

Report to the Ninth ECP/GR Steering Committee meeting (October 2003)

Working Group on *Vitis*

Progress made by the Group during Phase VI (1999 - 2003)

The *Vitis* WG was established in October 2001 and most of the achievements indicated below are the result of the EU-funded project Gen Res 81, which was run between 1997 and 2001

Specific objective	Achievements
Meetings	
First meeting of the Working Group on <i>Vitis</i> was held in Palic, Serbia and Montenegro, 12-14 June 2003	Reports on the status of European national grapevine collections were compiled
Gen Res 81 project meetings (before October 2001)	Participation of Non-EU partners from Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Moldova, Slovenia, Switzerland in Gen Res 81 meetings
Documentation	
Completion of European <i>Vitis</i> Database (updating passport-data, addition of descriptor data, expansion to other European countries)	Mainly as a result of the Gen Res 81 project, the European <i>Vitis</i> Database contains passport data of more than 28,200 accessions representing the <i>Vitis</i> collections from 18 European contributors. The DB includes 54 primary and 14 secondary descriptors
Harmonization of developed descriptors with existing descriptor lists of IPGRI, UPOV and OIV	UPOV, IPGRI and OIV descriptors are being reconsidered for further harmonization and it is planned to have a new harmonized list available in 2004/2005
Characterization	
Checking the true to typeness of accessions in grapevine collections by ampelographical- and STMS-marker-descriptors	Within Gen Res 81, a comparative study on the use of microsatellite data from different laboratories resulted in the definition of 6 microsatellites that can be used as minimal standards for grapevine variety characterization. These markers, in combination with ampelographic data, allowed to verify a large number of cases of synonymies
Public awareness	
Stress the importance of maintaining genetic diversity of grapevine by preserving clones and varieties	Recommendations formulated in the meeting report that countries should preserve traditional varieties and the clonal variability and protect wild grapevines <i>in situ</i> . Suggestions on the appropriate methodology were also included

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Plan of action for Phase VII (2004 - 2008)

Specific objective	Action	Timeframe	Request of support from ECP/GR for specific actions	
			Funding requested	Type of support requested
<u>Documentation:</u> Update the <i>Vitis</i> database and complete it with data from other countries; harmonize it with the EURISCO format	Continuing and proactive management of the database by BAZ, Geilweilerhof and ZADI/IBV, Bonn, Germany, with the support of all members	2004-2005	NO	NO
<u>Documentation:</u> Make the <i>Vitis</i> database available for on-line direct updating by data donors	Technical implementation to be explored by ZADI/IBV	2004	NO	NO
<u>Documentation:</u> Establish an SSR-marker database as part of the European <i>Vitis</i> database	Official acknowledgement and recommendation of the 6 SSR-markers by OIV. Publication of SSR-marker descriptors and collection of existing SSR-marker descriptor data under the coordination of the DB manager. Make researchers aware about the benefits by using the 6 SSR-markers	2004-2008	NO	NO
<u>Characterization:</u> Define the number of grapevine varieties existing in Europe	Primary and secondary descriptor recording and microsatellite analysis. Detection of SSR coincidences. Classification of existing synonymies	2004-2008	NO	NO
<u>Publication:</u> Make available the European <i>Vitis</i> cultivars in a compiled publication	Prepare a catalogue of European <i>Vitis</i> cultivars as soon as synonymies are confirmed. Plus confirmed synonymies (this has to be discussed again)		YES	
<u>Meetings:</u> Maintain the cohesion of the group. Assess the true to typeness of national collections. Discussion on existing synonymies	Hold a second meeting in two-three years time	2005 or 2006	YES	Technical support from IPGRI during the meeting
<u>Public awareness:</u> Strengthen public awareness about the danger of loss of grapevine biodiversity	Dissemination of ECP/GR <i>Vitis</i> Working Group outcomes in national growers magazines			

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<u>Strengthen cooperation with Eastern European countries:</u>	E.g. initiate bilateral cooperation			

Prepared by: Working Group Chair: Maria Jesus Ortiz and Erika Maul (former coordinator of EU project on *Vitis*)

Date: 26 August 2003