



Extension of EURISCO for Crop Wild Relatives (CWR) *in situ* data and preparation of pilot countries' data sets

GenR 2021-1

(15 November 2021 – 30 June 2025)



**Final Report
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by *Lorenzo Maggioni, ECPGR Secretary*

1. Background

The project 'Extension of EURISCO for Crop Wild Relatives (CWR) *in situ* data and preparation of pilot countries' data sets' was initiated in response to a recognized gap in the systematic documentation of *in situ* CWR populations in Europe. This gap impedes effective conservation and utilization efforts aligned with key international instruments, including the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA).

Furthermore, the project directly addressed prior recommendations from European initiatives such as the ECPGR Working Group on Documentation and Information, the 'ECPGR Concept for *in situ* conservation of crop wild relatives in Europe', the EURISCO Advisory Committee, and the Plant Genetic Resources Strategy for Europe.

Approved for funding by the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, the project commenced on 15 November 2021 with an initial budget of €247,318 and a grant duration until 31 December 2023. Its core objective was to establish the conditions for a permanent, standardized flow of *in situ* CWR data from national inventories to the central European catalogue, EURISCO. This involved defining and standardizing the *in situ* CWR data to be included in EURISCO, developing an agreed technical and institutional mechanism for data flow from the national to the European level, extending the EURISCO catalogue to host and publish this new data type; and supporting a group of pilot countries in organizing their national data frameworks and preparing their data according to the new standards, thereby populating EURISCO and creating replicable models.

To ensure the achievement of these objectives and to expand the project's reach, the following revisions were approved by the donor:

- **September 2022:** A no-cost budget revision.

- **February 2024:** An additional budget revision and extension, adding €69,997 (bringing the total 2021-2024 budget to €317,316) and extending the deadline to 31 December 2024.
- **February 2025:** A final no-cost extension until 30 June 2025, specifically to onboard two additional countries using under-utilized funds.

These extensions enabled the organization of a key in-person project meeting in 2024 for experience sharing and coordination, and crucially, allowed more countries to join the initiative. As a result, the project successfully transitioned EURISCO from a repository containing only a few pilot datasets into a more solid, widely used, and attractive database for in situ CWR information.

2. 2. 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
- e) Consolidation of the effort of the countries Albania, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Italy, Lithuania, Portugal and Spain towards the improvement of their CWR *in situ* national inventory, the network of data providers and the collaboration with protected area managers and ministry of environment authorities to enable access to *in situ* material.
- f) Involvement of additional countries in the project to promote the same sequence of activities carried out by the pilot countries, that is: organization of CWR *in situ* national inventory, prioritization of populations for conservation and definition of datasets suitable for dispatching to EURISCO, organization of network of data providers and agreement with protected area managers and/or appropriate authorities about terms of access to *in situ* material.
- g) Organization of an in-person project meeting in the first half of 2024, with the purpose of sharing experience about activities carried out and difficulties encountered during the first phase of the project, as well as to coordinate the future activities.

3. 3. Progress on planned activities

3.1 Preparation of draft proposal setting the principles for the inclusion of CWR data into EURISCO

This activity was successfully completed in 2022 with the development and publication of the foundational document, *Principles for the Inclusion of CWR Data in EURISCO*.

To ensure high-level expertise, the work was conducted by a consultancy assigned to two members of the EURISCO Advisory Committee: the Chair, Theo van Hintum (CGN, Wageningen, The Netherlands), and the *in situ* CWR expert, vice-Chair of the ECPGR CWR Working Group, José Iriondo (URJC, Madrid, Spain).

The approved document established the critical framework for the entire project by defining:

- The **principles and requirements** for data inclusion, specifying that priority populations should be those with a known, precise location, under active conservation for long-term persistence, and available under the ITPGRFA's Multilateral System.
- The **technical data flow mechanism** from National Inventories to EURISCO.
- The **standardized data exchange format** (CWR passport descriptors), detailed in two practical annexes for national data generation and EURISCO upload.

This framework, synthesized from existing international documents and expert discussions, was formally approved by all project partners and relevant bodies. It has been published on the ECPGR website, providing a permanent, public reference ([Hintum and Iriondo, 2022](#)). Critically, it enables European countries to systematically comply with key international and regional agreements, including the Plant Genetic Resources Strategy for Europe.

