

## 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 that 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>

### **Network news**

- **Three new NFPs were appointed in 2010 from:**

Greece, Italy and NordGen 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)

## Dissemination activities and News

### **New National Inventory (NI) available in EURISCO in 2010**

The newest NI to join the EURISCO Catalogue this year was **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, adding more value to the information available in EURISCO. With this newcomer, the Catalogue now represents 41 European countries.

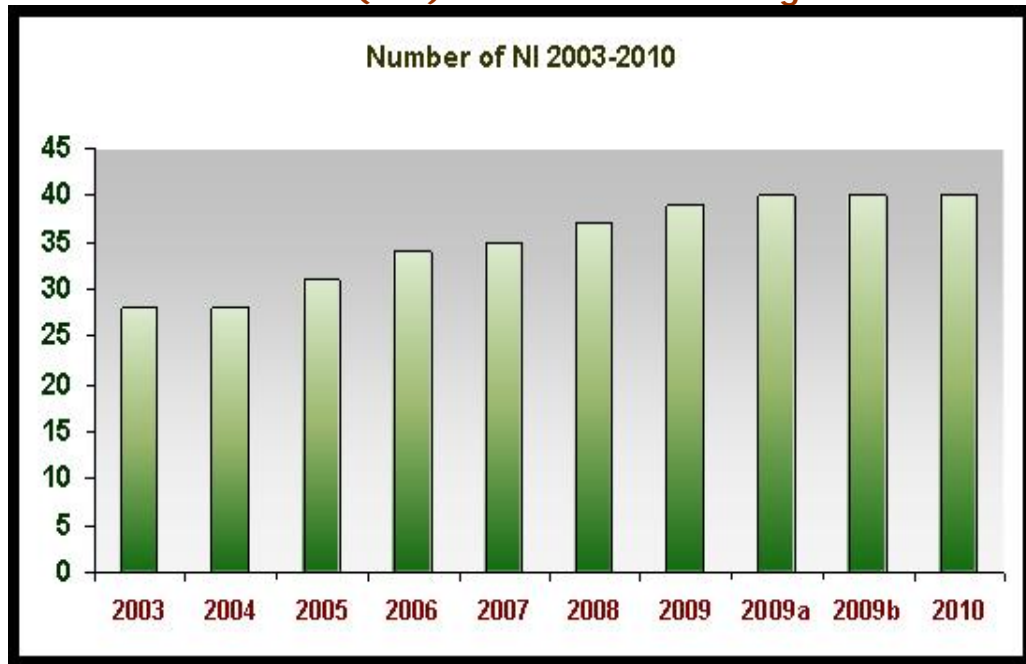
We hope that the countries yet to become members - Belgium, Malta, and Moldova - will follow in the coming months.

### **ECPGR Documentation and Information Network Coordinating Group – also operating as the EURISCO Advisory Group**

A presentation on 'EURISCO Status' was made at the meeting of the ECPGR Documentation and Information Network Coordinating Group held at Bioversity's Headquarters in Maccaresse, Italy on 17-18 February. The full ppt is available at [http://www.ecpgr.cgiar.org/Networks/Info\\_doc/Feb\\_2010\\_Presentations/08\\_EURISCO\\_status\\_Dias.pdf](http://www.ecpgr.cgiar.org/Networks/Info_doc/Feb_2010_Presentations/08_EURISCO_status_Dias.pdf)

