



CROP WILD RELATIVES DATA IN EURISCO

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- **Full title:** Extension of EURISCO for Crop Wild Relatives (CWR) in situ data and preparation of pilot countries' data sets
- **Budget:** € 247 318
- **Timeframe:** 15 November 2021 – 31 December 2023

Background – international recommendations

- Importance to conserve and document CWR acknowledged by international instruments:

CBD, GPA, ITPGRFA

Priority activity 4 of the Second GPA, section 82.k:

need to “collate information on CWR ... and make the information available through National Information Sharing Mechanisms and specialized global information systems”



Background continued – ECPGR

- Since 2014, ECPGR recommended the inclusion of in situ conservation data in the EURISCO catalogue
- ECPGR Objective 2 is ‘to provide passport and phenotypic information of actively conserved European PGRFA diversity ex situ and in situ through the EURISCO catalogue’.
 - Specifically, output 2.3 of the ECPGR objectives calls for “**Inclusion of relevant in situ CWR data in EURISCO**”.

Background continued – PGR Strategy for Europe (2021)

- **Objective:** By 2030 Europe has significantly increased its CWR [...] inventory to enable a more comprehensive view of available CWR [...] genetic diversity, to better understand how this diversity is distributed across the region and its neighbouring countries, and to identify which are the priority populations to actively conserve”.
- **Approach:** “provision of data – as appropriate – from in situ conserved populations of CWR [...] (from National Inventories) to a centralized information system, based on agreed data exchange standards.”
- **2030 Targets:**
 - Europe has a coherent, comprehensive, coordinated and centralized documentation of CWR [...] in situ diversity.
 - EURISCO contains high-quality passport data of all European ex situ collections, progressively extended to include actively-managed in situ CWR populations [...]

Background continued – EURISCO Advisory Committee (July 2021)

- Need **a policy defining what kind of material** should be included in the catalogue.
 - Define which requirements should apply to in situ data (such as ‘well-managed populations’ and ‘available for distribution’).
- A technical prerequisite for inclusion of data is the existence of a **suitable data exchange standard** and the Committee recommended the use of the “Descriptors for Crop Wild Relatives conserved in situ” published by FAO in 2021

Background continued – memo from the EURISCO Coordinator (August 2021)

- On-farm data should be excluded for the time being and the focus placed only on in situ CWR (regular updating of data)
- The FAO descriptors for CWR are a good starting point for data exchange, but fine-tuning necessary
- Use the existing EURISCO infrastructure for ex situ data and only carry out the necessary extensions

Objectives of the project

- a) Definition and agreement on the scope of EURISCO in terms of in situ CWR data (type and requirements of populations to be inventoried)
- b) Agreement at ECPGR level on the principles and mechanisms for inclusion of in situ CWR data in EURISCO
- c) Extension of EURISCO to enable hosting and public display of passport data of European in situ CWR populations
- d) Preparation and inclusion in EURISCO of datasets from seven pilot countries

Activities

- I. Preparation of draft proposal setting the principles for the inclusion of CWR data into EURISCO
- II. Coordination of steps required to reach ECPGR agreement on the principles and mechanisms
- III. Coordination of steps required to set up the in situ CWR data flow mechanism
- IV. Support to pilot countries in their preparation and delivery of in situ CWR data to EURISCO
- V. Preparation of EURISCO extension to in situ CWR data
- VI. Training of Focal Points
- VII. Public awareness products to publicize extension of CWR in EURISCO

Expected outcomes

- a. **Policy and technical document** defining the principles and requirements for the inclusion of in situ CWR data in EURISCO
- b. **Endorsement of the in situ CWR data policy** and technical document by the ECPGR Steering Committee
- c. **In situ CWR data flow mechanism** established in Europe with responsibilities assigned at country level and Focal Points trained
- d. **Extension of EURISCO** to receive in situ CWR data completed (database structure, import tool, data integrity procedures and web interface)
- e. **In situ CWR data** from seven countries included in EURISCO
- f. **Public awareness products** publicizing the EURISCO in situ CWR component

Pilot countries

- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Germany
- Lithuania
- Portugal
- Spain
- United Kingdom
- Albania
- Bulgaria
- Italy
- The Netherlands
- (Greece)
- (Türkiye)

Agreed principles

<https://www.ecpgr.cgiar.org/working-groups/crop-wild-relatives/cwr-in-eurisco>



Principles for the Inclusion of CWR Data in EURISCO

Prepared by Theo van Hintum and José Iriondo, within the framework of the ECPGR project 'Extension of EURISCO for Crop Wild Relatives (CWR) in situ data and preparation of pilot countries' data sets' (CWR data in EURISCO), funded by the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

Agreed by project partners and EURISCO Advisory Committee in May 2022