This foundational document directly enabled the subsequent technical extension of the EURISCO catalogue and guided the pilot countries in preparing their national datasets.

3.2 Coordination of steps required to reach ECPGR agreement on the principles and mechanisms

The finalized document *Principles for the Inclusion of CWR Data in EURISCO* has undergone a comprehensive and successful consultation process to secure broad ECPGR agreement and practical uptake.

Key milestones in this process included:

- **Formal Acceptance:** The document was formally accepted by the project partners and the EURISCO Advisory Committee, and has been actively used by the pilot countries as the project's operational framework.
- **Working Group Consultation:** The Chairs of the relevant ECPGR Working Groups (Documentation and Information, and Crop Wild Relatives) circulated the document to collect expert feedback. Resulting comments on the descriptors were discussed and resolved during the project meeting in June 2024.
- **Steering Committee Awareness:** The ECPGR Steering Committee was informed of the document's development and purpose at its 16th (June 2022) and 17th (May-June 2023) meetings.
- **International Presentation:** The principles were presented at the Fifth meeting of the FAO/ITPGRFA Scientific Advisory Committee on the Global Information System in Rome (May 2023), aligning the European initiative with the global framework.

Given the document's technical nature, its primary role has been to serve as a *de facto* standard for the project and pilot countries. The need for a final, formal endorsement step by the ECPGR Steering Committee will be evaluated in consultation with the ECPGR Executive Committee as a potential next step to solidify its long-term institutional status.

3.3 Coordination of steps required to set up the *in situ* CWR data flow mechanism

A critical step in establishing the permanent data flow mechanism was the formal identification of responsible national contacts. As outlined in the *Principles for the Inclusion of*

CWR Data in EURISCO, data upload from National Inventories requires a designated national focal point.

To implement this, the ECPGR Secretariat successfully coordinated with the National Coordinators of all seventeen countries involved in the project. **All seventeen countries have officially nominated their "in situ CWR National Inventory Focal Points."** These nominations have been formally registered and published on the ECPGR website [[here](#)], providing a clear point of contact for each country and securing the institutional framework necessary for sustained data flow.

This successful model, established within the project's pilot phase, will be extended to all ECPGR member countries as the next step in rolling out the data flow mechanism across Europe.

3.4 Support of pilot countries in their preparation and delivery of *in situ* CWR data to EURISCO

Supporting pilot countries in preparing and delivering standardized data has been a core activity of the project. The initial group of seven countries (Cyprus, Czech Republic, Germany, Lithuania, Portugal, Spain, and the UK) was strategically expanded to maximize the project's impact and test the mechanism across diverse national contexts.

Utilizing approved budget revisions, the project successfully onboarded four additional countries in the first phase (Albania, Bulgaria, Italy, the Netherlands) and, following a subsequent budget increase, four more in 2024 (Georgia, Poland, Romania, Slovenia). Finally, North Macedonia and Slovakia joined in 2025, bringing the total number of participating countries to **seventeen**.

Through formal agreements with ECPGR, the contracted institutions in each country committed to a comprehensive process: identifying priority taxa and populations, establishing national database structures, organizing data provider networks, and ultimately preparing and delivering standardized data to EURISCO.

Progress was coordinated and knowledge shared through a series of dedicated meetings:

- **December 2022 (Thessaloniki, Greece):** Interim progress was discussed at an ad hoc meeting of the ECPGR Crop Wild Relatives Working Group. [[here](#)]
- **December 2023 (Virtual):** A dedicated project meeting focused on updates and experiences in selecting *in situ* populations for EURISCO. [[here](#)]
- **June 2024 (Sadovo, Bulgaria):** A pivotal in-person meeting where the first pilot countries presented their achievements, and new partners from Georgia, Poland, Romania, and Slovenia outlined their implementation plans. [[here](#)]

These collaborative forums were instrumental in fostering peer learning and resolving common challenges. The detailed progress and specific achievements of each of the seventeen participating countries are summarized in the following individual reports:

Albania: Under the leadership of the Agricultural University of Tirana, a network of public and private data providers was established, along with a corresponding workplan. A National CWR list was created, leading to the prioritization of 472 taxa. The initial core of the Albanian CWR-NI was developed using data from two protected areas within the Natura 2000 network.

