

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

- **EURISCO Data Sharing Agreement**

Countries that have not yet signed the EURISCO Data Sharing Agreement are urged to do so as soon as possible. For any [queries](#), please contact us.

- **News on the home page**

In the news section in the EURISCO website home page (<http://eurisco.ecpgr.org>), it is now much easier to keep users updated on ongoing or future Agrobiodiversity events, news, conferences, meetings, etc.,

Make full use of this resource to announce and share any events or news that are ongoing or will take place in your countries and institutions. Send the information to [EURISCO helpdesk](#).

- **EURISCO activities for 2012**

EURISCO activities for 2012 include:

- Coordinating and managing EURISCO and its components: Network, website, database, and intranet;
- Production of the e-bulletins;
- Annual reporting for European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources (ECPGR);
- Participation in the ECPGR Documentation and Information Network Coordinating Group (D&I NCG) as an *ex officio* member;
- Continuous helpdesk support to the Network;
- Updating the current upload system into a staging area enabling an easy upload of passport data as first phase; characterization and evaluation (C&E) upload of data will take place in a second phase.

- **Summary status on continuing EURISCO developments**

During 2012, the EURISCO intranet updating has been the major target for development. Due to the nature of its use we refer to it as staging area, rather than intranet.

This being the backbone of EURISCO and responsible for receiving, curating and finally publishing the data on the EURISCO public site, this work has been initiated for two major reasons:

- The first reason is to free the intranet from old hardware. The system was developed using old software library versions (new at the time, 2003) which are no longer supported by new hardware and operating systems. It is necessary to migrate the intranet to newer hardware before the old one fails.
- The second reason is that the software framework upon which the system was built is not maintainable; the system was developed in a very short time, therefore concentrating efforts on immediate features rather than future upgrades. This means that any modification or feature addition would be very problematic and this prevents us from adding C+E support without a major change in the whole system.

The upgrading development work has been scheduled in three phases, to ensure that the work is delivered within an appropriate time frame:

- Phase I – Passport staging area
- Phase II – C+E staging area
- Phase III – Website upgrading to include C+E data

Throughout the year we will keep updating you on the progress of this work, and certainly we count on your support and collaboration during these phases.

- **Report on Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) Nodes meeting in Berlin**

Once more EURISCO was represented at the EU GBIF Nodes Meeting that took place on 27-29 March in Berlin, Germany. The agenda for the meeting included sessions on GBIF work plan activities, nodes achievements and potential collaborations as well as discussions on objectives, strategies and future actions.

During the session dedicated to individual Nodes updates and current situation in participating country Participants and organizations (including Species 2000 and Bioversity International), a presentation was made covering the EURISCO status and the data sharing with GBIF, reference to the ongoing developments and products such as the PGR Secure, ontologies and in more detail the EURISCO quality process and tool.

The Nodes discussed and agreed on an action plan to boost collaboration with the BioFresh Initiative, an EU-funded project to build a global platform for databases on freshwater biodiversity.

The focus of the regional collaboration will be a demonstration project on mobilizing data, including checklists on freshwater invasive species. The next meeting venue: the 2013 European Nodes meeting will be hosted by GBIF Finland [[meeting details](#)]

- **Contribution from Armenia - “New data available in EURISCO- Output of a Global Crop Diversity Trust funded project in Armenia”** by Marina Hovhannisyan, Armenian EURISCO National Focal Point. [[full text here](#)]
- **Contribution from Bulgaria – “The state of PGR documentation in Bulgaria”** by Nikolaya Velcheva, Bulgarian EURISCO National Focal Point. [[full text here](#)]

- **Contribution from Montenegro – “Current state of Montenegro’s genebank – some considerations from the Conference on the “Role of Research in Sustainable development of agriculture and rural areas”**
by Miroslav Čizmović, Montenegrin EURISCO National Focal Point. [[full text here](#)]

Dissemination activities and News in 2012

GRIN-Global in and beyond EUROPE

After the last training sessions announced in the previous e-bulletin, two more training sessions have been delivered both co-organized by Bioversity:

- one in Oman, funded by “The Research Council” (TRC) Muscat, Oman;
- the other in Serbia, funded by the Project "Support to the National Programme for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in Serbia". This project is funded by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Trade, Forestry and Water Management of the Republic of Serbia, Directorate for National Reference Laboratories - Plant Gene Bank.

The trainings’ main objectives were: to show the tool and its potential for daily management of the genebanks’ collections; to offer users an opportunity to evaluate the tool; and to collect feedback for further improvement and assess the feasibility for possible adoption of GRIN-Global. The trainings were also an opportunity for discussing with other stakeholders and engage in building national platforms for exchanging information within and beyond the PGR community particularly in Oman. The update and adoption of GRIN-Global looks set to start before the end of the year.

If you are interested being trained or getting support to adopt GG please send us [an email](#) expressing your interest (adoption or testing), explain your needs (training on site or remote support) and express interest for implementation and adoption of GG. This will help us to better understand your needs and organize future dissemination activities.

News in 2012

- **RSS-feed is now available in the EURISCO website**
Stay up to date with the latest information subscribing to our RSS feeds and get the information you require directly.
- **New National Inventory (NI) available in EURISCO in 2012**
The newest NI to join the EURISCO Catalogue this year was that of **Belgium**, adding more value to the information available in EURISCO. With this newcomer, the Catalogue now represents 43 European countries. Malta is currently working on their NI and will join EURISCO in the coming months.
- **FAO/Bioversity release of MULTI-CROP PASSPORT DESCRIPTORS List – MCPD V.2.**
A new version of the list of Multi-Crop Passport Descriptors (MCPD V.2) has been released by FAO/Bioversity. The FAO/Bioversity Multi-Crop Passport Descriptors (MCPD V.2) is the result of a thorough revision of the publication originally released by FAO/IPGRI in 2001, which has been widely used as the international standard to facilitate germplasm passport information exchange. [[More info](#)].
- **EURISCO working on the best option for adoption of MCPD V.2**
A proposal and planning on the process and what will be expected from the National Inventories for adoption of the MCPD V.2 will be discussed with the ECPGR Doc & Info NCG. The next steps for implementation and adoption of the MCPD V.2, will shortly be

communicated. We will keep you informed on the next steps.

- **EURISCO reporting to the 2011 ECPGR annual report**

A report accounting for the 2011 activities was produced for the ECPGR Phase VIII (2009-2013) – 2011 Progress Report. The report, which provides a full account of EURISCO activities for the above-mentioned period, is available at the [ECPGR website](#).

Your contributions to the next issue (November 2012)

We would like to invite all of you to send your contribution to the next e-bulletin by November 2012.

Planned meetings/conferences/symposium/workshops

Meeting /Conferences	Venue	Date
ECPGR <i>Vitis</i> Working Group - 2nd meeting	Germany, Siebeldingen	18-20 September 2012
ECPGR Steering Committee - 13th meeting	Austria, Wien	4-7 December 2012
1st Mediterranean Symposium On Medicinal and Aromatic Plants - MESMAP	Cyprus, Gazimagosa	17-20 April 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 or use the sign-up form on the EURISCO website at: http://eurisco.ecpgr.org/releases/e_bulletin.html

You can find previous issues of the e-bulletin at: http://eurisco.ecpgr.org/releases/e_bulletin.html#c12639

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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