

CHECKLIST FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AEGIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU) AT NATIONAL LEVEL WITH STEP BY STEP FLOW DIAGRAM

(revised version, 12 December 2019)

Signature of the AEGIS MoU

1. Country is **member of ECPGR**.
2. Country is **Party to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (in short, “the Treaty”)** or is otherwise willing to make plant genetic resources for food and agriculture under its jurisdiction available under the conditions of the Treaty.
3. The level at which this MoU should be signed, should be adequate to carry the commitment of the Government for the establishment of AEGIS and the fulfilment of the responsibilities set out in the MoU.
4. A true copy of the MoU is signed and returned to Bioversity International (ECPGR Secretariat) and/or the original can be signed at any time by a duly authorized official at the Headquarters of Bioversity International.
5. Government **extends the mandate** of the ECPGR National Coordinator to act also as National Coordinator for AEGIS at the national level, and provides appropriate support.

Establishment of AEGIS Associate Members Agreements

Associate Members are those institutions that will carry the responsibility to maintain the European Collection and/or provide services to AEGIS.

1. **National Coordinator identifies and encourages** appropriate public, private and civil society institutions located within the country, to become **Associate Members of AEGIS**.
2. **Associate Membership Agreements** are established between the National Coordinator and Associate Members in the form set out in the Annex to the Memorandum of Understanding. A copy of each AEGIS - Associate Membership Agreement, signed by the two parties, is sent to Bioversity International (ECPGR Secretariat).

Designation of accessions to be registered for the European Collection

1. National Coordinator **promotes and coordinates with the Associate Members** concerned the designation of European Accessions, using the “Revised simplified procedure” (see box below).

Revised simplified procedure for the selection of European Accessions

1. Accessions originating within the country
(Check the old name of the country! For example, accessions from Czechoslovakia should not be excluded/forgotten, but they could be selected as appropriate by the Czech Republic or by Slovakia)
2. Accession collected or received from collecting missions outside the country and considered unique (after verification that legal status allows distribution with SMTA)
3. At the discretion of each country is the option of considering additional criteria such as completeness of passport data, presence of characterization data, safety duplication, quality of material, etc.

NOTE: WHAT TO DO In case country Y intends to take primary responsibility for accessions originating in its country, but realizes that another country X has already flagged them for long-term conservation as part of the European Collection in country X. → Country Y should proceed with flagging these accessions in EURISCO and at the same time contact the NC of country X to recommend de-flagging by country X.

2. Associate Members, **in consultation with the National ECPGR Coordinator, identify, from among the accessions** they hold, those accessions that are free from any third-party obligations or restrictions and meet the selection requirements adopted by the ECPGR Steering Committee, to be proposed for registration as **European Accessions**.
3. National Coordinator, after considering the recommendations by the Associate Members, ensures that **accessions are registered as European Accessions**, notifying such European Accessions to the European Plant Genetic Resources Search Catalogue (EURISCO), through the National Inventory System. The notification simply consists in flagging the descriptor "Part of AEGIS" with YES for each accession entering the European Collection.

Management of the European Collection by Associate Members

1. **Ensure the long-term conservation** of their **European Accessions** according to FAO and crop-specific agreed standards.
2. Ensure as soon as possible **safety-duplication of their European Accessions** in agreed conditions, under black-box arrangements as appropriate and as appropriate vegetatively propagated material at another Associate Member genebank, possibly in a different country, and/or at the Svalbard Global Seed Vault.
3. **Record public domain accession-level information** through the National Inventory System and EURISCO, including available non-confidential characterization and evaluation data.
4. **Facilitate access to and availability of European Accessions** and related information, using the [Standard Material Transfer Agreement \(SMTA\)](#) for Annex I crops and the same terms and conditions for non-Annex I crops (for purposes of research, breeding and training for food and agriculture) with the explanatory note, as agreed upon by the ECPGR Steering Committee.
5. **Provide such conservation-related services as the Associate Member may offer to other AEGIS Member** (e.g. regeneration/multiplication facilities, genotyping, taxonomic expertise, safety duplication space, cryo-conservation, laboratory screening for diseases, etc.).

STEP BY STEP FLOW DIAGRAM

1. Formalizing AEGIS membership

COUNTRY SHOULD:

Become or already be member of ECPGR

Be Party to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (or otherwise willing to make plant genetic resources for food and agriculture under its jurisdiction available under the conditions of the Treaty)

Sign the [MoU](#) on an adequate level

(the level should be able to carry the commitment of the Government for the establishment of AEGIS and the fulfilment of the responsibilities set out in the MoU)

Return a true copy to Bioversity International (ECPGR Secretariat)

(and/or the original can be signed at any time by a duly authorized official at the Headquarters of Bioversity International.)

