

Project Proposal Phase VIII (2009 – 2013) of the Documentation and Information Network

23 June 2008

1. Background and justification

As presented in the progress report of the Documentation and Information Network (D&I network) for the period of June 2006 – June 2008 the European Plant Genetic Resources Information Infrastructure has further developed at the institutional, national and European levels. This will help Europe to improve its contribution to the global efforts of the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA).

The D&I network builds on the contributions provided by institutions and experts from European countries. In particular, several institutions (i.e. genebanks) have improved their documentation and information systems. National Focal Points for National Inventories (NFP/NI) have been established for PGRFA maintained *ex situ* (40 countries), on farm (22 countries) or *in situ* (22 countries). National inventories have been developed so far for PGRFA maintained *ex situ* (35 countries), on farm (6 countries) or *in situ* (6 countries). As a clear picture of the latter inventories is not available a survey is currently undertaken to update such figures.

At European level, EURISCO has been reviewed, updated more frequently and functions have been improved, including a completely new website application. EURISCO currently provides passport information for 1.1 Mio. accessions and links via the respective National Inventories to the germplasm providers. 60 European Central Crop Databases (ECCDBs) are maintained by 48 ECCDB managers. However, there is a large proportion of duplication of the passport data between EURISCO and the ECCDB. Only about 12 ECCDBs include characterization and evaluation data. To overcome this uncertain relationship between EURISCO and the ECCDBs a vision paper has been compiled recently which should also provide guidance to a better sharing of responsibilities between the National Inventories/ EURISCO and the ECCDBs.

Information and communication technologies are developing very rapidly. Hence, the application of new technologies and opportunities arising from these for the institutions and experts in Europe has further developed.

Therefore, information systems at institutional, national and European levels need continued adaptation and improvement. This is true for the many genebanks, national inventories (*ex situ*, *in situ* and on farm) as well as EURISCO and further developments of the ECCDBs towards tools for analysis and support to plant breeding. Crop portals could be a new vision for such developments.

2. Objectives of the project

The project of the D&I network will provide a substantial contribution to improve the existing European Plant Genetic Resources Information Infrastructure at institutional, national and European levels as well as to assist in the capacity building in equivalent information infrastructures in other regions. Hence, the project will support the implementation of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGR) and the establishment of A European Genebank Integrated System (AEGIS).

3. Workplan

The Workplan of the project is attached in Appendix 1. It covers the activities of the project participants, the expected outputs and milestones as well an indication of the timetable.

4. Project coordination and administrative structure

The project coordination will be done by the Coordinator of the D&I network. He will be supported by the Network Coordinating Group (NCG) of the D&I network. The project budget will be administered by the ECPGR Secretariat.

Appendix 1: Workplan

Activity - No.	Activity	Output	Milestone	Time	Comment
1	Workshop of National Inventory Focal Points (<i>ex situ</i>)	Training on establishing and further developing the National Inventories (<i>ex situ</i>)	Workshop was held with > 10 NFP (<i>ex situ</i>)	2009	
1.1		Update NI and improve the quality and quantity of the data	> 10 NI contribute more data than until June 2008	2009	
1.2		Registration of material in the MLS of the ITPGR and sMTA reporting	> 10 NI register material in MLS	2009	
1.3		Improve uploading NI to EURISCO	>50% of NI uploaded at least annually	2009	To be continued
2	2 meetings of Network Coordinating Group (NCG)	Review of progress in the D&I network	2 meetings were held	2010 and 2013	
2.1	mid-term meeting	mid-term review and recommendations	Minutes of the meeting	2010	
2.2	End-of-phase meeting	End-of-phase review and recommendations	Minutes of the meeting	2013	
3	2 inter-regional workshops on documentation and information	Capacity building in documentation and information in other regions	2 workshops were held with	2009 and 2011	In consultation with ITPGR Secretariat
3.1	Inter-regional workshop in Africa	Capacity building of NFP/NI in Africa	> 5 African NFP/NI were trained	2009	
3.2	Inter-regional workshop in Asia	Capacity building of NFP/NI in Asia	> 5 Asian NFP/NI were trained	2011	
4	Workshop of National Inventory Focal Points (<i>in situ</i> and on farm)	Training on establishing and further developing the National Inventories (<i>in situ</i> and on farm)	Workshop was held with > 20 NFP (<i>in situ</i> and on farm)	2010	
5	Support to EPGRIS3	As to be agreed between the D&I network coordinator and the EPGRIS3 coordinator up to three EPGRIS3 priority activities will be supported	Depending on the agreement	2009 - 2013	Will be decided later
6	EURISCO	Separate workplan provided by the ECPGR Secretariat			Separate budget