

Information and update on ECPGR

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ECPGR Secretary



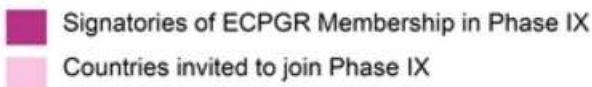
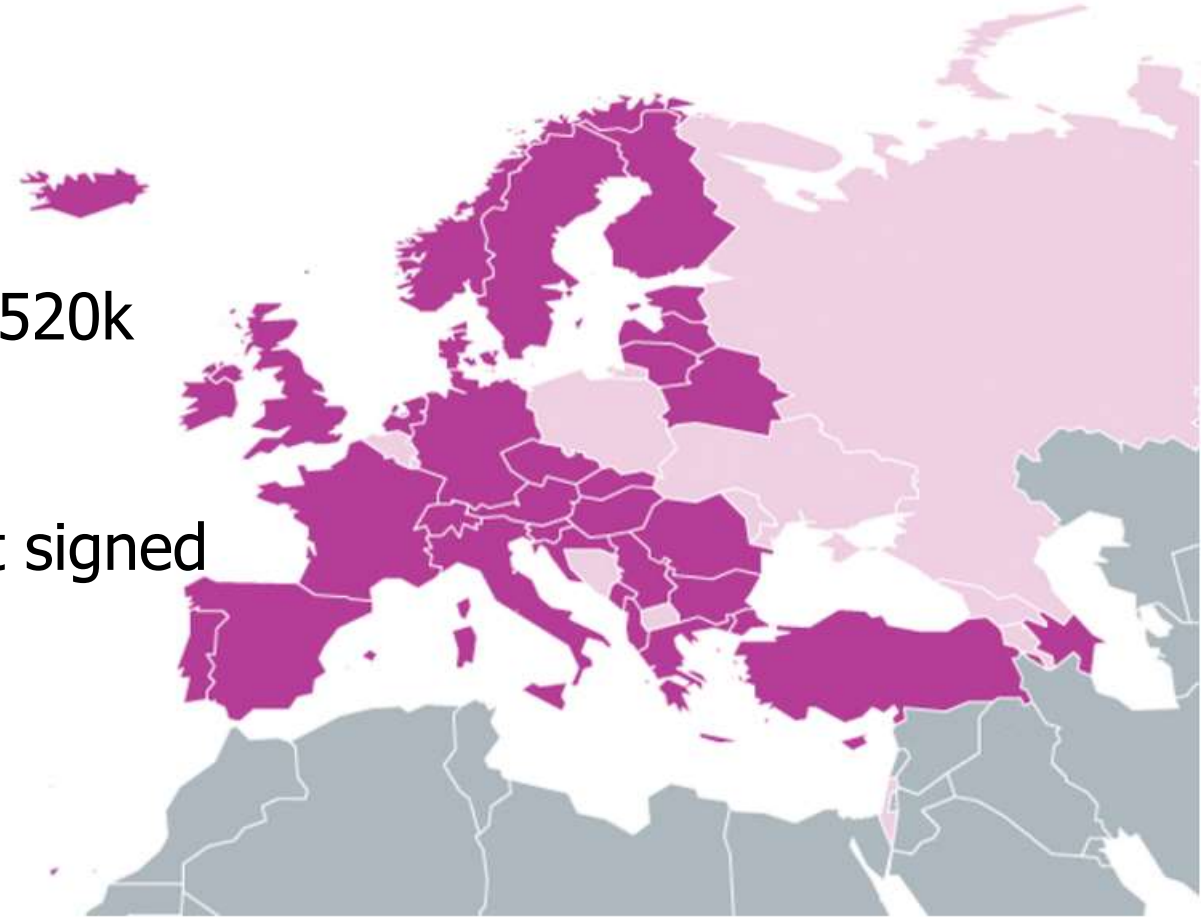
What is ECPGR

ECPGR is a collaborative Programme among most European countries, aiming at ensuring the long-term conservation and facilitating the utilization of plant genetic resources in Europe.

www.ecpgr.cgiar.org/

Phase IX (2014-2018)

- Annual budget ca. € 520k from 38 countries
- Letters of Agreement signed by 33 countries



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

Structure

Executive Committee

Steering Committee

Coordinating Secretariat

Crop Working Groups

Thematic Working Groups

- *Allium*
- *Avena*
- Barley
- *Beta*
- *Brassica*
- Cucurbits
- Fibre Crops (Flax and Hemp)
- Forages
- Grain Legumes

