

ECPGR: the latest developments

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Forages 2020 Workshop - 9 November 2015, Alnarp, Sweden

ECPGR - Phase IX (2014-2018)

- Budget of € 2,5 M → € 2.9 M
- New objectives
- New operational structure
- New rules of procedure and terms of reference of ECPGR bodies
- EURISCO to be hosted by IPK, Gatersleben, Germany (2014)

ECPGR objectives (Phase IX)

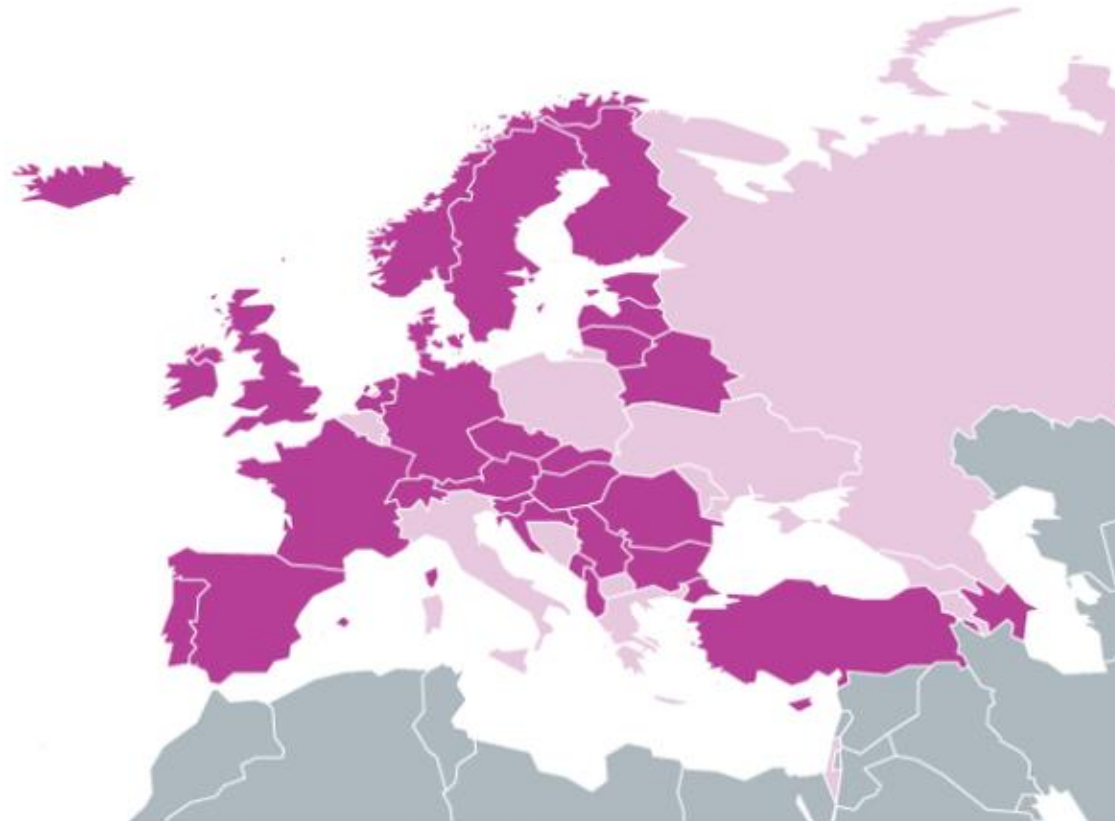
Long-term Goal:

National, Sub-regional and Regional Programmes in Europe rationally and effectively conserve *ex situ* and *in situ* PGRFA and increase their utilization

Objectives of ECPGR – outcomes of Phase IX

1. **AEGIS** is operational and accessions are characterized and evaluated
2. Functionality of **EURISCO** ensured (data quality & quantity + in situ data)
3. ***In situ and on-farm conservation and management*** of priority crop wild relative (CWR) and landrace (LR) populations are implemented throughout Europe
4. Relations with **users** of germplasm are strengthened
5. Commitment and regular resources from donors are increased
6. Secretariat support is adequate to sustain operations of ECPGR

