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DOCUMENTATION AND INFORMATION NETWORK

4.7. Documentation and Information Network

The **Documentation and Information Network Coordinating Group** consisted of eight members: Theo van Hintum, The Netherlands (Network Coordinator); Frank Begemann, Germany; Iva Faberová, Czech Republic; Idin Fazlic, Bosnia and Herzegovina (SEEDNet); Helmut Knüpffer, Germany; Jonas Nordling, Sweden (NordGen); Ahmet Semsettin Tan, Turkey and Ian Thomas, United Kingdom. Four additional ex officio representatives were Lorenzo Maggioni, ECPGR Secretariat; Sónia Dias (EURISCO Coordinator); Michael Mackay (until April 2012, then replaced by Richard Bruskiewich as of July 2012), Bioversity International, Rome and José Iriondo, Spain (*In situ* and On–farm Conservation Network representative).

The project "'PGR DuplicateFinder', a software package to assist in the identification of putative duplicates in germplasm databases", was completed as part of the AEGIS Grant Scheme. The project, coordinated by the Centre for Genetic Resources (CGN), The Netherlands, provided a tool which is available online (*http://documents.plant.wur.nl/cgn/pgr/aegisdf/*) and can support searches of databases for duplicates and Most Appropriate Accessions.

Members of the NCG contributed to the 'information management' section of the report of the Joint PGR Secure/ECPGR workshop on *Conservation strategies for European crop wild relative and landrace diversity*, 7–9 September 2011, Palanga, Lithuania. Following this meeting, the members participated in the discussion about the *in situ*/on-farm descriptor list.

EURISCO in 2012

After the addition of the National Inventory from Belgium in 2012, the EURISCO Catalogue now represents 43 National Inventories and 332 collection holdings. The total number of accessions increased from 1 096 182 accessions in December 2011 to 1 114 424 in December 2012. These accessions were listed as wild/weedy species (9%), landraces (25%), advanced cultivars (19%), breeding/research material (15%), other (1%). The status of the remaining 31% is unknown. The registration of Multilateral System (MLS) accessions in 2012 was 23 % of the total number of accessions recorded in EURISCO. At the end of 2012, there were 143 AEGIS accessions flagged in EURISCO (garlic accessions from Czech Republic and Germany).

During 2012, the EURISCO Intranet (so-called 'staging area') has been the target for development. This work has been initiated for two major reasons: 1) to migrate from old unstable hardware to new hardware; 2) to renew the software framework, thereby ensuring the possibility of adding new features, such as characterization and evaluation data. Consequently, the portal has been developed using the Symphony 2 framework (*http://symfony.com*), which provides stability for all components in 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 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 will not be 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: institutes or National Inventory Focal Points 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.

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    – <u>Ontology Curator</u>: 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.

Over 20 Data Sharing Agreements have been concluded between Bioversity and EURISCO member countries. A number of agreements are therefore missing and need to be urgently concluded.

Following the release by FAO/Bioversity of a new version of the list of *Multi-Crop Passport Descriptors* (MCPD V.2), the ECPGR Documentation and Information Network Coordinating Group has started a discussion on the process for the adoption of this new MCPD version.

EURISCO was represented at the EU Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) Nodes Meeting held 27–29 March 2012 in Berlin, Germany. A presentation was made, covering the EURISCO status and the data sharing with GBIF.

An intern, Anna Hausmann, was hired by Bioversity for a short period to help in a data comparative analysis between EURISCO, the FAO World Information and Early Warning System (WIEWS) and the Central Crop Databases (CCDBs). At the end of 2012 the final report was being compiled.

To facilitate the tendering process for EURISCO (and the ECPGR Secretariat) the Chair of the Network formulated, on request of the ECPGR ExCo, and with support of the EURISCO staff, the technical description and requirements of EURISCO and the required support.

Outlook for 2013

Various ECPGR Working Groups have requested the possibility to discuss the relationship between EURISCO and CCDBs in a meeting with National Inventory Focal Points and Database Managers to agree on a common vision for the future. The Steering Committee has supported the suggestion to have such a meeting, devoted to EURISCO, the European CCDBs, and related topics. The Secretariat will try to secure specific funding to hold a meeting where 35–40 people could be invited, on the basis of their specific knowledge and experience related to defining the future role and functions of EURISCO (and the CCDBs). The agenda will focus on the future role of EURISCO (and the CCDBs). Topics should include: added value of CCDBs, Crop Portals, C&E data, EURISCO's role in relation to GENESYS, AEGIS and MLS, but also topics such as *in situ* documentation, molecular markers and sequencing data, geographic information system (GIS).