

# ABC Mediterranean Landrace

## *Landraces Catalogue of Mediterranean Countries*

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DIPARTIMENTO  
DI SCIENZE AGRARIE,  
ALIMENTARI E AMBIENTALI

## Rational

**No on farm conservation and/or promotion of landraces (LR) use can be carried out without knowing where they are, which species they belong to, why and how they are still maintained**

Work has been done by the On-Farm Working Group of ECPGR across years

- **Farmer's Pride project** (Led by Prof. Nigel Maxted, Horizon 2020 EU Programme) a list of landraces still maintained on-farm/in-garden in Europe has been created:
  - 19,335 records of landrace cultivation sites (LrCSs), including forages, cereals, pulses, garden crops and fruit trees of 14 European countries (Raggi et al. 2022)
- Inventory project on 'Inventorying wheat on-farm diversity' (ECPGR phase X) focused on wheat landraces
  - More than 600 records of LrCSs across Europe

## Despite the work that has been done already and the information gathered...

- Landraces adoption is a highly dynamic process
- A high number of records will be included
- Complex stakeholder community in included (e.g. farmers, NGOs, research bodies)

A European inventory of *in situ* maintained landraces is still lacking

Limited and scattered information in Europe exist on:

- Where landraces are grown
- Which species they belong to
- Why and how are they still maintained

- This limits the possibility of setting up and promoting coordination actions aimed at improving the landraces conservation and use (Hammer, 1990, Maxted *et. al.*, 2009) to the benefit of the present and future agriculture.

However, landraces still widely grown in different European countries and biogeographic regions and inventories are required because, without knowing the extant, it is rather difficult for governments to properly plan and implement the systematic conservation and use of landraces. In addition, countries that ratified the ITPGRFA are required to “survey and inventory PGRFA” (Art. 5.a) (FAO, 2001).

**The possibility of using EURISCO to track landraces**  
while also linking these with ex situ conserved landraces  
has been recently proposed during the  
“Documentation and Information WG” ad hoc ECPGR Workshop  
Tallinn (Estonia) 18-19 September 2024.

It was also noted that

- **The descriptors for on-farm inventories and the results produced in the framework of other projects** could help as a starting point for data exchange
- The link of the on-farm data with the existing ex situ data in EURISCO will improve the ex situ/on-farm conservation interface
- A strong network with non-ECPGR members (farmers, NGOs, local authorities and communities), will enhance the relationships and the collaboration between the PGR conservation actors and help the data flow

## **The project: Landraces Catalogue of Mediterranean Countries (ABC Mediterranean Landrace)**

- Financed under ECPGR Activity Grant Scheme – Phase XI
- Duration: 24 months
- Total budget 28.820 euro
- Coordinator: Prof. Lorenzo Raggi (University of Perugia, IT)
- Involved WG:
  - On-farm Conservation and Management
  - Documentation and Information
- Partners from 6 Mediterranean countries + United Kingdom and Germany
  - Italy, Greece, Albania, Montenegro, Portugal, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Develop landrace lists of names (“Lr inventories”) and integrate into EURISCO

