

ECPGR towards Phase X

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ECPGR Secretary



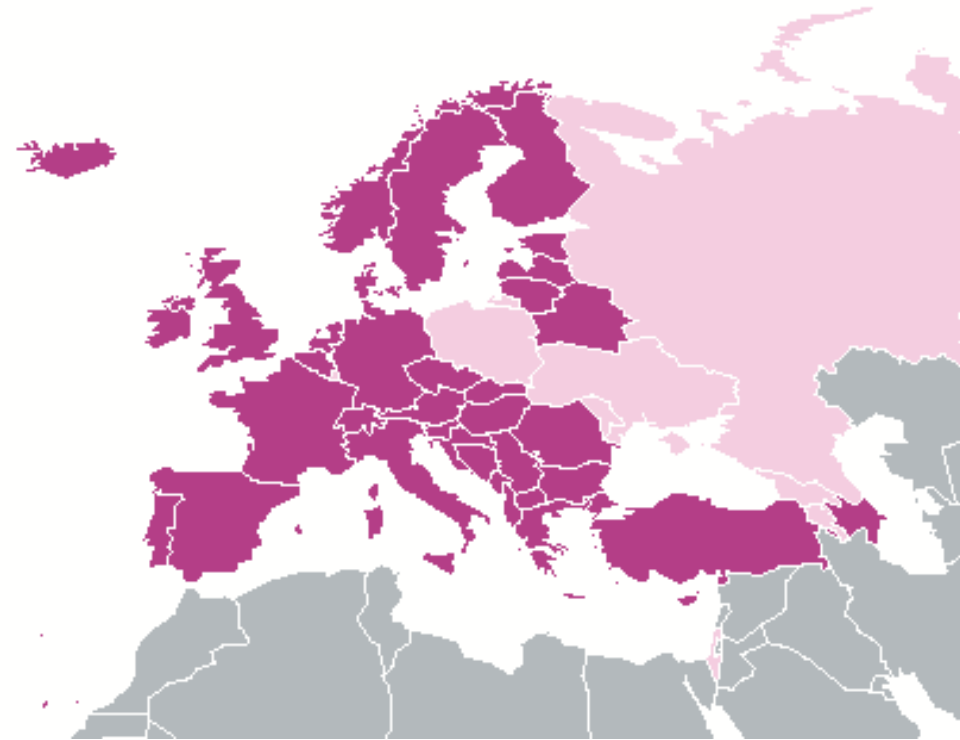
What is ECPGR

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
- Countries own the programme, contribute funds and implement activities
- Secretariat ensures coordination



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

ECPGR towards Phase X

17-18 October 2017, Ljubljana, Slovenia → **Meeting of Working Group Chairs**

19-20 October 2017, Ljubljana, Slovenia → **10th ExCo meeting** → decision on 5th Call of Grant Scheme

15-17 May 2018, Thessaloniki, Greece → **15th Steering Committee meeting** → decisions on Phase X (2019-2023)

- budget, objectives, mode of operation, other

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

ECPGR objectives → Phase X

Long-term Goal:

Stakeholders in Europe collaboratively, rationally and effectively conserve *ex situ* and *in situ* PGRFA, provide access and increase utilization

Operational Structure – Phase IX

- 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

No change foreseen

ECPGR Activity Grant Scheme

- Working Group activities (meetings and other actions) are carried out on the basis of a **Grant 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.

ECPGR Activity Grant Scheme

- Activities with a budget up to **€ 15 000** per year
- Recommended limit of **12 participants** per activity
- Participation based on “**Expression of interest**”
- Selection made by **Chair** from the established pool of experts