- Leafy Vegetables
- *Malus/Pyrus*
- Medicinal and Aromatic Plants
- Potato
- *Prunus*
- Solanaceae
- Umbellifer Crops
- *Vitis*
- Wheat

- Wild Species Conservation in Genetic Reserves
- On-farm Conservation and Management
- Documentation and Information

New Operational Structure

- 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

Composition of WGs

Nominations to become WG members must be made by
National Coordinators

Size of WGs: between **43** and **92** members (average **72**
members) (total: 1514)

Allium WG: 66 members

Genebank curators: 18

Plant breeders: 10

Policy and law: 8

Crop specialists: 25

Info/Doc specialist: 13

Other: 3

Terms of Reference of Crop Working Groups

- **Contribute to management of the European Collection:**
 - Identify gaps or redundancies
 - Monitor implementation of conservation standards
 - Setting priorities for C&E
 - Setting priorities for rejuvenation
 - Sharing responsibilities on above-mentioned tasks
- **Undertake Activities in line with ECPGR objectives**

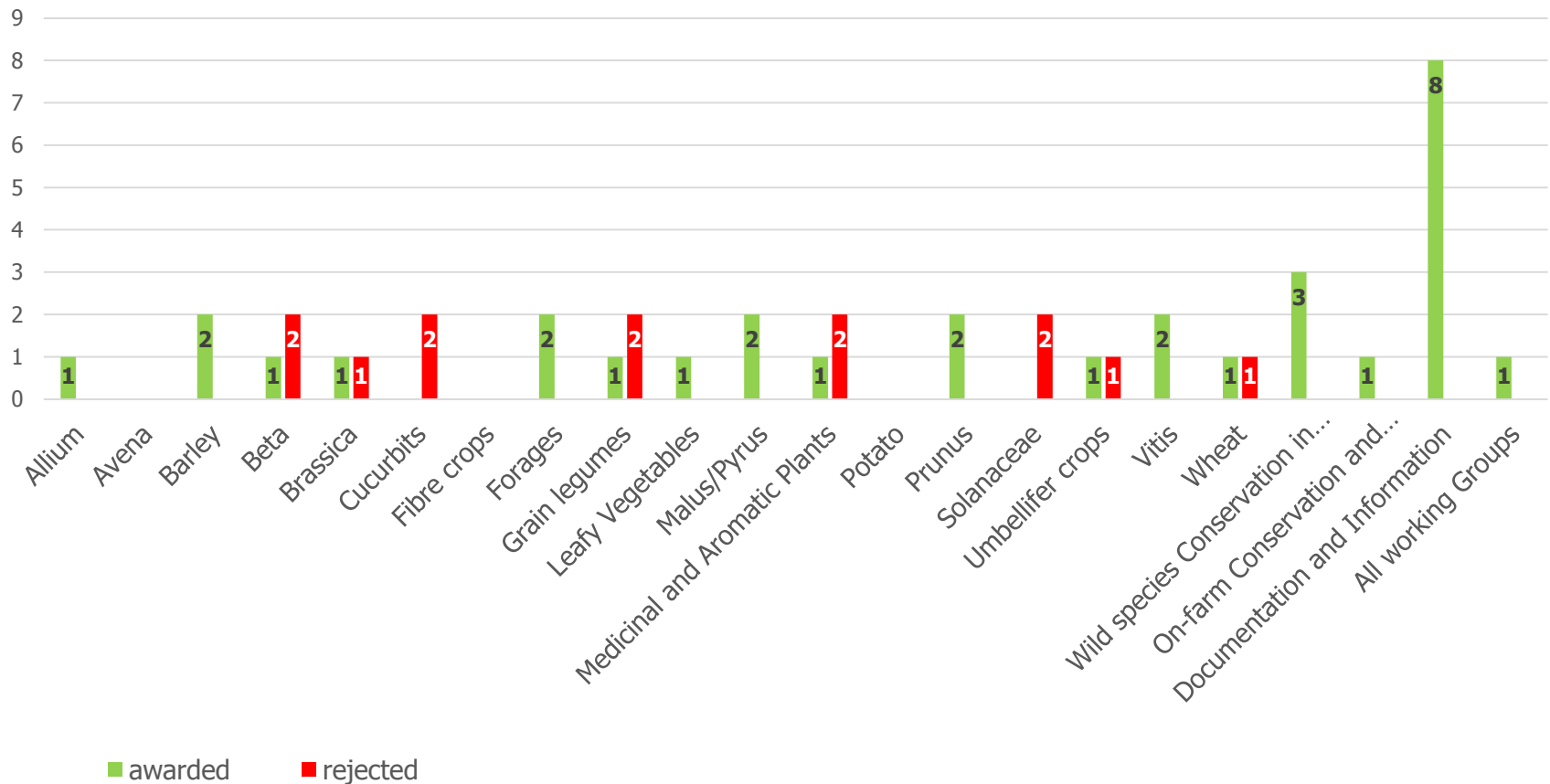
ECPGR Activity Grant Scheme

- Working Group activities (meetings and other actions) are carried out on the basis of a competitive scheme.
- Participation in these activities of technical experts from all the member countries are guaranteed by a country quota.
- Depending on funding availability, the Secretariat will regularly open calls for ECPGR-funded actions.

Activity Grant Scheme

- 26 Activities funded through 4 Calls (ca. €430 000)

Working Groups involved in the Activity Grant Scheme



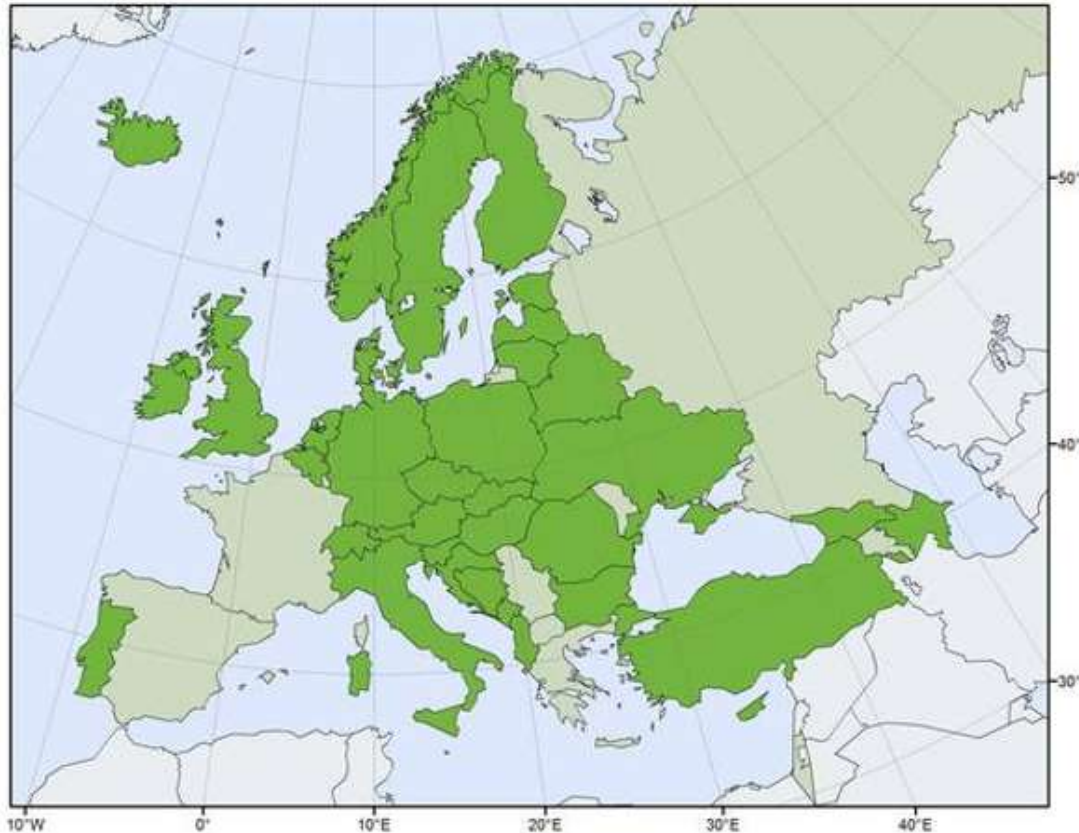
Objectives of ECPGR – outcomes of Phase IX