Membership Phase IX



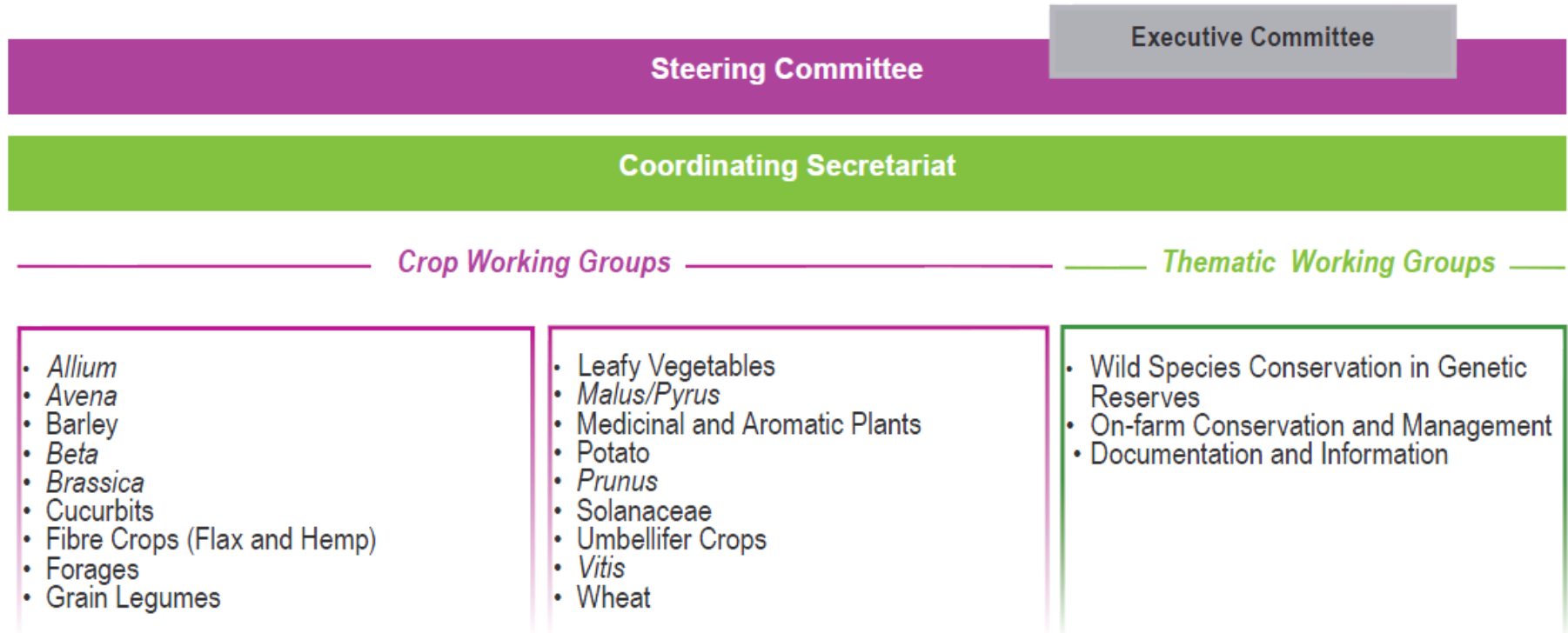
31 signatures
(out of 37 budgeted
contributions)

-  Signatories of ECPGR Membership in Phase IX
-  Countries invited to join Phase IX

New Operational Structure - 1

- Networks are eliminated
- 21 Working Groups (18 crop and 3 thematic WGs)
- WGs, composed of pools of experts proposed by NCs, carry out activities mandated by the SC or proposed by the WG (through the Chair) and approved by the SC → Grant Scheme
- Revised Terms of Reference of Chairs