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

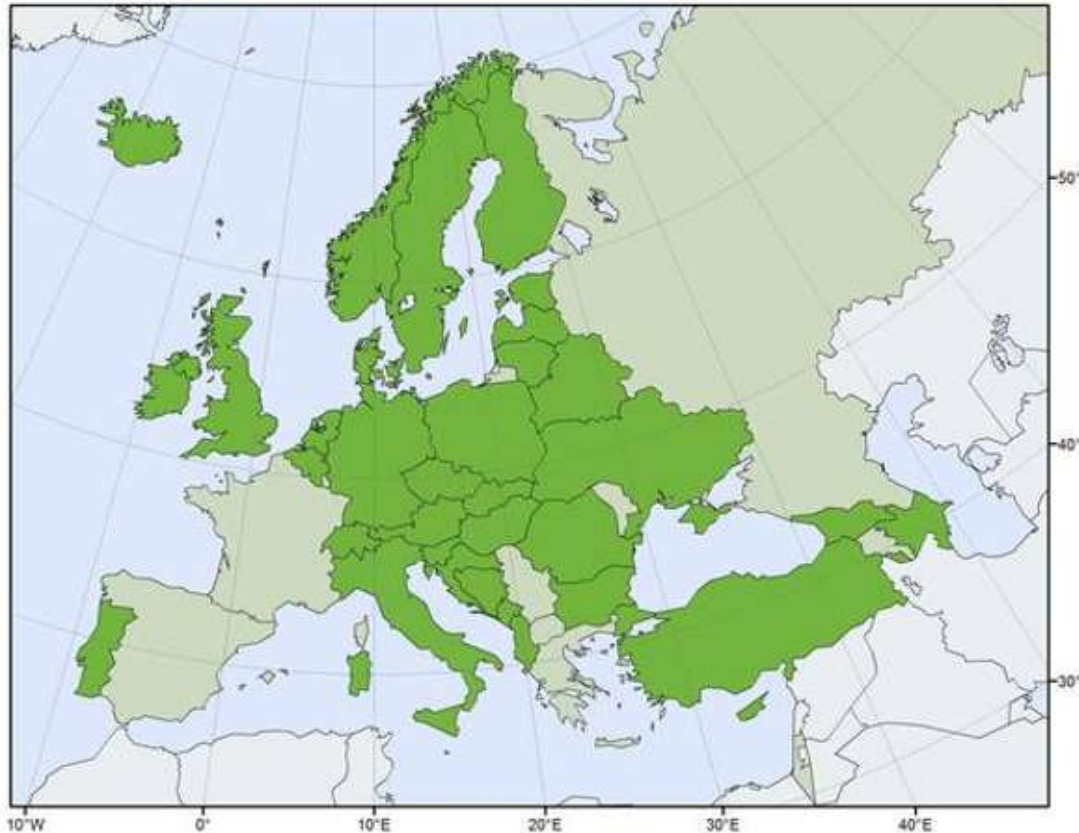
Objectives of ECPGR – Phase X

1. **AEGIS**: the European Collection efficiently conserves and provides access to unique germplasm in Europe
2. The **EURISCO** catalogue provides passport and phenotypic information of actively conserved European PGR diversity *ex situ* and *in situ*
3. *In situ* conservation and use of crop wild relatives is improved via inventory, prioritization, management of populations representing the European CWR diversity and mechanisms to facilitate access
4. On-farm conservation and management of European PGRFA diversity is promoted
5. Use of PGR is promoted

