

Report of the Steering Committee

Seventeenth (End-of-Phase) Meeting
29 May–1 June 2023, Oeiras, Portugal



The **European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources (ECPGR)** is a collaborative programme among most European countries aimed at rationally and effectively conserving *ex situ* and *in situ* plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, providing access and increasing their sustainable use (<http://www.ecpgr.cgiar.org>).

The Programme, which is entirely financed by the member countries, is overseen by a Steering Committee composed of National Coordinators nominated by the participating countries. The Coordinating Secretariat is hosted by the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT.

The Programme operates through Working Groups composed of pools of experts nominated by the National Coordinators. The ECPGR Working Groups deal with either crops or general themes related to plant genetic resources (crop wild relatives, cryopreservation, documentation and information, and on-farm conservation). Members of the Working Groups carry out activities based on specific ECPGR objectives, using ECPGR funds and/or their own resources.

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Citation ECPGR. 2023. Report of the Seventeenth (End-of-Phase) Steering Committee Meeting, 29 May–1 June 2023, Oeiras, Portugal. European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources, Rome, Italy.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AEGIS	A European Genebank Integrated System
AGENT	Activated GENEbank NeTwork
Alliance	Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)
AQUAS	AEGIS Quality System
Bioversity	Bioversity International
Crop Trust	Global Crop Diversity Trust
CWR	Crop Wild Relatives
EC	European Commission
ECPGR	European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources
DOI	Digital object identifier
EURISCO	European Search Catalogue for Plant Genetic Resources
EVA	European Evaluation Network for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
ExCo	Executive Committee
GRJ	Genetic Resources journal
INIAV	Instituto Nacional de Investigação Agrária e Veterinária
ITPGRFA	International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
NC	National Coordinator
NFP	National Focal Point
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PGR	Plant Genetic Resources
PGR Strategy	Plant Genetic Resources Strategy for Europe
PRO-GRACE	Promoting a Plant Genetic Resources Community for Europe
PUID	Permanent Unique Identifiers
SC	Steering Committee
WFP	Wild Food Plants
ToRs	Terms of Reference
WG	Working Group

PART I. SUMMARY OF THE ISSUES DISCUSSED AND CLARIFICATIONS GIVEN

Part I of this report includes short summaries of the presentations, which are available on the ECPGR website and/or refers to existing online background documents. Main clarification points and discussed items are also summarized. All the recommendations and decisions agreed by the Steering Committee (SC) during the discussion are listed in Part II.

1. Opening session

(Chair: M. Lefort)

Opening statements by representatives of the host country

M. Lefort thanked everyone for attending the meeting in Portugal, which is expected to launch a new Phase of ECPGR and take important decisions for the implementation of new activities inspired by the *Plant Genetic Resources Strategy for Europe* (PGR Strategy).

N. Canada, President of the Board of the Instituto Nacional de Investigação Agrária e Veterinária (INIAV), informed that B. Maças had a health problem and will not be present in the meeting, while A. Barata will represent Portugal.

He presented INIAV's mission, including research and innovation, scientific and technical support, knowledge transfer and other state functions, including the conservation of plant and animal genetic resources.

INIAV is serving the Portuguese food system from the land to the consumers. Scientific facilities spread across the country, with a national genebank in Braga and other special collections distributed across the country, and the main breeding and coordinating station in Elvas. He stressed the importance of the 'innovation network' of experimental farms, distributed throughout the country, which also includes reference collections of genetic resources.

Activities on genetic resources cover animal, plant, forest and microbe conservation and utilization. Seventy (70) new plant varieties were released by INIAV in recent times.

Portugal is very committed to the new phase of the ECPGR Programme.

The President was very happy to host the meeting and hopes everyone will enjoy the hospitality and beauty of the Lisbon area.

Welcome address by the Chair and adoption of the Agenda

M. Lefort, Chair of the Executive Committee (ExCo), thanked for the important support offered by Portugal and expressed the group's shock to hear about B. Maças' hospitalization. On behalf of the meeting, she expressed warm wishes for a quick recovery. She then asked every participant to briefly introduce themselves.

The main points of the agenda were presented, and the draft agenda was adopted.

2. Reporting on Phase X

(Chair: D. Rungis)

Technical and financial report of Phase X

(L. Maggioni)

L. Maggioni gave an update on the results of Phase X and its main highlights, with a particular focus on the implementation of the SC decisions taken in the last meeting in Alnarp (2022) and the financial status of the Programme. (See online [background documents](#) *Report on ECPGR Phase X (January 2019 – April 2023)*, *2022 Financial Report*, *ECPGR Objectives for Phase X – Activities and indicators*, Working Group reports for Phase X and [presentation](#) *Technical and financial report of Phase X*).

Discussion

Th. van Hintum was positively impressed by the work accomplished during Phase X. He also noted that the Secretariat moved to a new office in Rome and wished to understand the implications of this move (including financially).

J. Weibull noted the very significant contribution received from Germany, which was mainly the result of F. Begemann's activity and wished to thank him for this remarkable help to ECPGR.

I. Thormann asked whether the animal and forest network will be able to contribute to the *Genetic Resources* journal (GRJ) in the future.

L. Maggioni replied that the EUFORGEN network is not interested in the GRJ, while the animal network is willing to continue contributing, although their financial support cannot be anticipated, as it will depend on savings from their very limited budget. Regarding the move of the Secretariat to a new office in Rome, the financial implications will be a significant increase in costs, with reduced space available.

Report from the ExCo on its activities during Phase X – update from last year

(M. Lefort)

M. Lefort presented the report of the ExCo activities during Phase X. In conclusion, she emphasized the new ambitious PGR Strategy with clear objectives and associated 10-year targets with priority activities to be implemented during Phase XI. She acknowledged the need to complement the current ECPGR budget through diversified sources to support the increased development of ECPGR and its ambitious work programme. She encouraged engagement of the ECPGR Secretariat, Working Groups (WGs) and others in EU-funded projects, to complement current ECPGR funds and to create visibility for ECPGR. She insisted on the need to continue lobbying with EU presidencies for more sustainable funding from the EU for European cooperative activities. (See online [background document](#) *Report from the ExCo on its activities during Phase X*).

Discussion

I. Thormann wished to thank the ExCo members and particularly the Chair for the work done.

M. Lateur also congratulated the ExCo on their work in this last phase, highlighting the PGR Strategy, which allowed the linkage to the strategic work planning for the next phase. He also appreciated the new working approach, involving the WG Chairs more closely.

The EVA experience and prospects for Phase XI

(S. Goritschnig)

S. Goritschnig presented the progress and achievements of the European Evaluation Network (EVA) and offered an outlook for Phase XI, reporting positive feedback from partners on the continuation of the activities, the possibilities to expand the EVA Networks and their level of financial sustainability. The opportunity to establish an EVA Steering Committee to guide and advise in the process of establishing and managing the EVA Networks was also mentioned. (See online [presentation](#) *The EVA experience and prospects for Phase XI*).

Discussion

J. Weibull noted the strong interest and involvement from the private breeding for the EVA activities. The EVA example is a very good argument to provide support to the network. M. Lefort noted the importance of dissemination in international conferences and publications, which is enhancing the visibility of all the activities. The funding from Germany and the European Commission (EC) projects is very important. It could be useful to discuss with the seed sector's associations the possibility to provide complementary funding, on the basis of the package of results obtained.

S. Goritschnig advised that companies are generally not available to add funds, but the possibility to exploit EC project activities, such as genotyping, has more chances to complement the EVA projects.

In reply to a remark from I. Thormann about funding sources for genotyping of accessions, S. Goritschnig explained that genotyping is either outsourced or carried out by public partners, whenever there is specific expertise in the networks.

It was also remarked that it would be very useful if other national programmes could financially contribute to the EVA initiative, similarly to Germany.

M. Lateur appreciated that the EVA Network took off in such a successful way and suggested that Grant Scheme Activities could be used, also with the inclusion of the private sector and NGOs. Care for data quality would be important.

L. Guasch mentioned the ongoing project INCREASE, which is also relevant for the evaluation of grain legumes. This is in fact already connected with the developing ForEva initiative.

EURISCO update and prospects for Phase XI

(S. Weise)

S. Weise gave an account of the latest developments of EURISCO and the prospects for Phase XI. An account was given of the EURISCO content, including phenotypic data, permanent unique identifiers (PUIs) and digital object identifiers (DOIs). The core features of the database were described, as well as highlights of the developments made and of the coordination activity carried out during Phase X. Plans for the future include continuous improvement of functions and services with a specific focus on *in situ* crop wild relative (CWR) data, phenotypic data and data quality. Continued and further hosting of EVA Networks data in EURISCO is also foreseen, as well as participation in ongoing and future EC project

consortia. All developments will be planned in close collaboration with the ECPGR bodies (See online [presentation](#) *EURISCO update and prospects for Phase XI*).

Discussion

To answer a question from I. Thormann, S. Weise clarified that countries cannot send *in situ* population data to EURISCO yet, but preparations are well advanced and it will be possible to receive the first *in situ* data soon.

A. Didier informed that in France it has been discussed with the Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO) to potentially use EURISCO as a reference database on variety information, to verify that names used for genetic resources accessions are not used to register new varieties of the same species.

M. Lateur asked about access statistics and who is the typical user.

S. Weise showed that 91,000 unique users visited EURISCO between 2019 and 2022. Sometimes requests are received to access material, which is not possible via EURISCO and users are pointed to the holding institutions. A EURISCO user satisfaction survey is in the plans.

Th. van Hintum encouraged everyone to use the EURISCO service and to add DOIs to all the accessions in germplasm collections.

3. Reporting on Phase X (continued)

(Chair: B. Schierscher)

Cryopreservation Working Group

(L. Maggioni)

Following up on the request of the SC to review the work done by the WG on Cryopreservation, to monitor the appropriateness of its continuation as part of the ECPGR permanent structure, L. Maggioni reported on the activities of the WG during the last year. These included the appointment of two co-Chairs, Milos Faltus (Czech Republic) and Bart Panis (Belgium), the participation of the WG in the successful submission of a Grant Scheme Activity proposal, together with the *Allium* and the Documentation and Information WGs, and the organization of the first meeting of the WG in Czech Republic, May 2023.

Discussion

I. Thormann was pleased about the good start of the WG and thought that it should continue to operate. She also noted that it is good to interact with CGIAR for networking and knowledge exchange. At the same time, the concerns voiced in the last SC meeting are not yet removed and it would be important that the WG maintains its agenda focused on Europe. It was noted that it is premature to evaluate the activities of the WG and the SC will revisit the concerns previously expressed at the next SC meeting.

E. Kiviharju reported good feedback received from the national experts and recommended the continuation of the WG.

A question from L. Guasch, whether there is a need for cryo facilities in every country, confirmed the need to work towards developing a common strategy for cryopreservation in Europe. The ongoing garlic project will be a case study for the work of the Cryopreservation WG and can inform a future strategy.