## Summary figures on status of EURISCO:

### National Inventories (NIs) 2003-2010: reaching out to 41 European countries

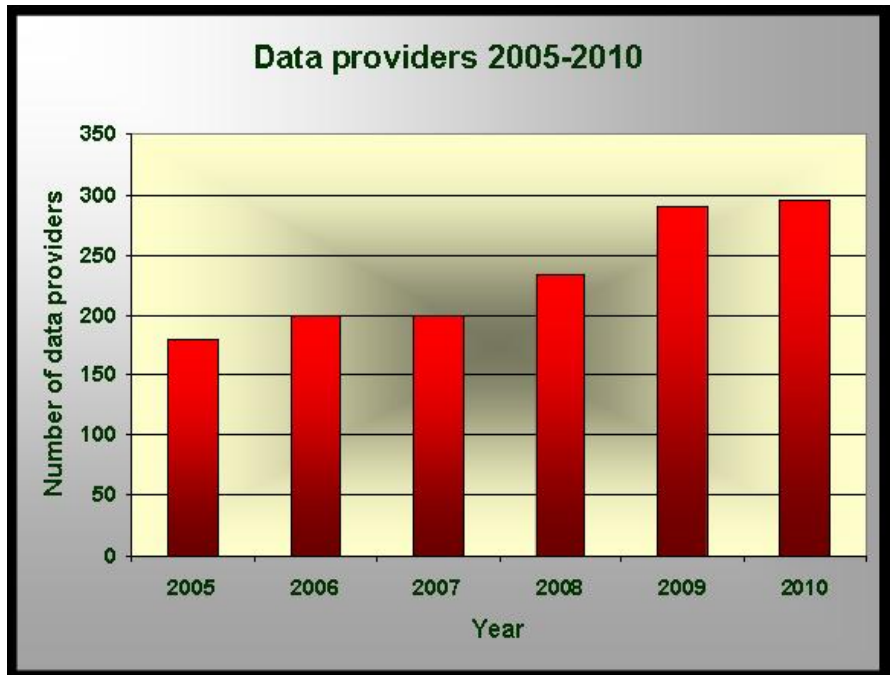


EURISCO has reached 41 European countries:

- with two new entries in 2008: Albania and Turkey;
- three new entries in 2009: Belarus, Croatia and Montenegro;
- and in 2010: Bosnia and Herzegovina.

### Data providers 2005-2010

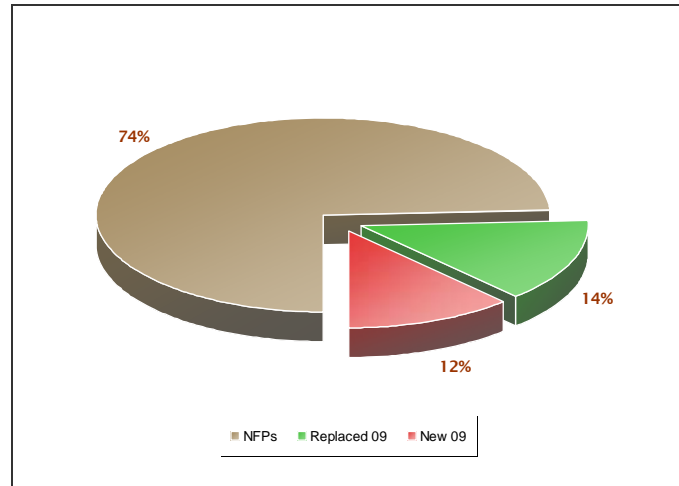
The number of data providers increased 74% from 2005 to 2010 (from about 175 to near 300 today).



## National Focal Points (NFPs)

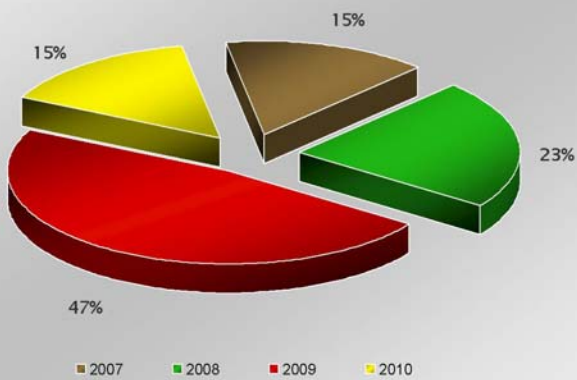
During 2009, 12% of NFPs were newly appointed and 14% were replacements. This situation has important impacts on the needs for follow up, support and training.

As the adjacent pie graph indicates, one quarter of the NFPs either new or replaced in 2009.



Source: EURISCO, December 2009

Percentage of countries that updated their NI per last date

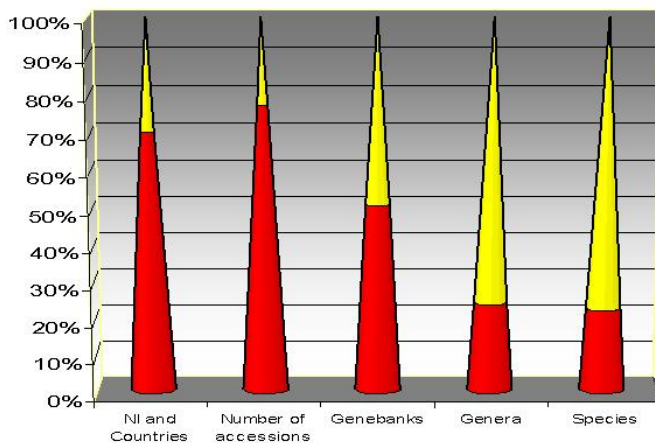


Source: EURISCO, February 2010

## Data refreshment

In 2009 and 2010, 62% of countries updated their NIs while the remaining 38% made updates in 2007 and 2008.