Objective 1- AEGIS

- 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



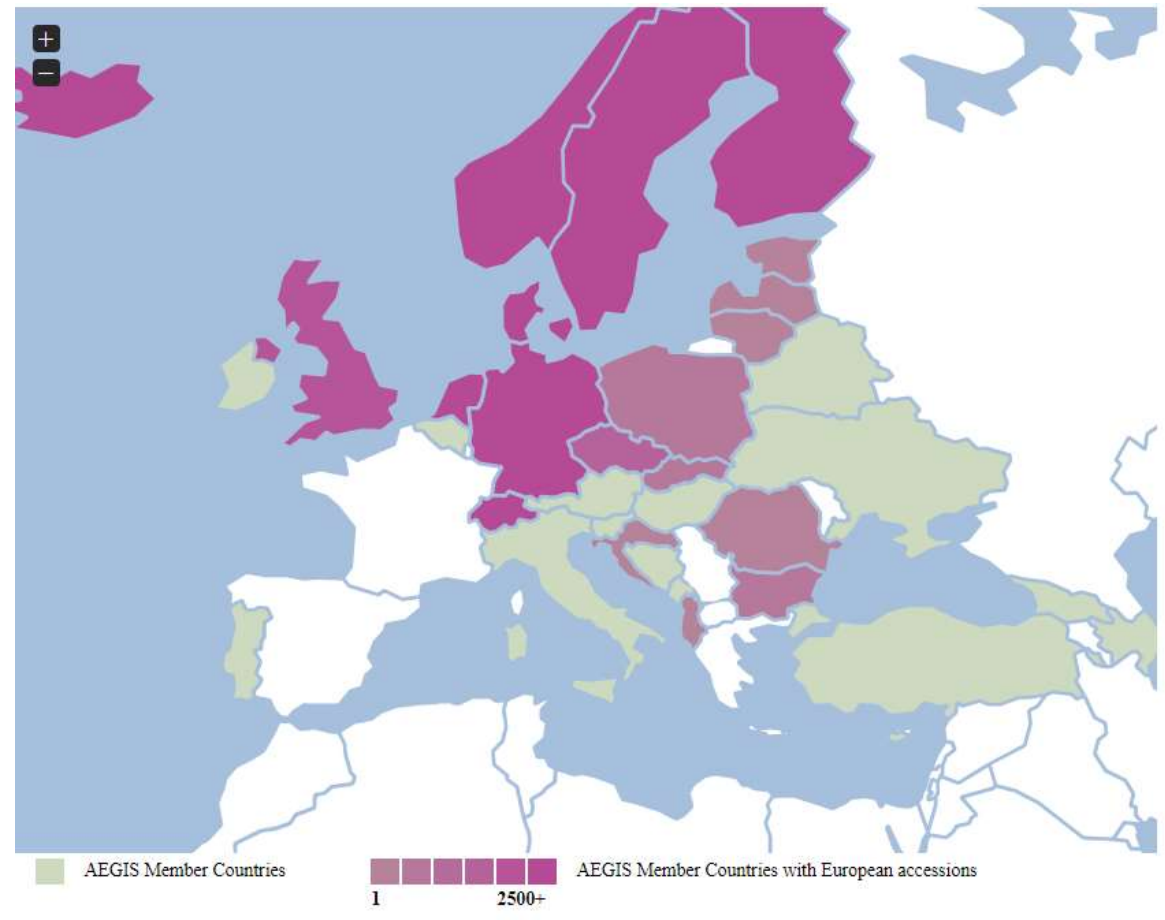
34 Member countries
61 Associate Members' Agreements

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](#)