Extend the Mandate of the National Coordinator and provide appropriate support (ECPGR National Coordinator has to act also as National Coordinator for AEGIS at the national level)

Country receives status as member of AEGIS

National Coordinator identifies Associate Members within the country

(possible Members: appropriate public, private and civil society institutions)

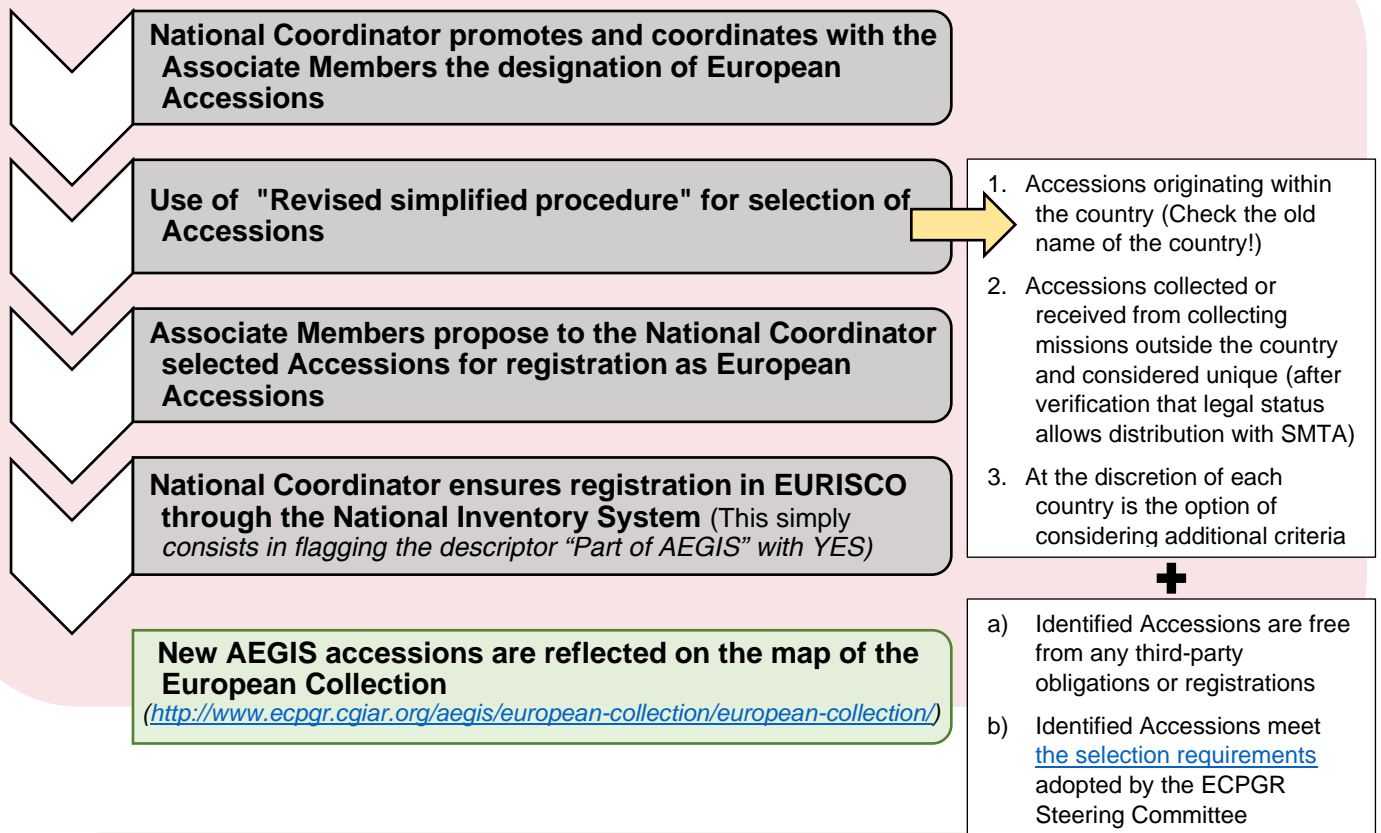
Both National Coordinator and Associate Member institution sign the Associate Membership Agreement (in the form set out in the [Annex to the MoU](#))

A copy of each Agreement is sent to Bioversity International (ECPGR Secretariat)

Country can start identifying accessions for the European Collection

2. Identification and management of Accessions for the European Collection

How to add Accessions to the European Collection:



Responsibilities of AEGIS Associate Members:

