

Coordinators of the Task Force: Sipke Hiemstra, Zhivko Ducheve and Fernando Tejerina.

Report of the ERFP Task Force on documentation software for genebanks (2023-2024)

1. Objectives (Summary)

- Identify new providers of databases for genebanks in the countries participating in 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, taken 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 permanent group 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. TF Membership

- **Zhivko Ducheve – ERFP (TF Co-chair).**
- **S.J. Hiemstra – The Netherlands (TF Co - chair)**
- Ina Hulsege – The Netherlands.
- Annemieke Rattink – The Netherlands.
- Danijela Bojkovski – Slovenia.
- Tina Flisar – Slovenia.
- Daniela Wassem – Switzerland.
- Melissa Raemy – Switzerland.
- Delphine Duclos - France
- **Fernando Tejerina – Spain. (TF Co-Chair)**

3. Activities in the past year and output/results

On 4th March 2024 the TF members met by videoconference. Eight external observers (from Latvia, Germany, Italy, Serbia and Sweden) also joined the meeting. The objectives of the

meeting were sharing experiences on the implementation of new software in genebanks and discussing the future activities of the TF.

Ina Hulssege and Annemieke Rattink by CGN Wageningen presented their experience with the implementation and the adaptation of the BioAware database software for genebanks and its current state of operation. The BioAware database software was identified by the Task Force as the most suitable system for genebank operation, and CGN Wageningen has been the only institution that has adopted it so far. In their presentation, they indicated the main actions for the adaptation of the database to be used by the Dutch national genebank and the proposed new features. CGN stated that the advantages of this database solution are much more numerous than the difficulties encountered. Finally, they emphasised on the good quality of the support provided by the company, supplying the database, during the period of adaptation and use.

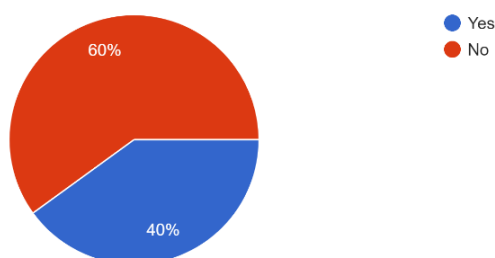
Sonsoles Zabala, the director of CENSYRA de Colmenar Viejo, presented the experience of her institution in the development of a database developed specifically for its genebank by the IT services of her institution. The database is based on Microsoft's Powerapps and PowerBI applications. The result has been a database that allows the specific functionalities required for the management of the Spanish National Genebank.

In relation with the future activities of the TF, the members agreed to continue supporting countries in the implementation of new databases.

Another issue that was discussed for the future was the storage and management of genomic information related to samples stored in genebank collections. The results of a simple questionnaire answered by the ERFP ex-situ conservation working group members were presented to the TF members (see graphs below).

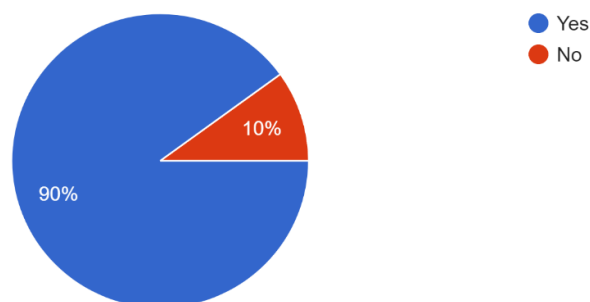
Is your institution storing genomic information?

10 respuestas



Do you think it is interesting that the ERFP works on analyzing and improving the management of genomic information in genebanks?

10 respuestas



After discussing these results the TF members agreed to continue working on this relevant issue, firstly adding it on the agenda of the ex situ conservation working group meeting in Cyprus and by asking Slovenia and The Netherlands to present their experiences and ideas about the storage and management of genomic information in relation to genebanks

Finally, the TF members agreed that the development of a common format for data exchange between different databases is not a priority at the moment

4. Plans and priorities for the next year (2024/2025).

The activities proposed for the next year are:

- Support countries in the implementation of new databases software for genebanks, with main emphasis on the database solution of BioAware (the most suitable solution identified by TF).
- Analyse and search for common solutions for the storage, management and use of genomic information in relation to genebank collections (a specific AHA on this topic will be presented for the approval of ERFP SC)

5. Other

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