## DATA AVAILABILITY GROWTH 2004-2010

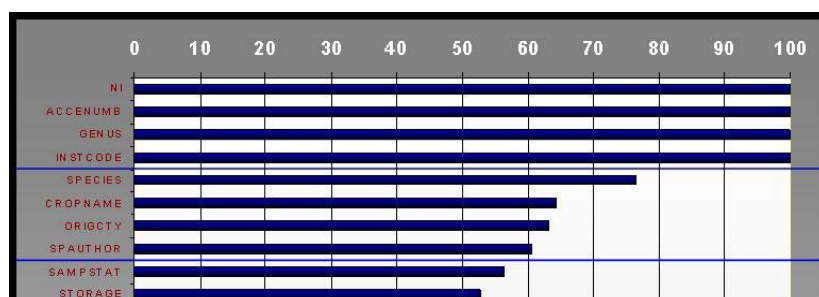


Increase in data availability from 2004-2010:

The number of accessions for which EURISCO makes data available has increased by over 70%.

## Top ten EURISCO completeness descriptors

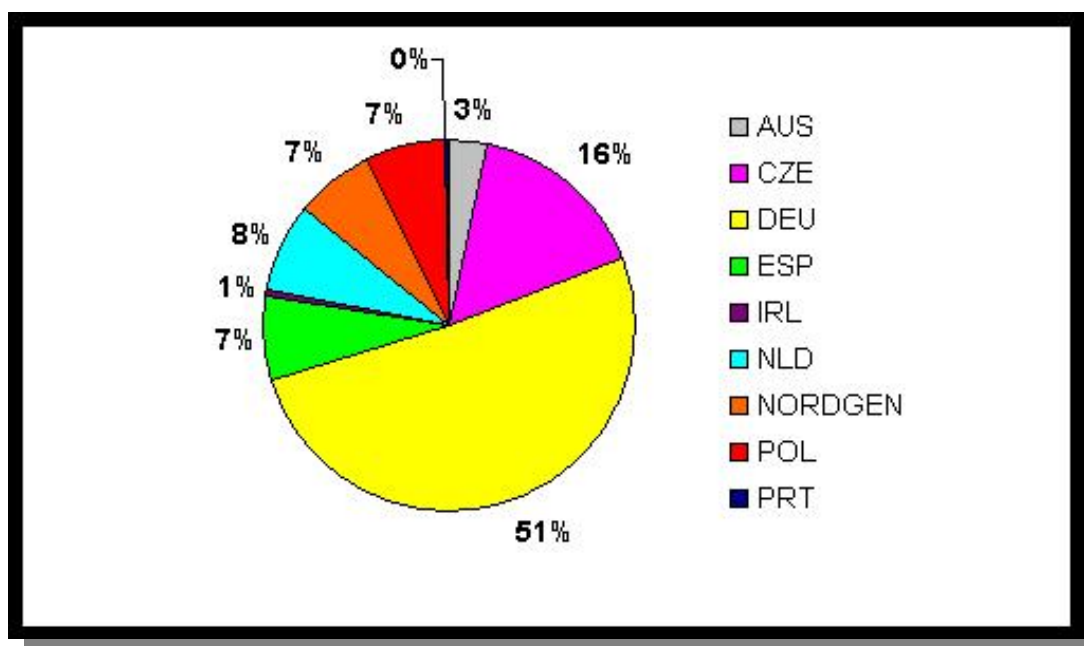
These are the top ten descriptors from the total accessions held in EURISCO, holding more than 50% of the information. The remaining passport descriptors hold between 5% and 50% of available information.



## ITPGRFA in EUROPE: Multilateral System (MLS) registrations in EURISCO

Together, NIs have registered 211,805 accessions in the MLS:

- representing around 20% of the total material searchable in EURISCO,
- covering around 66% of the genera from Annex I of the ITPGRFA.



## Summary facts and numbers regarding changes and improvements of EURISCO:

- As a result of NIs' updates and the consequent EURISCO data refreshment, the total number of accessions decreased by 84,226 from 2008 to 2009, reaching 1,049,469 accessions in December 2009.
- New NIs joined EURISCO, raising the number of participating countries to 41.
- There was an increase of 46 data providers, now reaching 297 institutes conserving PGR.
- The number of species represented in EURISCO increased by 25,817, now reaching 34,556 species.
- More than 47% of NIs were updated during 2009; 15% have already been updated in 2010.
- The types of materials searchable through EURISCO include: "wild" 10%, "landraces" 25%, "breeding"

15% and “improved cultivars” 19% of the total material documented in EURISCO.

