e-bulletin   January 2013

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**

  Over 20 Data Sharing Agreements have been concluded between Bioversity and EURISCO member countries. Missing agreements need to be urgently concluded. For any queries, please contact us.

- **On the home page**

  Please send us any events, news conferences, meetings, etc., that are ongoing or will take place in your countries and institutions for the news section. Send the information to EURISCO helpdesk.

- **Update on EURISCO developments**

  During 2012, the EURISCO *staging area* updating has been the major target for development.

  The portal is being developed using the Symphony 2 framework (http://symfony.com); this will provide stability and reusability for all components, providing an open-source environment.

  The credentials system has been redesigned. The following roles will be available:

  - **National Inventory Focal Point:** as before, this provider can upload passport data and it is the only one allowed to update the public portal.
  - **Institute:** national inventory focal points can delegate the upload, validation and data quality checks to specific institute data providers, who will be able to upload passport datasets and consult validation and quality reports. They will only be able to see their institute data and they are not able to update the public portal.
  - **Dataset provider:** this type of provider is not linked to any specific inventory or institute. He/she will only be able to upload characterization and evaluation datasets for accessions for which the system already hosts the passport data.
  - **Curator:** institute or National Inventory Focal Point may delegate the task of curating taxonomy or geo-reference data to other experts in order to improve the quality of the data. The specific privileges of this kind of expert have not yet been fully determined; only its role has been reserved in the system.
  - **Ontology curator:** this expert, who may overlap with any of the above roles, is

responsible for creating and maintaining ontologies.

The ontology management system has been implemented. It will be used to link all dataset data elements to metadata definitions, so that the data dictionary of the system will be shaped by the design of the ontology, rather than the data being shaped into a fixed structure.

- The ontology navigation system has been implemented.
- The ontology creation interface is being implemented.
- The ontology import system (templates, RDF, OBO and OWL) is being designed.
- The data validation system is being implemented. Once terminated, passport data can be uploaded, stored and searched in the system.

The above work covers parts of the *passport staging area* and of the *C&E staging are.* The next step will be the integration of the above components to create a system with the same functionalities as the old one, particularly the ability to upload passport data, receive validation and data quality reports and publish the data onto the public portal. The follwoing step will be the capacity to provide C&E datasets.

Dissemination activities and News in 2012

- **RSS-feed is available on the EURISCO website – register now.**
  Stay up to date with the latest information by subscribing to our RSS feeds and get the information you require directly.

- **New National Inventory (NI) available in EURISCO in 2012**
  After the Belgium National Inventory joined EURISCO, Malta is currently working on their NI and is expected to join EURISCO in the coming months.

- **13th ECPGR Steering Committee – EURISCO hosting, decision postponed to March 2013**
  The 13th ECPGR Steering Committee Meeting was held at the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management Austria on 4-7 December 2012. The decision about where EURISCO will be hosted has been postponed to March 2013.
  Read more about the meeting in the draft report here. More information and other meeting documents can be found here.

- **EURISCO 2012 progress report for the 13th ECPGR Steering Committee**
  A report accounting for 2012 activities was produced for the ECPGR Phase VIII (2009-2013) 2012 Progress Report. EURISCO activities for the above-mentioned period are reported in summary on the ECPGR website.

- **Update on accessions in EURISCO as part of AEGIS - garlic accessions**
  The European Collection (AEGIS) is operated as a virtual European genebank. This collection is available in accordance with the terms and conditions set out in the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.
  Currently there are a total of 143 *Allium* accessions registered in AEGIS by the German and Czech National Inventories.

EURISCO in numbers in 2012

- **ITPGRFA in EUROPE: Multilateral System (MLS) registrations in EURISCO**

In 2012, the material covered by the MLS of the ITPGRFA, registered through EURISCO, reached almost 23% of the total material listed in EURISCO.

