

## EURISCO Updates and News

“EURISCO News” is a series of e-bulletins that provide feedback to National Focal Points (NFPs) as well a forum for NFPs and others to put forward their comments and suggestions. In order to make the EURISCO Catalogue sustainable and meet the NFPs and users needs, all are invited to contribute to this e-bulletin. All ideas, comments, suggestions, and questions are [welcome](#).

This e-bulletin provides information on: [Recent and ongoing activities, Dissemination activities and News, and Planned Meetings](#)

## Recent and ongoing activities

### **EURISCO Website**

Past e-bulletin at: <http://eurisco.ecpgr.org/releases/issues.php>

### **EURISCO factsheets reaching more people**

These two fact sheets are available in the 13 languages listed below ([see or download them at: http://eurisco.ecpgr.org/releases/fact\\_sheet.php](#)) and further efforts will be made to make them available in other European languages. All these efforts are in kind contributions from the NFPs.

**Albanian, Armenian, Azeri, Croatian, Czech, Danish, English, German, Norwegian, Romanian, Slovak, Spanish and Turkish**

- **Albanian and Armenian are here, Russian is on the way**

The Russian translation is on the way and should be available soon at the above link.

The fact sheets, in the different languages, have been a tool of an inestimable value for dissemination and public awareness activities regarding the EURISCO Catalogue. If you would like to contribute to these translations in your home-country language, [let us know](#).

### **EURISCO poster update**

The EURISCO poster was updated and the April version is available for download at <http://eurisco.ecpgr.org/releases/posters.php>. Soon a new version will be online.

## Network news

- **Recently new NFPs have been appointed from:**

Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Ireland, Latvia, Montenegro, Portugal, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Sweden and Ukraine. Contact details can be found at:

[http://eurisco.ecpgr.org/about/national\\_focal\\_points.php](http://eurisco.ecpgr.org/about/national_focal_points.php)

## EURISCO seminars and trainings

### Two Seminars and trainings took place

- **EURISCO Seminar and Training, 21-22 April 2009, Yerevan, Armenia**

[http://eurisco.ecpgr.org/contact\\_menu/training.php](http://eurisco.ecpgr.org/contact_menu/training.php)

On 21-22 April 2009 a EURISCO Seminar-Training was held in Yerevan, Armenia. This seminar and training was organized by the Ministry of Agriculture - ECPGR National Coordinator, the Armenian State Agrarian University and ECPGR/Bioversity International.

The objective of this Seminar and training was to strengthen the sustainability of EURISCO and improve data completeness by enhancing the quality and quantity of data flowing into the Catalogue. Hands-on training was provided to the Armenian National Inventory Focal Point (NFP), in order to bring all NFPs up to the same level of development and knowledge.



**A CD from the Seminar will be available for download at:**

[http://eurisco.ecpgr.org/contact\\_menu/training.php](http://eurisco.ecpgr.org/contact_menu/training.php)

- **EURISCO Seminar and Training, 13-15 May 2009, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation**

[http://eurisco.ecpgr.org/contact\\_menu/training.php](http://eurisco.ecpgr.org/contact_menu/training.php)

The seminar and training held in St. Petersburg on 13-15 May 2009 was organized by the N.I. Vavilov Research Institute of Plant Industry (VIR) and EURISCO/ECPGR/Bioversity International.

The objective of this seminar and training was to strengthen the sustainability of EURISCO and improve data completeness by enhancing the quality and quantity of data flowing into the Catalogue. The seminar, involved genebanks' documentation systems' managers and representatives from the working collections of research centers of the Ministry of Agriculture and National Academy of Sciences. It provided up-to-date information to the members of VIR network of data providers to the National Inventory (NI) and raised awareness of the importance of information activities on plant genetic resources. Hands-on training was provided to the Russian Federation documentation expert and National Inventory Focal Point (NFP), in order to bring all NFPs up to the same level of development and knowledge.