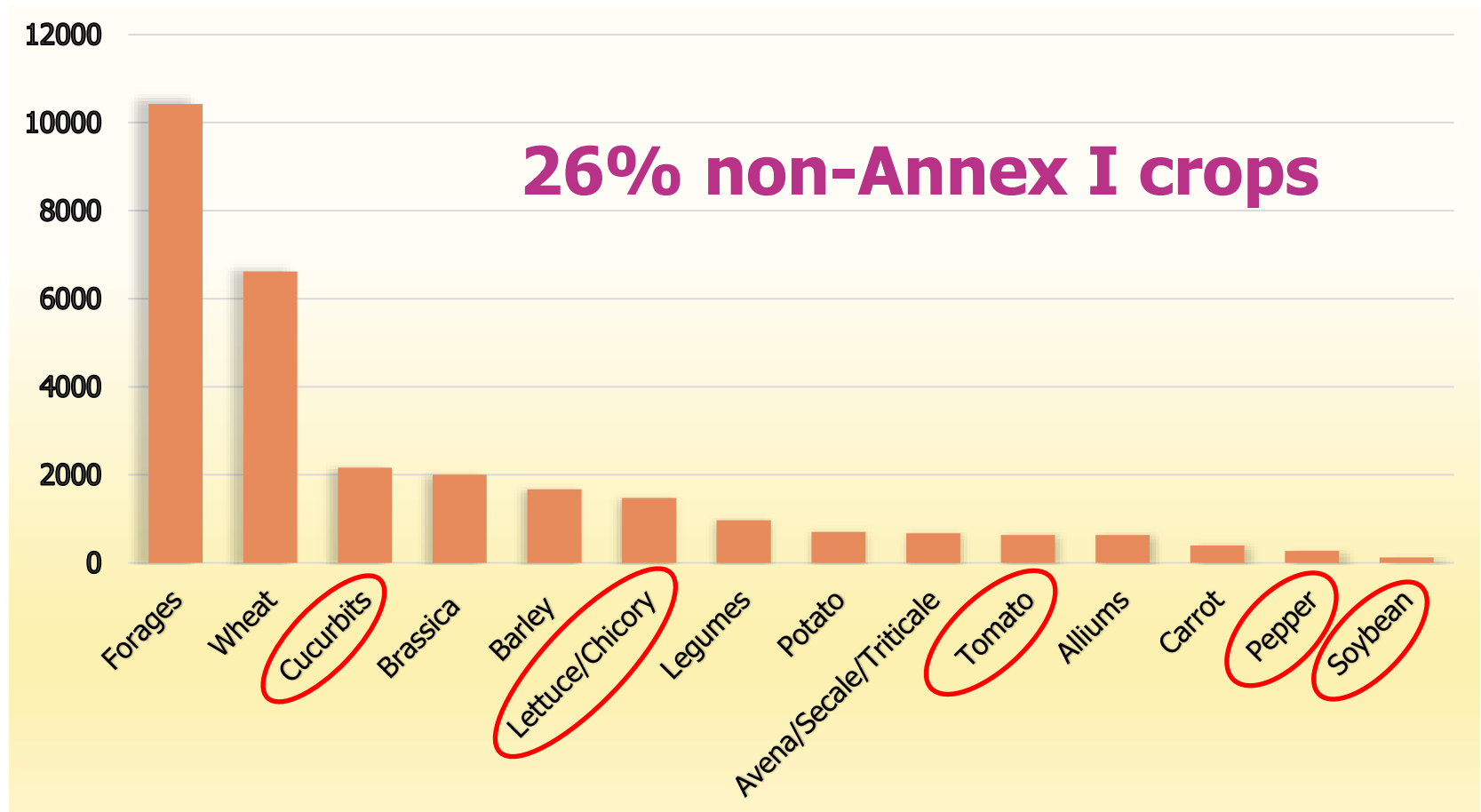
The European Collection

32 818 accessions included
in the European Collection

Country	No of accessions
Albania	8
Bulgaria	261
Croatia	90
Czech Republic	1285
Estonia	89
Germany	14183
Latvia	21
Lithuania	26
Netherlands	5853
Nordic Countries	3708
Poland	303
Romania	194
Slovakia	299
Switzerland	4839
United Kingdom	1659
Total	32 818



European Collection by crops



Objective 1– AEGIS

Proposed outputs – Phase X

1. New membership agreements & Associate Member agreements signed
 2. European Collection represents the European *ex situ* PGR diversity
 3. European Accessions properly maintained
 4. Options and opportunities for a cryopreservation network explored
 5. AEGIS Quality System (AQUAS) operational
 6. Capacity building schemes for Associate Members (AMs) operational
 7. Funds mobilized to help Associate Members to implement AQUAS
- /.

Objective 1– AEGIS

Proposed outputs – Phase X - b

8. Visibility of AEGIS accessions improved
9. AEGIS system evaluated
10. System of genebank peer review established and functioning
11. Options for the integration of *in situ* and on-farm conservation into AEGIS explored and AEGIS used as European *in situ* and on-farm conservation official designation system

