

## Fruit Network

**Working Groups:** *Malus/Pyrus*, *Prunus* and *Vitis*.

The **Fruit Network Coordinating Group** consisted of seven members: Marc Lateur, Belgium and Emilie Balsemin, France (Interim Co-Coordinator); Daniela Benediková, Slovakia; Stein Harald Hjeltnes, Norway; Erika Maul, Germany; Matthew Ordidge, United Kingdom; and Jesus Ortiz, Spain.

A detailed plan was prepared by the Network Coordinating Group members for the harmonization of the four European Fruit Databases and the sharing of tools to assist in assessing trueness-to-type of the European accessions. The plan foresees harmonization of passport and primary characterization descriptors, and harmonization of guidelines for inclusion of photographs in the fruit databases. A photo gallery module is planned to be established in the *Vitis* database and then transferred to the other databases to assist in comparing pictures of different accessions to ascertain their trueness-to-type. Further technical development of the existing SynoPyrus software for synonym searches will be followed by its installation in all the Fruit Databases.

Draft guidelines for inclusion of photographs in the ECPGR European Fruit Databases were prepared.

A new version of the European *Vitis* Database ([www.eu-vitis.de](http://www.eu-vitis.de)) was made accessible online.

The Fruit Network submitted one **proposal for funding to the AEGIS Grant Scheme**. This was prepared by partners from the Czech Republic on the subject of “*In vitro* slow growth storage as a method for safety-duplicate maintenance and distribution of European Accessions in the framework of an apple fruit genebank”.

**Outlook for 2010:** activities planned by the Network include the Eighth Meeting of the *Prunus* Working Group on 7–9 September 2010, Forli, Italy. The *Malus* DB is expected to be further developed at the University of Reading, UK, with updates to the accession lists started and conversion of the DB to a Web-based system.