

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

### **IPGR-Sadovo**

According to the agreement the activities, that has to be reported are as follows:

#### **1. Workshop of the partners in IPGR-Sadovo.**

On 18-19 June, 2024 IPGR- Sadovo, organized workshop of the project partners. The ECPGR Secretary, L. Maggioni, and the EURISCO coordinator, S. Weise, summarized the project objectives and 2023 achievements, with the agreed principles for transferring data from national inventories to EURISCO. The new extension of EURISCO, agreed descriptors, data upload mechanism, and the new web interface were presented. Further improvements in search and download functionalities are planned.

Project partners from Albania (online), Bulgaria, Germany (online), Italy, Lithuania, the Netherlands (online), Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom (online) presented their progress and shared their experiences. Overall, by August 2024, seven countries (Albania, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Spain) have provided CWR data to EURISCO, for a total of 3,035 populations data.

Considering that the German Ministry for Food and Agriculture granted an extension of the project until December 2024, with an additional budget of € 70,000, new partners from Georgia, Poland, Romania and Slovenia were invited to join the project. They presented their countries' activities for CWR conservation and documentation and their plans to provide CWR *in situ* data to EURISCO within the next six months. Agreements were signed between the ECPGR Secretary and all the partners for work plans to be implemented with the project's support. The benefit of adding one state to the descriptor CONSACTION (Conservation action in place), to enable adding information about populations managed as part of a genetic reserve was discussed. Principles and procedures to assign DOIs to the CWR *in situ* populations were also discussed. Guidelines for data providers on suggested options and procedures will be drafted and published.

#### **2. Expanding the scope of the invented sites.**

According to the work program, the Bulgarian participants continue the monitoring of wild relatives of cultivated plants by expanding the scope of the invented sites and thus adding data for 223 *in situ* populations to EURISCO database according to the FAO/Biodiversity descriptor (2022). The status of the database for Bulgaria includes passport information for 243 populations of wild relatives of cultivated plants (20 populations uploaded in 2023 and 223 populations for 2024).

#### **3. Communication, dissemination, exploitation and training**

Contacts with the responsible authorities from the Ministry of Environment in Bulgaria for providing information about CWR added in EURISCO were established. The project tasks

and outcomes were presented at the annual open day of the IPGR-Sadovo to students, farmers and colleagues, as well as at the international conference "Sustainable and competitive agriculture in the context of global climate change" – Maize Research Institute - Knezha, Bulgaria. Two scientific works were presented at that conference: "Conservation and utilization of Crop Wild Relatives in Bulgaria to mitigate the effects of climate change" and "Bulgarian crop wild relatives in EURISCO: status, progress and perspective".