A dataset comprising 610 priority CWR populations (encompassing 130 species from 48 genera) was subsequently transferred to EURISCO. This dataset included 198 populations from the Buna River-Velipoje protected area and 412 from the Shebenik-Jabllanicë protected area. Following a new agreement in 2024, an additional set of *in situ* population data from Natura 2000 national parks was prepared. This update brought the total number of *in situ* population records uploaded to EURISCO to **1,146 (281 taxa from 160 genera)**.

Bulgaria: Activities were coordinated by the Institute for Plant Genetic Resources (IPGR) in Sadovo. The national CWR inventory includes 81 priority populations from 26 plant genera, and a national *in situ* CWR database structure was prepared. Initial data for twenty populations have been uploaded to EURISCO. A network of data providers was established, and contact was made with the responsible authorities at the Ministry of Environment to obtain information on CWR taxa with protected status.

Following a new agreement in 2024, new sites hosting priority CWR populations were monitored. This work allowed for the verification of *in situ* management needs for the visited populations and the conditions for germplasm exchange with users. Consequently, the number of population records uploaded to EURISCO increased to **243 populations (32 taxa from 20 genera)**.

Cyprus: Under the coordination of the Agricultural Research Institute (Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment) in Athalassa, 177 crop wild relatives (CWR) were prioritized. In total, 5,206 populations representing these taxa were identified. From these, **391 populations** (48% of those located within protected areas) were selected for inclusion in EURISCO, representing 130 of the 177 priority taxa. The corresponding data have now been uploaded to EURISCO.

Czech Republic: Under the coordination of the Crop Research Institute (CRI) in Prague, activities began with the selection of CWR species and populations, prioritizing those in endangered categories for *in situ* conservation. Selected populations underwent botanical monitoring to identify candidates for inclusion in EURISCO.

Technical preparations included revising the national GRIN Czech system to accommodate the minimum descriptors required for uploading *in situ* data to EURISCO, a capability it now possesses. Progress was also made in refining the national *in situ* conservation strategy and methodology, which has strengthened collaboration with the responsible authorities at the Ministry of Environment.

Key activities in 2024 included:

- Continued monitoring, with phytosociological annotations for specific populations of species such as *Allium schoenoprasum*, *Agropyron pectinatum*, *Hierochloë odorata*, *Humulus lupulus*, *Glycyrrhiza glabra*, *Cerasus × eminens*, and other forage Fabaceae and Poaceae.
- Ongoing dialogue between the Ministries of Agriculture and Environment.
- Submission of a formal proposal from CRI to the Agency for Nature and Landscape Conservation (AOPK ENVI) concerning **98 selected species**, with a pending response on the possibility of including their population records in EURISCO.
- A methodological guideline for *in situ* conservation undergoing peer review within the Ministry of Environment.

Looking forward, there is an intention to extend the priority species list to include populations located outside protected areas, which would facilitate broader data availability and inclusion in EURISCO. Sustained interaction with the Ministry of Environment remains crucial to expand the number of populations that can, in principle, be made available.

Georgia: Work commenced in 2024 under the leadership of the LEPL Scientific Research Center of Agriculture in Tbilisi, with the aim of contributing to the preparation and inclusion of *in situ* Crop Wild Relative (CWR) datasets in EURISCO. A National Inventory was established, with activities focusing on grapevine, wheat, and legume CWRs. Passport data were collected from 12 sites during six survey missions. Data were uploaded for **40 populations (four taxa from three genera)**.

Germany: Germany's priority CWR list comprises 126 species from 48 genera. Prioritization criteria include breeder interest, the presence in Germany of CWR taxa from the Harlan and de Wet inventory, and species for which Germany holds special conservation responsibility.

Active genetic reserve conservation projects are underway **for 70% of these priority CWRs**. A standardized selection procedure for genetic reserves has been established, initially applied to wild celery, wild grapevine, and mountain arnica. A corresponding national network of genetic reserves has also been created.

Data for **66 wild celery populations** across 24 genetic reserves have already been uploaded to EURISCO. *In situ* data from three additional projects are scheduled to follow.