**Soon, a CD from the Seminar will be available for download at:**

[http://eurisco.ecpgr.org/contact\\_menu/training.php](http://eurisco.ecpgr.org/contact_menu/training.php)

This was the third in a series of seminars and trainings, and they are envisioned to be held in other countries. If you find this interesting and helpful, and you would like one to be held in your country [let us know](#).

For more details, see the Newsletter for Europe N.38, page 9 or click on the following link:  
[http://www.biodiversityinternational.org/scientific\\_information/regions/europe/newsletters.html](http://www.biodiversityinternational.org/scientific_information/regions/europe/newsletters.html)

## **EURISCO training workshop**

- **Training Workshop of the ECPGR Documentation and Information Network, EPGRIS3 activity 5-01, 29-30 June, Prague Czech Republic.**

This training workshop was an activity of the ECPGR Documentation & Information Network Coordinating Group (D&INCG) for its EPGRIS3 self-funded project activity 5-01 on National Inventories on *ex situ* plant genetic resources. A total of 30 people participated in this workshop, from which eight were financed by the ECPGR D&INCG and another eight by the South East European Development Network on Plant Genetic Resources (SEEDNet) as a collaborative activity on documentation and information. The remaining participants were self-funded. The focus of the training was on the EURISCO National Focal Points (NFPS). More details can be found at: [http://eurisco.ecpgr.org/contact\\_menu/training.php](http://eurisco.ecpgr.org/contact_menu/training.php) and <http://www.epgris3.eu/EPGRIS3activities.htm>



**A CD from the training workshop will be available for download at:** [http://eurisco.ecpgr.org/contact\\_menu/training.php](http://eurisco.ecpgr.org/contact_menu/training.php)

## **Dissemination activities and News**

### **New NIs available in EURISCO in 2009**

The most recent NIs to join the EURISCO Catalogue were Belarus and Montenegro. Both joined during June, adding value to the information made available in EURISCO and to NIs. With these newcomers, the Catalogue now represents 39 European countries. We hope that other countries will follow in the coming months.

### **EURISCO reporting to the 2008 ECPGR annual report**

A report accounting for the 2008 activities was produced for the ECPGR Annual Report (2008). The report, which provides a full account of EURISCO activities for the above-mentioned period, will be made available at the ECPGR website:

<http://www.ecpgr.cgiar.org>

### **Decision from the ECPGR 11<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee**

Following up on the ECPGR Steering Committee agreement to use the EURISCO Catalogue as a service to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), by approving an interim national-level procedure for reporting on the use of Standard Material Transfer Agreements (SMTAs) [more in page 10 at: [http://www.ecpgr.cgiar.org/SteeringCommittee/SC11/SC11\\_FinalReport.pdf](http://www.ecpgr.cgiar.org/SteeringCommittee/SC11/SC11_FinalReport.pdf)

- **SMTA table is implemented in EURISCO intranet**

We are pleased to announce that all the fields agreed upon by the 11th ECPGR Steering Committee in September 2008: AEGIS, MLS and SMTA, are now available and searchable in EURISCO. The SMTA fields are only available on the intranet and for individual NIs to manage.

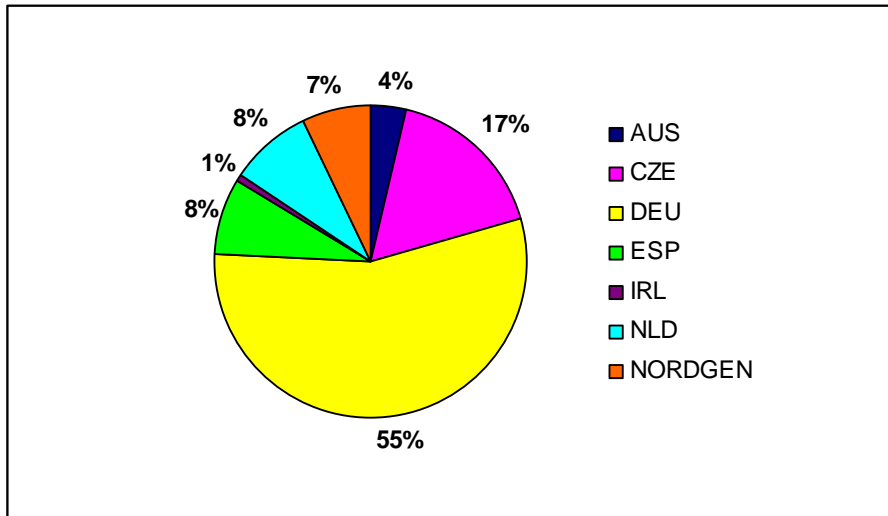
You can search for MLS material at: <http://eurisco.ecpgr.org/>.