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

1- AEGIS is operational

- 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**

AEGIS membership



34 Member countries
61 Associate Members' Agreements

1. **Albania** (05 May 2009) - [Associate Members](#)
2. **Austria** (04 December 2012) - [Associate Members](#)
3. **Azerbaijan** (15 July 2009) - [Associate Members](#)
4. **Belarus** (01 November 2011) - [Associate Members](#)
5. **Belgium** (31 May 2012) - [Associate Members](#)
6. **Bosnia and Herzegovina** (18 May 2010)
7. **Bulgaria** (01 December 2009) - [Associate Members](#)
8. **Croatia** (01 December 2009) - [Associate Members](#)
9. **Cyprus** (15 September 2009) - [Associate Members](#)
10. **Czech Republic** (22 July 2009) - [Associate Members](#)
11. **Denmark** (21 February 2010) - [Associate Members](#)
12. **Estonia** (21 May 2009) - [Associate Members](#)
13. **Finland** (01 December 2009) - [Associate Members](#)
14. **Georgia** (17 May 2009) - [Associate Members](#)
15. **Germany** (04 November 2009) - [Associate Members](#)
16. **Hungary** (21 November 2011) - [Associate Members](#)
17. **Iceland** (21 October 2010) - [Associate Members](#)
18. **Ireland** (21 July 2009)
19. **Italy** (02 March 2014) - [Associate Members](#)
20. **Latvia** (31 May 2012) - [Associate Members](#)
21. **Lithuania** (11 October 2010)
22. **Montenegro** (15 December 2010)
23. **Netherlands** (27 May 2009) - [Associate Members](#)
24. **Norway** (16 August 2009) - [Associate Members](#)
25. **Poland** (16 May 2010) - [Associate Members](#)
26. **Portugal** (19 November 2009) - [Associate Members](#)
27. **Romania** (13 April 2010) - [Associate Members](#)
28. **Slovakia** (16 June 2009) - [Associate Members](#)
29. **Slovenia** (20 September 2009) - [Associate Members](#)
30. **Sweden** (30 May 2011) - [Associate Members](#)
31. **Switzerland** (26 July 2009) - [Associate Members](#)
32. **Turkey** (13 November 2011) - [Associate Members](#)
33. **Ukraine** (29 April 2009)
34. **United Kingdom** (17 June 2010) - [Associate Members](#)

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

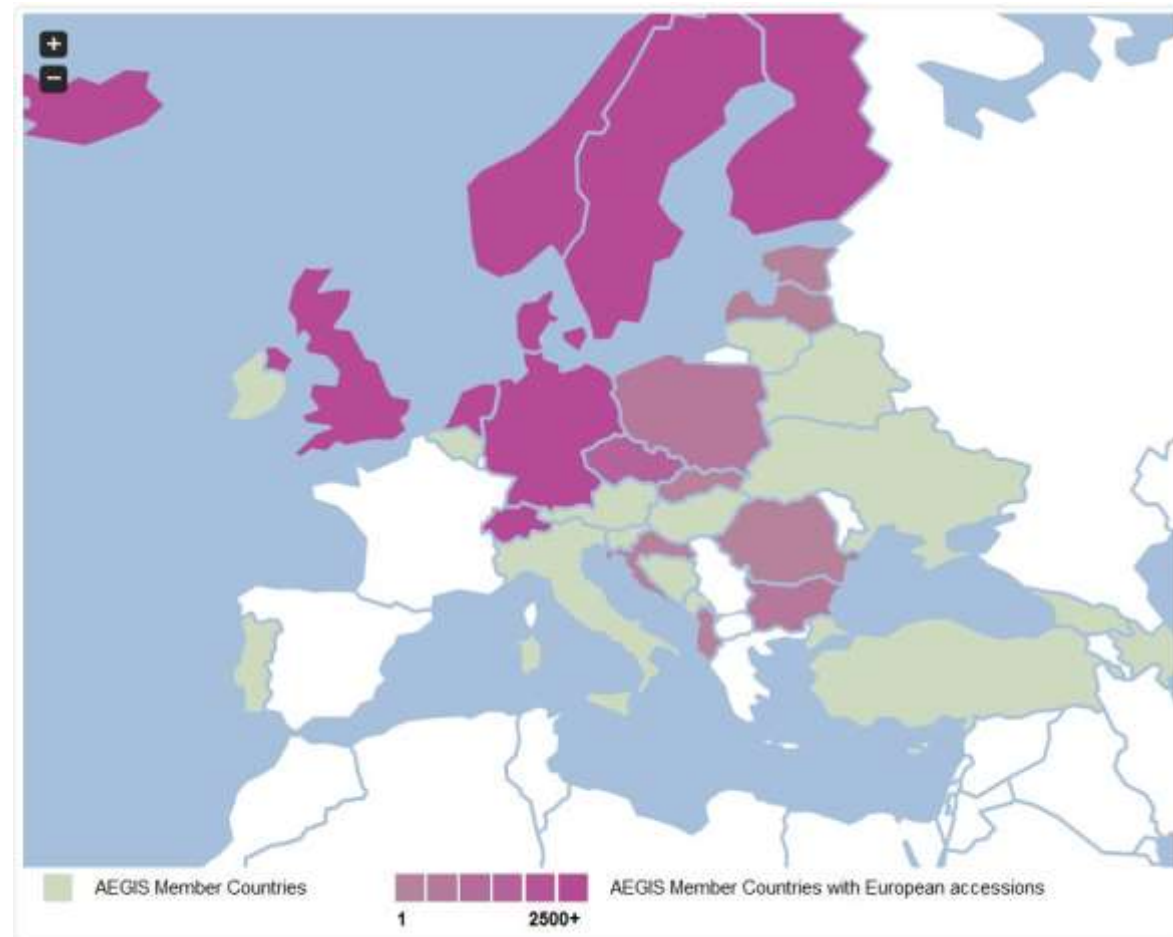
Working Groups are responsible for:

- Oversight over the Selection of European Accessions
- Establishment of crop-specific quality standards
- Preparation of crop conservation/management strategies

The European Collection

32 791 accessions included in the European Collection

Country	No of accessions
Albania	8
Bulgaria	261
Croatia	90
Czechia	1285
Estonia	89
Germany	14193
Latvia	21
Netherlands	5853
Nordic Countries	3708
Poland	303
Romania	194
Slovakia	299
Switzerland	4838
United Kingdom	1659
Total	32 791



Perceived Benefits of AEGIS

- Improved **security of germplasm** through long-term commitment and systematic safety-duplication
- Facilitated access to and **availability** of germplasm
- Improved **quality standards** of conserved material
- **Cost efficient** conservation activities
- **Reduced unwanted duplication** of germplasm material
- Improved **sharing of knowledge** and information

Allium accessions in AEGIS

(630 vs. 12 264 in EURISCO)

Allium altaicum	3	Allium lusitanicum	1
Allium altynolicum	4	Allium nutans	4
Allium ampeloprasum	77	Allium porrum	73
Allium angulosum	2	Allium ramosum	6
Allium carolinianum	4	Allium sativum	143 (5.7% of EURISCO: 2491)
Allium cepa	231 (4.5% of EURISCO: 5082) Aggregatum = 0 In EURISCO = 92	Allium schergianum	1
Allium cepa x fistulosum	1	Allium schoenoprasum	46
Allium fistulosum	23	Allium scorodoprasum	1
Allium hymenorrhizum	1	Allium sphaerocephalon	3
Allium karelinii	1	Allium tuberosum	1
Allium kermesinum	1	Allium vavilovii x cepa	2

AQUAS – Quality system

- Transparency: operational **genebank manuals**
- Agreed common conservation **standards** (FAO + crop-specific)
- **Safety-duplication** policy
- **Distribution** guidelines
- **Monitoring** system: voluntary peer review

Agreed standards

Note: these standards will be sent to the Steering Committee for endorsement.

Allium - Crop-specific genebank standards for field genebanks

-  [Crop-specific standards for field genebanks \(agreed by the *Allium* WG, May 2015\) \(80 KB\)](#)

New AEGIS initiatives

1. Pilot study led by CGN: Creation of a **peer review system** amongst *ex situ* genebanks in Europe (based on voluntary participation)

Expected result: **Exchange of knowledge; Basis for fund raising**

2. Multiplication and Safety-duplication to Svalbard of AEGIS accessions, funded by the Crop Trust (to be confirmed)

Expected result: **First example of ability of AEGIS to prioritize use of donor funds**

2- Quantity and quality of data in EURISCO

Online catalogue, with information on the European *ex situ* collections: passport and C&E data