M. Lefort encouraged all the National Coordinators (NCs) to nominate other experts for this WG, in case they are made aware of any relevant gap in the membership.

Genebank network – Progress and planning

(L.L. Steffensen)

A proposal to establish a network of European genebank managers was made during the 16th SC meeting in Sweden (June 2022), with the aim to better connect people with this function and focus on their specific area of work. Based on a mandate given by the ExCo, after consultation with the SC, L.L. Steffensen, NordGen Director, acting as ad hoc Chair, had several interactions with a group of genebank managers from different European subregions, brainstorming for the definition of the ToRs for the new network.

L.L. Steffensen presented the elaborated ToRs (see online [background document](#) *Proposed Terms of Reference for an ECPGR Genebanks Network*).

The ECPGR Network of European Genebank Managers would operate based on its specific Terms of Reference, which were submitted to the SC for endorsement. A strong link with ECPGR would be guaranteed by the following provisions:

- Nominations of the Network members to be made by ECPGR National Coordinators
- Self-sustained approach to be complemented by ECPGR funding support for participation in physical meetings of country members belonging to categories A and B of the ECPGR contributors, up to an upper limit to be defined by the SC as part of the ECPGR budget for Phase XI
- Reporting duties to the SC (via the ECPGR Secretariat) about progress and decisions
- Possibility for the Network to apply for additional ECPGR funding for capacity building or other activities
- Approval of the Network's Terms of Reference by ECPGR's SC.

Discussion

Clarifications were requested about the need to define this new entity as a 'Network' rather than a Working Group and whether the ECPGR Terms of Reference should be adapted to accommodate a new type of body.

L. Maggioni clarified that the creation of a regular new thematic ECPGR WG would not fit with the requirements of the newly proposed entity, principally considering the expectation to regularly meet (physically once a year and virtually more often) as well as to maintain high flexibility in terms of participation of various experts. These aspects would clash with the rules established for the operation of the existing WGs, which are not expected to meet too frequently, for mainly budgetary reasons, and also with the demanding coordination effort that would be required from the Secretariat in supporting a rather dynamic network (organization of meetings, reporting requirements, follow up of implementation decisions). As a possible solution for establishing a dynamic network, with frequent meetings and

relatively intense coordination without excessively affecting the ECPGR budget and coordination workload of the Secretariat, it was proposed that the ECPGR Network of European Genebank Managers be established as a largely self-funded service, with coordination offered in kind on behalf of ECPGR by a Chair on a rotational basis.

Also, L.L. Steffensen thought that the establishment of a formal network compared to informal and occasional networking initiatives would benefit from reaching out to a larger group of experts and of gaining continuity and stability as part of a well-defined framework and mode of operation. She also replied to a comment by L. Borgen, specifying that the key factor to participate in this network would not be the type of genebank, but the role of being a genebank manager.

D. Rungis commented that the promotion and further development of AEGIS could be a relevant item in the agenda of this network.

Regarding the budget implications for this new network, it was discussed whether a maximum amount of the ECPGR budget could be defined/allocated, or the ExCo could be delegated to take decisions on an ad hoc basis.

J. Weibull recommended that no budgetary decisions be taken regarding this new network and that it should rather be defined as a self-funded entity.

Several NCs expressed appreciation for the creation of a network of genebank managers that could have a huge impact on the European genebank dynamics. Many also thought that it could be launched for a pilot phase and its impact and mode of operation could be revisited at the next SC meeting.

Upon request from J. Weibull, the SC accepted to modify the initial paragraphs in the section 'Funding' of the ToRs, as follows:

“The Network shall be self-funded. ECPGR may provide complementary funding...”

M. Lefort asked for agreement from NC to give L.L. Steffensen the mandate to establish the pilot network for two years with amended ToRs and to review the ToRs and evaluate the progress during the next SC meeting. The SC agreed.

Genebank certification and the development of genebanks metrics

(Th. van Hintum)

Th. van Hintum discussed the need to get agreement on the definition of a 'genebank' and on how they should conserve and make available plant genetic resources. Certification of genebanks is a topic and objective in the PGR Strategy, which states that *ex situ* conservation should be raised to a level of excellence in terms of long-term quality (conservation management, viability, genetic integrity, phytosanitary issues) and accessibility of conserved material to users. According to the PGR Strategy, the AEGIS Quality System (AQUAS) should be implemented, and consolidated with the FAO genebank standards. The AEGIS certification

together with peer reviews would provide trust in the quality management of the genebank. The EC project PRO-GRACE has an objective to establish a genebank certification system that will be done in collaboration with the Crop Trust and CGIAR genebank system. Required elements of a certification system are standard operating protocols (SOPs) and a reporting/monitoring system. SOPs need to meet agreed standards and an authority needs to check and approve. Compliance needs to be confirmed independently. Costs need to be kept low, and capacity building needs to be created.

Genebank metrics are a tool for monitoring genebanks and should be easy to calculate. CGN developed a (draft) list of Genebank Metrics. This list will be used by several genebanks, then improved, published and hopefully used in reporting and communication. The aim is to develop a list of standard metrics. Everyone is welcome to approach Th. van Hintum to receive the draft list.

M. Lefort appreciated the initiative and highlighted it as an example of potential work for the proposed genebank network.

ECPGR Secretariat's involvement with Horizon Europe

(L. Maggioni)

L. Maggioni referred about the participation of the ECPGR Secretariat in EC-funded projects during Phase X, mentioning the concluded GenRes Bridge and the ongoing AGENT and PRO-GRACE. These projects contributed to advancing the objectives of ECPGR, offering complementary financial support, especially to cover Secretariat staff time. The outcome of another recently submitted project, 'EURO CWR', is expected shortly.

Discussion

J. Weibull asked whether the Plant Genetic Resources Research Infrastructure (GRACE-RI) once developed, would be an ECPGR 2.0 and how would this be taken further. He also noted that the project seems to lack policy aspects, although these will be covered in the social and regulatory aspects of Work Package 5.

L.L. Steffensen noted that the activities of ECPGR should be mapped to see how they will fit into GRACE.

Th. van Hintum noted that the Research Infrastructure would be the interface between conservation and research, looking at technical aspects, allowing ECPGR to cover more policy aspects in the future. It is therefore important that ECPGR be closely involved in the project and it could be a good opportunity to create a genebank community of the future.

4. ECPGR towards Phase XI

(Chair: B. Lund)

Proposal from Bioversity for continued hosting of the Secretariat

(J. Luzon)

J. Luzon, Head of Bioversity International Financial Operations, connecting from Rome, explained the conditions for the renewal of the hosting agreement between ECPGR and the

Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT. She recalled the long-standing collaborative relationship between IPGRI/Bioversity and ECPGR and confirmed that the Alliance is delighted and honoured to continue hosting the ECPGR Secretariat. She presented the costs for facilities and IT services, which would be granted at an initial lower cost than the 2023 rates, with an annual 10% increase. The overhead rate will be fixed at 15% for three years. After this period, a new agreement will need to be negotiated, since the evolving situation of the ongoing reform of CGIAR institutions (OneCGIAR) does not allow for firm predictions of future costs and conditions.

Services offered by the Alliance to the hosted entities through the charging of the hosting fees include the use of assigned office space (two working spaces in the case of the fees proposed to ECPGR), common areas, meeting rooms and common facilities; staff recruitment and selection; staff contract administration including administration of salaries benefits; finance and accounting, including budget, treasury functions and audit support; facilitation of the operations of the hosted entity by providing all necessary and reasonable assistance; assistance in the areas of procurement, travel services, protocol, security, and courier/postage; a full package of IT services.

J. Luzon remarked that a preferential treatment is offered to ECPGR as a long-time historical partner and collaborator.

Discussion

M. Lefort remarked that the SC will establish a 5-year budget and thus wished to get an idea of the possible increase for years 4 and 5. J. Luzon reiterated that budgeting for more than three years is difficult, especially during a time of unpredictable changes towards the creation of OneCGIAR. She assured that actual costs will be analyzed towards the beginning of 2026 and the SC alerted, if needed, keeping in mind the intention of Bioversity to avoid significant deviations, whenever possible.

Th. van Hintum wished to hear from the Secretariat staff whether they could consider acceptable to operate with only two working positions. The staff confirmed that the arrangement would be manageable at least with the current setting of the Secretariat, but new staff in the future might require a more regular presence in the office, therefore this situation could become less manageable in three years.

It was thought that the current working space would not be appropriate for the next ECPGR Secretary in three years' time and a different hosting agreement would need to be discussed at the next SC meeting.

It was also suggested that it might be wise to consider alternative options, even though experience says that these would not be easy to find. For example, FAO as a potential hosting entity would not offer a manageable solution, given the high level of bureaucracy involved in its mode of operation.

Proposal for a Table of Country Contributions

(L. Maggioni)

L. Maggioni presented a proposed Table of Country Contributions, which had been validated by the ExCo. Same as for previous phases, the table was based on the latest available UN

assessment rates. The proposed overall increase of the total budget is set at 10%, to partially account for inflationary increases over the past five years. In order to reach this target, the proposed contribution of each contributing category has been increased by 13%. It should be noted that a few countries have shifted categories due to changes in their assessment rates compared to the scale of assessment that was used in 2018. Consequently, a few countries have dropped to a lower category and their proposed contribution is subject to a lower increase or even a decrease of their membership fee.

Statements from all countries on financing of the Programme and comments from observers

All National Coordinators and permanent observers expressed their position regarding the proposed Table of Contributions and budget for Phase XI:

The following countries agreed to the new contribution and have already obtained validation from the respective ministries or implementing institutions: Albania, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain and Turkiye.

Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Romania, Slovenia and the United Kingdom are expected to agree with the new contribution without major difficulties.

The Czech Republic, Switzerland and Sweden did not yet receive ministerial agreement to accept the new contribution and will need to discuss the matter internally.

Ukraine informed that they are expecting FAO to help with the payment of the ECPGR membership fees and therefore wished to be included in the list of participating countries in Phase XI.

Proposal for Phase XI budget

(L. Maggioni)

A proposed budget table for ECPGR Phase XI was also presented, also created in consultation with the ExCo and matching the target total budget for five years of Phase XI, resulting from the proposed Table of Country Contributions (i.e. €3,114,250). The proposed budget, to be complemented by carry-over funds, was thought to be sufficiently balanced to enable ECPGR to continue its operation and activities at the same level and speed as the present time. The following elements were pointed out to help the SC in their decision-making:

- **Secretariat Staff salaries**

The budget was built with the intention to secure the continuation of the Secretariat staff in the current setting, that is Secretary, Administrative Assistant, EVA Coordination and Communication Specialist as full-time positions. Staff costs were given by Bioversity, taking into account the highest foreseeable cost and increment for each given position. The cost of the Secretary drops in the fourth and fifth year, assuming that a more junior person will be recruited by that time, if not before.