Objective 2 - EURISCO

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

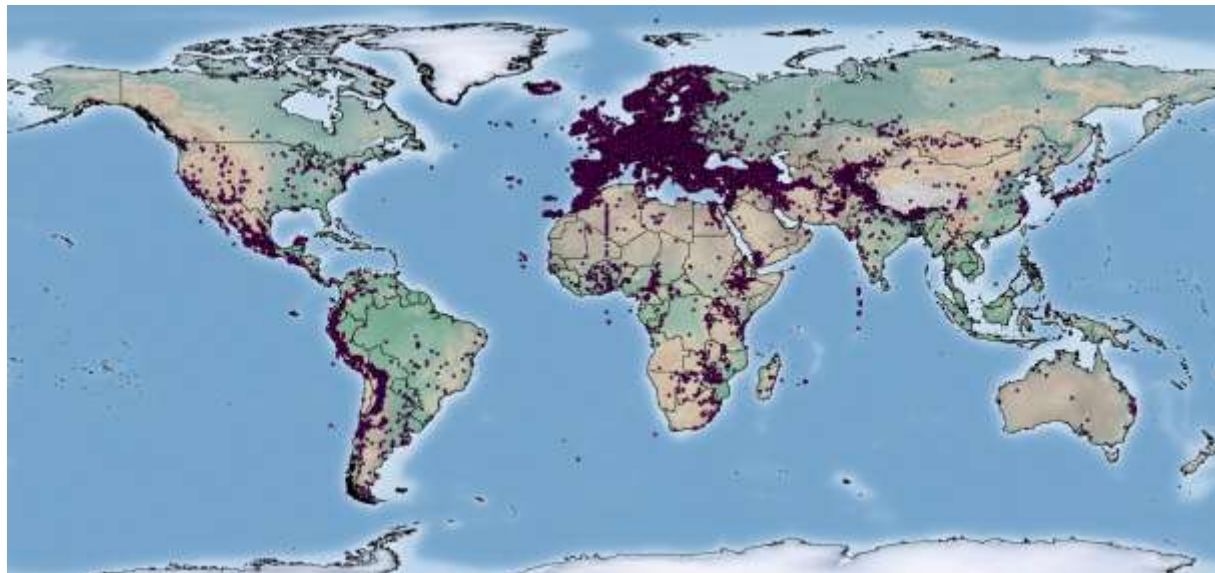


<http://eurisco.ecpgr.org>



Online catalogue of accessions in European genebanks: EURISCO

- Data gathered from 43 national inventories
- 1.97 M accession data from 380 institutions throughout Europe
- Larger data provider to Genesys and the Global Information System
- Register for MLS (416k) and AEGIS (32.8k) European accessions



EURISCO developments in 2017

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

Objective 2 – EURISCO

Proposed outputs – Phase X

1. All National Focal Points (NFPs) update national *ex situ* inventories effectively and timely
2. C&E data in EURISCO included, with high quality and wide coverage
3. Inclusion of relevant *in situ* data in EURISCO realized
4. Users' expectations explored and functionalities of EURISCO increased
5. Available lists of elite material/diversity panels derived from EURISCO data

Objective 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

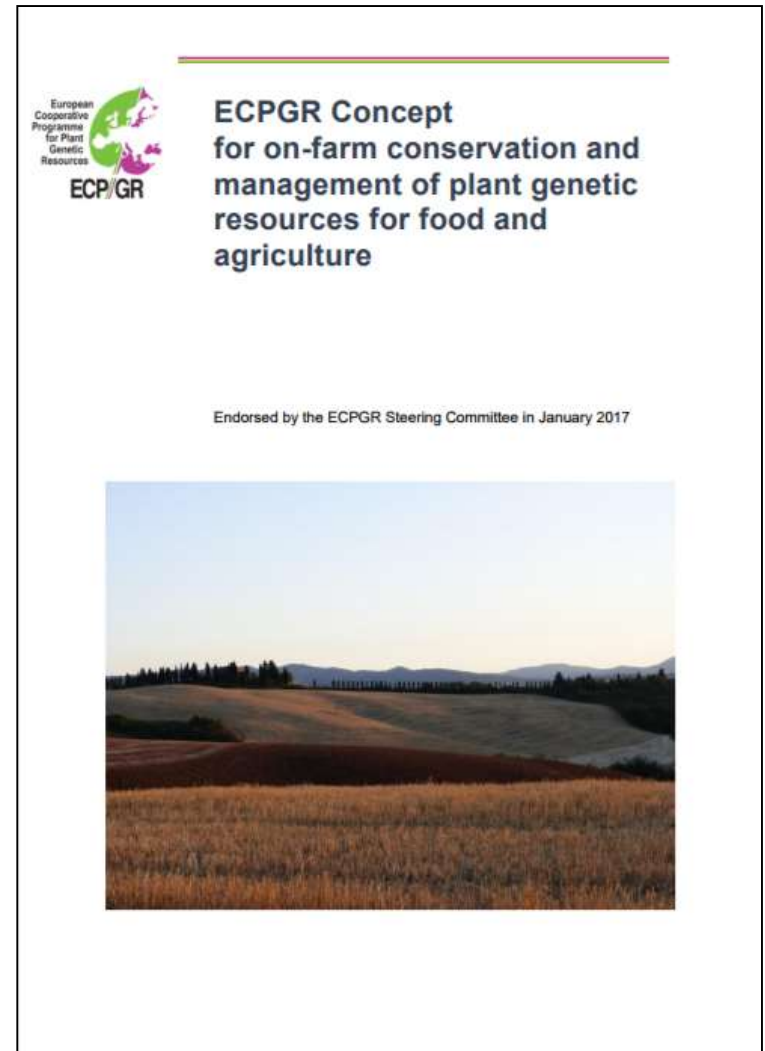
Nigel Maxted, Alvina Avagyan, Lothar Frese, José Iriondo,
Joana Magos Brehm, Alon Singer and Shelagh Kell