## Why Focus on the Mediterranean Basin

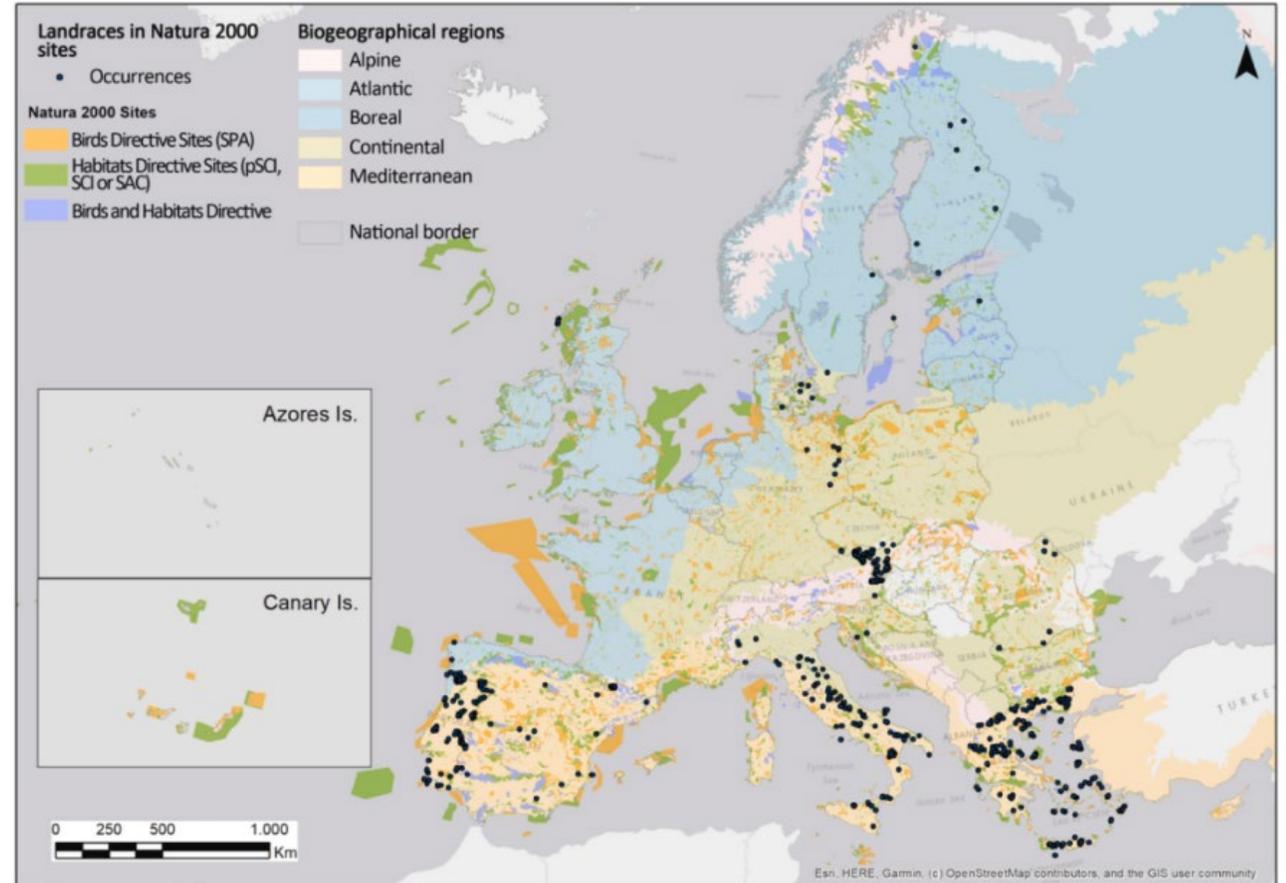
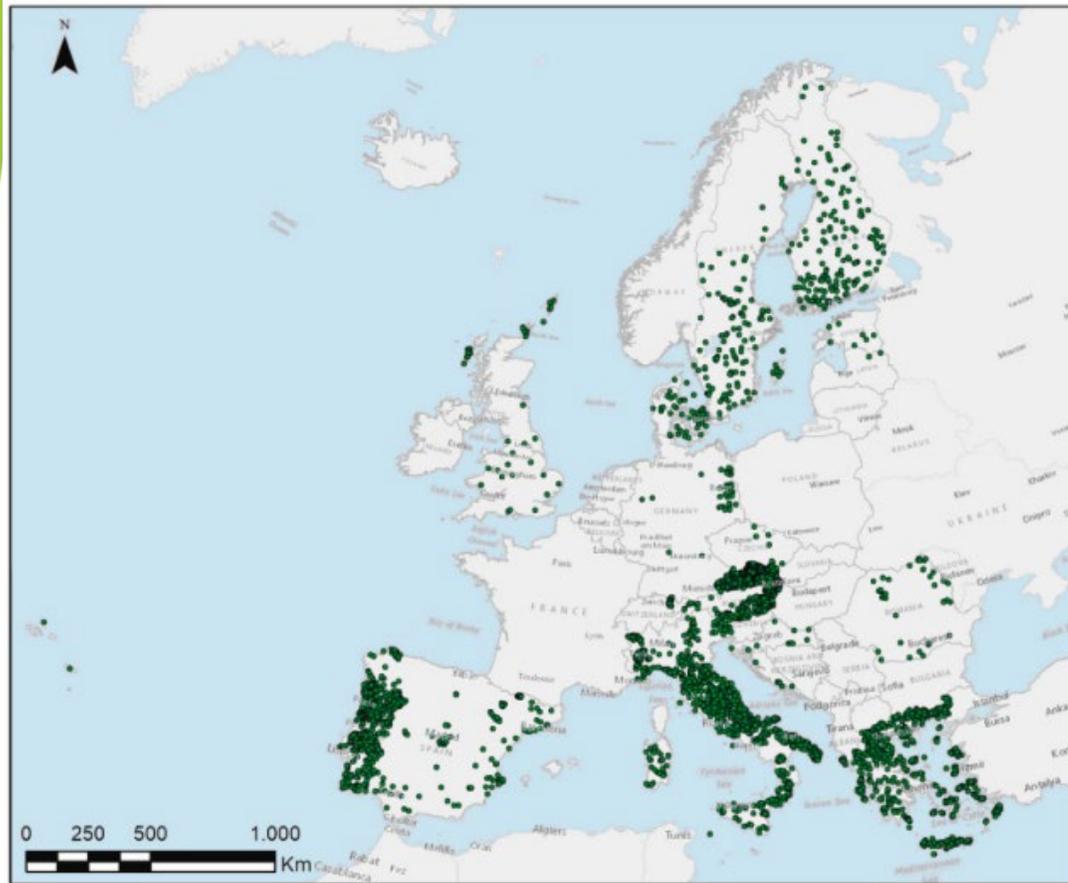
- Crucial biodiversity hotspot with about 25,000 plant species
- One of the primary centres of origin of important crops and/or secondary centre of diversity of other relevant crops
- PGR of the area (landraces & CWR) are crucial components of biodiversity in nature and in cultivation
- Results from a study from Raggi et al. (2022), that involved seventeen Institutions from 14 different European countries, showed that
  - the highest number of landrace cultivation sites (LrCSs) across Europe are in the Mediterranean region (10,742) corresponding to the 55.6 % of the total number of LrCSs recorded in Europe
  - LrCSs in the Mediterranean region are mainly scattered over Greece, Italy, Portugal



