

## EURISCO Updates and News

"EURISCO News" is a series of e-bulletins that provide feedback to National Focal Points (NFPs) and serve as a forum for NFPs and others to put forward their comments and suggestions. In order to ensure the EURISCO Catalogue is sustainable and meets the NFPs' and other users' needs, all are invited to contribute to this e-bulletin. 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**

Previous e-bulletins are available at: <http://eurisco.ecpgr.org/releases/issues.php>

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

These two fact sheets, which provide information about the history and structure of EURISCO, as well as EURISCO's contribution to meeting national and international commitments, are available in the 15 languages listed below; those in bold were released in 2009 ([view or download these at: http://eurisco.ecpgr.org/releases/fact\\_sheet.php](http://eurisco.ecpgr.org/releases/fact_sheet.php)). Further efforts are underway to publish the fact sheets in other European languages; these efforts are provided as in-kind contributions from the NFPs.

[Albanian](#), [Armenian](#), [Azeri](#), [Croatian](#), [Czech](#), [Danish](#), [English](#), [German](#), [Norwegian](#), [Portuguese](#), [Romanian](#), [Russian](#), [Slovak](#), [Spanish](#) and [Turkish](#)

- **Russian and Portuguese are here, Bosnian and Herzegovinian is on the way**

The Bosnian and Herzegovinian fact sheet translation will soon be available from the above link.

The fact sheets, available in the different languages, have been a valuable tool for dissemination and public awareness activities with regards to the EURISCO Catalogue. If you would like to contribute to the translations for country and language, [let us know](#).

### **EURISCO poster update**

The [EURISCO poster](#) has been updated and the December version is available for download at <http://eurisco.ecpgr.org/releases/posters.php>.

### **Network news**

- **New NFPs were appointed in 2009 from:**

Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Italy, Ireland, Latvia, Montenegro, Portugal,

Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Sweden and Ukraine. NFPs 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 Trainings and Seminars

### Two additional Trainings and Seminars took place

- **EURISCO Training and Seminar, 20-22 October 2009, Kharkov, Ukraine**  
[http://eurisco.ecpgr.org/contact\\_menu/training.php](http://eurisco.ecpgr.org/contact_menu/training.php)

A EURISCO Training and Seminar was held in Kharkiv, Ukraine from 20-22 October 2009, organized by the Institute of Plant Production n.a. V.Y. Yuriev of UAAS - National Centre for Plant Genetic Resources of Ukraine (NCPGRU) and the EURISCO Coordinator from Bioversity International. NCPGRU provided funding for the 44 participants attending the events.

The objectives of this Training and Seminar were to: strengthen national capacity for data exchange and the sustainability of EURISCO; pursue the improvement of data richness and completeness through the enhancement of the quality and quantity of data flowing into the Catalogue; and provide training to Ukrainian documentation experts and to the NFP.

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



- **EURISCO Training and Seminar, 30 November-1 December 2009, Banjaluka, Bosnia and Herzegovina** [http://eurisco.ecpgr.org/contact\\_menu/training.php](http://eurisco.ecpgr.org/contact_menu/training.php)

From 30 November to 1 December 2009, a EURISCO Training and Seminar was held in Banjaluka, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The event was organized by the Genetic Resources Institute - University of Banjaluka and ECPGR/Bioversity International.

The objectives of this Training and Seminar were to strengthen the sustainability of EURISCO and to improve data completeness by enhancing the quality and quantity of data flowing into the Catalogue. Hands-on training was provided to the Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia NFPs, with the aim to ensure all NFPs maintain the same level of development and knowledge.



This was the fourth in a series of trainings and seminars; more are envisioned to be held in other countries. If you think such trainings would be useful and are interested in learning more about holding one in your country [let us know.](#)

- **2009 list of EURISCO Training, Seminars and workshop activities:**

Armenia, Russian Federation, Czech Republic, Ukraine and Bosnia and Herzegovina together with Serbia. These trainings have reached a total of 113 people and have contributed to the updating of the National Inventories (NIs).

