Coordinators of the Task Force: Sipke. J. Hiemstra (NL), Zhivko Duchev (BG) and Fernando Tejerina (ES).

Report of the ERFP Task Force on documentation software for genebanks (2022-2023).

1. Objectives (Summary)

- Identify new providers of databases for genebanks in the countries members of the TF.
- Analyze in deep the economic and technical offers collected in 2021 or by the members of the TF in 2022, to select a technological solution and the provider of it, taking advantage of the number of genebanks interested in the negotiation of the prices and conditions of development/purchase.
- Collaborate in the implementation of the solution, establishing common requirements for the provider and support each other in the process of migration to the new software.
- Analyze the operation of the solution implemented, guarantee the maintenance of the system and propose new tools and solutions for future developments.
- Transform the TF in a permanent structure for the further maintenance and development of the solution selected and promote the incorporation of new countries to the TF and in the use of the solution.

2. Membership

- **Zhivko Duchev – ERFP (TF Co-chair).**
- **Sipke J. Hiemstra – The Netherlands (TF Co - chair)**
- Ina Hulsegge – The Netherlands.
- Danijela Bojkovski – Slovenia.
- Tina Flisar – Slovenia.
- Manuel Leuenberger – Switzerland.
- Melissa Raemy – Switzerland.
- Delphine Duchos - France
- Sonsoles Zabala – Spain.
- **Fernando Tejerina – Spain. (TF Co-Chair)**

3. Activities in the past year and output/results

Prior to the 2022 General Assembly, the TF had concluded that the optimal option for equipping the genebanks with a new software was to purchase an already developed programme and customize it in function of the requirements of the genebanks.

After the general assembly, meetings were held with companies that could supply such software. On 10th October, TF members met (by videoconference) with Bioaware, the company that has developed the Biolomics software, and on 13th October a similar meeting was held with Agilebio, the company that developed Labcollector.

Subsequently, TF members met by videoconference on 23th November and 9th December to discuss all the information collected on these two software packages, which is summarised in the table below.

	TECHNICAL FEATURES	CUSTOMIZATION	MAINTENANCE-SUPPORT	COST
BIOLOMICS	+++	+++	+++	+++ *
LABCOLLECTOR	+++	++	++	++

* In case of low number of licenses

The TF members consider that both software are suitable for genebank management, with Bioaware's Biolomics being the most recommendable.

Once this recommendation has been reached, each country will have to analyze if Biolomics meets the legal and technical requirements, where security aspects are of great relevance. It will also be up to each country to carry out the individual purchase of the software.

The members of the Task Force agreed that they would report on the next steps in both the analysis of the software requirements and the process of customization the software to the genebank requirement. It was also agreed that all members would collaborate in the customization process with the first country to make the purchase, at least in terms of the common requirements that the software would have to have for the genebanks.

At the Working Group meeting, the Netherlands reported that they had already started the purchase and were in the phase of customization the Bioaware software. During the presentation it was indicated that the customization is relatively simple (but also time consuming) and they do not think it is necessary to dedicate a specific ERFP budget for it and that it can be done by each individual genebank with some ease.

For its part, Spain reports that due to legal problems it is not possible to purchase the Bioaware software, and that it will have to develop its own database.

The other participating countries have not taken any action in relation to the process of acquiring new software.

4. Plans and priorities for the next year.
The activities proposed for the next year are:
- Share the experience of customization and use of off the shelf software or in the development of new database.
- Support countries in the process of purchase of Biolomics and customize that database to the specific requirements of each genebank.
- Analyse and propose the development of a common format for data exchange within different databases.

All the work of the TF will be developed by videoconference.

5. Other
The TF requested a budget for this year of 22,000 euros, which would be used for meetings and software customization. However, no physical meetings have been held and the customization process seems simple enough not to require external support. Therefore, the assigned budget has not been used and for next year, as all the online meetings are foreseen, it will not be necessary to allocate a specific budget for the TF.