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ECPGR Working Group Chairs Meeting  
Aranjuez, Spain, 3-4 March 2026



## **ABC Mediterranean Landrace project Tasks**

1. Development of **lists of names of landraces (“Lr inventories”)** present in the different involved European countries
  - *On-farm Conservation and Management group*
2. **Extend EURISCO to host the “Lr Inventories”**
  - *Documentation and Information group*
3. Proposal of a **minimum set of passport and characterisation descriptors** to be included in future “Lr inventories”
  - *On-farm Conservation*
  - *Management & Documentation and Information groups*

## **1. Development of lists of names of landraces (Lr inventories) present in the different involved European countries.**

- A list of annual and biennial crops for human nutrition that are of paramount relevance and for which diversity still exist on farm discussed and approved at the beginning of the project; fruit trees will not be considered
- Project partners will be invited to collect data on farm landraces of target crops still present in their respective countries based on previous achievements of the EC and ECPGR-funded projects, published and grey literature, as well as relevant databases
  - The search will be based on the landrace name approach, relatively easily recorded through interviews, surveys, catalogues and censuses
  - *Sensu stricto* landraces (i.e. true landraces ) the main target of the project, other heterogeneous materials maintained on farm will be also considered

## **2. Extension of EURISCO to host the “Lr Inventories”**

- The aim of this extension is to implement a simple search functionality in the EURISCO web application
- Each Lr name will be linked via a ‘hot link’ to the corresponding accessions held in European genebanks.
- The necessary procedure was discussed at the meeting of the ECPGR Documentation and Information Working Group, 18-19 September 2024 in Tallinn, Estonia (Weise et al. 2025).

Linking the on-farm data to the existing ex situ data in EURISCO will improve the interface between ex situ and on-farm conservation

### **3. Proposal of a minimum sets of passport and characterisation descriptors to be included in future “Lr inventories” (On-farm Conservation and Management & Documentation groups**

- Minimum sets of passport and characterisation descriptors will be defined starting from the list proposed for web-enabled national in situ landrace inventories document (Negri et al., 2012), the results of Raggi et al. 2022 and output of PRO-GRACE project
  - among the others, the list could include the following data: geographical coordinates (Lat Long) of each known Lr cultivation site.
- A draft list of descriptors will be prepared by an ad hoc created task force led by the Chairs of On-farm Conservation and Management and Documentation and Information WGs.

## Links with other non-ECPGR projects or individuals

ABC Mediterranean Landrace will take advantage of Pro-Grace results, especially in the part related to the development of a list of descriptors will move forward to the compilation of list of names of in situ landraces to be made accessible through EURISCO

- Pro-Grace project developed methods and standards for passport description, inventorying, and population management of PGR maintained in situ/on-farm. Focused on methods and standards

But also...

- Inwheatory project where partners used appropriate templates to collect in situ occurrences data of wheat landraces that will be included in the “Lr inventories”

## Expected products and related ECPGR Priority activity

List concrete products and results that are obtained by the Activity and the corresponding number(s) of the ECPGR Outcome(s) and/or Output(s) and/or Activities to which each product/result will contribute.

	Expected products/results	Corresponding contribution to <i>Plant Genetic Resources Strategy for Europe</i> target
1	1. Development of lists of names of landraces (Lr inventories) present in the different involved European countries.	<b>Table 2:</b> On-farm plant genetic resources conservation and management. 2. P3 - Support on-farm inventory compilation in pilot countries and provision of data to the centralized platform.
2	Extend EURISCO to host the "Lr Inventories"	<b>Table 2:</b> On-farm plant genetic resources conservation and management. 2. P3 - Implement the necessary platform to receive on-farm data.
3	Proposal of a minimum set of passport and characterisation descriptors to be included in future "Lr inventories"	<b>Table 2:</b> On-farm plant genetic resources conservation and management. 2. P2 - Set up a TF involving EURISCO/ Doc&Info WG/On-farm WG to design the structure and requirements for a European Inventory of on-farm landraces (also based on methods and standards developed by PRO-GRACE for inventorying in situ maintained PGR).

# Thanks for the kind attention

EURISCO + On farm landraces 😊