Part of the staff costs for EVA Coordination are covered by EC and bilateral projects in 2024 and 2025 and this is reducing the amount required from the ECPGR country

contribution (already taken into account by reducing the respective staff costs in the budget table).

- **Operational costs associated with ECPGR bodies**

Compared to Phase X, costs of staff travel, ExCo travel and ExCo Chair travel have been reduced. The cost of ExCo Chair compensation has been maintained unaltered. The costs of SC meetings, WG Chairs meetings and training workshops for EURISCO have been maintained at the same level, with a slight increase in Chair's meetings, since WGs have become 24.

- **Specific activities including Working Groups**

Funds for WG Activities – or simply 'Activities' (for the moment without further specification or breakdown), have been set at ca. €510,000 in five years, compared to ca. €380,000 in the last phase.

- **EURISCO component**

The budget (salary and operational costs) has been provided by IPK and it is increased by about 10% compared to the past.

- **Overheads (set at 15%)**

As per the explanation by J. Luzon, these rates will remain the same for at least the first three years, and possibly for the entire phase. Bioversity charges only a 5% fee over EURISCO funds as pass-through money.

- **Other costs (facilities and IT services at the Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT)**

These costs have raised, owing to the move to the new premises in the centre of Rome and the new criteria adopted by the Alliance to charge hosted institutions.

It should be noted that the budget cannot cover the staff costs in 2027 and 2028 for EVA Coordination, Communication Specialist and part of the ExCo compensation in 2028, as well as the EURISCO coordination for 2028. However, savings (carry-over) expected from Phase X should be enough to partially cover this missing budget. The total required to fill these gaps is ca. €513,000. Carry-over may cover up to ca. €472,000, based on current estimates.

In case of approval of the EU project on CWR, in which the ECPGR Secretariat is a partner, this gap would be completely filled. Other funding obtained through bilateral projects or other EC-funded projects during the next five years, as it happened in the last phase, would also improve the situation and possibly also increase the amount available for activities.

Discussion

J. Weibull suggested changing the title of the budget line 'WG Activities' to 'Activities' only and it was also suggested to separate 'Activities' from 'Communication and dissemination'.

Th. van Hintum would have appreciated a column with current costs (2023) and asked for clarification on the mechanism of overheads and pass-through fees. L. Maggioni explained that pass-through fees are a fixed rate that Bioversity applies to funds that are received and immediately transferred to a different subject, with a minimum transaction cost. Overheads

are charged on all costs except facilities and IT services.

It was also clarified that PRO-GRACE funds go towards another staff position that was specifically recruited. These costs are not included in the budget, as the position is not part of the permanent structure of ECPGR as currently envisaged. L. Maggioni explained that additional budget received from the EC or other projects is not included in the ECPGR budget table (apart from reducing the required amounts for staff costs), since Bioversity recommends not to mix the budget received from different donors in one single table, for reporting and monitoring purposes.

I. Thormann, supported by Th. van Hintum, J. Weibull, M. Lateur, A. Didier, J. Sustar, B. Lund, V. Holubec and others, suggested adding a budget line for AEGIS coordination since AEGIS is a priority for ECPGR, similarly to EVA, and this addition could better justify the increased staff costs. In fact, 'Activities' are a fundamental component of the implementation of the ECPGR work programme.

I. Thormann also suggested that the budget be presented with costs of EURISCO and ExCo Chair compensation fully covered for the entire phase, since these activities are an essential element of this ECPGR Phase, while she noted that the *Genetic Resources* journal would not be an ECPGR main task, in comparison with EVA and AEGIS which are definitely ECPGR priorities.

A. Didier, supported by several NCs, suggested allocating appropriate funds for a time of overlap of the outgoing and incoming Secretary.

S. Weise noted that only two training workshops may be needed in Phase XI and therefore €12,000 from the provisional budget could be transferred to 'Activities'.

There was agreement for the addition of specific budget lines for AEGIS Coordination, the *Genetic Resources* journal and one month of staff costs for the overlap of the new incoming Secretary in 2026. The AEGIS budget line was obtained with 20% funds of the Secretary position, with the understanding that the Secretary would dedicate part of his time to this task. The *Genetic Resources* journal budget line was obtained with 20% of the costs of the Communication Specialist and 10% of the cost of the EVA Coordinator.

The Steering Committee agreed to fully cover the EURISCO and the ExCo Chair compensation budget lines for the entire Phase. The implication of this choice was a reduction of the budget for 'Activities' during 2027 and 2028. Even though this situation was not considered ideal, the SC was aware that carry-over funds should be sufficient to raise the budget and fill the gaps as soon as the precise amount of carry-over funds will be determined at the end of 2023.

It was decided to specify that the agreed budget reflects the allocations based on membership fees and will be complemented by budgets from ongoing projects (AGENT, GenRes2019-2, PRO-GRACE) as well as expected carry-over funds from previous phases. Priority for use of carry-over funds will be given to the budget lines EVA Coordination and WG activities (See Part II, Recommendations and Decisions).

The budget may be further complemented by potential additional funds from other external

sources (e.g. EU-funded or bilateral projects in which the ECPGR Secretariat participates) to implement priority activities of the ECPGR work programme. The SC agreed to revisit the budget at the Mid-Term SC meeting.

5. ECPGR towards Phase XI (continued)

(Chair: M. Lefort)

Table of Priorities for Phase XI

(L. Maggioni)

During the Sixteenth Steering Committee meeting, 7–9 June 2022, Malmö and Alnarp, Sweden, subregional groups worked on tables outlining the targets of the PGR Strategy and identified different levels of priority for each target (see Annex 3 of the [Report of the Sixteenth Steering Committee meeting](#)). The SC agreed that the proposed priority objectives of Phase XI correspond with the PGR Strategy. Subsequently, the Secretariate/ExCo elaborated several possible ECPGR activities that could be included in a work plan for Phase XI, aiming at contributing to the achievement of the PGR Strategy targets. These proposed activities were added to the Table in the form of a new column and each activity was given a priority level from P1 to P3, reflecting, as much as possible, the indications given in Alnarp by the subregional groups. The tables with the new column were submitted for comments to the SC in two iterations, in September 2022 and January 2023, and this exercise generated a few minor adjustments. In January 2023, the tables were also sent to the WG Chairs for comments. Comments received were discussed by the ExCo with all Chairs during a virtual meeting held on 8-9 March 2023. The discussion generated a few modifications/additions, which were elaborated by the Secretariat/ExCo, resubmitted to the Chairs and eventually finalized in April 2023. This finalized list of priority activities was proposed to the SC for discussion/endorsement (see online [background document](#) *Phase XI Table of Priorities*).

Discussion

The SC took into consideration each table and made the following observations/requests for changes:

Table 1 - *In situ* conservation of crop wild relatives (CWR) and wild food plants (WFP)

Target 1: Clarify that methodologies are already developed and emphasis needs to focus on implementation since FAO guidelines and other tools and guidelines already exist. In fact, the priority activity does not speak of 'developing' methodologies. It should also be explained what it means "designing how an online map of hotspots could be planned and developed". The text was reworded to clarify the meaning.

Target 5: Replace "the pilot countries" with "countries" since all the countries will need to implement safety backup of the populations.

Table 2: On-farm conservation

Target 1: It was clarified that the additional P1 included by the WG Chairs, i.e. the preparation of a survey, is intended to inform the activities of the other P1, to develop and improve the ECPGR portal.

Target 4: Noting the existence of voluntary FAO guidelines agreed at international level, it was decided to remove the P1 dedicated to reaching further agreement at ECPGR level. The P2 dedicated to advising and supporting the implementation was raised to the level of P1, with deletion of the word "pilot" with reference to the countries.

Table 3 - Ex situ conservation

Target 2: Considering that the addition made by the WGs is diluting the overall target of certifying the AEGIS associate member genebanks, it was agreed to delete this addition.

Target 3: It was clarified that these activities are work in progress in PRO-GRACE and the methodology needs to be developed. The CGIAR system carries out a peer review through a Crop Trust certification. The review has been very effective in building capacity. The first step would be to identify pilot genebanks ready to be certified and test the review process in line with the Crop Trust principles. An audit system may need to be set up with independent reviewers.

Table 4 - Documentation

Targets 1 and 2: It was clarified that *in situ* National Focal Points (NFPs) will need to be appointed by the NCs, as it is in the plans proposed by the *Principles for Inclusion of In Situ Population Data into EURISCO*. A request for appointment will be sent out by the Secretariat in due course. The *in situ* NFPs may be the same as those already appointed for *ex situ*, or different. This will be at the discretion of countries.

Table 5 - Use

Target 1: It was agreed that 'specific' attention cannot be given to perennial plants in the absence of a specific budget, but a reference could be maintained to include attention to the possibility to adapt the EVA concept to these crops.

Table 6: Monitoring

Target 1: It was thought to be premature to set up a task force to define indicators for monitoring the PGR Strategy implementation, on one side considering the envisaged revision by the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) of the Global Plan of Action (GPA) Indicators; on the other side, also considering that ECPGR cannot be made responsible at this stage for monitoring the entire PGR Strategy, which would rather be a task for the European Coordination and Information Centre (ECIC) for Genetic Resources. Therefore, this priority was lowered to the level of P2. Reference to monitoring the 'use of PGR' was also removed, since it should be an implicit element of the Strategy to be monitored.

6. ECPGR towards Phase XI (continued)

(Chair M. Lefort)

Terms of Reference (ToRs) of ECPGR for Phase XI

(L. Borgen Nilsen)

At the Sixteenth Steering Committee meeting in June 2022, it was requested to establish an ad hoc task force to revise/update the role, function and mode of operation of all the existing bodies, in particular the ECPGR WGs – including the WG objectives, guidelines for the mode of operation, appointment of Chairs and members and their expected commitment, the expected number of virtual and physical meetings, communication across WGs, reporting duties, relationship with EVA, etc. A Task Force (TF) was set up, composed of volunteer NCs who worked through online meetings from October 2022 to April 2023. The TF was chaired by L. Borgen Nilsen (Norway) with the participation of A. Didier (France), I. Thormann (Germany), P. Engel (Italy), J. Šuštar Vozlič (Slovenia), M. Lefort (ExCo) and L. Maggioni (Secretariat). This TF used the document *ECPGR Goal, Rules of Procedures and Terms of Reference for the Operational Bodies (Second Edition, February 2018)* as a starting basis. A first draft of a new document was completed in February 2023 and sections of relevance for the WG activities were circulated to the WG Chairs for comments. During the Chairs' meeting of 9 March 2023, the document was openly and thoroughly discussed. Changes were suggested and taken into consideration by the TF. The resulting version was circulated to the Steering Committee on 29 March 2023 with a deadline for comments on 24 April 2023. The final document was proposed for the SC endorsement (See online [background document ECPGR Phase XI Rules of Procedures and Terms of Reference for Operational Bodies and Mechanisms](#)).