Italy: Activities were coordinated by the Istituto di Bioscienze e Biorisorse (IBBR-CNR) in Bari, in collaboration with the Università degli Studi di Perugia (DSA3-UNIPG), Consiglio per la ricerca in agricoltura e l'analisi dell'economia agraria – Centro di ricerca Foreste e Legno (CREA-FL) in Trento, and the Ufficio Affari istituzionali e relazioni internazionali (CREA-UDG4) in Rome. Site surveys were conducted in Apulia and Basilicata, with additional surveys of *Lactuca alpina* in the Trento province to verify population status. Initial collaborations were established with managers of several exemplary protected areas across northern, central, and southern Italy that host prioritized taxa. Overall, the Italian partners identified **97 populations** from the priority CWR list, which are, in principle, available from the surveyed locations. These populations belong to **30 species and/or subspecies from 18 genera** (*Allium*, *Asparagus*, *Astragalus*, *Barbarea*, *Brassica*, *Dactylis*, *Elymus*, *Festuca*, *Hordeum*, *Ipomoea*, *Lactuca*, *Malus*, *Onobrychis*, *Secale*, *Thinopyrum*, *Trifolium*, *Triticum*, *Vicia*). All populations are georeferenced and, along with available passport data, have been uploaded to EURISCO. An agreement has been signed with the Adamello Brenta Natural Park to facilitate access to CWR populations. Additionally, collection guidelines have been developed for the territory of the Province of Trento. These documents serve as a model to be proposed to other institutions and parks for securing access to *in situ* CWR populations.

Lithuania: Under the coordination of the Nature Research Centre in Vilnius, a list of 147 priority CWR species representing 55 genera from 15 families was established. This list was developed based on the International Treaty Annex I list and the socio-economic and cultural importance of the species in Lithuania. A national CWR inventory database structure was created to hold information at both the taxon and population levels.

Fieldwork and Identification: Seven sites across four climatic zones were selected as potential multi-species CWR genetic reserves. Hotspots of priority CWR occurrences were identified and mapped, drawing on a database of over 260,000 recent occurrence records. Prioritization

focused on recently monitored populations, using criteria such as species abundance, current condition, potential threats, and protection status.

Data Management and Upload: Following this process, a pilot dataset of Lithuanian CWR populations was prepared and uploaded to EURISCO. This initial upload comprises **1,080 populations representing 96 species** (65.3% of the priority list). Field trips in 2024 collected passport data for 323 additional populations from 22 new sites, bringing the total number of surveyed sites to 73. Most are located within protected areas, Natura 2000 sites, and ancient hillforts. A formal data provider network has been established, with cooperation agreements from the Lithuanian State Service of Protected Areas, the NGO Baltic Environmental Forum, and the NGO Wetlands Restoration and Protection Fund.

Next steps will focus on: selecting appropriate populations for the 51 species not yet in the dataset and for those currently represented by only 1–4 populations; expanding research into underrepresented geographic areas, particularly Western Lithuania; and ensuring selection accounts for specific habitats and the ecogeographic diversity of priority CWRs.

The Netherlands: The Dutch CWR National Inventory (CWR-NI) was compiled by the Centre for Genetic Resources in Wageningen using 26 descriptors. The inventory contains data on 1,912 populations, of which 298 are well-defined threatened populations. Prioritization was conducted using niche modeling and climate change scenarios. The remaining 1,614 are diffuse populations that are common in the Netherlands. Each record combines a species with the flora district in which it occurs.

These data were initially provided to EURISCO to test new functionalities and are now fully integrated, with all **1,912 records** accessible in the system. This allows potential users to explore the occurrence and availability of CWRs in the country. Given the centralized nature of the data source, establishing a formal network of external data providers was not required for this project.

North Macedonia: Joining the project in 2025, progress has been made in compiling the national checklist and inventory of Crop Wild Relatives (CWR). Priority species were selected based on their potential for improving cereals, legumes, vegetables, fruits, and medicinal plants. Field surveys verified existing distribution data. Using the existing genebank database at the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences and Food in Skopje as a foundation, a national CWR database was structured to comply with the EURISCO *in situ* data standard. An initial dataset of **188 populations (representing 21 taxa across 10 genera)** has been submitted to EURISCO. Furthermore, initial steps have been taken to establish a collaborative network involving the Faculty, environmental agencies, protected area administrations, NGOs and local communities. Future work will focus on updating data older than five years and developing a dedicated database module to automate the processing and submission of new *in situ* CWR data to EURISCO.