- **Countries registering MLS through EURISCO reached almost 17% in June 2009**

EURISCO is providing access to passport and related information from all European National Inventories (NIs) and all crops, contributing to the Multilateral System (MLS) of the International Treaty as a reporting mechanism in line with the decision made at the latest ECPGR Steering Committee meeting.

The MLS flag has been populated with data from several European countries (see graph below). As reported to the ITPGRFA Governing Body [http://www.planttreaty.org/inclus\\_en.htm](http://www.planttreaty.org/inclus_en.htm), other NIs will follow in the upcoming months.

Together, the NIs have registered a total of 197,012 accessions in the MLS, representing 17% of the total of the material searchable in EURISCO- currently 1,167,610 accessions.



### Who and from where people are searching in EURISCO

The portal's user interface access totaled 7,033 in one year following the launch of the new EURISCO website (16 July 2008-20 July 2009), which represents a significant increase compared to the previous years.

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<b>7,033</b>	<b>Visits</b>
<b>3,518</b>	<b>Absolute Unique Visitors</b>
<b>63,844</b>	<b>Page views</b>
<b>9.08</b>	<b>Average Page views</b>
<b>00:05:46</b>	<b>Time on Site</b>
<b>31.99%</b>	<b>Bounce Rate</b>

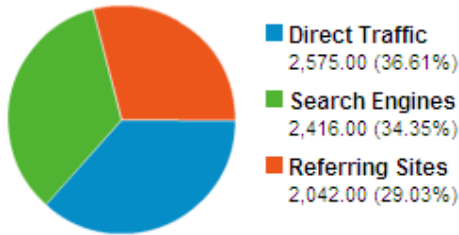
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**49.92% New Visits**

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Access to EURISCO originates from the following traffic sources:



An analysis shows that 36.61% of users go directly to EURISCO, which demonstrates that efforts at networking, representation at national and international fora, and public awareness are having direct impacts. These results indicate that a vast majority of users discover EURISCO through web search engines such as Google. Also worth to noting is the fact that a high number of users are reaching EURISCO through links from third-party websites (see table)

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**Recent analysis of the TOP 20 referring sites:**

