Bioversity International – EURISCO and EPGRIS3

Since 2004, Bioversity International on behalf of the Secretariat of the European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources (ECPGR) has hosted and maintained the **Eu**ropean **I**nternet **S**earch **C**atal**o**gue (EURISCO). This relationship is formally based on a Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Member Countries of ECPGR and Bioversity.

As part of its institutional mandate in the Informatics area, the 'Understanding and Managing Biodiversity Programme' is responsible for the coordination and management of EURISCO. Bioversity undertakes a series of activities in support of EURISCO. These activities are mainly carried out through the provision of a half-time EURISCO Coordinator supported by an internal advisory group. The advisory group is composed of (i) EURISCO Coordinator, (ii) ECPGR Coordinator, (iii) Project Coordinator, Biodiversity Informatics, and chaired by (iv) Regional Director for Europe. Other members of staff are invited to the meetings of the advisory group as and when required.

In particular, the activities undertaken in support of EURISCO include:
- Coordination and management of the EURISCO infrastructure (web site, intranet, uploading mechanism);
- Provision of Helpdesk support to National Focal Points (NFPs) in uploading National Inventories (Nis) to the EURISCO central database;
- Regular communication with NFPs and provision of required information on best practices in PGR documentation required for the provision of data to EURISCO;
- Promotion of international scientific data standards required in the context of EURISCO;
- Monitoring the frequency of updates in EURISCO and communication with NFPs whenever necessary;
- Monitoring the level of completeness and accuracy of data in EURISCO based on agreed protocols and communication with NFPs whenever necessary;
- Facilitation and promotion of access to and use of the information contained in EURISCO;
- Representation of EURISCO in relevant international fora and meetings;
- Promotion of the EURISCO model to other Regions;
- Raising awareness about EURISCO through leaflets, newsletter articles and other materials;
- Reporting as required (e.g. ECPGR, NFPs, Bioversity);
- Ensuring linkages with relevant ongoing initiatives such as GBIF and the Bioversity global accession level information system.

Any communication, feedback and suggestions concerning the EURISCO activities should be directed to the EURISCO Coordinator.

Bioversity supports the EPGRIS3 initiative as a collaborative framework, launched by the ECPGR Documentation and Information Network, to strengthen the further development of PGR documentation and information infrastructures in Europe. EURISCO is a significant component of these infrastructures. Therefore, EPGRIS3 also represents a tool that will enhance linkages between the Network and the coordination and management of EURISCO. The ECPGR Coordinator was invited to act as the EPGRIS3 sub-coordinator and will be responsible for liaison between the EPGRIS3 consortium of partners and Bioversity.

The internal EURISCO advisory group will be responsible for the overall coordination of the contributions to be made by Bioversity to EPGRIS3.