Discussion

The ToRs were thoroughly discussed section by section and a number of adjustments were agreed, as reflected in the revised document available [at this link](#).

It was also acknowledged that these ToRs will be updated as needed.

It was also agreed that the ExCo discuss and draft the procedure for the appointment of the ECPGR Secretary.

Update on lobbying efforts at EU level towards the adoption of a Genetic Resources Strategy for Europe

(M. Lefort)

M. Lefort updated the SC about the follow-up actions under the recent EU Presidencies to lobby for promoting a Genetic Resource Strategy for Europe. Conclusions of the expert views after the French and Czech Presidencies were that the strategy and its recommendations, such as the establishment of a European Centre for Information and Coordination on Genetic Resources (ECIC/GR) were in general well received, with some fears expressed by a few countries about possible impacts on national policies or budgets. The current Swedish Presidency was aiming to seek clarity and eventually a common ground about the pros and cons of establishing a common framework for the Genetic Resources Strategy for Europe, including its extension at pan-European level. Also, the recommendation to establish an ECIC/GR needs expression of support by the member states and advice is currently sought

about defining its pros and cons and overall scope. A summary of the outcomes will be prepared in June 2023.

An update was also offered about the work of an informal ECIC/GR Task Force jointly facilitated by the Secretariats of ECPGR and the European Regional Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources (ERFP). After preliminary study and thoughts on a possible legal framework for the ECIC/GR, based on existing EU legal structures, prepared by S. Csörgö (Euroseeds) and J. Bormann (Administration des Services Techniques de l'Agriculture, Luxembourg), the TF reached the following conclusions:

- Appreciated the idea to start with a loose entity that might evolve in time into a more formal structure
- Need to clearly formulate a justification for the implementation of the Genetic Resources Strategy for Europe
- Next step would be to obtain a strong statement from the EU Council (in the form of a Conclusion or Resolution) and/or the European Parliament, which would force the Commission to take action.

Discussion

M. Lefort clarified that the Task Force will plan another meeting when there is progress. The Task Force decided to continue to develop more elements that could be suitable for a loose structure.

A. Bedmar confirmed that the Spanish Presidency is fully committed to continue working on these issues.

How to deal with requests for emergency regeneration in European genebanks

(M. Lefort)

Following up on a request for support in the regeneration of endangered soybean accessions, forwarded to the ExCo by the Bulgarian genebank, the ExCo wished to verify whether there is a role for ECPGR to support European endangered collections. Some reflections and preliminary criteria to be considered, should the SC decide to elaborate further along these lines, were presented. The existing FAO/Crop Trust 'Emergency Reserve' provision to offer rapid, short-term and urgent support was used as a baseline in terms of eligibility criteria.

Discussion

K. Uzundzhaliyeva explained the specific case of an old collection of an important crop for the country which was losing viability. The crop curator decided to regenerate, evaluate and safety-duplicate, but they were not successful in seed production, repeated for five years before soliciting help from ECPGR.

Several NCs thought that problems of lack of funding or expertise at genebank level are widespread and ECPGR is not a funding agency that can systematically address this type of requests. At the same time, as specified by Th. van Hintum, ECPGR should rather work on preventing this type of difficulties by implementing certification systems, through the genebank managers network, and mobilizing the various partners in the genebank managers

network to find solutions to specific issues, which could involve for example the transfer of collections that cannot be managed.

The FAO International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) representative informed the meeting that with financial support from the EU, FAO, ITPGRFA and Crop Trust, an ongoing emergency support to Ukraine involved the migration of plant genetic materials in their national genebank to a safe location and the development a long-term plan for the rehabilitation. I.Thormann added that a new funding facility for short- and medium-term genebank support is being implemented by the ITPGRFA and the Crop Trust. Genebanks, mainly from developing countries, can apply for emergency support and the new funding facility can support non-CGIAR international collections under detailed eligibility criteria similar to those presented today.

It was concluded that ECPGR should not be considered the appropriate funding agency that should deal on a structural basis with emergency regeneration requests or capacity building, but it should be providing technical cooperative support to countries in this situation, as far as possible.

7. Study Tour

During the morning of 1 June, the SC visited the *Vitis* collection at Polo de Inovação de Dois Portos.

8. Other issues

Extension of Secretary mandate

In a closed session, the ExCo Chair informed the group that L. Maggioni expressed interest and availability to extend his mandate as ECPGR Secretary until the end of December 2026, which is 20 months beyond the date of expected retirement at the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT. In case the SC would be favourable to this extension, a specific and justified request would need to be made to the Director General and the Board of the Alliance (for extensions beyond 12 months).

The SC unanimously approved this proposal. They acknowledged the work of the Secretary during Phase X of the programme and highlighted his leading management of the Secretariat team. The significant progress in EVA Network activities and EURISCO developments were appreciated, while the new dynamics of WGs after a pause during the COVID-19 lockdown were highlighted. Among the numerous results presented over these last five years, the SC was impressed by his commitment to engage Secretariat staff in relevant EU-funded projects (GenRes Bridge, AGENT, PRO-GRACE) to complement the current ECPGR budget for the benefit of European cooperative work for conservation and use activities. The SC considered that it was important that L. Maggioni and his team maintained a high commitment to this type of activities with the community of European experts, while properly bringing forward the projects launched during Phase X.

Considering the recruitment procedure, the SC asked the ExCo to prepare by the end of September a draft document including the expected profile for candidates and the potential agenda for the recruitment; the procedure should include a handover period of at least one month for the Secretary with his successor. The draft should then circulate among SC members

for amendments. A final proposal should eventually be approved by the SC via email and then implemented in due time.

ExCo Chair end of mandate

M. Lefort informed the SC that she would like to conclude her mandate by the end of this year so that Phase XI can start with a new ExCo Chair. In case suitable candidates would not be available for this position at the beginning of 2024, she would accept to continue her mandate for the first months of 2024.

The SC thanked M. Lefort for the work done with the ExCo during Phase X and asked the ExCo to look for suitable candidates, possibly with good knowledge of both the scientific and political PGR context and available to dedicate some time to support the ExCo and the Secretary in the implementation of activities of the new Phase.

M. Lefort solicited all members of the SC to suggest names of potential candidates possibly no later than mid-September. The ExCo will then make a ranked short list of potential candidates to be approved by the SC. The ExCo Chair will then approach the candidates, starting with the first ranked. The finally selected candidate will need to be approved by the SC.

9. Conclusion

(Chair: M. Lefort)

Discussion and approval of the report

The report prepared by the Secretariat, including Part II (Decisions), was approved with a few modifications.

Concluding remarks of the meeting

M. Lefort thanked the Secretary and the Secretariat staff for all the work done, INIAV's host and all the team, for the excellent organization of the meeting.

The SC warmly thanked M. Lefort for her ability, patience and guidance of the ExCo and SC.

PART II. RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS

1. Hosting arrangements

The SC agreed that the hosting arrangements of EURISCO and the ECPGR Secretariat should remain the same as during Phase X, respectively hosted by IPK, Gatersleben, Germany, and the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, Rome, Italy. The choice of the hosting Institution will be reconsidered at the Mid-Term SC meeting, based on the new hosting conditions proposed by the Alliance.

2. Table of Priorities for Phase XI

The Table of Priorities was endorsed with a few changes ([Annex I](#))

3. Cryopreservation WG

The initial work of the Cryopreservation WG was appreciated and the SC agreed on its continuation for the time being, as part of the permanent structure of ECPGR. It was noted that it is premature to evaluate the activities of the WG and the SC will revisit the concerns previously expressed, at the next SC meeting.

4. ToRs of ECPGR for Phase XI

The submitted document was endorsed with a few changes. The revised document is available at this [link](#).

5. ECPGR Network of European Genebank Managers

The proposed ToRs of the Network were approved ([Annex II](#)), with a change in the first paragraph of the Section 'Financing':

"The Network **shall be self-funded**. ECPGR **may** provide complementary funding...."

The mandate was given to L.L. Steffensen to establish the pilot network for two years with the amended ToRs and to review the ToRs and evaluate the progress during the next SC meeting.

6. Phase XI budget

The total budget for Phase XI ([Annex III](#)) and the list of country contributions ([Annex IV](#)) were approved by the SC. It is noted that formal acceptance of the country contribution by the respective authorities still needs to be obtained in some countries.

It is also noted that the budget reflects the allocations based on membership fees and will be complemented by budgets from ongoing projects (AGENT, GenRes2019-2, PRO-GRACE) as well as expected carry-over funds from previous phases. Priority for use of carry-over funds will be given to the budget lines EVA coordination (€ 73,638 in 2027 and € 76,046 in 2028) and WG activities (to reach a target total of € 510,000 over the 5 years).

The budget may be further complemented by potential additional funds from other external sources (e.g. EU-funded or bilateral projects in which the ECPGR Secretariat participates) to implement priority activities of the ECPGR work programme.

The SC decided to revisit the budget table at the next Mid-Term SC meeting.

7. Genebanks support

ECPGR, particularly through the new genebank network, should feel the responsibility to help genebanks facing difficulties, especially taking preventive measures. However, ECPGR should not be considered the appropriate funding agency that should deal on a structural basis with emergency regeneration requests.

8. Other Issues

- The SC unanimously approved a 20-month extension of the ECPGR Secretary's mandate beyond the date of retirement normally established by the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT.
- The ExCo is solicited to prepare the terms of a procedure for the recruitment of a new ECPGR Secretary, including the requirement of a period of at least one month of handover with the new Secretary, for formal approval by the SC.
- The SC mandated the ExCo to look for a new ExCo Chair for the replacement of M. Lefort at the end of Phase X. An interactive process with the SC for this replacement has been suggested.

ANNEXES

Annex I: Tables of Priority ECPGR Activities in Phase XI

Tables 1 to 6: Objectives and targets of the [Plant Genetic Resources Strategy for Europe \(PGR Strategy\)](#) and associated priorities for ECPGR Phase XI

Tables correspond to the objectives as identified in section 2 (Conserving and sustainably using plant genetic resources) of the PGR Strategy.