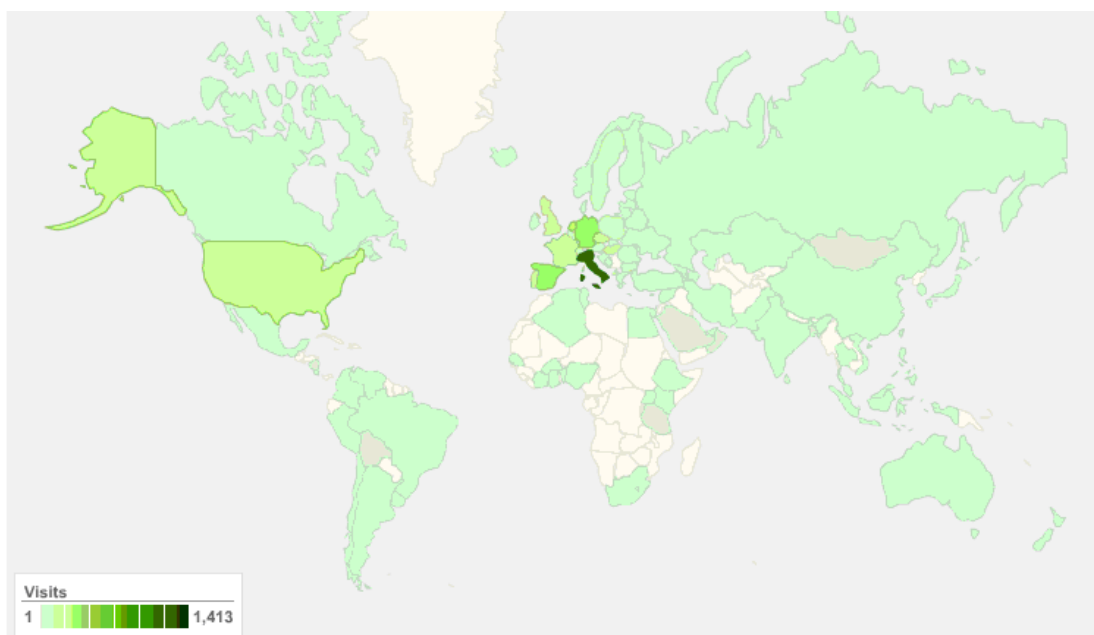
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Source/Media	Visits	Pages/Visit
1. <a href="http://ecpgr.cgjar.org">ecpgr.cgjar.org</a>	564	11.26
2. <a href="http://bioversityinternational.org">bioversityinternational.org</a>	399	9.25
3. <a href="http://genres.de">genres.de</a>	107	11.69
4. <a href="http://pgrforum.org">pgrforum.org</a>	80	5.71
5. <a href="http://genbank.vurv.cz">genbank.vurv.cz</a>	68	14.69
6. <a href="http://deoderakker.nl">deoderakker.nl</a>	56	22.64
7. <a href="http://rcat.hu">rcat.hu</a>	53	14.42
8. <a href="http://cordis.europa.eu">cordis.europa.eu</a>	44	2.45
9. <a href="http://inia.es">inia.es</a>	42	10.71
10. <a href="http://mgszh.gov.hu">mgszh.gov.hu</a>	38	3.24
11. <a href="http://www.dev.ngb.se">www.dev.ngb.se</a>	38	2.37
12. <a href="http://genbank.at">genbank.at</a>	35	9.29
13. <a href="http://go.mail.ru">go.mail.ru</a>	33	11.15
14. <a href="http://nordgen.org">nordgen.org</a>	29	13.66
15. <a href="http://etsia.upm.es">etsia.upm.es</a>	27	19.96
16. <a href="http://cropwildrelatives.org">cropwildrelatives.org</a>	20	11.65
17. <a href="http://grfa.org.uk">grfa.org.uk</a>	20	15.95
18. <a href="http://ec.europa.eu">ec.europa.eu</a>	14	2.50
19. <a href="http://sebcp.blogspot.com">sebcp.blogspot.com</a>	13	2.31
20. <a href="http://Sesto.nordgen.org">Sesto.nordgen.org</a>	13	10.31

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The monitoring-of-visitors log in the new EURISCO website provides a good overview of who is looking for information and on what.

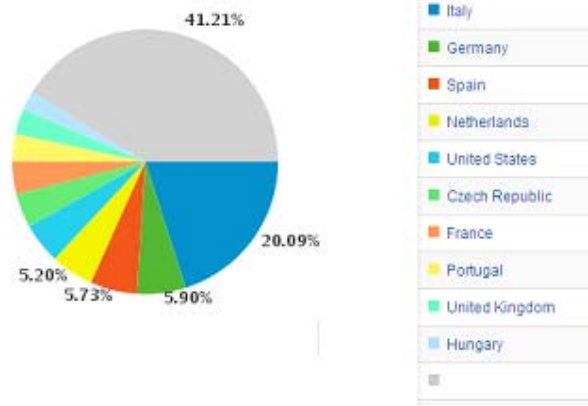
In 2008, EURISCO visitors came from 86 countries; today that number has increased to 102. Surprisingly more users from the African countries are accessing EURISCO.



