improvements to EURISCO:

- As a result of the NIs' updates, and the consequent EURISCO data refreshment, the total number of accessions increased from 1,083,447 in 2010 to 1,096,182 accessions in December 2011.
- There was an increase of data providers, now reaching 318 institutes conserving PGR in Europe, which accounts for 18% of the estimated genebanks existing globally (FAO, 2010).
- The number of species names represented in EURISCO increased to 35,285 from 35,227 in 2010.
- The types of materials searchable through EURISCO include: "wild" 9%, "landraces" 25%, "breeding" 15%, "improved cultivars" 19%, "others" 1% and "unknown" 31% of the total material documented in EURISCO.
- MLS registration in 2011 is 22.5% of the total EURISCO accessions, covering around 65% of the species from Annex I of the ITPGRFA.

## News in 2011

### EURISCO is close to reaching 1.1 million accessions

During this year EURISCO has grown. Now users have free and open access to data on almost 1.1 million accessions from 42 (96%) European countries and from 318 (71%) data providers.

### Germany has flagged 61 garlic accessions in EURISCO as part of AEGIS

The European Collection (AEGIS) is operated as a **virtual European genebank**, and is composed of European Accessions under long-term conservation by the [AEGIS Associate Members](#) on behalf of the ECPGR Member countries. This collection is available for use or conservation only for the purposes of research, breeding and training for food and agriculture.

In consultation with the respective holding genebank (IPK, Gatersleben), which is an AEGIS Associate Member Institution, the German Coordinator has informed the EURISCO National Inventory Focal Point to flag these accessions in EURISCO, making use of descriptor '35. AEGIS Status':

#### 35. AEGIS Status (AEGISSTAT)

The coded status of an accession with regards to the European Genebank Integrated System (AEGIS). Provides the information, whether the accession is conserved for AEGIS.

0- not part of the AEGIS

1- part of the AEGIS.

If the AEGIS status is unknown, the field stays empty

The *Allium* working group is the first to [have formally proposed accessions for AEGIS](#). It is expected that in the forthcoming months other countries/institutions will also flag accession in AEGIS.

### Submission of "Plant Gene Access" project proposal

On the 23 November 2011 the ECPGR Secretariat submitted a project proposal to the EU 7th Framework call, on "Access to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in Europe" (in short Plant Gene Access), (for more detail see [project proposal](#) summary).

### PGR Secure website an open window to CWR and Landraces

PGR Secure is an EU-funded project on "Novel characterization of crop wild relative and landrace resources as a basis for improved crop breeding".

The aim of PGR Secure is to research novel characterization techniques and conservation strategies for European crop wild relative and landrace diversity, and further, to enhance crop improvement by breeders, as a means of underpinning European food security in the face of climate change. To achieve these goals, PGR Secure has four research themes... ([read more on the project website](#)).

### Your contributions to the next issue (March 2012)

We would like to invite all our readers to [send a contribution](#) to the next e-bulletin by March 2012.

## Planned meetings

Meeting	Venue	Date
ECPGR Steering Committee, 13th meeting (end of Phase VIII)	Vienna, Austria	2012
ECPGR Documentation and Information Network Coordinating group, 5 <sup>th</sup> meeting	To be confirmed	2013

More information can be found on the EURISCO website at <http://eurisco.ecpgr.org>.

If you wish to contribute to or comment on the e-bulletin, please contact [s.dias@cgiar.org](mailto:s.dias@cgiar.org) or use the sign-up form on the EURISCO website at: [http://eurisco.ecpgr.org/releases/e\\_bulletin.php](http://eurisco.ecpgr.org/releases/e_bulletin.php).

You can find previous issues of the e-bulletin at: <http://eurisco.ecpgr.org/releases/issues.php>.



**Best Wishes!**

Through the 'EURISCO e-Bulletin', we wish to inform you about EURISCO activities and benefits. You are receiving this bulletin either because you have previously indicated an interest in receiving our news, or because you are associated with an organization that has an interest in biodiversity and biodiversity data.

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