Poland: Under the leadership of IHAR-PIB in Radzików, project activities commenced in 2024. The work builds upon a 2020 national checklist of 1,458 CWR species. To develop a CWR National Inventory (CWR-NI), the team utilized data from the Polish genebank's collecting missions over the past five years, establishing a standardized national database structure for future CWR population data. Following the EURISCO format, an initial dataset of **111 populations from 58 species (43 genera)** has been successfully uploaded. Next steps include

verifying occurrences from older (>5 years) collecting missions and exploring the addition of an *in situ* module to the national data management system.

Portugal: Coordination of activities was led by the Banco Português de Germoplasma Vegetal - Instituto Nacional de Investigação Agrária e Veterinária (BPGV-INIAV) in Oeiras. A national task force was established to develop the CWR National Inventory. This work involved identifying priority CWR populations for conservation, based on their presence within the national network of protected areas and their ecogeographic diversity. Prioritization across mainland Portugal, the Azores, and Madeira was guided by criteria including economic value, native status, and potential for crop improvement. The resulting National Inventory comprises a total of **12,197 records (spanning 79 genera and 253 taxa)**, which have been submitted to EURISCO. These include 8,289 priority populations for Portugal (7,305 from the mainland, 456 from the Azores, 406 from Madeira, and 122 of *Beta patula*), 3,425 of European priority, and 483 that are priorities shared across multiple geographic units. Furthermore, priority populations of wild olive and wild grapes were identified for the broader Iberian Peninsula. Supporting work is ongoing, including an analysis of climate change scenarios, the coordination of data providers, and the establishment of guidelines for material access.

Romania: The Banca de Resurse Genetice Vegetale Suceava joined the project in 2024. Its team established prioritization criteria and methods for CWRs, which were then used to finalize the national CWR checklist. This process generated preliminary lists of priority CWRs for two protected areas: the Slătioara Secular Forest and Rodnei Mountains National Park. Within these, three potential genetic reserve sites were identified (Plaiul Todirescu, Pietrosu Mare, and Bila-Lala), where 21 CWR species from five botanical families (Rosaceae, Poaceae, Fabaceae, Amaryllidaceae, Asteraceae) were recorded. Data for **67 populations** were subsequently uploaded to EURISCO.

Slovakia: Coordination was led by the National Agricultural and Food Centre – Research Institute of Plant Production (NPPC – VÚRV), which joined the project in 2025. The team's efforts centered on identifying priority taxa and populations, harmonizing data structures, and integrating validated data into EURISCO. Data from 364 geo-referenced *in situ* populations, collected between 1970 and 2022, were standardized using EURISCO descriptors. These records represent 34 species across 16 genera, with significant representation of forage crops and medicinal plants. The project exemplified effective field validation, multi-stakeholder collaboration, and geospatial data integration, while underscoring the importance of stable institutional frameworks and robust digital infrastructure.

Slovenia: In 2024, the Agricultural Institute of Slovenia (Ljubljana) initiated activities to identify priority taxa and populations, prepare the national database structure, and compile and submit data to EURISCO in accordance with agreed standards. The work began with an overview of the Slovenian flora, focusing on CWR and their representation in *ex situ* collections. Priority populations of hops, wild grapes, and myrobalan plum were identified, and data for 39 populations (spanning 15 taxa across 13 genera) were subsequently submitted to EURISCO. The national *in situ* CWR conservation program is now in progress, with all necessary implementation actions planned for the period 2026–2032.

Spain: Efforts in 2024 significantly improved the Spanish national CWR database, now containing distribution data for over 620,000 populations covering all 521 priority species. A national network of potentially 207 data providers is being established, with 45% already engaged. The database structure, tested in MongoDB, has been enhanced with new components for biological, ecological, and breeding traits. Following a revised ecogeographical framework, a proposal for 50 genetic reserves was developed. Data for 24 populations from existing reserves have been submitted to EURISCO. Future submissions may include data from potential reserve sites selected under Most Appropriate Wild Populations criteria, though data on actively conserved legally protected species cannot be shared.