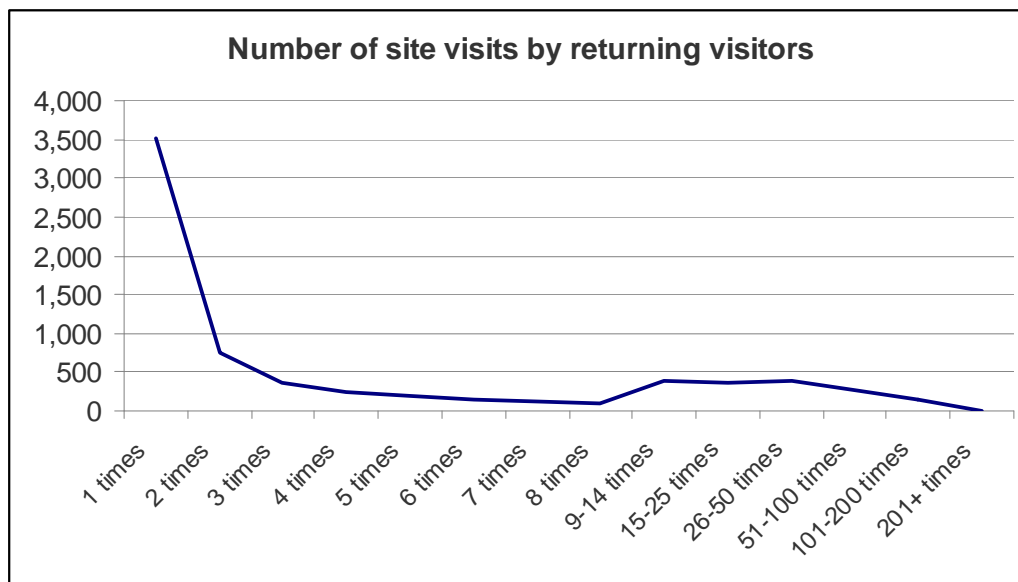
**7,033 visits came from 102 countries/territories**

Within Europe, the top 15 countries in terms of users are Germany, Spain and The Netherlands. From non-European region countries (not belonging to this network) the top countries are the United States, India and the Philippines.

Country	Visits	Pages/Visits	Country	Visits	Pages/Visits
United States	350	5.69	Germany	415	11.12
China	104	22.44	Spain	403	11.13
India	62	6.16	Netherlands	366	13.89
Philippines	55	9.18	Czech Republic	293	7.43
Ivory Coast	55	1.14	France	281	8.55
Nigeria	46	1.07	Portugal	233	5.58
Australia	42	16.38	United Kingdom	222	9.84
Canada	38	6.24	Hungary	159	13.13
Japan	35	8.29	Poland	142	6.75
South Africa	24	1.71	Albania	135	9.79
Brazil	23	3.83	Sweden	132	9.50
New Zealand	22	1.71	Austria	130	9.98
Colombia	19	9.00	Bulgaria	124	11.81
Argentina	15	4.73	Turkey	109	12.44
South Korea	13	5.31	Romania	96	5.04



Statistics show that an important number of visitors are browsing the EURISCO Catalogue more regularly and consistently (e.g. 9-50 times). This shows that the level users loyalty is increasing and that a growing number of visitors to EURISCO Catalogue are returning.



### Contribution from Armenia

- **National Inventories on *ex situ* Plant Genetic Resources: considerable step in improvement of national information and reporting systems in Armenia** by *Alvina Avagyan, PGR National Coordinator of Republic of Armenia*. [\[full text here\]](#)

### News (Contribution) from GRIN Global

- **GRIN-Global: a new generation genebank information management system**

During the last two decades, many genebanks have invested in improving the documentation of their germplasm collections. Despite significant progress, the lack of a robust and efficient documentation system that enabling genebanks to easily manage their information and share it in a network environment has been one of the main obstacles to the access and use of germplasm accessions. This problem will be addressed by GRIN-Global,... [\[full text here\]](#)

## Newsletter for Europe - articles

- **EPGRIS3 takes first step for characterization and evaluation data in EURISCO**

On 7 May 2009, an EPGRIS3 self-funded workshop, was organized at the Bundesanstalt für Landwirtschaft und Ernährung (BLE) in Bonn, Germany. The workshop was attended by 12 participants including most of the collaborators in EPGRIS3 activities 2-05 and 2-06. The one-day workshop was divided into two sessions, which included presentations, sketching of PGR documentation landscape and a discussion of the treatment of characterization and evaluation (C&E) data in genebanks and European Central Crop Databases. There was also a dedicated to discussion of the proposal written by Theo van Hintum for inclusion of C&E data in EURISCO.