Priorities are indicated as follows: **P1 – high** (starting or continuing at the beginning of Phase XI); **P2 – medium** (based on mid-term progress in the implementation of P1 activities and depending on available funds, could be supported by ECPGR in the second part of Phase XI); **P3 – low** (Activities are too premature to be supported by ECPGR in Phase XI and should be considered for implementation during Phase XII)

Table 1: Expanding *in situ* conservation of crop wild relatives and wild food plants

PGR Strategy for Europe Objectives	PGR Strategy for Europe Targets	Responsibility (main level/responsible bodies)	Type of action that ECPGR could undertake	Potential sources of funding to cover the ECPGR action	Executive Committee (ExCo) proposal for activities to be included in Phase XI work plan
By 2030, Europe has significantly increased its Crop Wild Relatives (CWR) and Wild Food Plants (WFP) inventories to enable a more comprehensive view of available CWR and WFP genetic diversity, to better understand how this diversity is distributed across the region and its neighbouring countries, and to identify which are	1. All countries in Europe have included CWR and WFP conservation in national PGR programmes and actions	National	Support of Crop Wild Relatives WG activities contributing to Target 1	National funds/ European Commission (EC) project or external donor/ECPGR Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P1 - Disseminate methodologies and support documents and organize webinars on how to do diversity and gap analysis and how to develop National CWR strategies. • P1 - Develop or improve an ECPGR CWR Portal compiling links to existing national checklists and inventories and the respective diversity and gap analysis to determine priority CWR populations. • P2 - Work towards the preparation of an online map of European hotspots. • P3 - CWR Working Group to develop Wild Food Plants conservation guidelines.
	2. All countries in Europe have identified CWR priority taxa and populations – including those in protected areas	National	Support of Crop Wild Relatives WG activities contributing to Target 2	National funds EC project or external donor ECPGR Grant Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P1 - Extend the list of countries that prepare (or have already prepared) national inventories or lists for CWR priority taxa and provide <i>in situ</i> population data to EURISCO.

the priority populations to actively conserve.	– forming the basis of their national and a European <i>in situ</i> network of CWR				
By 2030, the European countries have elaborated and approved National CWR and WFP conservation strategies , and set up and manage a network for <i>in situ</i> management of priority CWR populations as part of an integrated CWR conservation strategy for Europe, in which active and sustainable long-term <i>in situ</i> conservation actions are implemented at national level.	3. Europe has a coherent, comprehensive, coordinated and centralized documentation of CWR and WFP <i>in situ</i> diversity.	European/ EURISCO/ Doc&Info WG/Crop Wild Relatives WG	Implement extension of EURISCO	ECPGR-EURISCO budget line / German-funded project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P1 - Extension of EURISCO is being implemented through German-funded ECPGR project. • P2 - Manage and update continuously the CWR <i>in situ</i> section in EURISCO.
	4. CWR priority populations within the European network of CWR are managed and monitored following agreed guidelines for the <i>in situ</i> management of CWR populations.	National and Crop Wild Relatives WG	Agree on demographic and monitoring techniques. Monitoring as proof of concept	National funds/ ECPGR Grant/ EC project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P2 - Working Group to obtain an ECPGR agreement on minimum quality standards for <i>in situ</i> management of PGR, and develop a monitoring and reporting system. (also based on PRO-GRACE activity, which has planned to “develop methods and minimum quality standards for <i>in situ</i> including CWR and WFP”- see below). • P3 - Implement the above-mentioned monitoring and reporting system.
	5. <i>In situ</i> conserved CWR populations are safely backed-up in <i>ex situ</i> collections and made available to users.	National	Coordination/monitoring by Crop Wild Relatives WG	National funds/ ECPGR Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P2 - Working Group to cooperate and advise the countries to implement the necessary safety backup for a number of populations with the support of genebanks’ network.

Members of the CWR Working Group have prepared a EU-funded project on CWR conservation and use to sustain European agriculture, to address a Food Security 2023 Call of Horizon Europe (€ 6M per project will be available). If funded, this will likely cover part of the actions identified above. Other *in situ* CWR actions are planned as part of the recently approved Horizon project PRO-GRACE: *Create mechanisms for conservation, monitoring and access to in situ PGR; Develop and test standards and protocols for the quality-assured ex situ and in situ management of PGR; Develop and test unified strategies, procedures and standards for evaluating phenotypic traits of PGR stored both in situ and ex situ and providing the information to end-users (breeders, researchers, farmers).*

The above table is also submitted to the CWR Working Group for suggestions/amendments. The agreed activities could then be funded with a specific “CWR budget” assigned by ECPGR and/or the WG could be invited to submit Grant Scheme (GS) proposals implementing the above-identified activities, starting with those with higher priority.

Table 2: On-farm plant genetic resources conservation and management

PGR Strategy for Europe Objectives	PGR Strategy for Europe Targets	Responsibility (main level/ responsible bodies)	Type of action that ECPGR could undertake	Potential sources of funding to cover the ECPGR action	ExCo proposal for activities to be included in Phase XI workplan
<p>By 2030, an inventory of on-farm landraces has been made in Europe, based on national inventories, compiled in close collaboration with local actors and organizations and with periodic updating.</p> <p>By 2030, valuable landraces' identified diversity is comprehensively conserved on-farm, complemented with <i>ex situ</i> back-ups, and is made available for sustainable use.</p>	<p>1. All countries in Europe include on-farm PGR conservation and management in national programmes and actions.</p>	<p>National</p>	<p>Support of On-farm WG activities contributing to Target 1</p>	<p>National funds/ EC project or external donor/ ECPGR grant</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P1 - Develop or improve an ECPGR Portal compiling links to existing national on-farm conservation and management strategies, programmes and initiatives. • P1 – Carry out a survey to identify and describe ongoing on-farm PGR conservation and use examples at national and regional levels (Objectives; history; material and methods; links between <i>ex situ</i> and on-farm management; strengths, weaknesses and opportunities). Focus on arable crops, vegetables, small fruits and top fruits (e.g. orchard meadows).
	<p>2. A European Inventory of on-farm genetic diversity is formally established; a minimum set of passport and characterization descriptors for data exchange is defined.</p>	<p>EURISCO / Doc&Info WG / On-farm WG</p>	<p>Design extension of EURISCO and implement it</p>	<p>ECPGR-EURISCO budget line/ ECPGR grant/ External donor</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P2 - Set up a TF involving EURISCO/ Doc&Info WG/On-farm WG to design the structure and requirements for a European Inventory of on-farm landraces (also based on methods and standards developed by PRO-GRACE for inventorying <i>in situ</i> maintained PGR) – Expertise on all types of crops should be present in the TF. • P3 - Implement the necessary platform to receive on-farm data. • P2 - Provide training workshops on the existing methodologies and criteria for identifying material to be inventoried. • P3 - Support on-farm inventory compilation in pilot countries and provision of data to the centralized platform.

	3. All landraces recorded in the European Inventory have <i>ex situ</i> backup in national genebanks.	National	Coordination/monitoring by On-farm WG	National funds/ ECPGR Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P3 - Working Group to coordinate the necessary safety backup for a number of pilot countries and selected on-farm landraces.
	4. Conservation and management guidelines for on-farm landraces have been defined in the context of the European collaborative programme and are implemented at local level.	National and On-farm WG, in collaboration with stakeholders ¹ that are engaged in diverse conservation and management schemes	Coordination/monitoring by On-Farm WG	National funds/ ECPGR Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P1 - Working Group to advise and support the implementation of conservation and management guidelines in a number of countries for selected crops.

The above table was also submitted to the On-farm Working Group for suggestions/amendments. The agreed activities could then be funded with a specific “On-farm budget” assigned by ECPGR and/or the WG could be invited to submit Grant Scheme (GS) proposals implementing the above-identified activities.

¹ Including farmers, amateur gardeners, farmer/gardener networks, seed savers, researchers, local communities, genebanks, community seed bank, NGOs, etc.

Table 3: Consolidating and sustaining ex situ conservation

PGR Strategy for Europe Objectives	PGR Strategy for Europe Targets	Responsibility (main level/ responsible bodies)	Type of action that ECPGR could undertake	Potential sources of funding to cover the ECPGR action	ExCo proposal for activities to be included in Phase XI workplan
By 2030, the GR diversity in European genebanks is conserved reliably and made accessible for sustainable use , by improving the efficiency and efficacy of the European genebank infrastructure. Thus, the European <i>ex situ</i> conservation system will be raised to a level of excellence in terms of i) long-term quality (conservation management, viability, genetic integrity and phytosanitary protection), and ii) accessibility of conserved material to users, thereby positioning Europe as a primary contributor to the global PGR conservation and use effort. By 2030 European genebanks ensure the	1. The AEGIS Certification System, guaranteeing the quality of genebank operations, has been developed and is widely recognized and implemented in Europe through a decentralized network of AEGIS-certified genebanks.	Task Force / Steering Committee	Develop the Certification System	EU- funded project (currently through PRO-GRACE project) External donor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P1 - A blueprint for a genebank quality certification system will be a deliverable of PRO-GRACE project (Month 18 = Month 6 of Phase XI)².
	2. Up to one third of European genebanks have been AEGIS-certified (100–150, including all those with more than 1,000 accessions), relying when needed on a capacity-building and support system to facilitate their upgrading to reach the AEGIS certification level.	National/Task Force/ Crop and Cryo WGs/ Secretariat	Implement Certification System and capacity-building services, including cryo, phytosanitary and duplication	National Funds EU-funded project External donor ECPGR Grant/AEGIS budget line	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P1 - Certification system to be implemented, based on agreed mechanism delivered by PRO-GRACE. (Possible role of ECPGR Secretariat - Budget may not be necessary) • P1 – Capacity-building services to be organized within the framework of the genebank managers’ network, also based on blueprint provided by PRO-GRACE at Month 22= Month 12 of Phase XI)³.
	3. The coordinated European collection (i.e. the combined collections of AEGIS-certified genebanks) contains a substantial part of the accessions conserved in European genebanks. All these	National/Genebanks EURISCO	Implement genebank review system	National Funds ECPGR Grant/ AEGIS and EURISCO budget lines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P1 - Support to countries to identify and include material into AEGIS, including regeneration and safety-duplication. • P1 - Implementation of genebank review system by the network of genebank managers, taking into account Crop Trust certification experience and global strategies.

² PRO-GRACE has a Work Package dedicated to “Quality-certified *ex situ* and *in situ* management” with a task to “Clearly define minimum quality standards for the essential genebank [management] (including DNA barcoding, sampling of heterogeneous accessions, minimization of genetic drift, long-term conservation, phytosanitary assessment, minimum information provided, availability of the materials)”. Deliverable will be “a blueprint for a quality certification system comprising the quality standards, a quality management system and an auditing and certification system. These components will incorporate, as appropriate, already available standards and systems (FAO Genebank Standards, ECPGR’s AQUAS, Crop Trust’s experiences in the CGIAR Genebank Platform, IPK, CGN), as well as standards for quality management systems (ISO 9001). Please note: A “blueprint” is a “detailed plan”.

³ One of the PRO-GRACE planned deliverable is “A blueprint for a capacity building programme, supporting genebanks and *in situ*/on-farm conservation networks in reaching minimum quality standards and allowing genebanks to become certified”.

