List based on the outcome from the Rome meeting preparing EPGRIS3 2-3 April 2007, drafted by the coordinator, and commented on by the participants of this meeting – version 10/07/2007

EPGRIS3 – Activities – The Wish List

Here we'll present a list of activities thought to be important to the European PGR community, grouped in a number of categories:

1 Vision and scope discussion EURISCO
2 Data Quality and Quantity EURISCO
3 Uploading Mechanism EURISCO
4 User Interfaces
5 Network National Focal Points

Below the activities in these categories are listed. The actual list EPGRIS3 is working on, and the activity leaders and collaborators in each activity can be found on the EPGRIS3 website (www.epgris3.eu).

1 Vision and scope discussion EURISCO

1.01 Creation and maintenance of Wiki environment for EPGRIS3
To allow for joint development of plans and visions on issues relevant to PGR documentation, a Wiki environment should be set up in which anyone can read and contribute to evolving documents.

1.02 Discussion on scope EURISCO
To develop ideas about the desired and feasible scope of EURISCO a discussion should be organized tackling issues such as 'how could EURISCO also cover in situ PGR conservation?', 'what countries should be represented?', 'what material should be included in EURISCO (i.e., do Arabidopsis or mapping populations, ornamentals or Botanic Gardens belong to EURISCO)?', 'how do the Central Crop Databases relate to EURISCO?'. This discussion could use the EPGRIS3 Wiki. Anyone should be able to contribute, but the activity leader could moderate and summarize the discussions, the collaborators could act as 'hard kernel' for the discussions.

1.03 Discussion on the role of EURISCO in the global PGR environment
To develop ideas about the role of EURISCO in the global infrastructure of PGR documentation a discussion should be set up tackling issues such as 'how can EURISCO be used to serve the documentation and reporting aspects of the International Treaty (ITPGRFA) in Europe?', 'should EURISCO be the European node in a global PGR documentation resource?'. This discussion could use the EPGRIS3 Wiki. Anyone should be able to contribute, but the activity leader could moderate and summarize the discussions, the collaborators could act as 'hard kernel' for the discussions.

1.04 Discussion on strategy for promoting the use of EURISCO
The value of EURISCO is largely dependent on its use. To develop ideas about how this use could be stimulated a discussion should be set up tackling issues such as the promotion and functionalities. This discussion could use the EPGRIS3 Wiki. Anyone should be able to contribute, but the activity leader could moderate and summarize the discussions, the collaborators could act as 'hard kernel' for the discussions.

2 Data Quality and Quantity EURISCO

2.01 Development of the taxonomic backbone of EURISCO
The taxonomic nomenclature of the material in EURISCO forms a big problem hindering the use of the information. We need a list of taxa allowing the checking of names as the material is received, and a list of relationships between those names, allowing easier access to the material (e.g. if a user asks for '*Aegilops squarrosa*' (s)he should also get '*Triticum squarrosa*')

2.02 Increase the completeness of information in EURISCO
Given the current scope of EURISCO many more accessions should be included, and the information of the accessions included is often very limited. Further activities are needed to increase both elements of 'completeness'.

2.03 Improvement of location data quality
Similar to the 'taxonomy data checker' the PGR community would be helped with a tool that allows the uploading of location data (description of collecting site, longitude, latitude, district, country) and get back a report with indications of probable errors (Belgium accessions, with coordinates in Chile).

2.04 Application of Life Science IDentifiers
To experiment with the application of Life Science Identifiers (LSIDs) an activity should be developed that makes information about LSIDs accessible, develops concepts for the use of these LSIDs in the PGR documentation environment and creates resources to actually start applying them. (LSIDs allow a unique identification of chunks of information, making it possible to recognize the most recent version and avoid duplication in federated databases and information systems)

2.05 Handling characterization and evaluation data
Characterization and evaluation (C&E) data are of high relevance to the users of PGR information. However, handling this type of information appears to be a very difficult issue. As a result the exchange and use of C&E data is very limited. An activity aimed at developing methodology for this is very important.

2.06 Creating links to the European Central Crop Databases
A burning issue in the European PGR documentation arena is the link between the European Central Crop Databases (ECCDBs) and EURISCO. An activity is needed to explore this link and create mechanisms that will allow adding value on both sides.

3 Uploading Mechanism

3.01 Application of web services
Web services is a potent new technology for on-line data exchange. It is an obvious additional mechanism for uploading data from the National Inventories (Nis) to EURISCO, and also from the data source (usually a genebank) to the NI. An activity is needed that will create this mechanism for the NI that are already available as web service, and to create easy solutions for those NIs that are interested in adopting the technology.

3.02 Revision Multi-Crop Passport Descriptor List
There might be a need to revise the descriptors used to exchange data between the National Inventories and EURISCO: the Multi-Crop Passport Descriptor List (MCPDL). An activity is needed that will inventory the needs and propose a revision when required.

3.03 Passport ontology development
To increase the flexibility of passport data exchange, and to pave the way for other types of data, an ontology of passport data needs to be developed based on all existing ontologies.

3.04 Inclusion of in situ *and on farm information in EURISCO*
The option of including *in situ* data in EURISCO has been on the table several times. An activity is needed to collect the pros and cons, inventory the practical implications, and if it is decided that way, make it happen.

4 User Interfaces

4.01 EURISCO website functionality
Appropriate functionality of the EURISCO web site is crucial to its use. Further activities are needed to improve the current functionality: improve the user interface, fix the download of query results, install an online seed request function (one-stop shop for PGR in Europe), etc.

4.02 Development of PGR Crop Portals
As an attempt to change the focus in the field of PGR documentation from supply to demand, a number of 'PGR crop portals' will be created. The starting point of these portals is the demand of a well defined group of users, such as the users of lettuce PGR. In close collaboration with these users the functionality of such a site will be defined and implemented.

4.03 sMTA reporting
Since there will be the need to create a registry of transactions under the ITPGRFA, there is potentially a role to play for EURISCO in Europe. This role needs to be defined, and when accepted by the stakeholders, implemented in a technical system.

4.04 status International Treaty Multi Lateral System and 'European Collection'
EURISCO could play a role as the inventory of European material under the International Treaty Multi Lateral System and/or the material in the AEGIS European Collection. However, this is not why EURISCO was created, so it needs to be carefully planned, discussed and, when approved, implemented.

4.05 Web services
Web services technology offers possibilities to run a program on a computer using data in databases on other computers via internet. This creates new possibilities for the use of the data in EURISCO. These possibilities should be explored, facilitated and implemented in a few use cases.

4.06 European Collection User Interface (AEGIS)
Once the European collections, as envisaged in AEGIS, take shape, an interface will have to be developed that gives access to information about, and access to, the material in the collection to the user community.

5 Network National Focal Points

5.01 National Focal Points training and networking
To maintain the network of Focal Persons, and to improve the quality of this network, some activities in terms of communication and capacity building will have to be developed. The training component could be linked to ongoing SeedNet activities, as developed by NGB. Training and capacity building may also be necessary for individual genebanks as data providers.

5.02 Implementation web services
Apart from the possibilities to facilitate use of EURISCO data via web services, this technology is also the obvious way of harvesting data from the National Inventories by EURISCO. Some institutes involved are already using web services, and implementing proof-of-concept cases should be a simple exercise (see another EPGRIS3 activity). But the technology should also be made available to other National Inventories in terms of software and knowledge.

5.03 European Collection Management System (AEGIS)
Once the European collections, as envisaged in AEGIS, take shape, an interface will have to be developed that allows the curators of the 'component collections' to get access to the management data of the material in the collection (seed availability, quality, distribution, etc.)