EURISCO NFPs during the training workshop, Prague, Czech Republic. Photo: S. Harrer, BLE, Bonn, Germany

EURISCO NFPs get together to collaborate and share knowledge

A training workshop was held in Prague, Czech Republic on 29-30 June as an activity of the Documentation & Information Network (activity 5-01 of the EPGRIS3 self-funded project on “National Inventories on ex situ plant genetic resources”). Financial support was provided by the European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources (ECPGR) and the South East European Development Network on Plant Genetic Resources (SEEDNet); allowing for the participation of 30 National Focal Points (NFPs) and documentation experts.

The focus of the training was on updating EURISCO NFPs; to further improve the quality and quantity of data in National Inventories (NIs); to facilitate fulfilling the reporting obligations under the Multilateral System (MLS) of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA); to promote and improve the frequency of NIs upload to EURISCO and to further develop and disseminate the NIs FAQ-Manual or leaflets.

The first day of the workshop was based on presentations covering the NIs developments and status; overview of the PGR landscape for Europe; overview of EURISCO as the information hub for Europe and its website; the descriptors and NordGen example; the outcomes of the last ITPGRFA Governing Body (GB) and the decisions on the MLS and Standard Material Transfer Agreement (SMTA). On the second day, the NFPs were engaged in practical exercises on the upload mechanism and data quality checks and feedback reporting. A paper on the addition of characterization and evaluation data to EURISCO was presented and positively received. General information on GRIN-Global was also provided. Regarding the FAQs, it was decided that the matter will be further developed with feedback and inputs from the network of NFPs to further increase its visibility and usability to all.

Overall, this training workshop was an opportunity for NFPs to share experiences, learn tips for managing their NIs and upload it into EURISCO, as well as to be updated on documentation and other PGR issues happening at the international level.

Further information on this training workshop, as well as the agenda, can be found at http://eurisco.ecpgr.org/contact_menu/training.php and will also be available in the next EURISCO E-Bulletin in 2009. If you would like to receive the E-Bulletin, please register at http://eurisco.ecpgr.org/releases/e_bulletin.php.