## Dissemination activities and News

### New NIs available in EURISCO in 2009

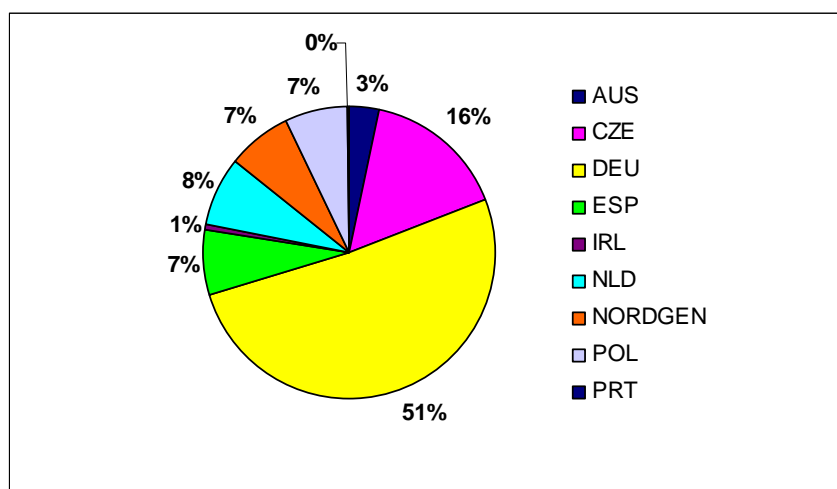
The NIs to join the EURISCO Catalogue this year was **Belarus** and **Montenegro**, who joined in June. Since then, and most recently, **Croatia** has also joined, adding more value to the information available in EURISCO. With this newcomer, the Catalogue now represents 40 European countries. We hope that the other countries: Belgium, Malta, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Moldova will follow in the coming months.

### In December 2009 material under the MLS registered through EURISCO reached almost 20% of the total material.

EURISCO is providing access to passport and related information for all crops from all European NIs, contributing to the Multilateral System (MLS) of the International Treaty as a reporting mechanism, in line with the decision taken 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, NIs have registered a total of 212,619 accessions in the MLS, representing 20% of the total material searchable in EURISCO, currently 1,042,718 accessions, and covering 66% of the genera from Annex I of the ITPGRFA.



### Annex I Genera covered by EURISCO MLS flag

*Avena, Beta, Brassica, Cajanus, Cicer, Dioscorea, Eleusine, Fragaria, Helianthus, Hordeum, Ipomoea, Lathyrus, Lens, Malus, Oryza, Pennisetum, Phaseolus, Pisum, Secale, Solanum, Triticosecale, Triticum, Vicia, Zea, Astragalus, Canavalia, Coronilla, Hedysarum, Lathyrus, Lotus, Lupinus, Medicago, Onobrychis, Ornithopus, Trifolium, Agropyrum, Alopecurus, Arrhenatherum, Dactylis, Festuca, Lolium, Phalaris, Phleum, and Poa*

### Who is searching EURISCO? And from where?

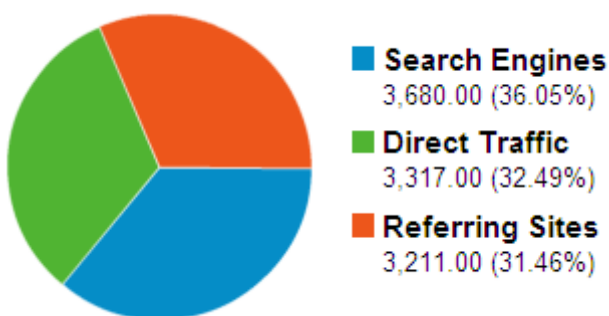
One year after the launch of the new EURISCO website (16 July 2008 – 10 December 2009), the total number of searches on the portal's user interface was 10,208, representing a considerable increase when compared to the previous years.

