

## FORAGES NETWORK

### 3.2. Forages Network

**Working Group:** Forages.

The **Forages Network Coordinating Group** composition was revised in May 2010 and consisted of six members: Merja Veteläinen, Finland (Network Coordinator); Beat Boller, Switzerland; Petter Marum, Norway; Vladimir Meglič, Slovenia; Ian Thomas, United Kingdom and Evelin Willner, Germany.

The **Tenth Meeting of the Working Group on Forages** was held on 27–29 April 2010, Poel Island, Germany.

Considering the inefficient fragmentation of the Forages Databases (23), it was agreed to merge some of the databases and reduce them to 12. The Central Crop Database managers are leading the process of selecting accessions for the European Collection and steps to make progress in the identification of these accessions were defined. This process is expected to be facilitated by submitting a proposal to the AEGIS Grant Scheme. The status of safety-duplication was monitored, with the intention to increase its coverage. The use of the agreed standards for regeneration was also monitored and it was verified that these are being followed to a very large extent by the members. Inclusion of characterization and evaluation (C&E) data in the Forages Databases can be made possible with technical advice from NordGen or the Leibniz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research (IPK). National experiences were shared, specifically regarding inventory of on-farm activities and diversity studies.

The Forages Network submitted one **proposal for funding to the second call of the AEGIS Grant Scheme**. This was prepared by the partner from Finland, focused on the establishment of the European Forages Collection.

**Outlook for 2011:** the Network's workplan does not include further meetings or budgeted activities, since the Network's budget for Phase VIII was only sufficient to hold one meeting.