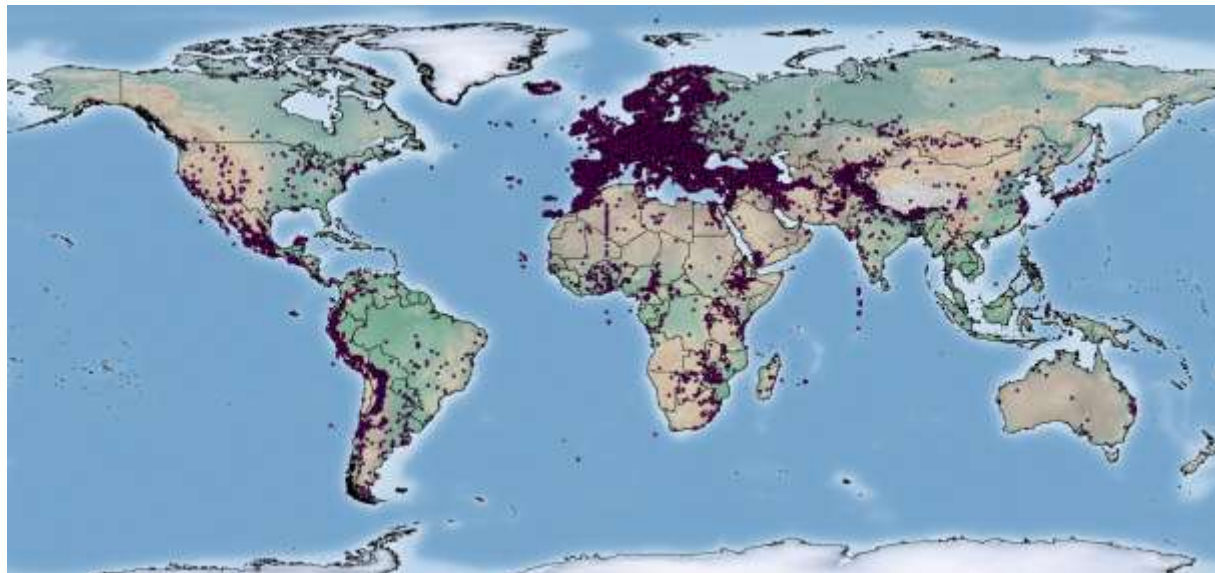


<http://eurisco.ecpgr.org>



Online catalogue of accessions in European genebanks: EURISCO

- Data gathered from 43 national inventories
- 1.96 M accession data from 376 institutions throughout Europe
- Largest PGR data provider at the accession level
- Register for MLS (413k) and AEGIS (32.8k) European accessions



EURISCO development planned for 2017

- Adoption of MCPD v.2.1 including additional descriptors
- Instructions for National Focal points regarding C&E datasets
- Uploading of C&E datasets via Grant Scheme Activities
- An improved user interface to increase the searching performance via taxonomic names (project funds offered by Germany)

3- In situ conservation and management

- National and regional conservation strategy planning
(checklists -> priorities -> inventories -> action plans)
- Designation and management of **Most Appropriate Wild Populations** (genetic diversity and traits of interest) in **genetic reserves**

ECPGR Concept for *in situ* conservation of crop wild relatives in Europe

Nigel Maxted, Alvina Avagyan, Lothar Frese, José Iriondo,
Joana Magos Brehm, Alon Singer and Shelagh Kell

Endorsed by the ECPGR Steering Committee in March 2015



3- On farm conservation and management

- European Inventory of on-farm genetic diversity
- Developing indicators for monitoring diversity and threat
- Promoting good practices for on-farm management
- Concept of European agro-diversity sites
- Addressing issues of ownership, access, availability, marketing, etc.



4- Relations with users

Private Public Partnerships for the use of PGRFA

- Dedicated ECPGR webpages providing examples of public private partnerships on use of PGRFA:

<http://www.ecpgr.cgiar.org/resources/private-public-partnerships/ppp-knowledge-base/>

- Workshop, June 2017, Bonn, Germany
- Towards a European Evaluation Network

Upcoming events – ECPGR

- 16-18 October 2017: Meeting of all WG Chairs, Ljubljana, Slovenia
 - Discussion of ECPGR objectives and Mode of operation for Phase X
 - Evaluation of proposals under Fifth Call
- November 2017: Expected launch of H2020 Call for Coordination and Support Action (3M)
 - Joining forces for GenRes and biodiversity management
- May 2018: End-of-Phase Steering Committee meeting, Greece: decisions on Phase X of ECPGR (2019-2023)

**Thank you
for your
attention!**



Allium ampeloprasum, Roma, May 2014