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<b>10,208</b>	<b>Visits</b>
<b>4,924</b>	<b>Absolute Unique Visitors</b>
<b>91,517</b>	<b>Page Views</b>
<b>8.97</b>	<b>Average Page Views</b>
<b>00:05:41</b>	<b>Time on Site</b>
<b>34.04%</b>	<b>Bounce Rate</b>
<b>48.07%</b>	<b>New Visits</b>

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Access to EURISCO originates from the following online traffic sources:



The analysis shows that 32.46% 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 many users also discover EURISCO through web search engines such as Google. It is worth noting that a high number of users are accessing EURISCO through links from third-party websites (see table).

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

Source/Media	Visits	Pages/Visit
1. <a href="http://ecpgr.cgiar.org">ecpgr.cgiar.org</a>	836	11.71
2. <a href="http://biodiversityinternational.org">biodiversityinternational.org</a>	589	9.03
3. <a href="http://www.dev.ngb.se">www.dev.ngb.se</a>	265	1.88
4. <a href="http://Genres.de">Genres.de</a>	134	11.13
5. <a href="http://Pgrforum.org">Pgrforum.org</a>	116	5.53
6. <a href="http://genbank.vurv.cz">genbank.vurv.cz</a>	82	13.92
7. <a href="http://rcat.hu">rcat.hu</a>	61	7.20
8. <a href="http://deoderakker.nl">deoderakker.nl</a>	59	22.29
9. <a href="http://cordis.europa.eu">cordis.europa.eu</a>	53	2.43
10. <a href="http://mgszh.gov.hu">mgszh.gov.hu</a>	47	3.15
11. <a href="http://genbank.at">genbank.at</a>	46	10.78
12. <a href="http://inia.es">inia.es</a>	45	10.31
13. <a href="http://nordgen.org">nordgen.org</a>	45	10.11
14. <a href="http://eu-vitis.de">eu-vitis.de</a>	32	1.31
15. <a href="http://win.mail.ru">win.mail.ru</a>	32	5.75
16. <a href="http://etsia.upm.es">etsia.upm.es</a>	27	19.96
17. <a href="http://cropwildrelatives.org">cropwildrelatives.org</a>	25	9.68
18. <a href="http://grfa.org.uk">grfa.org.uk</a>	23	15.04
19. <a href="http://ihar.edu.pl">ihar.edu.pl</a>	21	5.24
20. <a href="http://Ec.europa.eu">Ec.europa.eu</a>	20	2.35

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 site visitors were from 86 countries; today that number has increased to 106. Surprisingly more users from the African countries are accessing EURISCO.

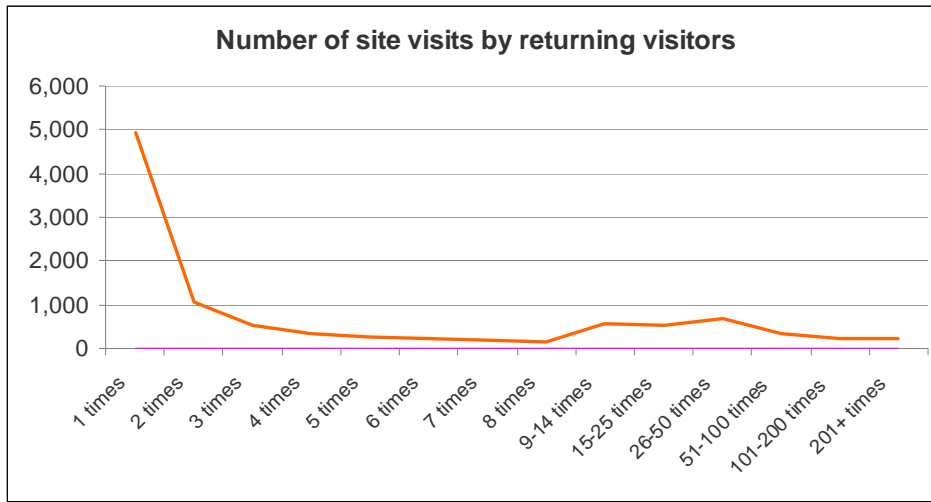


**10,223 visits came from 106 countries/territories**

Within Europe, the top countries in terms of users are Germany, Spain and The Netherlands. From non-European region countries (not part of the EURISCO network) the top countries include the United States, P.R. China and Canada.