PGR Strategy for Europe Objectives	PGR Strategy for Europe Targets	Responsibility (main level/responsible bodies)	Type of action that ECPGR could undertake	Potential sources of funding to cover the ECPGR action	ExCo proposal for activities to be included in Phase XI workplan
<p>long-term conservation of PGR and provide access to appropriate samples of the genetic diversity that has occurred and/or is still occurring in European agriculture and in nature. This covers the diversity needed for direct use, research and plant breeding that contributes to the continuous adaptation of European agriculture to current and future needs.</p>	<p>accessions are conserved to AQUAS standards (see section 2.3.1) and fully available from the AEGIS-certified genebanks via a request system through EURISCO. All AEGIS material is safety-duplicated possibly in another European country and/or in the Svalbard Seed Vault and/or at one of the CGIAR Centres</p>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P2 - Extension of EURISCO to include a centralized genebank ordering system.
	<p>4. A comprehensive assessment of European plant genetic resources and diversity required by users for present and future needs in food and agriculture and the corresponding gaps in the conservation system has been completed and is regularly updated.</p>	<p>National and regional (Crop WGs)</p>	<p>Crop-by-crop assessment</p>	<p>National funds/External donor / ECPGR Grant</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P2 - Crop Working Groups to develop methodology to assess crop diversity required and gaps in the conservation system in cooperation with users, as a dynamic process, for current and future needs.
	<p>5. The genetic diversity maintained in European AEGIS-certified genebanks includes: i) the vast majority of the European landraces; ii) a wide range of CWR diversity of crops grown in Europe; iii) a representative selection of developed varieties, and iv) other relevant material related to crops grown in Europe, including WFP</p>	<p>National and regional (Crop WGs)</p>	<p>Crop-by-crop assessment</p>	<p>National funds / External donor / ECPGR Grant</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P2 - Crop WGs, in collaboration with CWR and On-farm WGs, assess and remedy to gaps in <i>ex situ</i> genebanks, including through collecting missions. • P2 - An exhaustive inventory of the genetic diversity conserved in all national or local genebanks maintaining and characterizing GR – outside the network of AEGIS-certified genebanks – is made to enlarge the potential of European genetic diversity to be conserved in a long-term perspective. • P3 - Countries encourage the development of cooperative work between their national AEGIS – certified genebanks and other local or national genebanks to ensure that all original genetic diversity held in genebanks outside AEGIS-certified ones be conserved in a long-term perspective.

The creation of a network of genebank managers or *Ex situ* WG may be the right framework for the implementation of the certification system, review system and capacity building. A specific *ex situ*/AEGIS budget line might be created. Other activities (4 and 5) are suitable for Crop WGs, in collaboration with On-farm and CWR WGs, through the Grant Scheme, taking into consideration their priority level as Plant Strategy activities.

Table 4: Strengthening a comprehensive information system for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (Documentation)

PGR Strategy for Europe Objectives	PGR Strategy for Europe Targets	Responsibility (main level/responsible bodies)	Type of action that ECPGR could undertake	Potential sources of funding to cover the ECPGR action	ExCo proposal for activities to be included in Phase XI workplan
<p>By 2030, the NFPs are supported in their activities to collect the passport data of all PGR genebanks in their countries and upload them to EURISCO. They are trained appropriately (e.g. on data standardization and quality), and feel part of a network that provides mutual support. The NFPs play an active role in supporting the genebanks in their country in improving the quality of the data, and support actors in the <i>in situ</i> community in providing access to their data. EURISCO grows to become a respected, well-known and well-used repository of European PGR passport data.</p> <p>By 2030, provide publicly available quality phenotypic data to EURISCO that is collected using standardized methods and in collaboration with various public and private partners. EURISCO acts as the phenotypic dataset's repository.</p> <p>By 2030, EURISCO comprehensively applies the Findable-Accessible-Interoperable-Reproducible (FAIR) principles, and the NFPs are trained to also adopt the principles for local data sources (see 2.5.1). EURISCO's data governance and management</p>	1. The EURISCO network of National Focal Points is optimally supported.	National / EURISCO	Training workshops	National funds / ECPGR Grant / ECPGR-EURISCO budget line	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P1 - Training workshops for <i>ex situ</i> and <i>in situ</i> National Focal Points (NFPs). • P3 - Training workshops for on-farm NFPs.
	2. EURISCO contains high-quality passport data of all European <i>ex situ</i> collections, progressively extended to include actively managed <i>in situ</i> CWR populations and appropriate on-farm landraces data.	National / Subregional EURISCO	Training workshops	National funds / ECPGR Grant or ECPGR-EURISCO budget line	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P1 - Training workshops for <i>ex situ</i> and <i>in situ</i> NFPs.
	3. NFPs assure access to all publicly available quality phenotypic data related to the conserved PGR, in collaboration with various public and private partners. Access is provided initially via inclusion in EURISCO.	National / Subregional	Crop WG support for data gathering and transfer	National funds / ECPGR Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P1 - Compilation and transfer of existing Characterization and Evaluation data to EURISCO.
	4. European genebanks and other PGR holders have improved (or can improve) their data management practices through access to, and use of facilitating tools, resources and services, having adopted (or allowing them to adopt) the FAIR principles and becoming part of the open data community.	Genebanks	Training workshops	External donor / ECPGR Grant or ECPGR-EURISCO budget line	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P1 - Training workshops for genebank information system officers and <i>ex situ/in situ</i> NFPs to foster cooperation, and based on consultation with WG Chairs and the assessments of local needs reported by the NFPs.
	5. Both data in EURISCO and the associated IT infrastructure are compliant with the FAIR principles, allowing better use of the data by a wide community of users across sectors and domains.	EURISCO	EURISCO development	ECPGR-EURISCO budget line	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P2 - Development of EURISCO, based on EURISCO work plans. (EURISCO budget)

are improved to reach an acceptable high standard. As a result, EURISCO becomes a trusted European and Global open-access database repository.	6. EURISCO becomes a trustable repository in the arena of European and global open-access databases with acceptably high governance and data-management standards	EURISCO	EURISCO development	ECPGR-EURISCO budget line	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P1 - Development of EURISCO, based on EURISCO work plans. (EURISCO budget)
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The EURISCO budget can be complemented by Grant Scheme activities. Workplans are prepared annually by the EURISCO Coordinator/EURISCO Advisory Committee

Table 5: Promoting sustainable use of PGR

PGR Strategy for Europe Objectives	PGR Strategy for Europe Targets	Responsibility (main level/responsible bodies)	Type of action that ECPGR could undertake	Potential sources of funding to cover the ECPGR action	ExCo proposal for activities to be included in Phase XI workplan
<p>By 2030, assure access to well-documented genetic diversity that is conserved <i>ex situ</i> and, where and as appropriate, <i>in situ</i> in Europe.</p> <p>By 2030, PGR crop portals for European crops have been established and maintained.</p> <p>By 2030, promote and secure commitment for targeted phenotypic and genotypic characterization and evaluation of European PGR and improve digitization, harmonization, availability and exchange of existing and newly-generated PGR characterization and evaluation data for private and public actors.</p> <p>By 2030, achieve a coordinated and systematic use of CWR genetic diversity in research and crop improvement.</p> <p>By 2030, farmers and civil society actors are better enabled to add value to European landraces through participatory breeding methodologies such as evolutionary breeding, thus contributing to crop diversity in landscapes and over time.</p> <p>By 2030, more diversified European</p>	1. Collections of PGR in Europe are increasingly characterized and evaluated under standard conditions, as well as genotyped with suitable sets of molecular markers.	EVA Network	Implement public-private partnerships	ECPGR Budget / EVA budget line or Grant Scheme ECPGR project / External donor/ National funds / Support From EU-project AGENT for the Wheat/Barley EVA Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P1 - Continuation of existing EVA Networks. • P1 - Support for the creation of other crops' public-private partnerships, including attention to the possibility to adapt the EVA concept to perennial plants such as fruit trees.
	2. Data and accessions in the public domain, including those with relevant agronomic and quality traits identified at molecular level, are available to users through open centralized information systems, including Crop Portals.	National Research Centres / Genebanks Doc&Info WG / EURISCO	Support of Crop WGs	National funds / EU project or External donor / ECPGR Grant ECPGR-EURISCO budget line	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P2 - Based on crop-specific WG proposals, set up Crop Portals to facilitate access to information about PGR targeted to specific user groups. • P2 - Infrastructure for data provisioning of the Crop Portals from EURISCO.
	3. A wider use of pre-breeding of CWR and participatory breeding on landraces on-farm generates added value to the unique diversity of these materials.	Research consortia/ Genebanks / Stakeholders	Support of Crop WGs	EU-funded project External donor / Grant Scheme National funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P2 - Promote participatory use and evaluation of PGR, especially climate-resilient and low-input, underutilized crops.

<p>agricultural and horticultural production systems are established for the benefit of sustainable food production, entrepreneurial development, and long-term management of PGR.</p>	<p>4. All elements of existing relevant legislation have been reviewed, and elements of previously developed disincentives for (small-scale) producers of diversified plant propagation material, are eliminated, where appropriate</p>	<p>Task Force involving crop and thematic WGs</p>	<p>Carry out analysis</p>	<p>External donor / ECPGR Task Force budget line</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P2 - Set up Task Force involving crop and thematic WGs, to carry out analysis of existing legislation, including access to PGR phytosanitary issues and other legal constraints and disincentives limiting conservation and use of PGR diversity.
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A budget line for EVA activities may be created, as well as specific budget lines can be made available for TF activities. Other items can be covered through the Grant Scheme

Table 6: Developing a system to monitor European conservation and sustainable use of PGR (Monitoring)

<p>PGR Strategy for Europe Objectives</p>	<p>PGR Strategy for Europe Targets</p>	<p>Responsibility (main level/responsible bodies)</p>	<p>Type of action that ECPGR could undertake</p>	<p>Potential sources of funding to cover the ECPGR action</p>	<p>ExCo proposal for activities to be included in Phase XI workplan</p>
<p>By 2030, sets of indicators of genetic resource conservation and use are developed/adapted and agreed by all stakeholders involved, and integrated and deployed within monitoring strategies to ensure that genetic diversity is maintained or increased in Europe</p> <p>By 2030:</p> <p>i) The proposed European coordination and information centre for conservation and sustainable use of agricultural genetic resources becomes the hub to gather and publish PGR conservation and use data provided by local and national networks under the guidance of ECPGR National Coordinators.</p> <p>ii) Trends in the conservation and sustainable use of PGR are assessed, analyzed and published every 5 years and necessary corrective measures are proposed.</p>	<p>1. By 2025, sets of relevant indicators and associated baseline data to be collected for monitoring activities under this Strategy, have been consensually defined by all involved stakeholders.</p> <p>2. By 2030, a sound system for the collection of all relevant baseline data has been set up and data are being actively collected and compiled, providing the baseline for further monitoring.</p> <p>1. Trends in the conservation and use of PGR in Europe are being monitored, and the information from local, national and regional levels is compiled and available via the European coordination and information centre for conservation and sustainable use of agricultural genetic resources.</p> <p>2. Information about trends in the conservation and use of PGR in Europe is readily available and</p>	<p>Task Force and WGs</p> <p>Next Phase XII</p> <p>Next Phase XII</p>	<p>Define and reach agreement on indicators</p>	<p>ECPGR Task Force budget line</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P2 - Set up a Task Force involving different categories of users (breeders, farmers, NGOs, etc.), to define indicators and associated baseline data to be collected for monitoring activities under the PGR Strategy (avoiding overlap with existing monitoring) mechanisms.