ECPGR Structure



Terms of reference of the WG Chairs - 1

- **AEGIS-related tasks**

- 1. Crop conservation workplan**

1. Identifying gaps and redundancies of the European Collection
2. Promoting inclusion of valuable accessions
3. Monitoring implementation of genebank standards
4. Setting priorities (charact. / eval. / regeneration)

- 2. Oversight of Associate Members' European Collection management**

Terms of reference of the WG Chairs - 2

- Other tasks
 1. Orchestrate know-how available in the pool of experts
 2. Coordinate preparation of project ideas and proposals for the ECPGR grant scheme
 3. Coordinate ECPGR–related activities for the crop genepool

Composition of WGs

- Nominations received from **33** National Coordinators
- Size of WGs: between **41** and **89** members (average **67** members) (total: 1416)
- Forages WG: 89 members
 - Genebank curators: 22
 - Plant breeders: 23
 - Policy and law
 - Crop specialists: 23
 - Info/Doc specialist: 14
 - Other: 1

ECPGR Grant Scheme

- First Call launched 30 June 2014:
 - 8 proposals were selected (**FORAGES 2020**)
- Second Call: launched on 15 April 2015
 - 3 proposals approved for immediate funding
 - 3 proposals to be resubmitted (**FORAGES DB**)
- Third Call to be launched 15 January 2016 with deadline 15 April 2016

Evaluation of Forages DB Activity proposal

- General objectives ok
- Questions about request of funding for Poa database and the meaning of its integration into EURISCO
(incompatible with ECPGR funding priorities)
- **Request to revise or better explain**

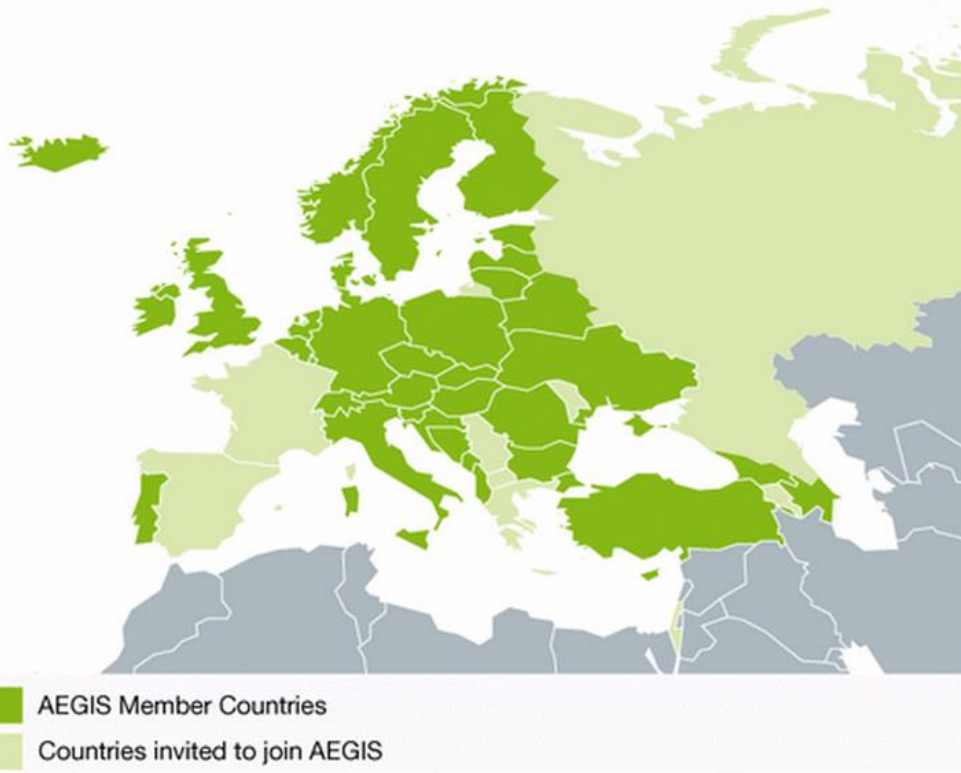
AEGIS objective

- To create **A European Genebank Integrated System for PGRFA**, aimed at **conserving the genetically unique and important accessions for Europe and making them available** for breeding and research. Such material will be safely conserved under conditions that **ensure genetic integrity and viability in the long term.**