[more in NL38 page 6 at:  
[http://www.biodiversityinternational.org/scientific\\_information/regions/europe/newsletters.html](http://www.biodiversityinternational.org/scientific_information/regions/europe/newsletters.html)]

- **EURISCO NFPs get together to collaborate and share knowledge**

A training workshop was held in Prague, Czech Republic on the 29-30 June as part of an activity of the Documentation & Information Network Coordinating Group (D&INCG) for its EPGRIS3 self-funded project activity 5-01 "National Inventories on ex situ plant genetic resources". Funding from ECPGR and the South East European Development Network on Plant Genetic Resources (SEEDNet); allowed for the participation of 30 National Focal Points (NFPs) and documentation experts. [more in NL38 page 7 at:  
[http://www.biodiversityinternational.org/scientific\\_information/regions/europe/newsletters.html](http://www.biodiversityinternational.org/scientific_information/regions/europe/newsletters.html)]

- **EURISCO Trainings and Seminars held in Armenia and Russian Federation**

Two EURISCO training and seminars were held earlier this year. The first, on 21-22 April 2009 in Yerevan, Armenia was organized by the Agrarian State University of Armenia and the EURISCO Coordinator from Biodiversity International. The second held on 13-15 May 2009 in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, was organized by the N.I. Vavilov Research Institute of Plant Industry (VIR) and the EURISCO Coordinator from Biodiversity. These were the third and fourth in a series of trainings and seminars: more are planned in other countries. [more in NL38 page 9 at:  
[http://www.biodiversityinternational.org/scientific\\_information/regions/europe/newsletters.html](http://www.biodiversityinternational.org/scientific_information/regions/europe/newsletters.html)]

In addition, many other activities and actions have been carried out during 2008. Further information can be found on the EURISCO website at <http://eurisco.ecpgr.org>.

Through the 'EURISCO E-Bulletin', we hope to inform you about EURISCO activities and benefits. You are receiving this bulletin either because you have previously indicated an interest in receiving our news, or because you are associated with an organization that has an interest in biodiversity and biodiversity data.

If you do not wish to receive this e-bulletin, please reply to this message with "unlist from EURISCO e-bulletin" in the subject line.

Please feel free to forward this message to friends and colleagues.

If this e-mail has been forwarded to you and you wish to subscribe personally to the e-bulletin, please reply to this message with the word "subscribe to EURISCO e-bulletin" in the subject line.

If you wish to contribute to or comment on the e-bulletin, please contact [s.dias@cgiar.org](mailto:s.dias@cgiar.org) or use the sign-up form on the EURISCO website at: [http://eurisco.ecpgr.org/releases/e\\_bulletin.php](http://eurisco.ecpgr.org/releases/e_bulletin.php)

You can find the previous issues of the e-bulletin at <http://eurisco.ecpgr.org/releases/issues.php>.

## Planned meetings

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Meeting	Venue	Date
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ECPGR Medicinal and Aromatic Plants WG	Menemen, Izmir, Turkey	29 September -1st October 2009
ECPGR Sugar, Starch and Fibre Crops Network – Network Coordinating Group and ECCDB Managers meeting	Quedlinburg, Germany	8 -9 October 2009
TDWG 2009 Annual Conference	Montpellier, France	9-13 November 2009
ECPGR Vegetables Network - 3rd meeting	Catania, Italy	10-12 November 2009
ECPGR Barley Working Group - Workshop on pre-breeding for climate change	Alnarp, Sweden	24-26 November 2009

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**Forages and bean characterization (Southeastern Europe)**

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