- Altogether, 18 NIs have registered 251,188 accessions in the MLS (see Chart 1 below), representing around 23% of the total material searchable in EURISCO.
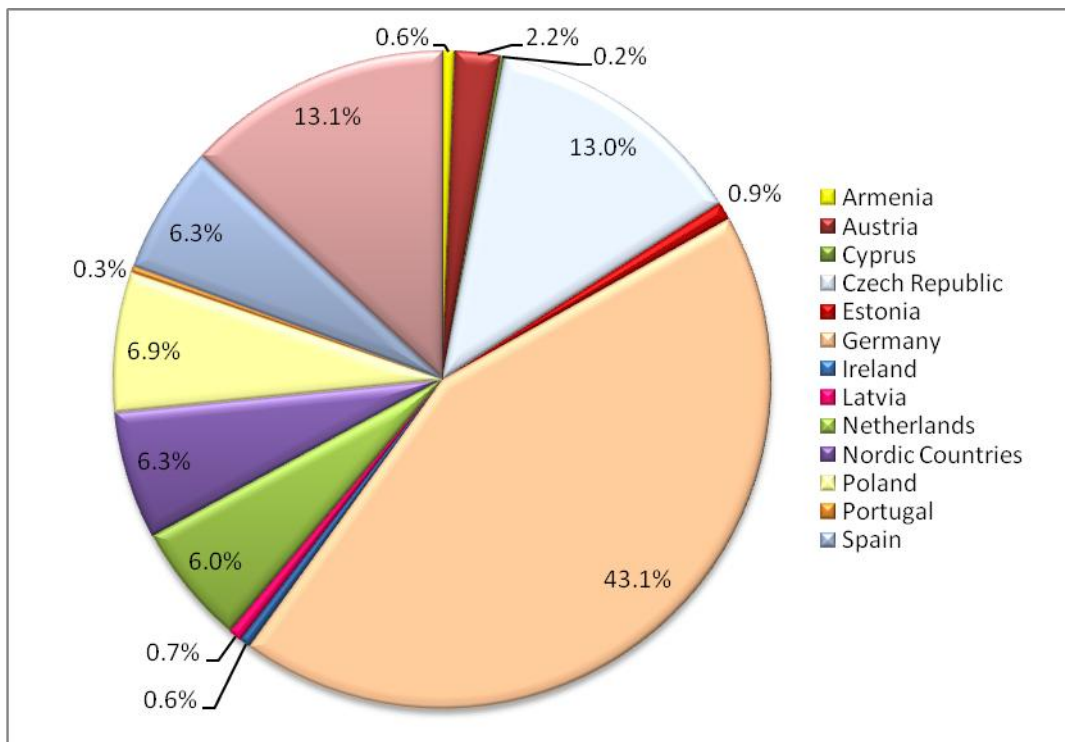- The MLS materials cover more than 65% of the genera from Annex I of the ITPGRFA.

Chart 1 – Percentage of the MLS accessions by NI registered through EURISCO in 2012.

Monitoring impact –assessing use

- ### Who is searching EURISCO?

    During the period January – December 2012, the EURISCO portal user interface had a total of 8 808 searches.
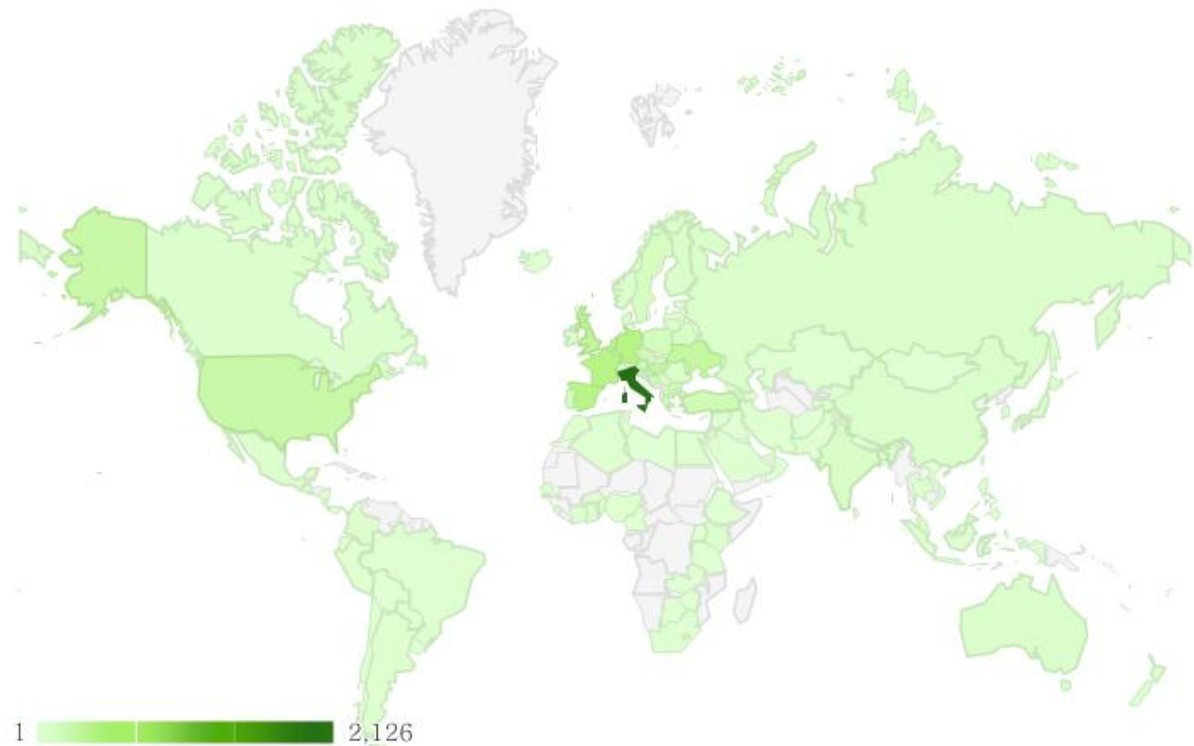
8 808	**Visits**
5 210	**Absolute Unique Visitors**
52 969	**Page Views**
6.01	**Average Page Views**
00:05:08	**Time on Site**
42.38%	**Bounce Rate**
57.19%	**New Visits**