Endorsed by the ECPGR Steering Committee in March 2015



Objective 4. 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.



Objective 5 – Use of PGR is promoted Proposed outputs for Phase X

1. European Evaluation Programme for PGRFA developed
2. Facilitated use and consumption of crop species and varieties or landraces by consumers
3. Working group structure supports efficiently the Interface between conservation and use

Proposal for the Mode of Operation of Phase X -1

Working Group activities are covered by two budget lines of similar amounts:

1. Meetings
2. Other activities

Budget line "Meetings"

General principles:

1. Meetings should be planned in order to allow proactive Working Group members to establish collaboration for action or follow up on previous actions.
2. The most important crop collections and crop distribution areas of given gene pools should be represented in the meetings, as far as possible.
3. Meetings should be organized according to criteria of efficiency and cost-effectiveness.
4. Organization of meetings should be made in collaboration between WG Chairs and the Secretariat.
5. The country quota system guarantees a balanced participation.

Budget line "Meetings"

Practice:

1. Each WG can apply for funds to organize a meeting
2. Applications can be submitted at any time to the ExCo through the Secretariat and should indicate: purpose of the meeting; criteria of efficiency and cost-effectiveness; possible synergies; names of participants; suggested date and location of the meeting
3. Applications would be processed within 6 weeks from the submission

Budget line "Meetings"

Limitations:

1. The meetings can span through maximum three nights
2. During the entire Phase X, each WG can use this budget line to organize meetings involving maximum N WG members, (ex. one meeting with N people or two meetings with N/2 or three meetings with N/3, etc.). This limitation can be revised and amended at Mid-term Phase.
3. Only WG members can be funded by ECPGR
4. The country quota system applies. One quota allows attending one meeting
5. N will depend on the value of the agreed budget line

Budget line "Other activities"

General principle:

Additional activities will be funded through the Grant Scheme based on selection of proposals by the ExCo. There is no limitation whether these activities should be meetings or different actions and **the country quota does not apply** to this budget line.

Budget line "Other activities"

Practice:

Applications for other activities should be submitted by WG

Chairs through the same **ECPGR Grant Scheme** procedure and rules adopted during Phase IX, except for the following **elements of simplification** which are introduced:

1. Meetings of Working Group members and/or other actions can be funded. There is **no limitation regarding the ratio** between the budget used for meetings and for other actions
2. Meetings approved under this budget line are **not subject to country quota**

Budget line "Other activities"

Limitations:

Budget limitations continue to apply in the form of **€ 15 000** per WG per year. Further details may be defined by the respective calls for proposals, depending on budget availability

Practical example

With a total budget of € 630 000 for Working Group activities during Phase X, two budget lines would be created for 'meetings' (€ 315 000) and for 'other activities' (€ 315 000). Budgets of this size would allow each WG to organize one meeting with 20 people (or two meetings with 10 people) and a total of 21 activities (average of 1 activity per WG).

**Thank you
for your
attention!**