United Kingdom: The UK's priority CWR list comprises 223 taxa, selected based on criteria including the economic value of the related crop, taxonomic relatedness, native status, threat assessment, and conservation designations. Following a thorough revision and cleaning of the UK CWR National Inventory, records from the top 15 National Nature Reserves (NNRs) were selected for submission to EURISCO. An initial dataset of 1,248 populations (spanning 37 taxa across 27 genera) has been uploaded. As Natural England manages all these NNRs, liaison and potential future use of the sites will be more straightforward than with a disparate network of privately owned lands.

3.5 Preparation of EURISCO extension to *in situ* CWR data

Based on the agreed 'Principles' document, IPK determined that the necessary EURISCO extensions were less extensive and costly than initially projected. This assessment formed the basis for a budget revision, approved in September 2022.

IPK's dedicated bioinformatician completed the following tasks:

- Finalizing the EURISCO *in situ* CWR data standard;
- Modifying/extending the EURISCO database schema;
- Implementing an upload/update mechanism for *in situ* CWR data;
- Developing an intranet interface for *in situ* CWR-National Focal Points (NFPs), integrating the upload/update mechanism;
- Extending the public EURISCO web interface for users of *in situ* CWR data.

The necessary modifications/extensions of the EURISCO database schema for *in situ* CWR data were added and seven additional tables were created to achieve the objectives of uploading, validating and updating EURISCO with *in situ* CWR data. Furthermore, a total of 3 PL/SQL packages containing 71 background programmes and 24 front-end application pages were created. In addition, various extensions to the public EURISCO web interface were implemented to enable the new data to be searched and displayed.

The interface is visually similar to the one used for uploading *ex situ* data. Data integrity checks have been completed using PL/SQL packages.

Initially, an excel template has been made available for the partners to provide their national data 'manually', and these have been used to test the functionality of the EURISCO extension. In parallel, a mechanism to support web-based upload mechanism was extensively tested and implemented.

Further search and visualisation options for *in situ* CWR populations have been implemented. In addition, the intranet environment has been adapted and further developed as required.

In situ CWR National Inventory Focal Points for 13 pilot countries have been officially nominated by the respective National Coordinators and are in charge of providing the CWR *in situ* data to EURISCO. Their contact details are available from the ECPGR web site ([here](#)).

3.6 Training of Focal Points

Training has started during the EURISCO training workshop held in Bulgaria in September 2023. The EURISCO Coordinator has maintained bilateral contacts to guide the focal points during the process of dispatching the data to EURISCO via the excel template. Further training has been provided and permanently guaranteed.

3.7 Public awareness products to publicize extension of CWR in EURISCO

A project website has been prepared by the ECPGR Secretariat on the ECPGR web environment (<https://www.ecpgr.cgiar.org/working-groups/crop-wild-relatives/cwr-in-eurisco>). All documents created by the project are available here, including reports of countries about their activities.

Related web news items were published by ECPGR in [February 2022](#), [May 2022](#), [January 2024](#), and [October 2024](#).

Short updates were regularly included in the ECPGR information bulletins (<https://www.ecpgr.cgiar.org/resources/ecpgr-information-bulletin>) and in the ECPGR Annual reports 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 (<https://www.ecpgr.cgiar.org/resources/ecpgr-publications/annual-reports>).

The project activities were presented at various ECPGR and other international meetings, as follows:

- Sixteenth ECPGR Steering Committee meeting, Alnarp/Malmö, Sweden, June 2022
- Eighth ECPGR Allium Working Group meeting, Skierniewice, Poland, October 2022
- Ad hoc meeting of the ECPGR CWR Working Group, Thessaloniki, Greece, December 2022
- Fifth meeting of the scientific advisory committee on the global information system (GLIS-SAC-5) at FAO, Rome, Italy, May 2023
- Seventeenth ECPGR Steering Committee meeting, Oeiras, Portugal, May-June 2023
- Training Workshop for National Focal Points, Plovdiv, Bulgaria, September 2023
- EURO-POTATOES Grant Scheme Activity Kick-off meeting, Warsaw, Poland, 19-20 March 2024
- Documentation and Information Working Group meeting, Tallinn, Estonia 18-19 September 2024
- Second meeting of the Berries Working Group, Kaunas, Lithuania, 17-19 June 2025
- Sixth meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee on the Global Information System of Article 17 (GLIS-SAC-5), 6 May 2025, Rome, Italy

In addition to the above, a project [brochure](#) was developed to provide an overview of the project, explaining its purpose, main activities and outputs, as well as details about the

achievements of each participating country. The brochure, available on the project page and shared on social media, serves as a concise reference document for stakeholders and partners, supporting the continued dissemination of project outcomes.