- ### 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 2012, the traffic of EURISCO site visitors originated from 126 countries, a slight increase from 2010 when the traffic originated from 113 countries.

    Figure 1- Traffic map of site visitors' country of origin (January-December 2012)

8,808 visits came from 126 countries/territories

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

- As a result of NIs updates, and the consequent EURISCO data refreshment, the total number of accessions increased from 1,096,182 accessions in December 2011 to 1,114,424 in January 2013.
- There was an increase of data providers, from 318 institutes in January 2012 to 332 institutes in January 2013, conserving PGR in Europe.
- The number of species names represented in EURISCO is 34,957 as of January 2013.
- 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 2012 is 23% of the total EURISCO accessions, covering around 65% of the species from Annex I of the ITPGRFA.

Users' voices in 2012

Albania

- **"The current state and documentation of plant genetic resources in Albania"** by *Belul Gixhari, Albanian EURISCO National Focal Point and Ndoc Faslia, PGR National Coordinator.* [full text here]

Bulgaria

- **"Genetic Diversity in the *Solanaceae* family in Bulgaria"** by *Nikolaya Velcheva, Bulgarian EURISCO National Focal Point and Liliya Krasteva, PGR National Coordinator.* [full text here]

Portugal

Going GRIN-Global

- **"The implementation of GRIN-Global as the documentation system in the ISOPlexis Genebank, Madeira, Portugal"** by *Miguel A.A.Pinheiro de Carvalho and Humberto Nóbrega,ISOPlexis Genebank*. [full text here]

Echoes from an AEGIS project

- **"*Brassica* selection criteria for the identification of the Most Appropriate Accessions: relate to the *Brassica oleracea* of Iberian collection, an AEGIS Project"** by *Violeta R. Lopes, Ana M. Barata, Eugénia Nunes, Elena Cartea, Pilar Soengas, Noortje Bas and Charlotte Allender, project partners* [full text here]

Your contributions to the next issue (March 2013)

We would like to invite all our readers to send a contribution to the next e-bulletin by March 2013.

Forthcoming meetings and other events

Meeting	Venue	Date
2013 European GBIF Nodes Meeting will be hosted by GBIF Finland	Joensuu, Finland	March, 2013
ECPGR Grain Legumes Working Group meeting - 5th meeting	Novi Sad, Serbia	7-8 May 2013
ECPGR Umbellifer Crops Working Group - 2nd meeting	St Petersburg, Russian Federation	June 2013
EUCARPIA Genetic Resources section meeting, Title: Pre-breeding – fishing in the gene pool	Alnarp, Sweden	10-13 June 2013
Course on METABOLOMICS AND PLANT BREEDING	Foggia, Italy	15-19 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.php.

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

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