

# **PRUNUS WG REPORT (2024–2025)**

In preparation for the 18th Steering Committee Meeting, Tbilisi, Georgia, 2-4 June 2026

Compiled by WG Chair: **Daniela Giovannini**

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## **1. CONTRIBUTION TO ECPGR OBJECTIVES**

### **1.1. Achievements and success stories**

- To efficiently conserve and provide access to unique germplasm in Europe through AEGIS and the European Collection  
n/a
- To provide passport and phenotypic information of actively conserved European PGRFA diversity **ex situ** through the EURISCO catalogue

Significant progress has been made in this regard during the course of the FRUITREEDATA Project, now in its final stages:

- About 88,000 C&E datapoints of 4,073 *Prunus* accessions maintained at Project Partners (ALB, BEL, CHE, DEU, GBR, HUN, ITA, LVA) collections were prepared for EURISCO: approx. 44,500 plum, 41,200 cherry, 2,200 peach, 104 almond and 186 of *Prunus spp* datapoints;
  - A detailed assessment was carried out on the Prunus EPDB and a recommendation has been made to formally close it in favour of uploading C&E data to EURISCO;
  - EURISCO currently contains *Prunus* C&E data from CZE, ITA, and LVA, in total 16,059 datapoints, with an increment of 3,500 datapoints as compared to before the start of the Project; however, the large amount of data already prepared by FRUITREEDATA partners and not yet uploaded to EURISCO will be uploaded soon and/or will be subject to approval by national focal points.
  - New Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) to track and access germplasm data were requested and issued for approximately 2,500 *Prunus* Accessions.
  - Representatives from multiple countries have gained direct experience in preparing C&E data for upload to EURISCO.
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- To improve *in situ* conservation and use of crop wild relatives  
n/a
  - To promote on-farm conservation and management of European PGRFA diversity  
n/a
  - To promote use of PGRFA  
n/a

## 1.2. Gaps or constraints identified

During FRUITTREEDATA, assessments were made around the coverage of CHUNQ (CHerry UNiQue) identifiers within EURISCO listings; however, the *Prunus* WG members are still uncertain about how to include a clonal group identifier within EURISCO.

A number of partners reported that, whilst they did have access to further C&E data, they were not considered to be in the public domain due to an intention to use the data in scientific publications (the latter would be made available after publication). Examples of this would include up to 588 datapoints on sour cherry in FIN.

## 2. GRANT SCHEME ACTIVITIES, WG MEETINGS AND EVA ACTIVITIES

- **Ongoing Grant Scheme proposals (Phase X: submitted:1; approved:1)**
  - [FRUITTREEDATA](#) (Improvement of Fruit Tree Data Inclusion in EURISCO) in collaboration with the *Malus/Pyrus* WG
- **Total number of partners involved in Grant Scheme: 19 from 14 countries**
  - ECPGR-funded: 16 from 14 countries
  - Self-funded: 3 from 3 countries
- **Meetings held**
  - EVA Perennials, Workshop of the EVA Boost project towards establishing an EVA Perennials network, Ancona, Italy, 13-14 March 2025
  - FRUITTREEDATA, EPDB subgroup online meeting, 10 October 2025
  - FRUITTREEDATA, general online meeting, 26 September 2025
  - FRUITTREEDATA, EPDB subgroup online meeting, 20 December 2024
  - FRUITTREEDATA, general online meeting, 4 November 2024
  - FRUITTREEDATA, general online kick-off meeting, 3 December 2023 (and 7 December for those missing on 3 December)

The number of Partners involved in the above Project Meetings was of 4-5 Partners in the subgroup online meetings and 14-18 in the general online meetings

- **Total number of partners involved in WG Meeting:n/a**
- **Reports and related data**
  - [FRUITTREEDATA poster](#) presented at the 2024 ISHS Plum Apricot conference
  - [EVA Perennials/EVA Boost workshop report](#), Ancona, Italy, 13-14 March 2025
  - [Roadmap for the Development and Establishment of the EVA Perennials Network](#)
- **Funds mobilized (ongoing from Phase X)**
  - ECPGR granted funds: €19,387.5 (Total for the FRUITTREEDATA grant: €38,775)
  - Inputs in-kind declared in Grant activities: €18,000 (Total for the FRUITTREEDATA grant: €36,000)

## 3. OTHER ACTIVITIES (CROSS-WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES, LINKS WITH OTHER NETWORKS, PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES)

- **Cross-Working Group activities:** The Chairs and some partners of the ECPGR *Prunus* and the *Malus/Pyrus* WGs are currently participating in the EU Project INNOBRED (2022–2026). As part of the activities carried out for the major stone fruit and pome fruit crops, it is worth mentioning the activity focusing on the development, crop by crop, of harmonized descriptors and trait scoring systems, enabling meaningful comparisons of the data records across sites and countries. Particular emphasis was given to the development/consolidation of descriptors for phenology and resistance traits, which are often the most variable but also the most crucial under climate uncertainty. The selected descriptors were used to evaluate hundreds of varieties/landraces in order to identify outstanding GRs in terms of greater resilience to biotic and abiotic stresses. The results of these assessments, as well as the harmonized descriptors developed, could be useful during the establishment of the EVA Perennials Network
- **Others:** n/a

#### 4. WORKING GROUP DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS

- None

#### 5. EXPECTED ADDITIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES

A major, overarching, result of the FRUITREEDATA project is that representatives from partner countries have now gained direct experience of preparing C&E data for upload to EURISCO and that this has been achieved through a collaborative effort. In the future, we would expect project partners to be able to advise further on uploading such data to other genebanks within their country and within the ECPGR community more widely.

The *Prunus* WG will take advantage of the activities in the INNOBREED project, in particular those related to the selection/development of descriptors tailored to assess the susceptibility/tolerance of *Prunus* GRs to crop-specific diseases. Updating (enriching) ECPGR crop-specific descriptor guidelines could be among the WG's future projects that are most immediately feasible.

The EURISCO overview on C&E data reveals that the availability of C&E data for crops such as cherry, plum and peach and minor *Prunus* species still remains limited. Increasing the number of EU *Prunus* accessions well described with passport descriptors and C&E listed in EURISCO remains a long-term goal that will be very important to support with ECPGR Grant Scheme fundings.