	<p>regularly disseminated through different forms to PGR managers and users, policymakers and the wider public.</p> <p>3. Europe is actively and efficiently contributing to international reports on monitoring of conservation and use of genetic resources.</p>				
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Only the first item relates to Phase XI. A budget line for TF activities may be created

Annex II: Terms of Reference for an ECPGR Network of European Genebank Managers

ECPGR Network of European Genebank Managers

Terms of Reference

Background

The idea of establishing a Network for European Genebank Managers was proposed during the Steering Committee (SC) meeting in June 2022, with the aim to better connect people with this function and focus on their specific area of work. Establishing the Network would strengthen the cooperation among leaders of genebanks in Europe.

In 2022, the ECPGR SC gave its support for the establishment of this Network. It is the aim that the Network of European Genebank Managers shall be a long-term entity which these ToRs are defining.

Objectives

The establishment of the European Genebank Managers Network has the overall aim to strengthen the management of genebanks through the exchange of knowledge, cooperation and capacity building of genebanks, including the various aspects of leading and managing a genebank.

Scope

The Network will focus on management and leadership issues of relevance for improving genebanks and their management. This will be done through exchanging experiences and ideas; learning from each other to obtain efficient and high-quality systems of plant genetic resources conservation and utilization.

The Network will share and exchange ideas and experiences, demonstrate each other's methodology, and support and find synergies when possible. Further, the Network can contribute to inputs and developments of various policies and initiatives to strengthen the conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources in genebanks.

The Network will not cover topics already covered by the ECPGR Working Groups or the EVA Networks.

Topics

The Network will decide on which topics and activities it wants to use its time and resources within its mandate. The below list of topics is therefore for inspiration and not exhaustive:

- Professional topics such as facilitation of AEGIS and AQUAS, development of a Genebank Quality Certification System and management of genebank collections, e.g. developments of a genebank manual; databases, conservation techniques and new developments etc.

- Leadership topics such as the development of strategies, change management, digitalization, security back-ups, fundraising, working with a Board, etc.
- Management topics such as people management, capacity building, optimization of techniques and work streams, genebank methodology, sourcing etc.
- Policy issues, e.g. promoting the implementation of national and regional conservation strategies through sharing of knowledge and experience, promoting the implementation of relevant aspects of the Plant Genetic Resource Strategy for Europe, etc.
- Support, help and back up each other in case of challenges and problems.
- Support to solve practical problems at genebanks within the scope of ECPGR and provide guidance for other European countries' genebanks, which are beyond the scope of ECPGR.
- When relevant, support and interact with the ECPGR Working Groups.

Meetings

The Network should meet at least once a year for a 1–2-day meeting at the premises of a European genebank. The Network should strive for 1–3 digital meetings each year.

The preparation and meeting location should rotate among the participating institutions.

The Network will, well in advance of each calendar year, plan topics and dates for next year's in-person meeting and digital meetings.

Funding

The Network shall be self-funded. ECPGR may provide complementary funding for the organization and participants of category A and B ECPGR contributors, based on the available budget, and is mobilized by the Secretariat upon request of the Network Chair.

The Genebank Network may apply for additional ECPGR funding, such as for capacity building or other activities by submitting proposals to the Steering Committee.

Working methods

The approach at the meetings will be to gain as much shared knowledge as possible within the objectives of the Network.

The in-person meeting will be co-organized by the Network Chair and the host of the meeting.

The digital meetings will also be co-organized between the Network Chair and members of the Network.

The agenda and meeting documents will be circulated at least three weeks in advance of the network meeting. Minutes will be circulated not later than seven working days after a Network meeting.

Subgroups can be formed for the preparation of any relevant topic for the Network.

Members and participation in meetings

Network members are nominated by the ECPGR National Coordinators, indicating one contact person per country who should be heading and/or managing a public genebank in Europe.

Normally, only one person from each country should attend the in-person meetings. To allow for maximal benefit from the available expertise in the European Region, the Network Chair can invite additional experts.

The Network should seek to have members from as many ECPGR member countries as possible. However, to make the in-person meetings manageable, these meetings should strive to be limited to a maximum of 35 persons. The final list of participants in each in-person meeting is defined by the Chair, based on the nominations made by National Coordinators, the level of contribution that participants can offer to each specific meeting and the need to maintain the size of the meeting within the limit of 35 participants, for the meeting to be effective and manageable.

All members can attend the virtual meetings.

Role of the Chair and the Vice-Chair

The role of the Chair is the following:

1. Formulate the meeting's agenda in consultation with the network members
2. Chair the Network meetings
3. Oversee the implementation of the Network work plan
4. Provide information to the Network members on ECPGR events
5. Encourage the involvement of all Network members
6. Be proactive in proposing activities for the Network
7. Contribute to the coordination of the Network
8. If needed, define the list of participants for each meeting
9. Three months in advance of the Steering Committee (SC) meetings, provide the ECPGR Secretary with a status report on progress made
10. The Vice-Chair has a supporting function in the implementation of the Chair's tasks and in preparing the minutes from the Network meetings.

Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair

The Network selects a Chair among its members. The Chair is selected at the end of an in-person Network meeting, and they exercise their role for two years until the next election.

The selection of the Chair is made by consensus. In case of a lack of consensus, a majority vote by secret ballot is organized by the Vice-Chair. Only regular Network members attending the meeting have the right to vote. In case of resignation of the Chair at any time during their term, the Vice-Chair will act as an 'interim' Chair. The selected 'interim' Chair leads the Network until the next regular election.

The Chair selects the Vice-Chair amongst the Network members and seeks the consensus of the Network members on their choice.

Amendment, modification or variation

These Terms of Reference may be amended, varied or modified in writing after consultation with and agreement by the Steering Committee.

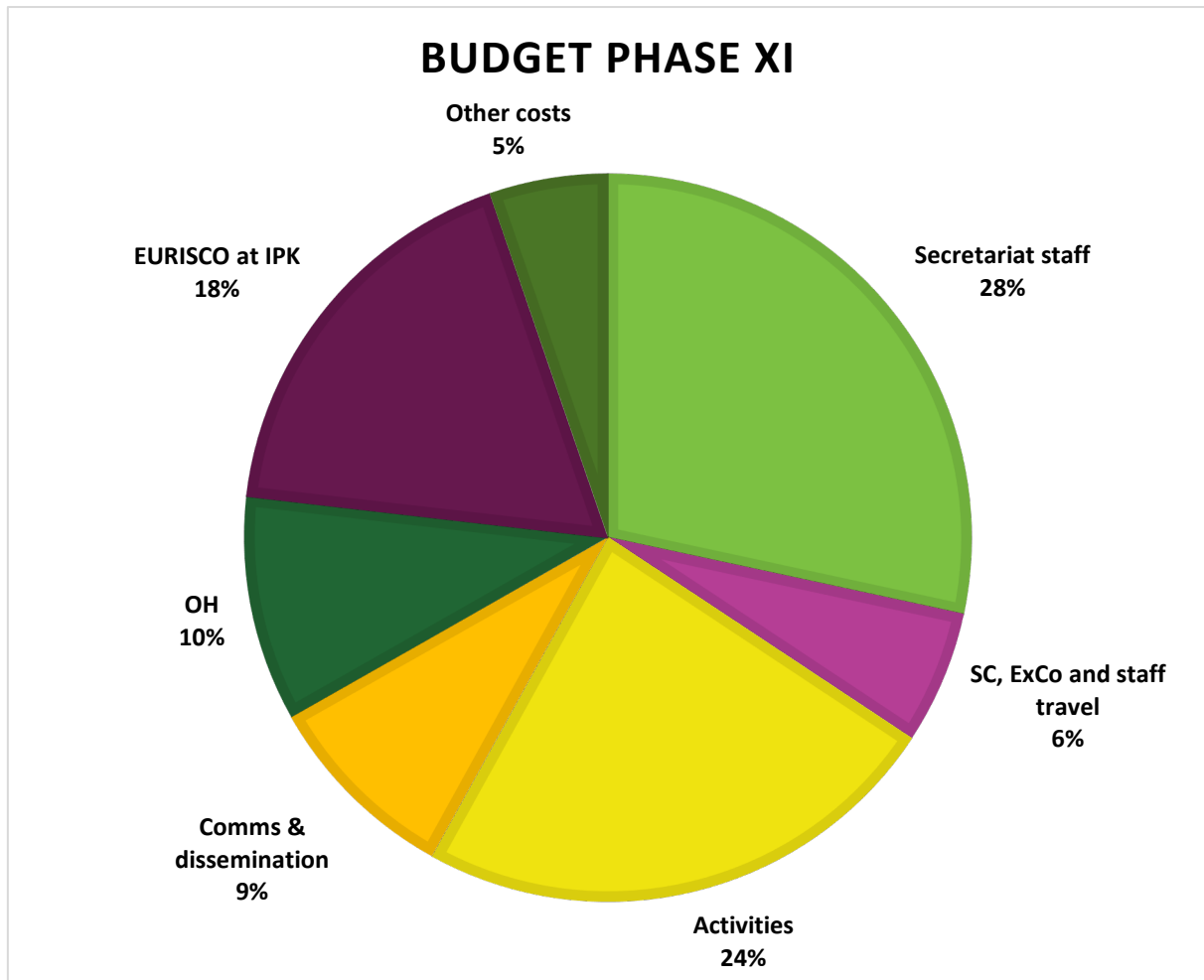
Term

These Terms of Reference are effective from 1 June 2023.

