

## EURISCO Updates and News

This "EURISCO News" is a series of e-bulletins to provide feedback to National Focal Points (NFP) as well as being a forum for NFP and others to put forward their comments and suggestions.

In order to make the EURISCO Catalogue sustainable and meeting the NFPs and users needs I would like to invite all of you to contribute to the 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

As announced in the previous e-bulletin (June 2008), this is a special issue announcing:

### **The New EURISCO website is out.**

Click [here](#) and have a look!

**Do you know how it looks like? Make a guess!**

1. We have circulated the test version to the EAG members and to a group of selected power users, for comments and suggestions
2. The resulting comments and suggestions were incorporated to the extent possible. See list under new website ["Releases-News"](#) page
3. The EURISCO work plan for 2008 and the EURISCO Logframe was submitted to the D&I NCG for the next ECPGR Phase VIII and for the upcoming Steering Committee endorsement; the 2004-2008 report and budget for next phase will be soon available at XI SC [background documents page](#)
4. The EURISCO external evaluation/assessment: needs and recommendations for setting a road map", report is finalized and available [here](#)

## Dissemination activities and News

### **New EURISCO website is out.**

After being circulated among the EAG members and a group of selected power users, for comments and suggestions; the revised version is available, although as you all know, a website is always in a metamorphic

stage and thus, it is never in its final form, a lot has yet to be done and further improvements will be reflected along time, as appropriate and as possible.

Some background history on this website. This renovation has been long hopped for. Although, it started in 2007, with several attempts to be released during last year, then beginning of 2008 and we are in July and here it is. This experience it showed that sometimes is worth taking time. From the feedback received, it seems that this new EURISCO covers most of the diversity of users' needs. I say most because in a diverse universe as Plant Genetic Resources there is never a one solution that fits all. And that as been the challenge to incorporate as much as possible of everybody's wishes (some still not yet incorporated). So, if you see that your wish is still not there do not be disappointed, it might be on its way or send us a note with what you would like to see or contribute with and if possible will be implemented; if not, keep looking and might be that other solutions might solve your desire.

A very special word is due to the EAG members and the selected group of power users, that, availing themselves of their extensive experience and deep knowledge, took their time and evaluated the EURISCO test version, making numerous and valuable comments and suggestions for further improvement. To all of them, our gratitude.

For the full development of this website and its search component, several people have been involved at different stages and a lot of our background experience as well as the feedback collected from the previous years have been critical to reach this point. All this has been possible due to the entire EURISCO network, to ECPGR, to Bioversity, but especially to those more closely involved in the development stage, and I would like to make a particular mention here to the team and a very warm thank to them for their contributions: Samy Gaiji, Raj Sood, Milko Skofic, Kiran Viparthy.

As from my side, I'm very happy to bring this site to life and to have reached this turning point. It has been a very intense and committed period for me, with all the coordination, designing all the search part, follow up on the development and the new website design, but at last it is an enormous pleasure to see EURISCO moving forward and taking the right avenue forward.

As said before this does not stop or finish here; it is just the turning page and the EURISCO website and network will grow to meeting yours and other users' needs of information on PGR.

The future is in your hands now, and I invite you all to go through it, start using it. Your critical views are important to us. Please give us your feedback and suggestions.

- Simple/advanced & multiple searches
- Download what you searched
- View passport data
- Download Excel, CSV, XML
- Updated information
- PA materials available/download
- Follow up-feedback
- Tools and documents pages
- Meetings and reports pages
- And several links to other important sources of information

**This is what you can find, and more. Now [have a look](#) and give us your feedback and/or suggestions**

## **Workplan for 2008**

The EURISCO work plan for 2008 and the EURISCO Logframe submitted to the D&I NCG for the next ECPGR Phase VIII for the upcoming Steering Committee endorsement.

The 2004-2008 EURISCO progress report and the budget for next ECPGR Phase will be soon available at XI SC

[background documents page](#)

## EURISCO external evaluation/assessment

As announced in an earlier e-bulletin, EURISCO went through an external evaluation/assessment, commissioned by Bioversity, and the report is now available, setting a road map for the EURISCO scenario for the upcoming years. Click [here](#) to see the report.

### Some insights:

The significance of the EURISCO Catalogue will grow considerably in the near future with the implementation of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) and the project "A Strategic Framework for the Implementation of a European Genebank Integrated System (AEGIS).

The external EURISCO evaluation/assessment was carried out during the first four months of 2008. The main purpose of the evaluation was to develop a proposal for improving EURISCO by assessing its functionalities from the users' perspectives, after five years of operation. The evaluation report highlights the strengths and weaknesses of the Catalogue and summarizes recommendations for further developments in the next phase of activities. The report consists of description of the current status of EURISCO, an analysis of the survey results, a set of recommendations and annexes.

For the survey and results report, two sets of detailed questionnaires were prepared: one addressed to the National Focal Points (NFPs) and the second addressed to the Central Crop Database Managers (CCDB Managers). A third limited set of questions regarding the utilization of EURISCO was posed to the participants of the Cereals Network Group meeting held at Foça, Turkey, 22-24 April 2008.

The evaluation shows that skilled users (NFPs and CCDB Managers) reported very positive experiences with the current EURISCO platform and functionalities. The views of common users represented by the Cereal Network Group members were also important in the evaluation.

The NFPs expressed the need for capacity building and all users stressed the necessity of raising awareness of the EURISCO Catalogue. The importance of the Catalogue was acknowledged and a strong willingness to further pursue data quality improvement and to support further development of EURISCO was expressed by all respondents.

The EURISCO future and recommendations and road map is set for activities from 2008 to 2013, and these cover:

- EURISCO outreach
- Data quantity and quality
- Upload mechanism
- Web-services and user interface
- Network National Focal Points
- Promoting the use of EURISCO
- EURISCO in the Global System
- Road map proposal
- Road map priorities


## Planned meetings

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Meeting	Venue	Date	Documents
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<h3>About EURISCO</h3>  <p>The EURISCO web catalogue receives data from the National inventories, and provides access to all <i>ex situ</i> PGR information in Europe.</p>	<h3>Search the database</h3>  <table><tr><td><b>Quick Search</b> Make a search using keywords only</td><td><b>Advanced Search</b> Use various criteria to search db</td></tr></table>	<b>Quick Search</b> Make a search using keywords only	<b>Advanced Search</b> Use various criteria to search db	<a href="#">Contacts</a> <a href="#">Intranet</a> <a href="#">FAQs</a> <a href="#">Training</a>
<b>Quick Search</b> Make a search using keywords only	<b>Advanced Search</b> Use various criteria to search db			

[New EURISCO website home page](#)

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