Key components

- MOU (Memorandum of Understanding)
- European Collection
- AQUAS (Quality System)

AEGIS membership status



34 Members
58 Associate Members' Agreements

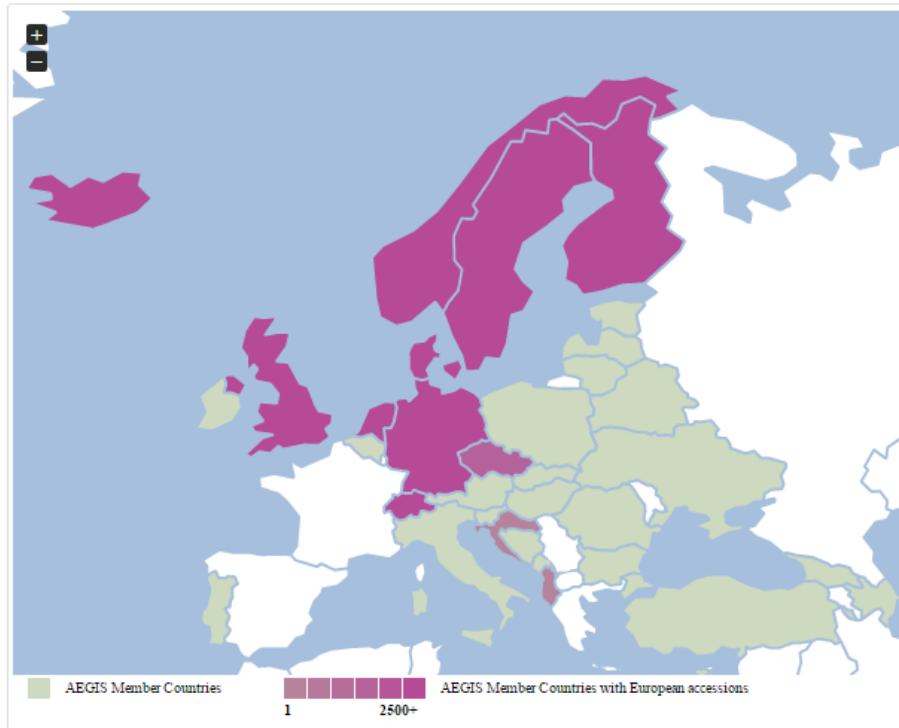
1. Albania (06 May 2009) - Associate Members
2. Austria (10 December 2012) - Associate Members
3. Azerbaijan (16 July 2009) - Associate Members
4. Belarus (02 November 2011) - Associate Members
5. Belgium (01 June 2012) - Associate Members
6. Bosnia and Herzegovina (19 May 2010)
7. Bulgaria (02 December 2009) - Associate Members
8. Croatia (02 December 2009) - Associate Members
9. Cyprus (15 September 2012) - Associate Members
10. Czech Republic (23 July 2009) - Associate Members
11. Denmark (22 February 2010) - Associate Members
12. Estonia (22 May 2009) - Associate Members
13. Finland (02 December 2009) - Associate Members
14. Georgia (18 May 2009) - Associate Members
15. Germany (05 November 2009) - Associate Members
16. Hungary (22 November 2011) - Associate Members
17. Iceland (22 October 2010) - Associate Members
18. Ireland (22 July 2009)
19. Italy (03 March 2014)
20. Latvia (01 June 2012) - Associate Members
21. Lithuania (12 October 2010)
22. Montenegro (16 December 2010)
23. Netherlands (28 May 2009) - Associate Members
24. Norway (17 August 2009) - Associate Members
25. Poland (17 May 2010) - Associate Members
26. Portugal (20 November 2009)
27. Romania (14 April 2010) - Associate Members
28. Slovakia (17 June 2009) - Associate Members
29. Slovenia (21 September 2009) - Associate Members
30. Sweden (31 May 2011) - Associate Members
31. Switzerland (27 July 2009) - Associate Members
32. Turkey (14 November 2011) - Associate Members
33. Ukraine (30 April 2009)
34. United Kingdom (18 June 2010) - Associate Members