- MLS registration increased from 14% in 2008 to almost 20% of the total EURISCO accessions in 2009, and from 11 to 13 countries. These cover around 66% of the species from Annex I of the ITPGRFA.
- There was a 60% increase in the number of genebanks making data available between 2003-2009.

## News

- **EURISCO GIS reports sent to NFPs in March 2010**

In an attempt to further increase data quality and completeness in the EURISCO, NIs and genebanks, new GIS reports, were distributed to NFPs. Using these reports as a reference, we encourage you to contact your original data sources to update the coordinates followed by an update of the NI and to EURISCO. This is one more activity to help NFPs to improve the data quality and completeness.

- **Contributions from Portugal – Banco Português de Germoplasma Vegetal.  
BPGV shares valuable data sets,**

- **“Portuguese *Allium* collection maintained at the BPGV is available in the EURISCO Catalogue”**

*Allium* is a very large genus that contains approximately 700 species, including economically important vegetables like onion (*Allium cepa* L.) and garlic (*Allium sativum* L.). The Mediterranean region was considered by Vavilov (1951) to be the secondary centre of diversity for this species, and Halnet (1996) believed the Mediterranean region to be one of the centres of diversity of the genus *Allium*. Onion and garlic are strongly linked to Portuguese gastronomy and tradition in rural communities. [\[full text here\]](#) by **Filomena Rocha, Aida Reis and Carlos Gaspar.**

- **“Portuguese *Brassica* collection maintained at the BPGV is available in the EURISCO Catalogue”**

Cole and turnips are very important vegetable crops in Portuguese traditional farming and diets. The long history of *Brassica* cultivation in Portugal has given rise to a great number of *Couve tronchuda* and turnip landraces presenting high morphological diversity and multiple culinary uses. The Portuguese *tronchuda* cabbage and *galega* kale landraces represent a unique group of vegetable crops belonging to *Brassica oleracea* L., which can only be found in Portugal or in regions with a strong Portuguese influence. [\[full text here\]](#) by **Filomena Rocha, Violeta Lopes and Carlos Gaspar.**

- **“Portuguese Maize collection maintained at the BPGV will be available in the EURISCO Catalogue”**

Portugal is a rich repository of maize genetic resources. Maize has been cultivated by small farmers in the north-western region of Portugal since the 16<sup>th</sup> century following Portuguese discoveries.

In 1977, the Portuguese Genebank (BPGV) began the systematic collecting and conservation of maize germplasm (*Zea mays* L.), with technical and financial support from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources (IBPGR; now Bioversity International).

In 1978, Dr Erna Benett, then coordinator of IBPGR’s genetic resources programme for the Mediterranean region, ... [\[full text here\]](#) by **Filomena Rocha, Ana Maria Barata and Carlos Gaspar.**

- **ECPGR Documentation and Information Network Coordinating Group - Outcomes**

The ECPGR Documentation and Information Network Coordinating Group held its fourth meeting on 17-18 February 2010 at Bioversity’s Headquarters, Maccaresse, Italy. [\[More info\]](#)

Agenda, list of participants and presentations at  
[http://www.ecpgr.cgiar.org/Networks/Info\\_doc/Feb2010\\_Presentations.htm](http://www.ecpgr.cgiar.org/Networks/Info_doc/Feb2010_Presentations.htm)

### **EURISCO Coordinator going on maternity leave**

Please be aware that I will be on maternity leave from 2 April until September 2010. For any technical issues please contact Milko Skofic: [m.skofic@cgiar.org](mailto:m.skofic@cgiar.org).

There are plans to hire a temporary replacement for this period. When more information becomes available, it will be communicated to you.

For any matters that are not technical during this period, please contact either Lorenzo Maggioni: [l.maggioni@cgiar.org](mailto:l.maggioni@cgiar.org) or Elizabeth Arnaud: [e.arnaud@cgiar.org](mailto:e.arnaud@cgiar.org).

### **Planned meetings**

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Date</b>
ECPGR Documentation and Information Network and Inter-regional Cooperation Network - 2nd meeting. Capacity building Inter-regional workshop on International Treaty implementation	To be confirmed	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 were carried out during 2009. More 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 previous issues of the e-bulletin at: <http://eurisco.ecpgr.org/releases/issues.php>.



Macaronesian Landscape. S. Miguel, Azores, Portugal

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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.

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