

**Technical Committee****TC/57/7 Add.****Fifty-Seventh Session  
Geneva, October 25 and 26, 2021****Original:** English  
**Date:** October 5, 2021**ADDENDUM TO  
THE COMBINED OVER YEARS UNIFORMITY CRITERION (COYU)***Document prepared by the Office of the Union**Disclaimer: this document does not represent UPOV policies or guidance*

1. The purpose of this addendum is to report discussions on “The Combined-Over-Years Uniformity Criterion (COYU)” at the thirty-ninth session of the Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs (TWC)<sup>1</sup>.
2. The TWC, at its thirty-ninth session, considered document TWC/39/5 “Development of software for the improved COYU method (splines)” and received a presentation from an expert from the United Kingdom, a copy of which is provided in document TWC/39/5 Add. (see document TWC/39/9 “Report”, paragraphs 7 to 9).
3. The TWC noted the progress on software development for COYU Splines and that evaluation versions of the software had been released in August 2021. The TWC noted that the Office of the Union had issued Circular E-21/116 on August 4, 2021, inviting experts to evaluate the software and report outcomes by December 31, 2021, to the expert from the United Kingdom.
4. The TWC agreed to invite the expert from the United Kingdom to report outcomes of the software evaluation at the first session of the Technical Working Party on Testing Methods and Techniques (TWM), in 2022. The TWC noted that results of the test campaign of the COYU Splines software were expected to be available in 2022 and agreed to invite the expert from the United Kingdom to report developments at the first session of the TWM.
5. The TWC, at its thirty-ninth session, considered document TWP/5/11 “The Combined-Over-Years Uniformity Criterion (COYU)” (see document TWC/39/9 “Report”, paragraphs 32 to 36).
6. The TWC considered the proposed revision of document TGP/8, Section 9 “The Combined-Over-Years Uniformity Criterion (COYU);” on the basis of the draft presented in the Annexes to document TWP/5/11.
7. The TWC agreed that further consideration would be required on whether to remove guidance on COYU moving average from document TGP/8, Section 9, and replace it by the explanation on the improved method (COYU Splines), on the basis that explanation on COYU moving average was made available on the UPOV website.
8. The TWC agreed that further discussion would be required on using COYU when a candidate had a level of expression in a characteristic outside that seen in other varieties (extrapolation) and agreed to invite the United Kingdom to make a presentation at the first session of the TWM.
9. The TWC noted that a report on evaluation versions of software for COYU Splines was provided in documents TWC/39/5 and TWC/39/5 Add.

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<sup>1</sup> hosted by the United States of America and organized by electronic means, from September 20 to 22, 2021.