

Council
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COOPERATION IN EXAMINATION

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This document presents a proposal to increase efficiency of searches for cooperation in variety examination using the “UPOV Genera and Species Database” (GENIE Database). The proposal consolidates two procedures to identify cooperation into a single one.
2. Currently, UPOV members can use two alternative procedures to identify cooperation using the GENIE database (“Experience in examination” and “Cooperation in DUS examination”). In 2024, the Technical Committee¹ (TC) agreed that UPOV members sought cooperation using “Experience in examination” and that “Cooperation in DUS examination” was outdated and could possibly be discontinued. In 2025, the Technical Working Parties² agreed with the proposal to discontinue the section on “Cooperation in DUS Examination” of the GENIE Database.
3. Discontinuing the “Cooperation in DUS examination” section of the GENIE Database would imply discontinuing the Council document “Cooperation in examination”. It would enable focusing work on improving data quantity and quality about “Experience in examination”, which would continue to be provided annually to the Technical Committee and in the GENIE Database.

INFORMATION ON COOPERATION IN DUS EXAMINATION

4. UPOV Circular E-25/003, of January 27, 2025, invited UPOV members to provide updated information about agreements for cooperation in examination and the utilization of existing DUS test reports. Responses were received from: Croatia, Estonia, Finland, Japan, Lithuania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom. This information is reflected in the UPOV Genera and Species database (GENIE Database):
 - by Crop/species (<https://www.upov.int/genie/species.xhtml>)
 - by Authority (<https://www.upov.int/genie/authority.xhtml>)

GENIE DATABASE: FINDING COOPERATION IN DUS EXAMINATION

5. The TC, in 2024³, agreed that UPOV members sought cooperation in DUS examination directly with authorities that have experience in the examination of the crops of their interest. The TC agreed that information in the Council document “Cooperation in examination” was outdated and could possibly be discontinued. The same information is reflected in the GENIE database.
6. Discontinuing the “Cooperation in DUS examination” part of the GENIE Database would not affect the provision of information on “Practical experience in DUS examination”, which would continue to be collected and searchable online in the GENIE Database, as well as in printable format in the TC document “List of genera and species for which authorities have practical experience in the examination of DUS”. At their sessions in 2025, the Technical Working Parties (TWPs) agreed with this proposal.

¹ Held in Geneva on October 21 and 22, 2024. See document TC/60/8 “Report”, paragraph 40.

² See documents TWO/57/10 “Report”, paragraphs 28 and 29; TWV/59/19 “Report”, paragraphs 22 and 23; TWA/54/7 “Report”, paragraphs 11 and 12; and TWF/56/7 “Report”, paragraphs 23 and 24.

³ Technical Committee, sixtieth session, held in Geneva on October 21 and 22, 2024. See document TC/60/8 “Report”, paragraph 40.

7. The TC⁴ and the Administrative and Legal Committee (CAJ)⁵, at their sessions in 2025, will consider recommending to the Council to discontinue the section on “Cooperation in examination” [agreements] in the GENIE database (see document [SESSIONS/2025/5](#) “UPOV information databases”). The proposal would consolidate searches for cooperation into a single procedure in the GENIE Database using information provided under “Practical experience in DUS examination” and the Technical Committee document TC/61/4 “List of genera and species for which authorities have practical experience in the examination of distinctness, uniformity and stability.”

8. The Council is invited to consider discontinuing the section on “Cooperation in DUS examination” in the GENIE Database and Council document with the same title, with the understanding that such a decision would not affect the section “Practical experience in DUS examination” of the GENIE Database, nor the publication of document TC/61/4 “List of genera and species for which authorities have practical experience in the examination of DUS”, as set out in paragraphs 5 to 7 of this document.

[End of document]

⁴ TC, sixty-first session, to be held on October 20 and 21, 2025.

⁵ CAJ, eighty-second session, to be held on October 22, 2025.