



General status of AEGIS

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Content of presentation

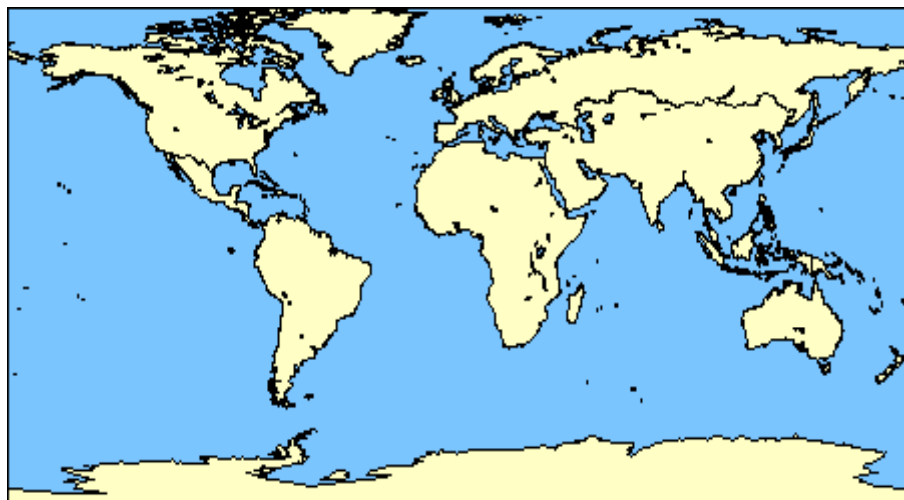


1. Historical background
2. Establishment, milestones and key components of AEGIS
3. Perceived benefits of AEGIS
4. The European Collection
5. AQUAS – development of a quality management system

Background ECPGR



■ Worldwide



- 1,750 genebanks/collections
- Approx. 7 million accessions
- Estimated 2 million unique
- Example: approx. **25,000 Allium** accessions (SoW Report II)

■ Europe



- App. 625 genebanks/germplasm coll.
- > 2 million accessions
- 30-40% unique (estimate)
- Example: approx. **13,000 Allium** accessions; held in **32 genebanks in 20 countries**

Historical background



ECPGR:

- Reported **difficulties in PGR maintenance**:
 - ✓ lack of long-term conservation facilities
 - ✓ insufficient safety-duplication
 - ✓ regeneration backlogs
 - ✓ inhomogeneous quality of material
- Discussed options for **sharing conservation** responsibilities in Europe already in 1998
- SC decided in 2003 to initiate an integrated European genebank system **feasibility study** (4 model crops, incl. vegetatively propagated *Allium* and Brassicas) in 2004

Selection of Model Crops



- **Seed propagated** material – annual
- **Annex I crops** of ITPGRFA

■ *Avena*

selfing



■ *Brassica*

outcrossing



-
- **Vegetatively propagated** material – biennial and perennial
 - **Non Annex I** of ITPGRFA

■ *Allium*
(*Veg. propag.*)



■ *Prunus*



AEGIS Objective



To create A European Genebank Integrated System for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, aimed at **conserving** the genetically unique and important accessions for Europe and **making them available** for breeding and research.

Establishment and milestones of AEGIS



1. ECPGR **SC decision** to initiate establishment of AEGIS in 2006
2. ECPGR **Secretariat to coordinate**; AEGIS Coordinator appointed
3. **Feasibility studies** for 4 model crops conducted (2004-2008)
4. **Strategic framework** policy guide agreed (2008)
5. **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** developed and sent for signature to all ECPGR member countries in 1st half of 2009
6. Currently **18** countries have signed MOU
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About AEGIS

Membership

> Member countries

> Associate Members

Structure

Implementation

Documents

AEGIS Member Countries

The following countries have signed the MoU:

1. **Albania** (6 May 2009)
2. **Azerbaijan** (16 July 2009) - Associate Members
3. **Bulgaria** (2 December 2009) - Associate Members
4. **Cyprus** (15 September 2009) - Associate Member
5. **Czech Republic** (23 July 2009)
6. **Denmark** (22 February 2010)
7. **Estonia** (22 May 2009)
8. **Finland** (2 December 2009)
9. **Georgia** (18 May 2009) - Associate Member
10. **Germany** (9 September 2009) - Associate Members
11. **Ireland** (22 July 2009)
12. **The Netherlands** (28 May 2009) - Associate Members
13. **Norway** (17 August 2009)
14. **Portugal** (20 November 2009)
15. **Slovakia** (16 June 2009)
16. **Slovenia** (21 September 2009)
17. **Switzerland** (27 May 2009) - Associate Member
18. **Ukraine** (30 April 2009)

RELATED INFORMATION



The International Treaty

Highlights

EUROGENEBANK PROPOSALS
SUBMITTED

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Establishment and milestones of AEGIS



7. Agreement on development of AQUAS; discussion paper (**has been sent**)
8. Agreement on requirements and criteria to select MAAs (**details in later presentation**)
9. Competitive **Small Grant Scheme** launched (to facilitate establishment/operation process); **18** proposals received; **3** awarded.
New Call foreseen for Autumn 2010!
9. Topic on AEGIS included in **FP7 Research Infrastructure Call**; proposal developed and submitted; met the threshold but were not selected for funding; consideration to re-submit for 2012 Call

Key components of AEGIS



1. A **Strategic Framework** for the Implementation of a European Genebank Integrated System - A Policy Guide
2. Formal **agreement** with countries (MOU) and institutions within countries (Associate Membership) – **i.e. 18**
3. **European Collection** (contains identified and agreed MAAs for each crop; in public domain; readily available) (**to be developed**)
4. **Generic and crop specific standards** (**to be developed**)



Key components of AEGIS



5. Quality management system (reporting; monitoring; capacity building) (**under development**)
6. EURISCO as information portal for European Collection (**to be further developed**)



35*. AEGIS Status

(AEGISSTAT)

The coded status of an accession with regard to the European Genebank Integrated System (AEGIS).

Provides the information, whether the accession is conserved for AEGIS.

0 – not part of AEGIS

1 – part of AEGIS

If the AEGIS status is unknown, the field stays empty

7. Dedicated **AEGIS website** (**new version developed**)

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Perceived Benefits of AEGIS



- Improved **security of germplasm** through long-term commitment and systematic safety-duplication
- Facilitated access to and **availability** of germplasm
- Improved **quality standards** of conserved material
- **Cost efficient** conservation activities
- **Reduced duplication** of germplasm material
- Improved **sharing of knowledge** and information

AEGIS and the European Collection



- European Collection will consist of **dispersed accessions (MAAs)**, i.e. a virtual European genebank
- Through signing the **MOU** countries accept responsibilities for **long-term conservation** and **availability of EA**, and to
- Conserve/manage according to **quality standards**
- **Conservation/management strategies** for each crop are prepared by respective Crop WG/NCG and approved by SC

AQUAS – AEGIS quality system



- Development of a **quality management system**, including generic and crop operational standards, reporting and monitoring
- **Discussion paper** endorsed by SC; on the AEGIS website (**has been distributed**)
- Brassica, Forages and Grain legumes WGs are invited to test the template for an **operational genebank manual**
- Draft of **generic genebank standards** by Secretariat



Thank you
for your
attention!

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