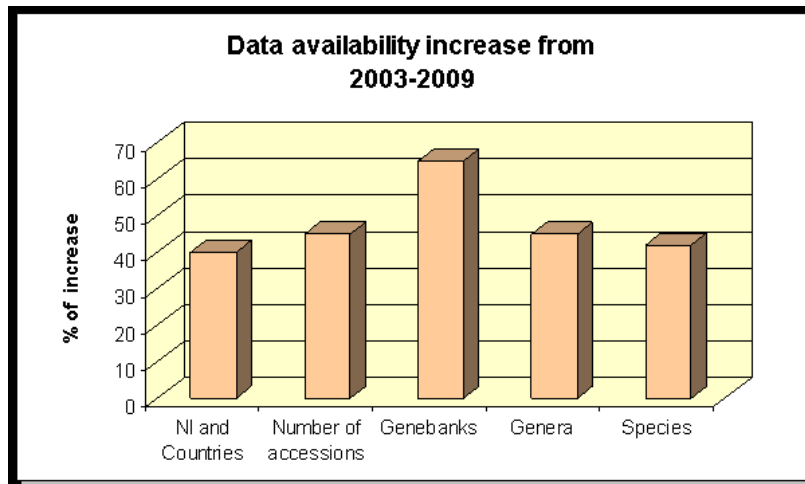
Country	Visits	Pages/Visits	Country	Visits	Pages/Visits
United States	475	5.61	Germany	612	13.36
P. R. China	123	19.67	Spain	602	11.47
Canada	95	4.69	Netherlands	481	14.90
India	85	6.46	France	410	8.40
Ivory Coast	84	1.36	United Kingdom	365	9.37
Syria	64	14.05	Czech Republic	328	7.59
Nigeria	64	1.06	Portugal	320	5.43
Philippines	59	8.88	Hungary	222	12.68
Australia	53	14.04	Austria	211	9.83
Japan	48	7.62	Sweden	186	9.59
Colombia	35	7.66	Poland	184	6.58
South Korea	31	8.35	Romania	184	3.62
South Africa	30	1.57	Bulgaria	169	11.63
New Zealand	29	19.66	Albania	164	11.30
Brazil	28	3.68	Ukraine	147	8.31

Statistics show that a significant number of visitors are browsing the EURISCO Catalogue more regularly and consistently (e.g. between 9 and 50 times) than before. This suggests that users' loyalty is increasing and that a growing number of visitors to the EURISCO Catalogue are returning.



## Some facts and actual numbers

- Increase in data availability in EURISCO

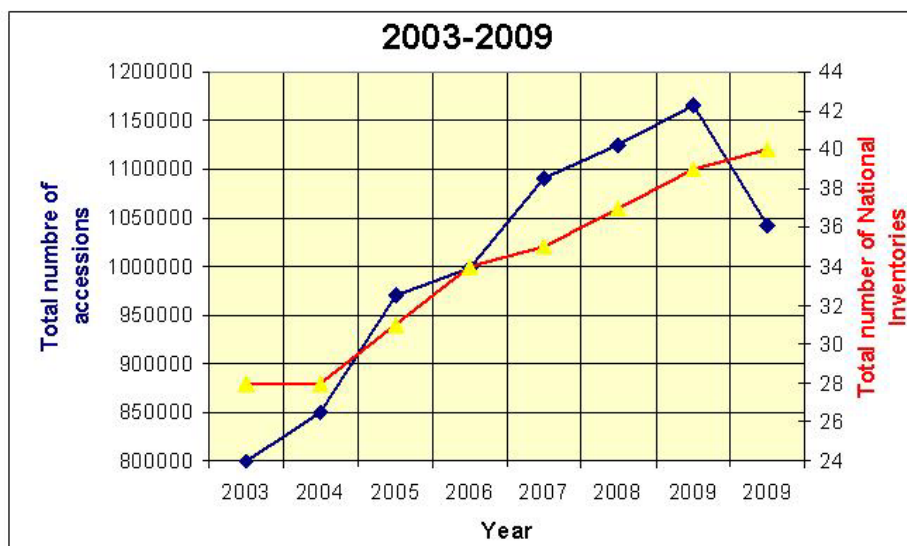


This graph highlights the increase in data availability during the period from 2003-2009. Significantly, the number of genebanks making data available has increased by over 60%.

- Facts and numbers

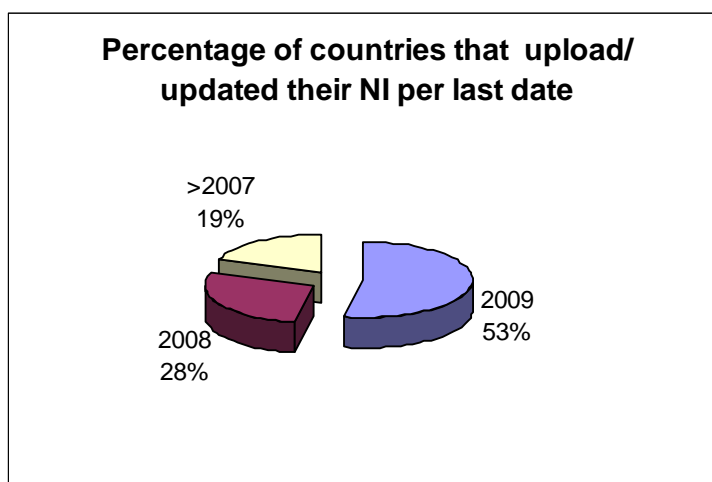
✓National Inventories	40 Countries
✓Genebanks	297
✓Wild species	93 838 accessions
✓Breeding/research material	147 450 accessions
✓Traditional cultivars/landraces	254 353 accessions
✓Improved cultivars	191 750 accessions
✓International agreement	>211 000 accessions
✓Specie	>34 556
✓Genera	>5 407

**Total 1 042, 718 accessions**



- **How old are EURISCO uploads/updates?**

From these lists, 58% of the NIs has been uploaded/updated during 2009; the remaining inventories were uploaded/updated in 2008 and 2007 or earlier. It should be noted that many countries might, during the subsequent days of December, upload/update their NIs. These will be reported on the next EURISCO e-bulletin in 2010.



## News

- **EURISCO Taxonomic reports**

In an attempt to further increase the data in the EURISCO-NI and genebanks, new taxonomic reports were once again distributed to NFPs. Using these reports as reference, we encourage you to contact your originator data sources for updating the taxonomy, followed by an update of the NI and EURISCO. This is one more activity to help NFPs pursue activities to improve data quality. A total of 333 reports were sent to the NFPs in December.

- **Contribution from Bosnia and Herzegovina – “GENETIC RESOURCES INSTITUTE, UNIVERSITY OF BANJALUKA: A NEW PGR HOLDER. Briefing Note”**

In light of the considerable amount of biodiversity research being conducted in Republika Srpska (Bosnia and Herzegovina), as well as the imminent need to conserve and sustainably use plant genetic resources (PGR), the Genetic Resources Institute of the University of Banjaluka (GRIBL) was established in 2009, in Banjaluka

(44o 46' North 17o 11' East). [\[full text here\]](#)

- **Going on 40 - Three more Countries joined EURISCO network in 2009**

During 2009, EURISCO was enriched by the uploading of the Belarus, Montenegro and Croatia NIs. With these additions, the Catalogue now includes 40 countries from the European region. We expect that in the coming year the remaining countries of Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Malta and Moldova, will join the network with their NIs.

- **Renewal of the EURISCO data sharing agreement**

Time is approaching for the renewal of the EURISCO Memorandum of Understanding. In line with this the renew agreement shall be made available to all ECPGR National Coordinators and NFPs, for its signature in January. We would like to encourage all of you to take all the necessary efforts to have the data sharing agreement signed as soon as possible.