Country	Main activities	No. of accession records	Genetic diversity
Albania	Inventory of wild relatives in situ and ex situ in the country and 100 accessions collected in 10 sites of priority	116	100 genes, 100 taxa
Bulgaria	Inventory of wild relatives in situ and ex situ in the country and 100 accessions collected in 10 sites of priority	102	20 genes, 10 taxa
Cyprus	Inventory of wild relatives in situ and ex situ in the country and 100 accessions collected in 10 sites of priority	30	20 genes, 10 taxa
Czech Republic	Inventory of wild relatives in situ and ex situ in the country and 100 accessions collected in 10 sites of priority	1	-
Germany	Inventory of wild relatives in situ and ex situ in the country and 100 accessions collected in 10 sites of priority	40	10 genes, 10 taxa
Italy	Inventory of wild relatives in situ and ex situ in the country and 100 accessions collected in 10 sites of priority	80	10 genes, 10 taxa
Lithuania	Inventory of wild relatives in situ and ex situ in the country and 100 accessions collected in 10 sites of priority	10	10 genes, 10 taxa
Poland	Inventory of wild relatives in situ and ex situ in the country and 100 accessions collected in 10 sites of priority	100	10 genes, 10 taxa
Portugal	Inventory of wild relatives in situ and ex situ in the country and 100 accessions collected in 10 sites of priority	100	10 genes, 10 taxa
Romania	Inventory of wild relatives in situ and ex situ in the country and 100 accessions collected in 10 sites of priority	10	10 genes, 10 taxa
Slovenia	Inventory of wild relatives in situ and ex situ in the country and 100 accessions collected in 10 sites of priority	10	10 genes, 10 taxa
Spain	Inventory of wild relatives in situ and ex situ in the country and 100 accessions collected in 10 sites of priority	100	10 genes, 10 taxa
United Kingdom	Inventory of wild relatives in situ and ex situ in the country and 100 accessions collected in 10 sites of priority	100	10 genes, 10 taxa



In addition, a [short video](#) was produced and shared on [social media](#). This video highlights key project messages and achievements in a clear and engaging format, supporting online visibility and outreach through partners' communication channels.

3.8 Renewal of agreements with pilot countries to support the effort of providing *in situ* CWR data to EURISCO

Following the project meeting in Bulgaria, June, 2024, agreements were made and then converted into new contractual agreements with Albania, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Italy, Lithuania and Portugal for follow-up activities which lead to the inclusion of more than 8,000 additional records in EURISCO, as well as consolidated internal data flow mechanisms, national inventories' construction, various methodologies and requirements and requirements for the availability of data and material.

3.9 Establishment of agreements with new pilot countries to support in their preparation and delivery of *in situ* CWR data to EURISCO

During the project meeting in Bulgaria, June, 2024, new members joined the project from Georgia, Poland, Romania and Slovenia. Subsequently, following a six-months extension of

the project until June 2025, also North Macedonia and Slovakia joined. Activities to be carried out were aiming to address the following actions, to the extent possible:

- Identify priority taxa and populations
- Prepare the national database structure
- Organize the network of data providers
- Collect and organize the data according to the agreed principles and data exchange format
- Provide the data to EURISCO

Corresponding contractual agreements were established with the six new partners. Achievements are detailed by country in the above section 3.4. Overall, more than 800 ne populations' data were uploaded by these six countries.

3.10 Organization of an in-person project meeting in the first half of 2024

The project meeting was organized on 18-19 June 2024 in Sadovo, Bulgaria, with the collaboration of the local institute of Plant Genetic Resources (IPGR). Participants from 9 countries, plus the EURISCO Coordinator and the ECPGR Secretary attended in person and additional 5 countries participated from remote. The meeting allowed the partners to share their progress (reflected above in this report, point 3.4) and to make plans for activities during the remaining part of the year 2024. Old and new partners were brought up to the same level of understanding of the data flow mechanisms and principles.