The European collection today

(as at 6 November 2015)

The European Collection

Total European Accessions: **27806** [Watch the latest registrations for the European Collection](#)



27 806 accessions

1. Germany: 7904
2. The Netherlands: 5853
3. Switzerland: 4838
4. UK: 4183
5. Nordic Countries 3708
6. Czech Republic: 1222
7. Croatia: 90
8. Albania: 8

- 15 315 new accessions in 2015
- 4 (8) new countries adding accessions

The European Collection

- Through signing the **MOU** countries accept responsibility for European Accessions:
 - Long-term conservation according to quality standards
 - Availability through Standard Material Transfer Agreement (SMTA)
 - Safety-duplication
- Working Groups are responsible for:
 - Oversight over the Selection of European Accessions
 - Establishment of crop-specific quality standards
 - Preparation of crop conservation/management strategies

“Simplified” selection procedure for European Accessions

- 1) Associate Member** institutes/genebanks recommend to National Coordinators a list of accessions they maintain, for inclusion into the European Collection.
- 2) National Coordinator** considers the recommendations and makes the final decision, ensuring that the established conservation and availability conditions will be met.
- 3) Accessions** are flagged in **EURISCO** as part of the European Collection

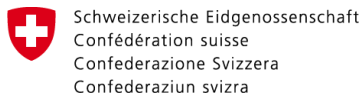
AEGIS Quality System (AQUAS): principles

- Consensus on minimum standards
- As little bureaucratic as possible
- Monitoring system (advisory approach)
- Capacity building

AQUAS elements

1) Template for operational genebank manual

- All Associate member institutes are encouraged and expected to compile and upload it on the AEGIS Web site
- **5** genebank manuals are online:



AQUAS elements

2) Generic operational genebank standards

- Generic standards on seed, field and *in vitro*/cryopreservation genebanks approved by FAO Commission in April 2013

3) Agreed minimum crop-specific technical standards (complementing generic standards)

- Allium and Cucurbits completed

AQUAS elements

4) An AEGIS Safety-duplication Policy

- Endorsed by SC

5) An AEGIS Distribution Guideline

- Endorsed by SC

AQUAS elements

6) Record keeping, monitoring and reporting system

- Revised draft commented by the Steering Committee

RK: Update of manual; access to records of routine operations

M: Activity plan: conservation, regeneration, safety-duplication, standards upgrade

RS: Role for WG Chair and Secretariat to monitor and seek capacity building

New document 2015: AEGIS Benefits

Benefits of establishing and operating a
European Collection of unique and important
germplasm

- endorsed by SC

Benefits spelled out for different categories: users,
curators, policy makers, general public

ExCo as AEGIS Advisory Committee

Discussed issues:

1. Topic of 'country of origin' in selecting accessions to be included in European Collection (one of the important criteria in Simplified Selection Procedures)
2. Unclear 'status' about genetic stocks/mutants/breeding lines and the European Collection

EURISCO

- Extension for C&E data ready for implementation
→ See Stephan!
- Appointment of EURISCO Advisory Group
(under definition)

Task Forces to prepare in situ/on-farm concepts

- In situ wild relatives → *concept endorsed in March 2015*
- On-farm landraces → *Revised concept submitted in October 2015 - accepted as background paper. Secretariat will develop a concise version for approval by SC*

Upcoming event: Mid-Term SC meeting May 2016, Trebinje, Bosnia and Herzegovina

- Evaluation Third call for proposals
- Evaluation progress Phase IX
 - WG Chairs to provide report of progress towards ECPGR objectives
 - WG members survey about status of ECPGR and evaluation of WG Chairs
- Planning for Phase X
- ECPGR Strategy vis-à-vis European Commission
- ECPGR between Nagoya and Multilateral System



Thank you for your attention!