Annex III: Total Budget for Phase XI**Proposed Budget ECPGR Phase XI (in Euro): 3,114,250**

Activity	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	Total
Staff costs						
Secretary at Bioversity (80%)	109,942	113,943	122,440	96,413	99,305	542,043
Secretary overlap			10,043			10,043
Secretarial administrative support (100%)	59,937	63,008	67,245	69,519	71,793	331,502
Secretariat Staff Total	169,879	176,951	199,728	165,932	171,098	883,588
Steering Committee, ExCo and staff travel						
Staff travel	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	20,000
Steering Committee meetings (2)			40,000		40,000	80,000
ExCo travel	3,000	3,000		3,000		9,000
ExCo Chair compensation	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	75,000
SC and travel Total	22,000	22,000	59,000	22,000	59,000	184,000
Activities						
WG Chair's meeting			20,000		20,000	40,000
WG activities	102,064	102,064	102,064	46,816	46,816	399,824
EVA Coordination (90%)	21,165	55,046	64,106			140,317
AEGIS Coordination (20%)	27,486	28,486	30,610	24,103	24,826	135,511
Training workshops EURISCO		12,000		12,000		24,000
Activities Total	150,715	197,596	216,780	82,919	91,642	739,652
Communication and dissemination						
Communication (80%)	66,330	68,651	71,054			206,035
Genetic Resources Journal (30%)	18,934	23,279	24,887			67,100
Communication and dissemination Total	85,264	91,930	95,941			273,135
OH 15%	64,179	73,272	85,717	40,628	48,261	312,056
EURISCO at IPK						
EURISCO Coordinator 0,5	50,500	52,000	53,500	55,000	57,000	268,000
EURISCO developer 0.75	49,125	50,625	51,750	54,000	54,661	260,161
Office material	550	550	550	550	550	2,750
5% pass-through fee	5,009	5,159	5,290	5,478	5,611	26,547
Total EURISCO	105,184	108,334	111,090	115,028	117,822	557,458
Other costs						
Facilities at Bioversity	17,678	19,446	21,391	23,530	25,883	107,928
IT services	9,244	10,168	11,185	12,303	13,533	56,433
Total Other costs	26,922	29,614	32,576	35,833	39,416	164,361
Total	624,143	699,696	800,832	462,340	527,239	3,114,250 *

* Carry-over from Phase X will be added to the budget after closure of the financial year 2023.



Annex IV: Proposed ECPGR annual contributions during Phase XI (2024-2028)

a. List of countries with expected commitment

	UN rates (%) ¹⁾	Category ²⁾	Annual contribution per year (Phase XI) ³⁾ Euro	Difference from Phase X	% increase	Phase IX fee	Phase X fee
MONTENEGRO	0.004	A	3550	400	13%	2,750	3,150
NORTH MACEDONIA	0.007	A	3550	400	13%	2,750	3,150
ALBANIA	0.008	A	3550	400	13%	2,750	3,150
GEORGIA	0.008	A	3550	400	13%	2,750	3,150
AZERBAIJAN	0.030	A	3550	-3,950	-53%	2,750	7,500
SERBIA	0.032	A	3550	-450	-11%	3,500	4,000
ICELAND	0.036	A	3550	400	13%	3,500	3,150
CYPRUS	0.036	A	3550	-450	-11%	3,500	4,000
BELARUS	0.041	B	4500	500	13%	3,500	4,000
ESTONIA	0.044	B	4500	500	13%	3,500	4,000
LATVIA	0.050	B	4500	500	13%	3,500	4,000
BULGARIA	0.056	B	4500	500	13%	3,500	4,000
UKRAINE	0.056	B	4500	-3,000	-40%	6,500	7,500
LITHUANIA	0.077	C	8450	950	13%	6,500	7,500
SLOVENIA	0.079	C	8450	950	13%	6,500	7,500
CROATIA	0.091	C	8450	950	13%	6,500	7,500
SLOVAKIA	0.155	D	9700	1,100	13%	7,500	8,600
HUNGARY	0.228	D	9700	1,100	13%	11,000	8,600
ROMANIA	0.312	D	9700	1,100	13%	7,500	8,600
GREECE	0.325	E	14300	500	4%	12,000	13,800
CZECH REP.	0.340	E	14300	1,650	13%	11,000	12,650
PORTUGAL	0.353	E	14300	1,650	13%	12,000	12,650
FINLAND	0.417	F	15600	1,800	13%	12,000	13,800
IRELAND	0.439	F	15600	2,950	23%	12,000	12,650
DENMARK	0.553	F	15600	1,800	13%	12,000	13,800
AUSTRIA	0.679	F	15600	1,800	13%	12,500	13,800
NORWAY	0.679	F	15600	1,200	8%	12,500	14,400
BELGIUM	0.828	G	16300	1,900	13%	19,000	14,400
POLAND	0.837	G	16300	1,900	13%	12,500	14,400
TURKEY	0.845	G	16300	1,900	13%	12,000	14,400
SWEDEN	0.871	G	16300	1,900	13%	19,000	14,400
SWITZERLAND	1.134	H	24700	2,850	13%	19,000	21,850
NETHERLANDS	1.377	H	24700	2,850	13%	20,000	21,850
SPAIN	2.134	I	26000	3,000	13%	22,000	23,000
ITALY	3.189	J	63300	7,300	13%	52,000	56,000
FRANCE	4.318	J	63300	4,800	8%	52,000	58,500
UK	4.375	J	63300	7,300	13%	52,000	56,000
GERMANY	6.111	K	66100	7,600	13%	52,000	58,500

Annual Total:	622,850	58,950	10%	517,750	563,900
Total 5 years:	3,114,250				

b. List of potential participating countries

	UN rates (%) ¹⁾	Category ²⁾	Annual contribution per year (Phase XI) ³⁾ Euro	Difference from Phase X	% increase	Phase IX fee	Phase X fee
MOLDOVA	0.005	A	3,550	400	13%	2,750	3,150
ARMENIA	0.007	A	3,550	400	13%	2,750	3,150
LIECHTENSTEIN	0.010	A	3,550	400	13%	2,750	3,150
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	0.012	A	3,550	400	13%	2,750	3,150
MALTA	0.019	A	3,550	400	13%	2,750	3,150
LUXEMBOURG	0.068	C	8,450	950	13%	6,500	7,500
ISRAEL	0.561	F	15,600	1,800	13%	11,000	13,800
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	1.866	I	26,000	-30,000	-54%	20,000	56,000

Annual Total:	67,800
Total 5 years:	339,000

1) UN Scale of Assessments approved for the years 2022, 2023 and 2024, as adopted by the General Assembly Resolution 76/238 of 24 December 2021

2) Key to calculation of annual contribution to ECPGR

Category	
with x = UN rate %	
x < 0.040	A
0.040 <= x < 0.060	B
0.060 <= x < 0.120	C
0.120 <= x < 0.320	D
0.320 <= x < 0.400	E
0.400 <= x < 0.800	F
0.800 <= x < 1.100	G
1.000 <= x < 1.500	H
1.500 <= x < 3.000	I
3.000 <= x < 4.500	J
4.500 <= x	K

3) The annual contributions indicated in the above table, upon bilateral agreement, can be partially postponed to another year, as long as the total 5-year contribution equals the sum of 5 annual contributions.

Annex V: Agenda**Seventeenth meeting of the ECPGR Steering Committee
30 May - 1 June 2023, Oeiras, Portugal****Agenda****Monday, 29 May 2023**

Arrival of participants at Hotel Praia Mar, Carcavelos

Tuesday, 30 May 2023

Registration *Conference venue: INIAV, Quinta do Marquês (Oeiras)*

08:00 – 08:30 *Transfer to conference venue*

08:30 – 09:00 *Registration*

1. Opening (Chair: M. Lefort)

09:00 – 09:15 *Opening statements by representatives of the host country*

09:15 – 09:30 *Welcome address by the Chair and adoption of the Agenda*

2. Reporting on Phase X (Chair: D. Ruņģis)

09:30 – 10:10 *Technical and financial report of Phase X – update from last year (L. Maggioni)*

10:10 – 10:30 *Report from the ExCo on its activities during Phase X – update from last year (M. Lefort)*

10:30 – 11:00 *Coffee/Tea break*

11:00 – 11:50 *The EVA experience and prospects for Phase XI (S. Goritschnig)*

11:50 – 12:40 *EURISCO update and prospects for Phase XI (S. Weise)*

12:40 – 13:55 *Lunch break*

3. Reporting on Phase X (continued) (Chair: B. Schierscher)

13:55 – 14:15 *The Cryopreservation WG – one year of activities (L. Maggioni on behalf of WG)*

14:15 – 15:00 *The genebank network – Progress and planning (LL. Steffensen)*

15:00 – 15:25 *Genebank Certification and the development of Genebank Metrics (Th. van Hintum)*

15:25 – 15:40 *ECPGR Secretariat involvement with Horizon Europe: AGENT, Pro-Grace, EURO CWR (L. Maggioni)*

15:40 – 16:10 *Coffee/Tea break*

4. ECPGR towards Phase XI (Chair: B. Lund)

16:10 – 16:40 *Proposal from Bioversity for continued hosting of the Secretariat (J. Luzon)*

16:40 – 17:10 *Proposal for Phase XI budget and table of country contributions (L. Maggioni)*

17:10 – 18:30 *Statements from all countries on financing of the programme and comments from observers (All National Coordinators and observers)*

Return to hotel (shuttle) - Dinner (self-organized)

Wednesday, 31 May 2023

08:30 – 09:00 *Transfer to conference venue*

5. ECPGR towards Phase XI (continued) (Chair: M. Lefort)

09:00 – 10:00 Table of priorities for Phase XI (*L. Maggioni*)

10:00 – 11:00 Discussion on budget allocations

11:00 – 11:30 *Coffee/Tea break*

11:30 – 12:30 Discussion on budget allocations (continued)

12:30 – 14:00 *Lunch break*

6. ECPGR towards Phase XI – continued (Chair: M. Lefort)

14:00 – 15:00 ToRs of ECPGR for Phase XI (*L. Borgen*)

15:00 – 15:45 Discussion on budget allocations (continued)

15:45 – 16:15 *Coffee/Tea break*

16:15 – 16:45 Update on lobbying efforts at EU level towards the adoption of a Genetic Resources Strategy for Europe. Preliminary thoughts about the establishment of a European Coordination and Information Centre for agricultural genetic resources (*M. Lefort*)

16:45 – 17:30 How to deal with requests for emergency regeneration in European genebanks (a practical case) (*M. Lefort*)

17:30 – 18:00 Wrap-up on decisions (*M. Lefort*)

18:30 *Return to hotel*

20:00 *Social dinner*

Thursday, 1 June 2023**7. Study Tour**

09:00 – 12:00 Visit of the *Vitis* collection

(Rapporteurs compile the draft report)

12:00 – 14:00 *Lunch*

8. Conclusion (Chair: M. Lefort)

15:00 – 15:45 Reading of meeting's report

15:45 – 17:30 Discussion and approval of report, *with coffee break*

17:30 – 18:00 Staffing issues at Secretariat (Secretariat leaves the room)

18:00 – 18:15 Concluding remarks of the meeting

18:15 *Return to hotel and/or departure of participants*

Annex VI: List of participants**Seventeenth meeting of the ECPGR Steering Committee**

30 May – 1 June 2023, Oeiras, Lisbon, Portugal

List of participants

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