The data sharing agreement will be compliant and in harmony with the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and also with EURISCO's function as a network data provider to other major PGR information hubs of significant interest for the PGR community.

- **EURISCO at GBIF Nodes Meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark**

A poster entitled "EURISCO, European Plant Genetic Resources Portal: A Biodiversity Thematic Network in GBIF" was presented at the 10th Meeting of the GBIF Participant Nodes Manager Committee in Copenhagen, 2-5 October 2009. The meeting agenda covered the following: training-workshop, reports from previous meetings, breakout sessions for regional and thematic discussions, content mobilization session, tools - [IPT](#) and [HIT](#), additional [training](#) and general nodes committee discussions. The first day was opened by the GBIF Secretariat and its Executive Secretariat, followed by the Nodes Committee Chair. The new reporting system and the feedback from Participants reports, regional meetings and data mobilization were presented. A preliminary analysis and discussion then took place.

This meeting was followed by the 16th Meeting of the [GBIF Governing Board \(GB16\)](#), from 6-8 October 2009, with 138 registered delegates.

- **EURISCO at the 2009 TDWG conference, E-Knowledge about Biodiversity and Agriculture Montpellier, France**

The 2009 TDWG Conference was held in Montpellier, France from 9-13 November 2009, and was hosted by Agropolis and Bioversity International at Le Corum in central Montpellier.

The conference included both plenary and theme-based working group sessions, poster presentations, computer demonstrations and tutorials.

The aim of the Conference was to work on real solutions for real problems; space for plenary presentations was limited, but numerous poster and computer demonstrations took place.

This was the first time the theme of Agricultural was on the agenda for discussion. The three major themes were:

1. **Outcomes of the e-Biosphere 09 Meeting in London (1-3 June) – and taking the Roadmap for Biodiversity Informatics forward.** Theme leader: Prof. Walter Berendsohn, Botanischer Garten und Botanisches Museum Berlin-Dahlem (BGBM), Head, Department of Biodiversity Informatics and Laboratories
2. **Agricultural Biodiversity Informatics: developing and expending standards.** Theme Leader: Elizabeth Arnaud, Bioversity International Coordinator, Biodiversity Informatics Project
3. **Data Integration.** Theme leader: Roger Hyam, Natural History Museum (London). Project Officer, Pan European Species Infrastructure (PESI).

TDWG's activities within the biodiversity informatics domain can be found in the [Activities](#) section of this website. More details on the conference are available from the [MAIN CONFERENCE PAGE](#)

## **Newsletter for Europe - articles**

- **EURISCO Trainings and Seminars held in Ukraine**

A EURISCO Training and Seminar was held in Kharkiv, Ukraine from 20-22 October 2009, organized by the Institute of Plant Production n.a. V.Y. Yuriev of UAAS - National Centre for Plant Genetic Resources of Ukraine (NCPGRU) and the EURISCO Coordinator from Bioversity International. NCPGRU provided funding for the 44

participants to attend the event. [more [in NL39 page 19](#)]

## Planned meetings

Meeting	Venue	Date
ECPGR Documentation and Information Network Coordinating Group - 2nd meeting	Rome, Italy	17-18 February 2010
ECPGR Grain Legumes Working Group - ad hoc meeting of the 10 Grain Legume DB Managers	Antalya, Turkey	22 -23 April 2010

In addition, many other activities and actions have been carried out during 2009. Further information can be found on the EURISCO website at <http://eurisco.ecpgr.org>.

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> .



## ***2009 Season's Greetings!***

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 "unsubscribe from EURISCO e-bulletin" in the subject line. Please feel free to forward this message to friends and colleagues.

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**For more information, please contact:**

Sónia Dias

EURISCO Coordinator

Tel: (+39) 066118204

Fax: (+39) 0661979661

E-mail: [s.dias@cgiar.org](mailto:s.dias@cgiar.org)