A specific point of discussion was about the procedure for assignment of DOIs to wild populations. It was concluded that it should be left at the discretion of the country who should assign the DOIs and be its owner, but it was suggested that the main responsibility should be taken by the NFPs in coordination with the managing or liaison institutions. Guidelines on DOIs should be drafted and further discussed by the EURISCO Advisory Committee. The discussion also addressed the need to amend the descriptor CONSACTION (Conservation actions in place) with the addition of a new state "5.Managed as part of a genetic reserve". The amendment was agreed and implemented in a revised version of the EURISCO *in situ* CWR descriptors, which was uploaded on the project and EURISCO web sites.

Agenda, list of participants, presentations and a short summary of the meeting are available from the [project web site](#).

4. Progress towards expected outcomes and challenges

a) Policy and technical document defining the principles and requirements for the inclusion of *in situ* CWR data in EURISCO

The document [Principles for the Inclusion of CWR Data in EURISCO](#) was prepared by consultants van Hintum and Iriondo, initially as a draft proposal, which was eventually discussed, revised and agreed by project partners and the EURISCO Advisory Committee, and published by ECPGR in May 2022.

b) Endorsement of the *in situ* CWR data policy and technical document by the ECPGR Steering Committee

The Steering Committee has been made aware of the project and of the specific document. Given the highly technical nature of the document, the need for a formal step of endorsement by the Steering Committee of the above document is probably not

really necessary, but the ECPGR Executive Committee will be consulted for a final decision.

c) *In situ* CWR data flow mechanism established in Europe with responsibilities assigned at country level and Focal Points trained

The data flow principles have been established. Assignment of responsibilities to specific national Focal Points has been achieved through the formal nomination of 17 project partners' [In situ CWR National Inventory Focal Points](#). Their training has started during an [EURISCO training workshop](#) in Bulgaria in September 2023, and has then continued on a bilateral basis with the EURISCO Coordinator.

d) Extension of EURISCO to receive *in situ* CWR data completed (database structure, import tool, data integrity procedures and web interface)

Database structure, import tool and data integrity procedures have been completed. The web interface was also completed.

e) *In situ* CWR data from up to twelve countries included in EURISCO

As part of this project, sixteen countries (Albania, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Georgia, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and the United Kingdom) have provided CWR data to EURISCO, for a total of 19,212 populations' data.

5. Financial report

As shown in the Financial Report, the budget was largely spent as planned. A modest underspend of approximately €1,700 occurred in the line for national data preparation, attributable to an initial overestimation of costs for Bulgarian activities. Offsetting this, Secretariat staff costs exceeded their budget by about 3% due to the project extension and ongoing coordination in 2025.

6. Conclusion

This project, originally planned to last just over a year, demonstrated its success in several key ways. First, key standards for *in situ* CWR documentation were established through a broad participatory consensus, involving external international institutions like the FAO Treaty and the Crop Trust. This harmonization enabled all subsequent national-level work to align toward the common goal of building a European inventory of accessible *in situ* populations. A further achievement was the preparation of the EURISCO extension at a lower cost than anticipated. These savings, combined with additional funding granted by the donor at a later stage, made it possible to extend activities far beyond the initial seven pilot countries, ultimately engaging 17 nations. Rather than supporting a small test group, the project was thus able to foster CWR documentation activities in nearly half of the ECPGR member countries, confirming broad acceptance of its proposed principles and mechanisms.

The depth of activities and level of progress naturally varied among partners, ranging from initial steps in establishing a national inventory and data provider network to the development of sophisticated, structured strategies for CWR conservation, documentation, and access.

Overall, the project has equipped the European region with a centralized, public, web-searchable inventory of priority *in situ* CWR populations and a fine-tuned data flow

mechanism based on an internationally agreed exchange standard. An initial dataset of nearly 20,000 populations from pilot countries has been published. The extension of EURISCO to *in situ* data created a link with the existing *ex situ* data and thus improved the *ex situ/in situ* conservation interface. The implementation of international commitments defined by the CBD, GPA and ITPGRFA, as well as by the Plant Genetic Resources Strategy for Europe, made a significant step forward